

# Mission Accomplished

Alisa Bernhard takes home the one major title she's always coveted—World Show All-Around Amateur.

By Breanne Hill



APHA's 2004 Number 1 Amateur team, Alisa Bernhard and Fleetstreet Max, have earned nearly 4,000 Youth and Amateur points.

**I**t was the battle of the "Max'es." Alisa Bernhard of Germantown, Wisconsin, and her "Max," Fleetstreet Max, and Jana Simons of Aubrey, Texas, and her "Max," Maximum Zippo, steamrolled the competition to earn all-around and reserve all-around Amateur honors, respectively, at this year's World Show.

For Alisa, who already has numerous world and Top 20 wins to her credit, finally taking home the all-around Amateur title was the realization of a dream. The 21-year-old has had her eyes on this prize since she was competing in Youth events.

"I came so close last year," said Alisa, who lost the 2004 all-around Amateur title after two tiebreakers. "I really wanted that [horse] trailer this year."

The field of Amateurs at the 2005 World Show was filled with accomplished equestrians. Because of this depth of talent, Alisa said she knew that she would have to do well in every class she entered to be able to keep up with her fellow exhibitors.

"This was a case where every class counted," she said. "When you're competing against people who are so good at what they do, you can't afford to make stupid mistakes."

"But, luckily, Max is strong. I knew he would do his part."

Max and Alisa were practically flawless in their events. They earned three world championships—in Amateur hunt-seat equitation (19–44), trail (all ages) and working hunter (all ages)—placed in the top five in Amateur horsemanship (19–44), showmanship at halter (19–44) and Western riding (all ages), and finished in the top 10 in Amateur hunter hack (all ages) and Senior Western pleasure (19–44).

They finished the show with 138 qualifying points.

Now, as she looks toward the future with hopes of becoming a professional trainer, Alisa said she acknowledges that she wouldn't have had the success she had this year without the help of her trainers, John and Jill Briggs.

"I lived with John and Jill for a few months before the show, and that gave Max and me a little extra time to get used to things," said Alisa. "I think it helped Max not get so tired at the show."

"And we're all thankful that Max has stayed so healthy."

Bred by Alisa's mother, Susan, Max is a 1997 sorrel overo gelding who was sired by Fleet Machine and is out of Cash Bar Maiden AQHA.

## She's back!

Jana Simons tells her Max that she loves him all the time. According to Jana, the tall, sweet-natured 1999 bay overo gelding is one of the most talented horses she's ever ridden. Considering the caliber of horses that the multiple world champion has shown, that's saying a lot.

"Max is sired by my family's stallion, Zippos Sensation," said Jana, "and he's text-book Zippo. He's fun to ride and enjoys being around people. It's so great to have a horse that just likes to be around you."

Jana and Max's 2005 World Show was their second together. Last year, the duo struggled to get used to each other, but this time they moved and showed as a fluid pair.

"It's amazing when you consider that Max has only shown in all-around at about five shows," said Jana. "I'm so proud that he's come so far."

Thanks to world championships in Amateur Senior hunter under saddle (19–44), horsemanship (19–44), showmanship at halter (19–44) and Senior Western pleasure (19–44), as well as a top five finish in Amateur trail (all ages) and a top 10 finish in Amateur Western riding (all ages), Jana and Max ended up with 115 World Show qualifying points. That was more than enough to claim reserve all-around Amateur honors.

"I'm extremely grateful to everyone who has helped me, but, most of all this year I'd like to thank Robbie Schroeder for working with Max,"

said Jana. "And, of course, a big thank you goes to my wonderful family."

"I've got a great family. I couldn't ask for a better support system."

Bred by Libby and Ed Flores Jr. of Hollister, California, Maximum Zippo is out of Sorceress.

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Jana Simons, a former Number 1 Youth, says she's found a competitive soulmate in her 1999 overo gelding, Maximum Zippo.