

George Theodorescu believes Billy will take Lauren to the top of her game, and indeed his training has certainly taught Lauren how to channel Billy's natural energy.

2003 NAYRC in Bromont, Canada. A large group of kids from a therapeutic riding program lay siege to Billy before Lauren could warn them that her horse could spook. They swarmed around Billy, petting him and stroking his face and ears, kissing his nose, and hugging his neck. Lauren was imagining everything that could go wrong if Billy lost his cool, but Billy stood stock still for a solid 10 minutes while the very loud group of excited kids fussed over him.


Above all else, Lauren says they have become each other's best teacher. "When I bought Billy, I had one wildly pathetic season at Prix St. Georges under my belt, and was a handy enough rider, but had no lower leg control to speak of, and I just had a lot left to learn. Our first summer together, I asked Billy for a rein back by pulling the reins back. Billy, none too pleased, was very patient but finally could take no more and reared straight up. Off I went and off he went – one lap around the ring and then back to where I'd fallen to snort in my face. I got back on and very gently asked for a rein back, sans reins. Back he marched, four perfect steps. We've never had a rein back problem since, and I've never come off again. His patience is noteworthy."


Billy is also taking Lauren places she never dreamed of before. It was her rides on Billy that opened the door to training in Germany with the Theodorescus. George Theodorescu believes Billy will take Lauren to the top of her game, and indeed his training has certainly taught Lauren how to channel Billy's natural energy. Also, while in Germany, the Theodorescus accompanied Lauren on a visit to Bellinger's breeder, Trakehner Gestüt Gorlo, in picturesque Melle, Germany. Lauren was amazed at the family resemblance

Billy shared with the other Maizauber get – each one with the same gorgeous face as her Billy and, of course, that big, wonderful movement.

Certainly Lauren has learned a lot from Billy, but after speaking with Lauren, it's obvious that Billy is very lucky as well. Aside from her remarkable riding talent, Lauren is a dynamic, well spoken, and charming young lady with a very bright future ahead of her and an absolute love of her horses. Lauren rides

several other warmblood breeds, some of which are often a steadier ride, but only Billy with his endearing personality and remarkable talent carries no price tag.

I hope Lauren chooses riding and training as her career, and that we will see her competing aboard many more Trakehners. Either way, the Trakehner community can be proud to have Bellinger and Lauren as ambassadors for the breed, and I know we all look forward to sharing their success at Grand Prix Dressage in 2005. You can follow their progress by visiting her website: <http://lauren.spireser.com>. 



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