

Al-Lew Monterey Ashley: The Dam of Arrow and Splendidly Complete Daughters

As a young sire, Aristocrat grabbed the headlines selling for \$640,000. Today his conformation-rich brother Arrow turns out to be more popular. The American brood cow Al-Lew Monterey Ashley EX-95, via her sons with high total indexes and high conformation indexes, is making good on the early promises. Ten years after her birth, Ashley's legacy remains very current. Especially thanks to various, splendidly complete daughters in Europe.

JORDEN STEGINK



The successful combination with Doc also provided Ashley's most popular son: NH DG Arrow at AI Total.

lifetime production: 238,190 lb/108,043 kg 4.1% 3.4%, EX-94 conformation, recognized with GMD and DOM; with GBM Val Blackstar Jean, Al-Lew Monterey Ashley has an outstanding foundation dam. Behind Jean we find another three generations EX. Of them, Sylvan-Dell Altas Jill EX-90 (born 1975) was for years owned by Lakehurst Farms and David Bachmann (Pinehurst). Lakehurst Farms also became known in part due to Prestige of Lakehurst, the Grand Champion bull Word Dairy Expo 1967. The previously mentioned Jill, via her sire Har-Cream Angels Atlas, was a Prestige of Lakehurst granddaughter. Note here a surprising link between EX-95 Monterey daughter Ashley and

the most famous Holstein show in the world. By the way: the upcoming cow family portrait discusses more than just elite conformation. Sires with nearly 3200 gTPI are also part of the Al-Lew Monterey Ashley's legacy.

TPI & PTAT

Ashley (born 2015) was bred by Al-Lew breeder Scott Sollenberger in Pennsylvania. The GBM Val Blackstar Jean family to which she belongs, has regularly proven itself to be able to provide Holsteins with EX-94 or even EX-95. Also descending from the Jean family are various other bull dam branches. A successful donor, for example, is Endco Exacta (<Mr Mogul Denver-Balisto). We

find her name twice in the pedigree of aAa 564 bull Peak Excitement (3235 gTPI). Exacta is also the foundation dam of the Italian nr.2 gPFT sire Al Co Bia Essence. Another successful branch that traces back to GBM Val Blackstar Jean, is that of the SH Jolie Jumper family. This all-round German breeding line provided, for example, the bull Gigabyte and his son Gigaliner.

Ashley was purchased at seven months of age by Diamond Genetics (DG) in the Netherlands,

the German breeding herd Nosbisch Holsteins (NH), and Eclipse Holsteins in Australia. Arjan Van der Vlis on behalf of Diamond Genetics: 'Ashley received genomic indexes with the unique combination of a high total index TPI and a high conformation index PTAT, as well as a very complete and faultless linear profile. The indexes with good conformation, production, and fitness traits displayed a lot of balance. We were hoping with Ashley to have found a donor who could make sires and female descendants for both the elite conformation and elite index categories.'

ARROW

Heifer embryos left for the Netherlands, Germany, and Australia. But also in the US, Ashley embryos were implanted. Out of one of them, the very high-testing Frazzled son Mr Aristocrat was born, during the World Classic Sale 2017 selling for \$640,000. Today, Aristocrat displays 2642 TPI (5791 daughters) at Diamond Genetics' daughter enterprise AI Total. This partly thanks to +1.57 udder. In Canada, 94% of the 134 classified young Aristocrat daughters scored GP or higher. 'Aristocrat has provided absolutely fantastic cows. His users are very satisfied,' according to Van der Vlis. Next Van der Vlis mentions Ashley's son NH DG Armagedon-P (<Splendid/2519 TPI), whose high conformation talent (3.28 PTAT) is visible in daughter Dueholm Armagedon Mystique EX-91, the Danish Grand Champion 2024! 'Also in Switzerland, Armagedon has provided various show champions,' according to Van der Vlis. As the third and most popular Ashley son, he mentions NH DG Arrow. About this Doc son with 2661 TPI (2663 daughters), 2.84 PTAT on the American base, as well as a very high 132 ITP (overall conformation) in Switzerland: 'While his oldest daughters are now in their second lactation, Arrow remains tremendously popular. In the Arrow daughters, you recognize the stamp of their grandam Ashley: faultless frames with wide and sloped rumps, wide front ends, outstanding feet & legs and locomotion, and fantastic udders. Especially rear udder height and width stand out. The older the Arrow daughters become, the better their conformation.'

SHOW COW

Ashley (Senior Champion Maryland State Fair 2023) received various outstanding daughters in the US. However, her most significant daughters were born in Europe. For example, in 2022, DG NH Crushabull Atlantis became the two-year-old champion during Switzerland's national show Expo Bulle. Sister NH DG Ashley EX-91 (<Doc) became a prominent show and brood cow for Gaec Toullec in France. 'We purchased Ashley when she was two months old, at the German Master Sale 2018. This with the desire to strengthen our female nucleus, as well as the prospect of breeding bulls with high gTPIs and gPTATs. As a heifer, Ashley was flushed with Disjockey, Tropic, and Mirand. She subsequently calved with a phenomenal udder. After some

time, we also realized that she could possibly become a show cow,' according to Benoit Toullec. Ashley, classified with an EX-96 udder in her fourth lactation, became Reserve Grand SPACE 2023 and Reserve Grand 2024 at the regional show in Brittany. About her six daughters, with JB Toullec Ashley-P-RC (<Mirand) standing at the foundation of a polled and Red branch, Toullec tells: 'They all have fantastic udders and, just like their dam, are productive and easy to manage.' Ashley also has two sons: The Alps JBT (<Tropic) at ABS St Jacobs and his brother Alan JBT at Ascol.

AMAZING

Crystalclear Holsteins (200 milking cows) in the United Kingdom (county of Yorkshire) has more than 30 Monterey Ashley descendants. Breeder Mark Lee, also the owner of the auction house Norton & Brooksbank Limited, discovered the family early thanks to his years-long friendship and collaboration with the German breeder and auctioneer Nici Nosbisch. 'At Crystalclear, we like to work with conformation-rich Holsteins. Generations with outstanding type, but always in combination with all-round good indexes and index levels.' In the Italian Cremona, NH All In was purchased at a sale. Today this EX-91 Undenied has daughters by Tropic (VG), Chief (heifers) and A2P2 ('fantastic calf'). A point higher was received by DG NH Amazing EX-92 (<Doc), who was purchased at an older age. Mark Lee about his full sister of Arrow and the French show cow Ashley: 'Amazing is, just like Undenied All In, tall, strong, and productive. In addition, she has a tremendous udder, classified EX-94.' From DG NH Amazing EX-92, Diamond Genetics owns granddaughter NH DG Anyday (Perfect-Tropic). Arjan Van der Vlis about the two-year-old with 2943 gTPI and a faultless conformation profile (2.68 gPTAT): 'With Anyday, we hope to achieve the same as with her great-grandam Ashley.'

GEN DURKJE

An older prominent donor within the Diamond Genetics breeding program is Gen Durkje VG-87 (Crimson-Charley-Ashley). Out of this 'fantasti-



cally uddered cow', AI Total has launched the Captain sons DG Adagio (3124 gTPI) and DG Dr. No. 'Especially Adagio is very popular, partly thanks to his high indexes in several different countries.' Van der Vlis also point out two high Durkje grandsons at AI Total. DG Plato (Powerhouse-Captain), tested with 3212 gTPI and NM\$ 1280, recently came into production. Cousin DG Veni Vidi Vici (AltaExquisite-Captain/3121 gTPI) is already available.

Looking back, Van der Vlis concludes: 'Initially, Monterey Ashley scored VG-86 as a two-year-old and subsequently received the maximum score of VG-89. Later she received EX-92 and eventually even EX-95 with EX-96 udder. She is completely balanced, with nice width from front to back, and a perfect rump, gently sloped and very wide, superb feet & legs, and a fantastic udder. The type of cow that can dazzle in the show ring and can also perform in every management and housing system. As a brood cow, she provided more than we ever dared to hope for at the beginning of her career. Ashley has developed into a unique brood cow; one of which very few are born. As Diamond Genetics and AI Total, we are very pleased with her continuous influence in our breeding program and sire lineup! ●



Two successful Ashley daughters at Crystalclear Holsteins in the UK; (left) Undenied daughter NH All In EX-91 and (right) Doc daughter DG NH Amazing EX-92.