

Goodbye Zion

14TH JULY 2010

Last month, the showing world was shocked to learn about the death of Zion, one of the best Saddle Hunters ever seen in the show ring.

'Bred by the late Bob Tait, Zion was a striking bay thoroughbred by Zabeel and out of Philco (Staff Sergeant). With such distinguished bloodlines, he was bred to be a champion.

Zion arrived at Otto Racing Stables as a three-year-old, originally for Natacha but eventually he formed a remarkable relationship with her sister Vanessa Everton. The 17hh gelding was never out of the ribbons and claimed some of the country's most prestigious titles. He won his first Saddle Hunter Horse of the Year title in 2006 at just six years of age and went on to complete a hat trick of three. He also claimed numerous championships at the NZ National Horse & Pony Championships, NZ Premier Showing Championships and countless A&P and Royal shows across the country.

Those who saw Zion in the flesh have described him as mesmerising and a true vision to watch, captivating anyone lucky enough to be ringside. He combined that much sought after thoroughbred quality with real hunter bone, and his conformation was textbook perfect. Spectators would go out of their way to watch him at competitions.

Zion was only ten years old when he was taken in his prime. However, there is no doubt that he will be remembered and will go down in the records as being one of the most beautiful, kind natured and charismatic horses to have graced the show circuit here. He will be missed, by those who knew and loved him as well as by those who got a thrill out of watching him power around a show ring.

The Show Circuit Team.



Photo: Lesley Warwick



Photo: Mendip Farm photography



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