

DEVON 2010 OPEN WEEK

Yesterday was a very long, very exhausting day! I woke up at 4am and headed over to Devon. Apparently Frankie didn't get a whole lot of sleep either. The night check notes showed that he was awake and standing up all night long.

We tacked him up and headed over to the ring at 6am. It was complete and utter chaos. All the breeding horses were being walked/lunged in the ring (yearlings through three year old) and they were wild—totally WILD. Plus there were plenty of young hunters being lunged and ridden. Frankie went up to the ring and rode around like he lives at Devon and rides there every day. It was utter chaos with people going every direction and not calling out left/right and he just plugged along. He did not have ONE spooky or bad moment. Not one. Seriously. He was the ONLY horse not in some form of side reins/draw reins (or worse). He just plugged along.

We took him back to the stall, gave him a bath, fed him breakfast, and then Kristin and I got breakfast and watched some breeding classes. The braider arrived around 10:30am and braided him. He was pretty good about it, but was getting a little impatient. After he was braided, he couldn't be loose in the stall, so we took turns holding him (and letting him eat hay) until around 1:30pm when Kristin got dressed and tacked up. He was a bit grumpy/impatient and clearly tired but seemed to be handling it well.

We went up and Kristin got on and rode in the gold ring. He was absolutely perfect, again. Just plugged along. Then we stood in the shade for a bit to watch Section A go. While we were standing, he suddenly nodded off and fell to his knees. For a second I thought he was colicky and trying to roll but then we slapped his shoulder and he immediately stood up with this "what just happened?" look on his face and didn't try again. I think he just fell asleep standing up!

Then Frankie went in for his section. The first two laps of trot were awesome. Then, I could see him starting to get really antsy and irritated. The judge called for the canter and he was cantering around and getting pretty strong, and I saw Kristin half halt him, and he broke to the trot right in front of the judge. Then they changed direction, and at the trot he broke upward to the canter before it was asked. And then as the cherry on top, right in front of the judge, did a flying lead change on the straightaway onto the wrong lead. Did I mention, we have lead changes? We do. Easy ones. Maybe too easy, lol!!! Apparently we like to show them off ;)

Needless to say, he did not pin. I have never seen him move better, I don't think I am just being partial—he was one of the best movers in the class he just hit his limit mentally, was tired, and WAS NOT COOPERATING once the class started. He wasn't spooky. He didn't care about the crowds, or the scoreboard, or the announcer, or the other horses, or the MILLIONS of other things you would EXPECT a young horse to be bothered by. So that's good. And there are lots more shows. This is just the beginning. He's going to be a really nice show horse, it's just a process getting him there. He had a HUGE cheering section!!! And the pro photographer got a terrific photo...

http://krussell.photobiz.com/cart/photo_detail.cfm?photoID=1547920

