

Armed, 2010 Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver, and 2011 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Drosselmeyer.

"(Owning such great champions) is beyond description," says Bill. "To be around these truly incredible equine athletes is something very, very special."

But there is one close to his heart. "Well Armed was pretty special," Bill gushes. "I'll probably never own another one like him."

"He was a homebred. He really toes in—he wouldn't have brought a ham sandwich as a yearling because of that conformational fault. It turns out he was one of the best horses in the world in his generation."

The bay gelding is now retired and lives on Bill's Rafter C Ranch in Flower Mound, Texas. As a 3-year-old, Well Armed broke his pelvis and spent many months on the ranch healing and getting back to full strength. For nine months he swam, walked on a walking machine, and walked the barn aisles. During his rehabilitation, and even today, Bill has swung his leg over the gelding to ride around in his arena, but even the die-hard cowboy wouldn't swing a loop off the champion.

"He still has a tremendous amount of go to him," says the 65-year-old. "He loves to do the 'doo-si-doo'—you better be screwed down on him when you ride him because if he sees a bird or something he loves to do a little dance."

The Best Athletes are Hard to Find

Bill appreciates both of his beloved sports, roping and racing, for the pursuit of that superior animal.

"It comes down to the equine athletes," he says. "The truly good rodeo horses are like the Grade 1 winners of racing—they're few and far between. Every team roper goes through dozens of horses trying to find that special athlete and it's rare. I think that's one of the main parallels between the two sports. It's certainly the athleticism—a lot of horses have the athleticism—but it's also the ones with the great minds, the ones that can deal with the pressure under extreme circumstances."

And for breeders of both roping horses

and Thoroughbreds, Bill believes the mind and sustainability are the two most important things to look for: "You've got to breed for a horse that has that great mind. I like to breed to a horse that shows that he's been sound—he's been able to have a sustained career."

"Just look for horses that were high performers but also had the ability to really show up on the big days, on a consistent basis, and have that composure and grit and confidence."



above: Bill Casner's "Well Armed" winning the Dubai World Cup in 2009 - Michael Marten

Land of Lincoln Performance Horse Sale March 14th, 15th & 16th, 2014

Heart of Illinois Arena - 9201 N Galena Rd - Peoria, IL 61615

FEATURING!! Calf Roping, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Cutting, Steer Wrestling, Halter and Pleasure Horses.

Friday March 14th - 6:00 PM - Open Ranch Horse Versatility Challenge.
See: chrisstaleyauctions.com for details

Saturday March 15th

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Preview of Catalog Horses • \$150.00 Catalog Fee
(Preview with Live Cattle) • 10% Commission Fee
• No - No Sale Fee

2:30 PM Catalog Horse Sale!

Sunday March 16th 11:00 AM - Tack Sale • 10% Commission Saddles & Horses
Saddles & Non Catalog • 20% Commission Fee Tack
Horses to Follow Tack • No Sale Fee-\$25.00

Each Horse will be required to have an individual and original negative coggins test within 12 months of the sale date.

For More Information, Please Contact: Chris Staley (IL Lic # 041.0001383) (309)370-4337
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