

# Kerndtway Bstar Dime

A brood cow extraordinary from Iowa is finally achieving her rightful time in the spotlight. From All-American nominees to top 50 CTPI cows, Dime is having a far greater impact on the breed than we realize.

We live in a time where cow families are beyond good....they're great. There's the Dellias, the Elegances, the Trinas.... the list could go on, as does their influence through the next generations of family members. The very interesting part of studying cow families is finding the next great one, or in this case, the one that's been going strong in a quietly humble way, making good cow after good cow. This is the story of Kerndtway Bstar Dime-ET \*TR (EX-90, GMD-DOM). She's made the All-Americans and the high indexing stars. It's long past time to tell of her great accolades.

## One dime that's worth her weight in gold

Shortly after Mark Kerndt finished college, the Waukon, IA, native purchased a Bell bred heifer at the local Albin Massman Dispersal in Ossian. That purchase, Al-Man Bell Julie, became a foundation animal for the Kerndt herd. Her daughter, Kerndtway Dollar Enhancer-ET, was flushed as a virgin heifer to Blackstar, a very popular sire of choice at the time. Dollar went on to become VG-88, GMD-DOM and had a best record of 5-09 2x 324d 31,440 3.7 1161 2.9 918. The flush to Blackstar produced Kerndtway Bstar Dime-ET, and that's when the story gets really interesting.

"Dime was a great brood cow," says Mark. "In fact the whole family was made up of great brood cows. Members of the family topped our herd sale in 1999, and have gone on to do very well in other herds throughout the country. In fact, one of the highest profile members of the family to date is Kerndtway Jolt Daisy who topped the sale and was purchased by Richard Lomen. The highlight of my Hol-

stein career was leading Daisy in front of Richard on one side of the ring and then to the other side in front of Frank Regan, as the two competed for the final bid. As a young dairyman, those men were two breeders I had a great deal of respect for."

Prior to their herd sale, Mark offered a Cubby daughter for sale in the Agriprize Sale in Madison. It was the first big consignment from the family and sold to Marvin Nunes of Ocean-View Farms in Windsor, CA. Kerndtway Cubby Dolly-ET (2E-90, GMD-DOM), started one of the most well-known families that the Nunes' work with. In fact, Marvin came to the Kerndt herd sale in 1999 and purchased two more heifers from the family. Daughters of Dolly with the Ocean-View prefix include just a few familiar names - Storm Dolly-ET (EX-93, EX-MS); Durham Dolly-ET (2E-92, EX-MS); Rudolph Doly-ET (2E-90); and Jolt Dolly-ET (VG-88), just to name a few.

Of course, a very high-profile daughter of Dime is Kerndtway Jolt Daisy-ET (2E-94, GMD-DOM) with a record of 5-05 2x 365d 35,090 4.3 1498 3.1 1072. Daisy was the HHM All-American Sr. 2-Year-Old in 1999 and the Genetic Award winner and 2nd Best Udder at Madison that same year. She was also Grand Champion at the 2001 Iowa Holstein Show.

"This family transmits stature, hard tops, wide rumps, good feet & legs and plenty of dairyness," Mark explains. "It's hard to predict how big or influential the Dime family will become because it's really not up to me. It's up to the breeders who get involved in the family and how many good daughters are produced. It's been exciting to see how well they've done in many different herds, and we continue to work with them here through a 93 point Durham we own with Mark Butz and Regancrest."

## The Domino effect

In Ridgeway, IA, the Courtney family has had their own success with the Dime family through Kerndtway Prelude Domino-ET, a 3E-94, DOM sister to Jolt Daisy. Owner Shane Courtney explains how Domino fell into place at Courtlane. "We purchased Domino in the Kerndt's herd sale in 1999. She was a 6-year-old cow back then and was the first lot through the ring. We bought her for \$3,200 - quite the bargain for my brother Scott and I. She was scored 88 when we bought her, and because we really liked the cow family, we thought we'd take a chance on her. We never dreamed she would still be alive today, and in fact, she'll be 15 years old in June and is due to Talent this September!" Domino is now scored 3E-94, and is eligible for another "E" in August when the Courtneys score again.

Early on, Domino didn't add very many descendents to the herd, but she more than made up for it. "She was bred to Emory when we bought her and calved with mixed twins. She then freshened with a couple of bulls. We tried flushing her with not much success, but she did make one Durham egg which resulted in Courtlane Durham Dime, who's scored EX as a 3-year-old. She also has another EX daughter, Courtlane Hi Metro Dollar (EX-92, 3y) and a Blitz who scored GP-83 not quite a month fresh." Domino's last daughter was born in the spring of 2007 and is sired by Damion.

"It's been so much fun working with Domino. She's got over 315,000 pounds of milk lifetime so far, and is obviously a great transmitter. I can't say if this will be the next super cow family, but I do know that they have exactly what breeders need - they live a long time, they produce very well and they breed back every time! You can buy a lot of cattle in your lifetime and never get these kinds of results. She still stands in the tiestall and runs with the rest of the herd. Visitors to the farm are always impressed by that!"

## Next stop - Ernlo

In a familiar pattern of seeing the family and going to a sale with the intent to buy, Jim Lomen of Ernlo Farms in Waukon, IA, went to the Kerndtway Dispersal Sale and saw a very intriguing member of the Dime family, a 2-year-old Jolt daughter by the name of Kerndtway Jolt Daisy. "My father looked at her and knew right away that he wanted to bring her home. She was an impressive young cow and I remember him always telling me to 'buy good cows from good people.' That's exactly what we did."

The purchase of Jolt Daisy was the last animal that Jim's father, Richard, purchased in person. In fact, he bid on Daisy from his wheelchair by the side of the ring. Daisy was brought back to Ernlo and flushed to Durham, resulting in three females. One of those was a \*TV heifer, Ernlo Daisy-Lynn-ET \*TV (EX-90).

Now the star of the breeding program, Daisy Lynn is dry and being flushed to Talent and Stormatic. Jim would like to try Shottle and Goldwyn again, and he admits they are very fortunate in that she flushes extremely well. "We chose Shottle the first time because the Germans wanted to purchase some embryos and gave me four bulls to choose from. I asked Mark Kerndt which sire to select and he recommended Shottle."

Also repeating what others have said, Jim feels that the cow family combines type and production, as well as a lot of size. Jolt Daisy was 65" tall and Daisy Lynn is 64". A Champion daughter from the family is also 64".

## And then there was Shottle

If you want to hear someone fired up about a cow family, give Brian Olbrich a call! He and his brother, Mark, along with a partner, Mark Lomen, bought into the Dime family with the purchase of Ernlo Sue-Lynn-ET. The Olbrich's have a 170-cow dairy in Harvard, IL. They knew of the Dime family and did some pre-purchase research before taking the big step. "We asked around about Shottle and talked with our contacts at ADI Cattle Corporation. They said that Shottle would be a great investment, and looking back on everything, they were very wise." Sue-Lynn sold in the National Convention Sale in South Dakota in 2006, so Mark and Brian went to the sale with the goal of buying her. "We didn't know how high she would go, but we were fortunate enough to obtain her. Then we read the *Holstein World* story in the fall of 2006 on Shottle (see September 2006 issue), and thought we were probably on the right path."



JIM LOMEN



MARK KERNDT



SHANE COURTNEY

The Olbrich's bred Sue-Lynn to calve early, and in hindsight, Brian admits they probably should have flushed her first. She was shown once as a heifer in their district show, where she won her class. Then they bred her right away to Bolton. She calved in September with a bull calf. "We picked Bolton because we thought he would work well for numbers and type. The bull calf is really striking and may go into A.I.," Brian said.

Since calving, Sue-Lynn hasn't missed a beat. She calved in with a very immature udder, but it has developed just fine since then and she went on to score VG-86, 86-FL, 86-MS. She also maintained an 80 pound average of very high component milk. "When she first calved in, we thought we should breed her right back, but then people started talking more and more about Shottle. A group from Japan came here during Expo, so instead of showing her in the Milking Yearling class, we kept her right here without interrupting her schedule. She could stay comfortable at home - roaming in the freestalls like everyone else."

If at first you do succeed, shouldn't you try again? "Since Shottle was hitting the scene big time after his new #1 position on the TPI list, we started researching again to see if Sue-Lynn had any full sisters, and discovered there were two at Ernlo. I called Scott Courtney to see if he knew anything about them, and he told me that one was selling at the Iowa Spring Sale held this past March. At that moment I knew I had to have her too!"

And from there the trio of Brian and Mark Olbrich and Mark Lomen owned another Shottle, Ernlo Sheena Lynn-ET. "We like having two full sisters in the barn," said Brian. "It helps when groups come through to show them a family pattern, and everyone likes something different, so if you like Sue-Lynn, you might like Sheena Lynn even better!"

Since coming to Holbric Holsteins, Sheena Lynn has created a ton of excitement. "When you decide to really invest in an animal, what price do you pay? How do you put a value on potential?" Sheena Lynn's potential has soared. She now has embryo and bull contracts written (15 embryos and three bulls), all done before she was fresh six days.

"It's really been sheer luck with these two. They've been dreams to work with, and we just can't get over the competitive nature they have getting to the bunk. They're healthy and they don't take any heat from the other cows, but yet are very easy to work with. We also think it's pretty unique to have black Shottles, when most of them are white and speckled.

Typewise, Sheena Lynn is longer in the fore udder, higher in the rear udder and will probably show more veination. She's just two weeks fresh, though, so we're trying to compare the two sisters at a similar stage in lactation. Sheena Lynn also has more of an uphill run and is extremely stylish. But don't get me wrong, Sue-Lynn isn't a bad cow by any means!"

The Olbrich's feel it's been a huge advantage to them to have some early Shottles, especially young cows from the Dime family. In fact, Sue-Lynn is the #3 indexing Shottle with a CTPI of +2075, placing her #40 overall on the High CTPI List. Brian confirms that they are completely in awe of the family. "We didn't know it would all turn out like this. So many people who are a lot smarter than we are do this all the time. They invest early, and the investment pays off. For us, it was just a stroke of luck. But, you have to position yourself to be lucky. We purchased Sue-Lynn because she fit perfectly into our breeding program. She had a really neat pedigree coming from 11 generations of VG and EX, all with high production and type."

What's next for the Shottle sisters? Brian says that they'd love to have 50 milking Shottles if they were all like these two, simply because they're such great, trouble-free cows. Whether the next generation "hits" or it doesn't, to the Olbrich's it doesn't really matter. "We strive for breeding great type, but having three (they own one more Shottle from the Honeycrest herd) daughters of the #1 bull is unheard of for us!"

Long-lasting, trouble-free, deep ribbed, very mobile...everyone we talked to said the same thing about these members of the Kerndtway Bstar Dime family. Yet another great treasure from northeast Iowa that, according to one excited breeder in Illinois, is the next best thing. "Yes, I have become a spokesman for the family," admits Brian. "They're doing so well in so many different herds here in the U.S. and around the world. I really, really believe this cow family could be very influential in the breed. There are great brood cows scattered throughout each generation of this maternal line. It's truly an untapped resource of genetics." ■