



A Desert oasis...
NK ARABIANS



braden photos



A DESERT OASIS... NK ARABIANS AND THE KAHOOK FAMILY

Written by Braden Davidson

“The difference between who you are, what you want to accomplish, and who you want to be, lies within what you do.” A no more statement of truth couldn’t be made of Nofal Kahook. His story and journey into the Arabian horse world is no fairytale and was no mistake by any means. The journey is a culmination of hard work, determination, sacrifice, strong beliefs, and moralities that have been passed down unchanged for over two thousand years.

The oldest of seven children, Nofal Kahook was born in Jerusalem, Palestine amidst the brewing tension, which escalated to the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Experiencing the war and the devastating aftermath was enough to instill determination and willpower, enough so that Nofal’s father felt that the visceral relationship of where Nofal and his children came from had been instinctively instilled and decided it was time he moved his family back to the United States so they could experience the enrichment of both worlds, of course always being reminded where “home” was.

Introduced to Arabian horses at a very young age, Nofal’s father was influential in the then five year old boys infatuation with the Bedouin tribes scattered along the outskirts of his hometown of Al-Bireh, a small town outside of Ramallah, Palestine. As with most first introductions to Arabian horses, the love was instant and a flame had been ignited within the young boy. Nofal and his father drove by daily and each time Nofal’s curiosity grew and grew. After many requests asking his father to stop, it would be this one time his father finally obliged and made a stop to visit with the Bedouins. With no horse sense whatsoever, Nofal jumped out of the car, taking no caution of any surroundings, and ran to the white horse who was tied to the side of the tent, the horse belonging to the Sheikh. “It was a magical moment”, says Nofal. “I can close my eyes and still remember that brisk cold morning like it was yesterday – the air was clean and crisp. I ran so fast towards the snow-white mare all awhile my father yelling at me to come back to him. Of course, the Arabian mare’s natural instinct comforted me as she lowered her head and rested it in my arms as I hugged her for what seemed like an eternity,” continues Nofal. “It was right then and there that I knew Arabian horses were someday going to be a part of my life. After all, Arabian horses have been apart of our culture for thousands of years,” continued Kahook.

For the next several years, Nofal would go with his father to visit the Bedouins and the grey mare. “I think it was

Nofal & Muntaha Kahook



about a year later that the Chief gestured me to get up on the mare, and of course I didn’t even blink. A leg up and I was off trotting around. Looking back now and remembering these experiences really brought out the love of the Arabian horse and instilled in me a great respect for this creature that played such an important role in our culture, in the evolution of man,” says Nofal.

As with most stories with Arabian horses, Nofal’s Arabian horse involvement was put on hiatus as the busy day-to-day life took priority. Eventually, Nofal traveled back to the United States to further his education and to assist with running his father’s company. Starting out with his undergrad studies at the Palm Beach College in Lake Worth, Florida, Nofal furthered his studies at the University of Miami by beginning a major in PreMed. It was during this time that Nofal met his wife Muntaha and were married shortly thereafter. With the growing responsibility and workload of assisting with his father’s business, Nofal changed direction of his career path along with his studies to focus on Business and Finance, which he later graduated with top honors. It was through his education, along with Nofal’s innate excellent business sense that he was able to found and grow very successful businesses around the world

and later focused his interests to mergers to acquisitions, including assisting two private companies from private ownership to public trade on the NASDAQ.

Family is an essential element of Nofal and Muntaha’s life. Together they have five beautiful children who have also started family’s of their own. “It’s truly a family



The NK Arabian farm in Amman, Jordan (Braden photo)

involvement,” says Muntaha. “All of our children love to join us in the stables when they visit us in Jordan. They enjoy the horses and take great pleasure seeing the mares with their babies,” continues Muntaha. “Two very important components of NK Arabians is my brother Hamuda Kahook (Mike) and our resident trainer and farm manager Mohamad Abdulhamid (Abu Hamza).” “It’s a perfect team and we spend endless hours planning, organizing, and taking care of many aspects of NK Arabians. From breeding decisions, to which shows the NK horses will attend, be it here in the Middle East or in Europe, as well as many other elements for the day to day care of each and every horse that resides here at our ranch.” says Nofal.

“The family connection the Kahook family has between each other is indescribable,” says longtime friend Braden Davidson. “What I admire most is that no matter where in the world the family is, they always are in constant contact and to me that is so special.” “Some of my most memorable moments and experiences with Arabian horses has been spent with Nofal, Muntaha and their family. Madame Muntaha holds a very special place in my heart, I think because she is truly the rock that holds everyone together, a motherly figure that I cherish. Her heart is pure and she is always giving of her self to ensure we are all tended to,” continues Braden. “We also cannot leave out the connection she has with the horses, especially “her” girl – the beautiful Cinnamon N Spice VLA, a First Cyte daughter acquired on a trip to Colorado with her son and of course who is the dam of the stunning Mimi NK.” The journey into owning, breeding, and showing Arabian horses didn’t come overnight for Nofal. It’s been a journey of studying, learning, and literally becoming a student of the Arabian horse breed, and more importantly, fine tuning the innate abilities of basic horse husbandry.

From a busy and hectic life in America, Nofal and Muntaha relocated to Amman, Jordan. Living in the heart of Amman, it wasn’t until a few years after their relocation that Nofal decided he wanted a country retreat to de-stress from the busy city life – and so their journey took them to the outskirts of Amman where they purchased a beautiful home sitting a top 15 acres – it would be here, in Tal Al Rumaan, where the evolution of NK Arabians would begin. Their first, and perhaps the most memorable acquisition, was that of the beautiful *Magnum Chall son, Matrixx LL, a chestnut colt that came all the way from Scottsdale. Matrix LL was a tall, very handsome copper chestnut stallion who immediately demanded

your attention. The Kahook’s shared many, many victories with Matrix, and not only was he undefeated in the United States before his export to the Middle East, but also undefeated in the Middle East up until his untimely death in 2009. It was this experience into the Arabian horse world that Nofal began to become passionately involved within the breed. It wasn’t long until the 15 acres were developed and a state-of-the-art facility was built to house the growing collection of world-class Arabian horses. “We’ve been very disciplined in our acquisitions”, says Nofal. “Of course learning through some trials and errors, we’ve traveled all over the world in search of beauty and functionality and these are very important elements we want in our horses. We like to think of it as blending the European beauty and type with the statuesque structure of the American and Brazilian bred horses.” “Matrix LL put NK Arabians on the map, and we are forever grateful for that”.

As with most Arabian horse ventures, evolution most always plays a role in moving the program to the next level, and this has without doubt been the case with the NK Arabians program. “We can be satisfied with our results, but never close our minds to wanting to advance to the next level,” says Nofal. “The Arabian horse, on a global scale, is ever evolving, and we must continue to be students of the breed to ensure the longevity of not only breeding, but adapting to inevitable changes that are brought forth.”

And evolving they have. In July of 2013, Nofal purchased the very special Ajdora, a stunning grey daughter of Ajman Moniscione. Ajdora, who was at the time in foal to the super-siring Ever After NA, foaled a very special grey colt shortly after and was appropriately named Nofal NK. “When Nofal NK was born, we immediately knew we had something very special” says Nofal. “The beginning of



**Matrix LL, by *Magnum Chall HVP*



Celebrating Mimi NK's Gold Champion Yearling Filly win in Aachen.

his life wasn't easy, but the journey has been absolutely exhilarating to say the least," continues Nofal. "We've taken our time with him and have allowed him all the time he has needed to mature and grow. It's been very slow, but it's been very well worth it and we wouldn't have it any other way." Nofal NK bred a very small, but very select, group of mares at the NK Arabians farm in Jordan and later spent some time in Palestine, before flying to Belgium in March of this year 2015 where he proudly stands at Christine Jamar's Jadem Arabians in Balen. "Christine has welcomed Nofal NK to her famed stable and has been ever so gracious to us and to Nofal NK," says Nofal. "It takes a whole team, and that we have, on many continents." A very special group of foals were welcomed at the NK Arabians farm in Jordan this past Spring, a group of outstanding foals displaying such unique and distinct qualities - the same qualities that we saw in Nofal NK at the very same age. Out of his first foal crop came Mimi NK, a very beautiful bay filly out of our beloved Cinnamon N Spice VLA, by the Multi-National Champion First Cyte and out of a Desperado V daughter, Cinnamon Candy V, herself out of a Khemosabi daughter. A pedigree of who's who for sure. Since birth, Mimi NK has captured the attention of every single visitor to the farm and Philippe Hosay was no different. Philippe is no stranger to the winners circle, having led numerous international champions to victory, so the decision to send Mimi NK to Philippe's farm in Belgium wasn't a difficult decision, it was instantaneous when Philippe asked for the filly. Since the filly's arrival



Mimi NK ~ 2015 All Nations Cup Gold Champion Yearling Filly & her trainer/handler Mr. Philippe Hosay in Belgium.

in Europe, she's amassed quite a following and quite an impressive resume. Her first showing appearance was at the Prague Intercup in the Czech Republic at the beginning of August where she was crowned Gold Champion Yearling filly, a feat she accomplished with only weeks landing on European soil. Shortly after her Gold Championship in Prague, the decision to take Mimi NK to the All Nations Cup in Aachen was made. One thing the Kahook's have come to appreciate about exhibiting horses in Europe is that most of the shows are in such a close proximity, which



*Nofal NK (Ever After NA x Ajdora, by Ajman Moniscione)
Sire of Mimi NK, 2015 All Nations Cup Gold Champion Yearling Filly*

lowers the stress on the horses for traveling since the distance between shows is quite reasonable and the horses do not need to be on the vans for long periods of time. The All Nations Cup is a perennial favourite for the Kahooks and the decision was quite easy to enter Mimi NK in the show, especially after her victorious showing in Prague. "The All Nations Cup in Aachen is one of the most difficult shows in Europe," says Nofal, "Aachen showcases the most prestigious Arabian horses and their breeding programs found anywhere in the world. The competition is incredibly strong and the quality is worldly," finishes Kahook. "If I've learned anything, it's to attend the All Nations Cup each year so we can be familiarized and be humbled with just how high the level of Arabian horses continues to grow in Europe," concludes Kahook. Most breeders and owners can only dream of having a horse competing at the All Nations Cup in Aachen - for the Kahook family, the experience was so much more and the rest really is history - the beautiful Mimi NK was crowned Gold Champion Yearling Filly at the All Nations Cup in Aachen and beautifully presented by Mr. Philippe Hosay. "Owned and bred by are not common words you hear for the top winning horses in Aachen," says Kahook "but for us, we wouldn't have it any other way." The Kahook Family and the NK Arabian farm in Jordan are totally committed to the Arabian horse, to perpetuate the highest qualities and never sacrificing any other trait to obtain another. It takes passion and dedication to get to where the NK Arabian farm, Nofal, and the entire team have come.

The future looks very bright for NK Arabians, the horses that call the ranch home, as well as the friends and family associated with this oasis in the Middle East - for sure always ever evolving and changing, and a place worth your visit, whether to spend a few hours or a few days - in the heart of Amman, Jordan - a visit to NK Arabians will forever leave a lasting impression on anyone who visits and will surely make you fall in love with Arabian horses all over again.