

FROM NOVICE TO U.S. NATIONALS

How One Amateur Owner Is Realizing Her Dream

How can a person who is a complete novice go from an absolute beginner to U.S. Nationals competition in just a few short months? Sharon Vega, a Florida Arabian horse owner and AOTH novice, gave her answer, “Early in 2022, I met Roxann Hart of Rohara Arabians. Since then, she has become my mentor and friend and has helped me to acquire some truly wonderful horses. Through Roxann, I met Claudinei Machado, the trainer at Rohara Arabians. After working together just a few times, he convinced me that I could show and win at the regionals, and at the U. S. Nationals as well. It’s been an absolute whirlwind of excitement and hard work, but I know it will all be worth it when I enter the ring at this year’s U.S. National Championships for the very first time – it will be a dream come true.”

Sharon may be new to showing in halter when she competes at Tulsa this year, but her journey with Arabian horses began decades ago. In 2005, she bought a gelding for her son. For years, Sharon’s primary focus was on the Class A performance arena, supporting her son who showed in Western Pleasure. Sharon also attended the Scottsdale show and U.S. Nationals whenever possible. Watching the superstars of the breed, Sharon was content watching from the rail. She never dreamed that one day she would compete alongside them with a superstar of her own.

In 2022, Sharon decided to up her game and bought two fabulous two-year-old Half-Arabians, The Kingslayer PMA and Tawny Kitaen PMA, both Scottsdale and U.S. National Champions. Her long-term plan was to start them in performance training when they matured. However, in the meantime, she wanted to try something new and have them shown in halter. Sharon Vega’s debut as a halter horse owner was a great success. At the 2022 Region 12 Championships, her new horses were both named Champion in their respective classes. Sharon’s success as an owner continued with her horses winning the titles of East Coast Champions and U.S. National Champions, shown by Claudinei Machado. Later that year, Sharon and Roxann visited Midwest Training Center, where she was completely captivated with an exquisite weanling filly, Wiezas Dynasty (Supreme Justice ORA x Wiezas Noor ORA), and immediately bought her.

In 2023, Sharon attended the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. Following months of diligent lessons with Claudinei, Sharon stepped into one of the most formidable halter arenas in the world as a competitor for the very first time. She presented The Kingslayer PMA and Tawny Kitaen PMA and was Top Ten with both. Also, her filly, Wiezas Dynasty, was named Champion Yearling Filly in the Arabian Breeders’ Cup, presented by Midwest Training Center. While at the show, Sharon saw two incredible mares she had to have: the exquisitely beautiful WR Silkk Obsession (Hariry Al Shaqab x Major Love Affair) and



Sharon Vega, Roxann Hart, and Claudinei Machado

the amazing My Fair Lady GA (Aria Impresario x Cinderella By Davinci). Sharon now owned a string of world-class show horses more beautiful than she had ever dreamed of.

Sharon continued to show her horses through the spring, building her confidence and skills, and earning the title of Region 12 Mare Champion AOTH with My Fair Lady GA. The lessons and practice will continue right up to the U.S. Nationals where Sharon will bring five of her horses including My Fair Lady GA with whom Sharon will make her national show ring debut in Purebred Mares 3-Years and Over AAOTH. Sharon’s remaining four horses will be presented by Claudinei Machado and they include: Wiezas Dynasty in ABS Yearling Fillies, WR Silkk Obsession in Senior Mares 6-Years and Over, The Kingslayer PMA in Half-Arabian Futurity Geldings, and Tawny Kitaen PMA in Half-Arabian Futurity Fillies.

Sharon is proof that the fulfillment of a life’s dream is possible, but only if you NEVER give up. She acknowledges those closest to her who helped and guided her along the way... “Claudinei Machado is a phenomenal trainer, instructor and more, he is a true horseman. I respect him for his natural talent and skills, but even more, I respect his professionalism, his incredible work ethic, and his kindness and compassion for the horses placed in his care. I deeply appreciate the fact that the horses ALWAYS come first with him. Their physical and mental well being are his top priority and it shows in their attitudes towards him – they are willing, confident, and happy. Claudinei is the most astute horseman I’ve ever met and I owe the success I have achieved in the show ring to him – I could not have done this without him. Furthermore, developing an eye for great horses is learned and even after watching from the sidelines for decades, I have learned more than ever from Roxann Hart, a truly great breeder and friend.”

What does the future hold for Sharon Vega and her dream team? “Although I am laser focused on showing at the U.S. Nationals right now, I look forward to learning more about breeding as well as welcoming the foals we are expecting next year. What an exciting future full of beautiful Arabian horses. This really is my dream come true!”