HORSE OF THE YEAR · Third Level

HARLOTTE BREDAHL-BAKER WAS on a 2000 shopping trip in her home country, Denmark, and not having much success. Then a dressage-judge friend urged her to go see a five-year-old stallion at a nearby sales barn—and "the minute I saw him, I said, 'I've got to have that horse.' And I've never done that before in my life!"

The stallion had shown in suitability classes but never dressage. Bredahl-Baker tried him and found solid basics and an outstanding natural clasticity and suppleness. She tested him a little, "but he never acted as if he felt pressured."

Buying Windfall—who'd gotten his preliminary stallion approval as a two-year-old in Germany, gone to Denmark as a threeyear-old, and had a year's record breeding there—required "some creative financing," which his prospects as a sire helped her to do. Still, she emphasizes, "I bought him primarily as my competition horse."

Fortunately, "most of the time he's a good boy. He's a stallion, so he has 'moments'— but my geldings have all had their 'moments,' too." And last year, as well as being collected for frozen semen, he bred a few mares and gave no behavior problems—even showing the day after a breeding. Bredahl-Baker's looking forward to seeing those babies; meanwhile, mare owners will be able to see the two-year-old Windfall son she recently bought.

Windfall's full approval as a stallion will require three Prix St. Georges scores of 60 percent or above, so Fourth Level and PSG are goals for the coming year. Tempi changes have

been "very easy for him to learn"; though she's working on developing his collection to the level needed for the next levels, this winter Bredahl-Baker's "going easy on him; we won't show until he can do a solid



Fourth Level test." Given his 2001 record—earning a median score of more than 72 percent in his first year showing dressage—she expects to reach those goals fairly soon.

- D.J. CAREY

Windfall

1995 black 17-hand Hanoverian stallion Rider/owner: Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, Solvang, CA Median score: 72.327%; number qualifying: 195

THIRD LEVEL RESULTS

- MATISSE (Dutch Warmblood); Dominique Culham (CAN), rider; owned by Dominique Culham (CAN), Darwin, sire; Galatea, dam; H. Hendriks, breeder

- CAPTIVA (Hanoverian); Beverly L. Rogers (AZ), rider; owned by Lois Arnold (AZ), Cabalier, sire; Malve, dam; Matrose, dam's sire; Robert G Lucas, breeder.

- LEIDEN (Dutch Warmblood); Jodie S. Kelly (FL), rider; owned by Jodie S. Kelly (FL), Bolivar, sire; Lolita, dam; Brant Kelly, breeder. 67,703%

- LUCIANO (Holsteiner); Karen M. Ball (CA), rider; owned by Jill Cordsen (CA), Lasandos, sire; Petunie, dam; Helmut Bies, breeder. 66.970: