

Comestar Laurie Sheik

# Influencing the Holstein landscape for over 30 years

It's a common English expression: 'Can't see the forest for the trees' – meaning one can be too focused on the details of a situation to discover the overall, big-picture view. But, sometimes, the forest is so expansive and vast, the best way to evaluate its quality is to study a few trees close up. In the Holstein business, the 'forest' of the Comestar Laurie Sheik family is vast indeed, with thousands of offspring found worldwide. To write about them all would take pages and pages of breed history books, so let's focus on just a few 'trees' that reveal a relatively rare quality of this family: the ability to generate both list-leading high genomic offspring as well as high-type, show-winning individuals.

Eighteen Very Good daughters helped Laurie Sheik earn 23 Brood Cow stars, but the majority of her breed-influencing genetics were concentrated through her notable Blackstar daughters: Laura Black VG-87-CAN 24\*; L Or Black VG-87-CAN 16\*; and Lausan Black VG-87-CAN 23\*. These three cows yielded most of the world-famous Comestar sires – Lee, Lheros and Lartist from Laura Black; Outside from L Or Black (also the dam of Leduc and Starfire under the Lystel prefix); and Stormatic from Lausan Black.

## Impact of the Lausan Blacks

The Lausan Black line, in particular, displays the propensity to deliver big-time index offspring as well as the big-time show winner. The mating decisions at Comestar have always stayed current with market demands and thus, though Laurie Sheik made her name as a show cow (HM All-American and HM All-Canadian Senior Two-Year-Old in 1989), her daughters were aggressively mated to bulls from the top of the TPI and LPI lists.

Lausan Black produced a Ricecrest Emerson daughter – Comestar Lautelle Emerson VG-85-CAN 2\* – who then had a daughter by Summershade Igniter, the No. 1 LPI bull in Canada during 2000-2001. Comestar Lautelma Igniter VG-89-CAN 21\* was in turn flushed to a successive No. 1 LPI bull, Hartline Titanic. A resulting female, Comestar Lautamie Titanic VG-89-CAN 31\*, became one of the most heralded cows to ever carry the Comestar prefix.

Only occasionally do the very separate markets of high-index and show-winning type meet in one animal, and when they do, she's bound to be an instant breed superstar. Comestar Lautamie Titanic fit the bill when she calved in as a junior two-year-old. A second place finish in her class at the 2006 Royal Winter Fair garnered her Reserve All-Canadian Junior Two-Year-Old honors and by February 2007, she

was the No. 1 LPI cow in Canada (with her dam, Lautelma Igniter, ranked No. 3), where she stayed through April 2008. Needless to say, the market eagerly awaited every male and female she could produce.

A Braedale Goldwyn flush to her dam, Lautelma Igniter, turned out well, eventually resulting in the No. 2 LPI bull, Comestar Lauthority. His full sister, Lautella Goldwyn VG-87-CAN 8\* was consistently in the Top 50 LPI Cows. Lautella was purchased by Freurehaven Farms and Dymenthholm Genetics of Ontario and they mated her to the top TPI sire, Sandy-Valley Bolton. A resulting son, Freurehaven Niagara, made the GenerVations lineup as a daughter-proven bull known for high milk yield. His full sister, Freurehaven Lautella Bolton EX-92-CAN 4\*, heads a branch of the family that has attained some of the highest GTPI numbers for the Laurie Sheiks.

## Modern Sire Stacks - Big GTPI

The Bolton's Shottle daughter, Freurehaven Shottle Lautella VG-89 3\* produced a Man-O-Man, Freurehaven LaBelle EX-90 that was sold as a calf to Woodcrest Dairy and Ziem-Barb-Way through the Ziem-Barb Way Special Edition Sale in 2011. They found a 'nick' mating her to Supersire, and those daughters have a proven knack for producing high-index offspring for breeders across the U.S.

One of those Supersire daughters, WCD-ZBW Supersire Lavage VG-85 DOM (GTPI+2645) makes her home at Oakfield Corners Dairy in New York and has produced six offspring testing over +2700 GTPI, including OCD Delta Lavage 4252 at +2793 GTPI, one of the very highest females on the January 2016 genomic run.

Remarkably, Lavage has another eight daughters that test over +2600 GTPI. "Lavage was the result of a first choice we purchased at the first Woodcrest Sale. The Man-O-Man dam was there and she was a nice young cow with a good udder. We admired the deep cow family and felt that branch had the capacity to test high genomically," Jonathan Lamb recalls. Another full sister at Lambs, Supersire Lovey, has a Rubicon son, Oakfield-Corners Rubicon Lopez-ET, at +2725 GTPI and +906NM\$.

## Jonathan Lamb, Oakfield

"The Supersires from Labelle really have a nice balance of strength and dairy quality. They have very nice udders and are moderately sized – today's ideal modern, commercial cow."



**Freurehaven FGS Laura VG-88-2YR-CAN**  
Nominated All-Ontario Junior Two-Year-Old 2013



**Snowbiz McCutchen Lottie N.C.** GPA-LPI+3178  
Maternal sister to Snowbiz LITTLETON



**WCD-ZBW Supersire Lavage VG-85-2YR-USA DOM**  
Six offspring over GTPI +2700

"We continue to work Lavage on IVF every two weeks. Her numbers are very high for a cow and we enjoy the opportunity to work her and her sisters to a variety of high genomic sires."

Yet another Supersire sister, Supersire Lala, has made her way to Rock Hill Dairy in New Mexico, where she has produced nine offspring over +2600 GTPI. Those offspring include the No. 1 Protein Kingboy son in the breed – Leaninghouse Kingby 21317-ET (GTPI+2717 +66P +2.98T) who is headed to Accelerated Genetics – and the No. 1 Protein Kingboy daughter in the breed – Leaninghouse Kingby 21324-ET (GTPI+2726 +70P +2.38T).

A Shottle Lautella mating to Flevo Genetics Snowman produced Freurehaven FGS Laura VG-88, a stylish show cow that was nominated All-Ontario Junior Two-Year-Old in 2013. Now owned by Walnutlawn Farms in Ontario, she has produced high-type number daughters by RockyMountain Lottomax, Silverridge Ascend and Mr Donalynn Millenium.

Laura's full sister, Freurehaven FGS Lucy, was purchased by the Snowbiz group and three of her daughters owned by the Vogue Cattle Co. group have been making headlines. Snowbiz N Uno Lena VG-86-CAN (GTPI+2412 / GLPI+3150), has been one of the top GLPI cows in Canada. Her Stantons Main Event son, Oconnors Vogue Main Time carries a +2619 GTPI and is at Cogent. She also has three daughters over +2600 GTPI, and her Pepper daughter sold for \$76,000 in the 2015 RockyMountain High Sale to Golden Oaks Farm of Illinois. A Silver daughter, Vogue Silver Lenas Loca, is at +3414 GLPI and also at +164 RZG. Lena's full sister, Luscious, was in the Top 30 Cows on the December 2015 GLPI list and her Commander daughter brought the third high selling price (\$69,000 CDN) at the 2015 Sale of Stars.

The Vogue group feels the McCutchen sister to Lena and Luscious, Snowbiz McCutchen Lottie (GLPI +3178 Conf. +15), may have the most promise. "We're very excited about Lottie. We think she will score 86-87 points and with her pedigree, she could be a Top 10 GLPI Cow in April if all goes well! She has consistently been in the top few McCutchen daughters for milk," Dave Eastman, a member of the Vogue partnership shares.

**Dave Eastman, Vogue**  
"We feel this family will have a huge impact in the years ahead for milk and type!"

Her Alta1stClass son at Semex, OConnors Classic, is at +3359 GPA-LPI and +20 Conf. while his full brother headed to Select, Mapel Wood Light My Fire carries numbers of +3450 GPA-LPI and +19 Conf. OConnors 1st Class Laura, is one of the top GPA-LPI heifers in the world at +3451 and +19 Conf.

"These three heifers have been the best investment to date for the Vogue partnership," comments Len Vis. "They have a dozen sons headed to A.I.; they flush like chickens – averaging over 20 embryos on each conventional flush – and they have really made us good money!"

## Influence of Lautamie Titanic

Picking up the story of Lautamie Titanic, she herself was also mated to Bolton and Goldwyn. Her Bolton daughter, Comestar Lautamia Bolton VG-87-CAN, through her Planet daughter, Comestar Lautamie Planet VG-87-CAN is the third dam of Peak Ltvia Byont 60218, a Plain-Knoll Dona Bayonet daughter owned by Peak Genetics that is +2700 GTPI as well as a high Supershot, Westcoast Supershot Sal at +2667 GTPI.

Once again displaying the family's versatility, Lautamie Planet is also the dam of Comestar Lauras Doorman, nominated All-American Fall Yearling in 2015 for her owner, Kayla Umbel of Maryland.

Goldwyn was also a natural mating for Lautamie Titanic. A resulting son, Comestar Lavanguard, is a daughter-proven sire at Semex with 69% GP or better ranking on over 4200 classified daughters. His full sister, Comestar Lautama Goldwyn VG-88-CAN 11\* parked herself in the Top 5 GLPI Cows in 2010 and 2011. Her Man-O-Man daughter, Comestar Lautamai Man O Man VG-87-2YR-CAN 1\* sold as a promising VG-86 two-year-old for \$80,000 in the 2012 Sale of Stars and was purchased by the partnership of Mapel Wood, O'Connor and Silverridge. Lautamai gained a point and finished an impressive 40,000



pound milk record for her new owners. Her Mogul son, Comestar Lineman is in the genomic lineup at Semex.

According to Len Vis of Mapel Wood, she was a bit of an impulse buy for the group. “We were standing at the sale and thought she’d bring upwards of \$100,000. We bid once and got her! She’s been a good purchase for us – we sold a lot of embryos out of her to Australia, the UK and Japan.”

Lautamai may well be better known as the dam of a tall, black, good-uddered young cow that caught the eye of many in the junior two-year-old class at the big North American fall shows in 2015. Comestar Lamadonna Doorman VG-89-CAN placed quite high at all of those tough shows: first at La Supreme Laitier; fourth at World Dairy Expo; sixth at Royal Winter Fair. Her All-Canadian and All-American nominations as a junior two-year-old mirror her nominations as a summer yearling in 2014.

Lamadonna attracted plenty of attention as an early Doorman daughter and even more so as his first VG-89 point two-year-old. She also is in the Top 60 GLPI cows in Canada at +3108 and +13 Conf. Purchased by Jamie Howard of Howard-View Holsteins in Burgessville, Ontario at the 2014 Day at the Derby Sale, Lamadonna exemplifies the versatility of the Laurie Sheik family in both the show and index worlds.

“I saw her as a heifer at the spring show in Syracuse and felt very strongly about her potential”, Howard says. “She achieved that potential when she calved. She’s making a great record and is due back in

July. We have several females out of her and marketing her offspring is our business goal – and being from the Laurie Sheiks makes that goal much easier!”

Other ‘trees’ from the Laurie Sheik forest certainly deserve acclaim as well for their achievements around the globe. Delicia EX-91-FR, the popular Baxter daughter that won the Six-Year-Old class at Swiss Expo in 2015 traces back to Comestar Laura Black, as does the well-known Dutch show cow, Camphols Rudolph Laurona EX-93-NL. Swisslor Damion Loria EX-90-NL, owned by Scholten Dairies of The Netherlands, won the Senior Two-Year-Old class at Swiss Expo in 2014 and hails from the L Or Black branch.

Also making a name is the group at Ste Odile Farm in Quebec headlined by their Man-O-Man daughter, Ste Odile Manoman Model Saphir VG-85 1\*. A former No. 1 GLPI cow, she holds her own in the Top 10. She and her sisters are making the high-index kind, including Ste Odile Supershot Electra, one of the world’s highest females at +2831 GTPI and +3467 GLPI. Saphir’s dam, Les091 Baxter Model Rubist VG-88-CAN 6\*, has several sons in A.I. and originates from Comestar Laurie Inspiration VG-87-CAN 5\*, the matriarch of the ‘Model’ line of the Laurie Sheiks.

Few cow families can account for as many brood cow stars, A.I. contracts, show winners and sale toppers as the prolific Laurie Sheiks. The family has flourished worldwide because of this adaptability and it guarantees they will continue to shape the Holstein genetic landscape for years to come!

**Comestar Lautamie Titanic VG-89-2YR-CAN 31\***  
Reserve All-Canadian and former No. 1 GLPI Cow

