



USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 3 • FALL 2009

Fundraising for U.S. Athletes Begins Early for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

Every four years, equestrians gather for the largest competition of horse sports in the world, the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG). In 2010, the United States will host these world championships for the first time ever, with the best horses and riders from countries around the world coming to Lexington, Kentucky.

In order to make the WEG a complete success, it must be a total "team" effort. The U.S. riders and horses are training and competing around the world in preparation, the Kentucky Horse Park is putting the infrastructure and facilities in place, and the WEG organizing committee is fine tuning the

management of each discipline's competition. All of this will contribute to what we hope will be the best WEG ever held.

The USET Foundation's role in the "team" is to raise the funds that will help support the preparation and participation of winning teams for the United States in Dressage, Driving, Endurance, Eventing, Jumping, Reining, Vaulting and Para Equestrian (for physically challenged riders). It is an awesome task, but one that we know the equestrian community here in the United States will embrace.

One of the many ways individuals can lend their support in this effort is through the Foundation's benefit dinner dance, "Road to Kentucky," to be held February 5, 2010, at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida. The evening will be one of celebration for all the candidates vying for a place on a U.S. team and to wish them all the best as they travel down this exciting road that will ultimately lead to Kentucky.

The event will include a live auction and the presentation of the USET Foundation's prestigious Whitney Stone Cup and the Lionel Guerrand Hermès Trophy. Also recognized on the evening of the benefit will be the 10, 20, 25, and 30 year anniversaries of our most generous and loyal individuals, our Gold Medal Club donors.

The Benefit dinner dance will help increase people's awareness of WEG and the need to raise funds for our athletes, much like the Kentucky Cup test events did this summer.

The Kentucky Cup test events were held for many of the disciplines to take a trial run in using the venue, evaluating the footing, and making sure all the logistics ran smoothly. All these events have helped in not only making sure the WEG venues will be ready, but they have also heightened interest and excitement surrounding the U.S. Equestrian Teams' participation.

We congratulate all of the competitors that participated in the WEG test events, and we wish them all the best in preparing for the upcoming selection trials and the opportunity to represent their country at next year's World Equestrian Games.

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An Evening to Celebrate
The United States Equestrian Team's Road to Kentucky!



United States Equestrian Team Foundation
PO Box 355
Gladstone NJ 07938

USET Foundation Benefit Dinner Dance
Friday, February 5, 2010
at the International Polo Club
Wellington, FL

An Evening to Celebrate
The United States Equestrian Team's Road to Kentucky!





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Dear Friends:

With only 10 months to go to the 2010 FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky, the preparations are accelerating and entering their final stages!

This year, all of the U.S. athletes who hope to contend for a place on the U.S. Equestrian Team at the WEG were following carefully developed competition and training programs that will have them ready for the upcoming final selection trials and, hopefully, an ultimate berth on the team.

The Kentucky Horse Park will hold test events for many of the eight disciplines to evaluate and fine tune protocols and processes to make sure all is in place when the equestrian world arrives next year. The overall impression was they will be ready to welcome the world to an incredible World Equestrian Games next year.

While the developing and elite riders were honing their skills in preparation of WEG, the rising talent of the U.S. was showcased once again here in Gladstone. The USEF Talent Search Finals – East had a record number of participants and arguably one of the strongest fields ever. The final four riders of Matt Metell, Jessica Springsteen, Maggie McAlary, and Elizabeth Lubrano gave us a preview of U.S. Show Jumping teams to come, and they definitely proved that the future of the USET is strong and vibrant.

On a more somber note, the equestrian world lost several individuals who were a major part of the successes of the United States Equestrian Team over the years: President Emeritus and past Chairman of the Board, Finn M.W. Caspersen, legendary Eventing coach Jack Le Goff, and USET farrier Seamus Brady. All of these men were an integral part of the many medals won by U.S. equestrian teams during the 1970s and 1980s. They will be missed, but their contributions and legacy will live on.

Supporting eight discipline teams at the WEG is an enormous undertaking. Having the Games on our home turf, in front of family, friends, and the entire U.S. equestrian community is an opportunity we need to embrace. We look to everyone to help share in this magnificent event and the responsibility to ensure that our teams are the best funded, best prepared, and ultimately the best performers next fall in Kentucky! Please consider the USET Foundation when making your year-end gifts. We ask our athletes and coaches to give their best and strive for Gold Medals, and I am asking you to consider the same in your support this year to the USET Foundation.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your continued loyalty to the United States Equestrian Team!

Sincerely,

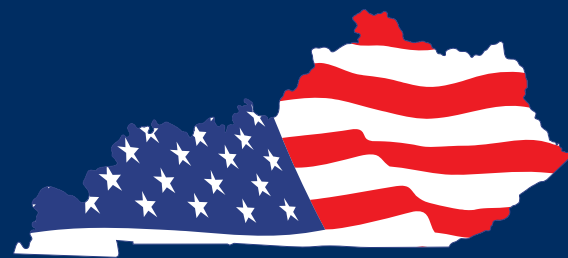
Bonnie B. Jenkins
Executive Director





Test Events

Show that Kentucky and American Teams
are Ready for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games



Benjamin, Geisler, Mt. Eden Team Win Divisions for USA in Kentucky Vaulting Cup Test Event

The World Equestrian Games test events kicked off in July with the reining and vaulting disciplines, the only events which will take advantage of the park's new awe-inspiring \$45 million indoor arena.

The Kentucky Cup Vaulting test event for the 2010 WEG featured both 1* and 2* divisions with the majority of focus given to the 2* contestants, most of whom represent the "gold level" vaulting division. All gold vaulters are part of a National ranking list, which dictates potential candidates for the world championships next year.

The Saratoga, California-based Mt. Eden Vaulters team proved tremendously successful throughout the event, winning virtually every division offered. 2006 WEG gold medalist Megan Benjamin, a 21-year-old resident of Saratoga, CA, dominated the 2* division with victories in three of the four rounds, the last of which included a freestyle performance that landed her the highest score seen at the event (8.127) and secured her the overall victory with a score of 7.974. Mt. Eden teammate Mary McCormick, of Woodside, CA, secured the second place spot.

The men's individual 2* division was equally dominant for the Mt. Eden Vaulters, with 28-year-old Kenny Geisler of Sunnyvale, CA, winning all four rounds by a healthy margin of .525 points and giving him an overall score of 7.114.

After a roller-coaster ride of last-minute changes to the vaulting rosters and team horses, Woodside Vaulters and Mt. Eden Vaulters both wound up performing their nerve-racking performances aboard new, borrowed horses from different teams. Mt. Eden was victorious with an overall score of 6.512, with the help of Sampson - a massive 19.1 hand Percheron gelding owned by Mile High Vaulters of Denver, CO.

Having had the ability to expose the vaulter, horse, longeur, coach, and grooms to the facility's vast expanses, as well as



2006 WEG Gold medalist Megan Benjamin dominated the 2* competition and won the women's division at the Kentucky Cup Vaulting Test Event.

Photo by Alex Thomas

getting a feel for the pace of the event, press exposure, and FEI rules, this will surely prove to be a priceless experience for the individuals and teams at the first-ever World Equestrian Games held on American soil. - Alex Thomas

American Reiners Take FEI's Newest Equestrian Sport to the Next Level

The U.S. Reining Team is no doubt ready for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games and is in a great place to defend their WEG Team Gold and Individual Silver and Bronze medals next year. Team USA finished in the top spot

over Canada and Mexico in the WEG test event team competition, and U.S. riders took the Gold and Bronze medal (tied with a Mexican rider) in the individual competition.

The victorious U.S. team was made up of Tom McCutcheon, Dell Hendricks, Aaron Ralston and Shawn Florida. McCutcheon took top honors during the individual round aboard the 2002 APHA mare Darlins Not Painted with a score of 222.5 while Hendricks tied for third aboard the 2000 stallion Starbucks Sidekick with a 218. The Silver medal went to Canada's Lisa Coulter and the 2003 AQHA gelding Hollywood Aces who scored a 219.5. Hendricks shared the Bronze with Mexico's Jose Vazquez and Juiced Up Doc.

U.S. Reining Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska said, "Every time we come to one of these (events), the level of the competition increases. We just look forward to it every year, knowing that when we come to an international competition, it's going to continue to get tougher every time."

The new arena received rave reviews from all participants. "I think it's a beautiful arena," said Dell Hendricks. "The ground was awesome. It's probably the best arena I've ever walked in and shown a horse in. The size is perfect. There's going to be a lot of really special reining happening in this arena."



The victorious U.S. team at the Reining Test Event was made up of (L to R) Shawn Florida on Smart Spook, Aaron Ralston with Double My Whiskey, Tom McCutcheon on Darlins Not Painted, and Dell Hendricks with Starbucks Sidekick.

Photo by Jamie Blaney Putney

All countries were invited to the Kentucky Cup, and twelve riders from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico made the trip, and although the U.S. knows their competition is getting better by the day, they are excited for the opportunity to compete as a sport in just their third WEG, and this time on American soil.

Tom McCutcheon said, "This is a different format than what we're used to. At our shows we go and we do our own thing, and it's each man for himself. But there's something about pulling on this jersey with this team that's like nothing else. There's just no other way to describe it. For me it's the most meaningful event that we go to. I just love the fact that we ride for the U.S. and we have teammates. It's just awesome."

The U.S. team is thankful for this win and extremely thankful to all involved in getting them to this point. "Without the USET Foundation we wouldn't be here, and that sounds like a catch phrase but it's the truth," said Hendricks. "Reining would not be on the international stage. They do a lot for us, and I think it's really going to help when all the Americans can actually see what the WEG means. I think once we get it over here, it's going to help our U.S. team so much. That was the most meaningful accomplishment in my life, winning that Gold medal for team USA (in 2006), so for the 2010 Games, I'd like to be able to do that again." – *Jeannie Blancq Putney*

Triple-Medal Win for U.S. Riders at the 2009 Kentucky Cup Endurance Race CEI***

It was a day that tested the will and stamina of some of the world's best endurance athletes at the 2009 Kentucky Cup Endurance race. In the 100-mile ride (that was shortened to 75 miles due to inclement weather and deteriorating conditions), it was an all-American medals haul.

Former World Champion and longtime endurance athlete Danielle McGunigal, 38, led the pack aboard Gold Raven in a final ride time of 06:30:41 to handily claim the Gold. Some 20 minutes behind her in final ride time was Iowa's Ellyn Rapp, 27, and Berjo Smokey to pick up the Silver medal. And the competitions' senior rider, 69-year-old Jan Worthington and her Golden Lightning, crossed the finish line nine minutes later to win the Bronze medal. In addition, her mount won the coveted Best Condition Award.

McGunigal was quick to comment on just how strong and promising her eight-year-old grey Arabian mare was. "Raven is unique, and I've competed two of her



*In the Kentucky Cup Endurance Test Event, the elements caused the CEI*** to be shortened from 100 miles to 75 miles, but Danielle McGunigal and Gold Raven braved the weather for victory.*

Photo by Cilly Wheeler/USEF

sisters. They are very tough and really put their teeth into the work they are doing and get it done," she said. McGunigal of Fort Valley, VA, began her competitive racing career at age eight, and she won her first national championships at the age of 10. She first became a member of the U.S. team at 15.

Silver medalist Rapp, of Dubuque, IA, had wonderful words for her partner, Smokey, a 14-year-old Arabian grey gelding. "There isn't a horse I have had or seen that can hold a candle to Smokey. He is getting better every time we take him out," she said. "He'll never quit on you and gives 110% every time."

Scales Mound, IL, is the home town for Bronze medalist Worthington and her Best Condition competitor, nine-year-old Golden Lightning, whose physical conditioning was evident and worthy of his award. "It was a surprise even though I know my horse is nice and sound," she said. "He looked so smooth and consistent."

Team USA East brought home the Gold medal and comprised McGunigal, Dr. Meg Sleeper, Stephen Rojek, and Farzad Faryadi. Rapp, Worthington, Darolyn Butler, and Julie Jackson-Biegert won the Silver medal for Team Central USA. Team Mountain USA - Christoph Josef Schork, Suzanne Hayes, Douglas Swingley, and Tennessee Mahoney - won the Bronze medal. – *Brian Sosby/USEF*

Chester Weber Leads American Drivers at the Kentucky Cup

It wasn't easy, but Chester Weber never wavered and netted his seventh straight USEF National Four-in-Hand Driving Championship at the Kentucky Cup and Lexington Driving Classic. Weber's win also bodes well for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, as this event served as the test event for next year's WEG.

Weber beat his long time teammate Tucker Johnson (also going for a record seven wins) by 10 points, but the rivalry challenged Weber all weekend. "Tucker made me work really hard for this," said the winner after adding 2.30 penalties in the Cones.

Historically Weber finds the Cones the most challenging of the three phases and felt the pressure Sunday, but he never flinched, even though he had a very fresh horse on his team for the finale.

Jamaica, the 2008 Farnam/USEF Horse of the Year, is 18 this year and sat out the first two phases, a decision that meant for a "good feeling" left-wheeler horse on the final day.



Chester Weber and his Four-In-Hand team won their seventh straight USEF National Four-in-Hand Driving Championship, which also served as the Kentucky Cup Driving WEG Test Event.

Photo by Pric of You/USEF

"Jamaica was at the left wheel and was very difficult," said Weber. "He must have been too fresh from not running the marathon. I guess that is what I get for trying to save an 18-year-old."

Jim Fairclough drove Jane Clark's team to third in the National Championships, proving that these top three U.S. teams that prevailed are the backbone of the U.S. Driving program headed into the 2010 season. – *Joanie Morris/USEF*



COACH'S CORNER:

An Interview with George H. Morris

Looking back at 2009, what were some of the highlights for you?

GM The first highlight was Las Vegas (the Rolex FEI World Cup Finals), where Sapphire was a very close second to Shutterfly. Sapphire's conformation simply wasn't as fast as Shutterfly. McLain and Sapphire were fabulous. That was a great boost.

We had some unexpected absence (Rich Fellers) and unexpected downs in the "Super League" (Meydan FEI Nations Cup). We had the back-to-back Rome and St. Gallen Nations Cup wins, which is very unusual. Ashlee Bond really was out of nowhere in a sense, and she absolutely set the world on fire over there with double-clear rounds in every Nations Cup and ribbons in the grand prix every week.

(The third leg of the tour was) Falsterbo, Hickstead, Dublin. That's where we really could have beaten them, especially if Rich Fellers had gone. One of his horses was unsound and he didn't feel it was worth going to Europe with one horse, which I agreed upon. If we had Rich, with one more very seasoned person on that tour and gotten more points, I think we could have won the Super League. It wasn't a big disappointment; we ended up second, but when you're that close to winning and when you're ahead for most of the year, it is a bit of a disappointment. Overall we had a very nice summer in Europe.

We had the best show in Calgary that I can remember, despite that we were second in the Nations Cup. Rich won an international class and McLain won the big grand prix on Friday night, and the huge one on Sunday. We won the speed derbies, and Will Simpson won in the beginning of the week. That was the best Calgary I ever remember as far as individual wins.

That was the end of the year for me. I watched Southhampton, I watched New Albany, and I'll watch Syracuse. My real influence and duties after Calgary diminish considerably in the trenches, but not in the office. For 2010, we have to see everybody come forward and see every horse jump in the trials. We have to see their form. That's what keeps you getting up in the morning.

How satisfied were you with the progress of rookies on the tour?

GM Ashlee Bond did something you don't see happen. She ruled Europe in a sense, for those five horse shows. I would say Cara Raether was very much a contributor to the Nations Cup scores. She had a better Nations Cup run than a grand prix run. It was very good for Michelle Spadone to go. Europe is not harder, but it's out of one's comfort zone. For them, it was a great learning experience.

How will things progress in finding the WEG team after the trials?

GM We'll seed them after the trials; the selectors and I will put them in an order. It will be a very, very close order. It won't



Photo by Erin Coughlin

George H. Morris discussing the course strategy in La Baule, France, the first leg of the Meydan FEI Nations Cup Tour, with team riders Ashlee Bond and Richard Spooner.

be four faults or eight faults, but maybe half a fault apart or virtually tied in the order. People shouldn't say going into Europe, "I was fourth and now suddenly I'm tenth." That's very easy to have happen, for somebody who is ninth to end up on the team at WEG. After we seed the long list of 15 people, we'll then start at the top of the list and I'll discuss with each person which is the best tour for their horse. If you're in the top five, you have a little edge because you get to pick any of the three tours. When you're lower, you have less selectivity to which tour you want to be on.

What do you think of the improvements at the Kentucky Horse Park?

GM I judged the Hunter Derby Finals. The ring is magnificent, the atmosphere was fabulous, and the footing was wonderful. The new indoor ring - Nina Bonnie gave me a tour of the place - was great. For the WEG, I hope that that place is manicured to the nines. Their time schedule, their organization, all of that goes without a hitch, but I hope that the look of the place is absolutely wonderful.

Do you think it's an advantage to have the WEG in the United States?

GM I think it's a great boost to the sport and to our sport internally. I think it's very good for the Europeans to come over here. Las Vegas was a great boost to our sport. I think it's been very healthy for the Europeans to have to come over to Las Vegas and now Kentucky.

Is there any kind of message that you'd like to send for the sport for next year?

GM I always have the same message - "Do what we know how to do," which is how to take care of horses, how to turn out horses, how to keep horses happy and sound, how to ride a jumping horse. What we know how to do, do to the best of our ability. We've had great horsemanship in this country. When somebody lets down and doesn't adhere to the basics of our method, that irritates me a great deal because we know how to do it. That's my message: Do what we know how to do, better than ever. ■ - Jennifer Wood

Courage to Lead and Suzy Stafford Claim Bronze at FEI World Pony Driving Championships

After an excellent showing during the dressage, marathon, and cones tests during the 2009, FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championships in Greven-Bockholt, Germany, Suzy Stafford brought home the Individual Bronze medal in the Single Pony Class for the United States with Courage to Lead. Team USA finished in fourth place during the Nations Competition, with Stafford as well as Sara Schmitt driving Batman in Singles. In the Pairs Division, Miranda Cadwell chose from Danny, Rambo, and Toby, while Tracey Morgan had Lizwell Gambling Queen, Single Tree Tabitha Twitchit, and Farnley Coquette. Laurie Astegiano drove with Liezelhof Dave, Templedruid Kronos, Templedruid Monsoon, and Templedruid St. Jerneborg in the Four-in-Hand, and Allison Stroud handled Benjamin, Kilkerin Edward, Mystic, Sir Patrick, and Long Donal.

"I always feel privileged to be able to represent the United States with such support from my team and the USEF," noted Stafford. "I have a fantastic group of supporters and sponsors that helped make this happen. This was a true group effort with patience and love for the pony and the sport. I am especially thankful to Courage to Lead's owner, Beverly Lesher, for trusting me with her most precious possession."

Stafford was very excited to compete with Courage to Lead, also known as Katy, at this year's Championships. The 11-year-old Morgan mare was selected for the team in 2004, but was injured just a few days before the competition.

"Katy is a true lady, elegant, graceful, and independent," said Stafford. "She has self-confidence and athletic ability that cannot be missed when she trots into the arena. Katy and I have developed a special bond over these last few years, and we understand each other almost without any verbal communication."

To keep Katy prepared for the Championships, Stafford stuck to a very strict training schedule this year. "Slow and steady was my approach to keeping her happy and in top form," she explained. "I was selective in choosing which shows I competed at with Katy. I picked a schedule that gave her enough show practice along with ample down-time prior to the Championships."

"The hardest part for me was not to over-train in the two weeks leading up to the Championships," continued Stafford. "You tend to get a little twitchy wanting to fix everything during the last weeks leading up to the show. I know that never works, so I am proud of myself for keeping that from happening."



Suzy Stafford brought home the Individual Bronze medal in the Single Pony Class for the United States with Courage to Lead at the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championships in Greven-Bockholt, Germany.

Although Team USA did not earn a place on the podium during this year's Nations Competition, Stafford is proud of the Team's performance and feels that it was an excellent learning experience. "Of course I was hoping for a medal, but I feel the team put in an honorable effort, and we now know what our weaknesses are as a team," she commented. "We will come back in 2011 stronger and more determined to be on the podium."

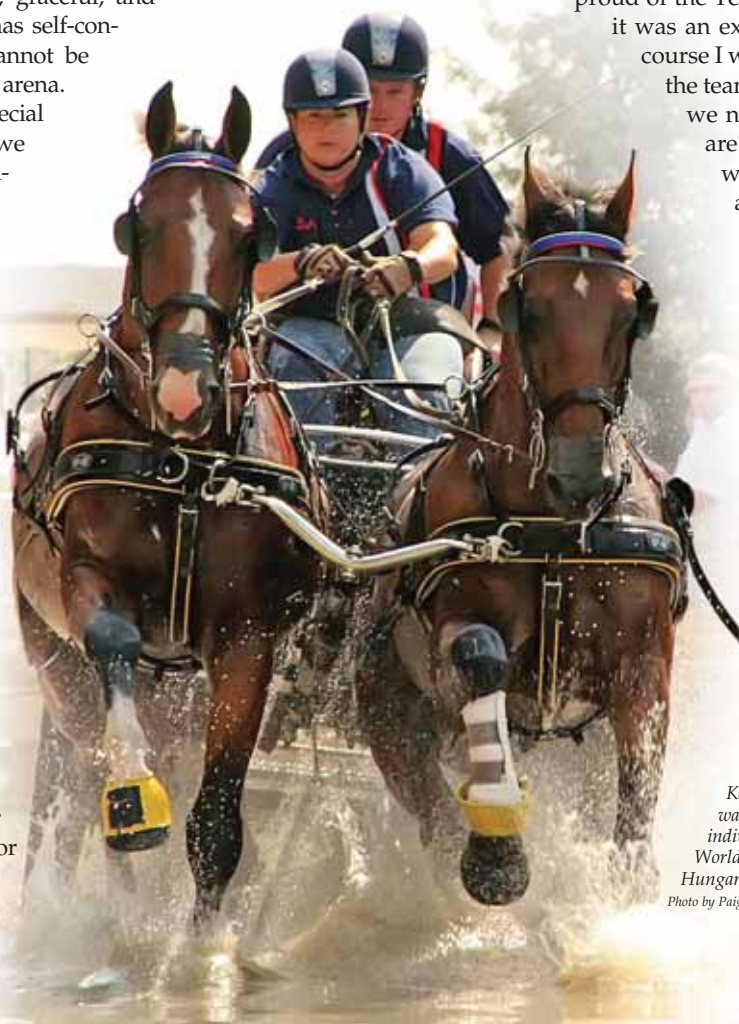
Tracey Morgan showed in the Pairs Ponies class and climbed five positions during the final day of competition to earn the fifth place honors during the Championships.

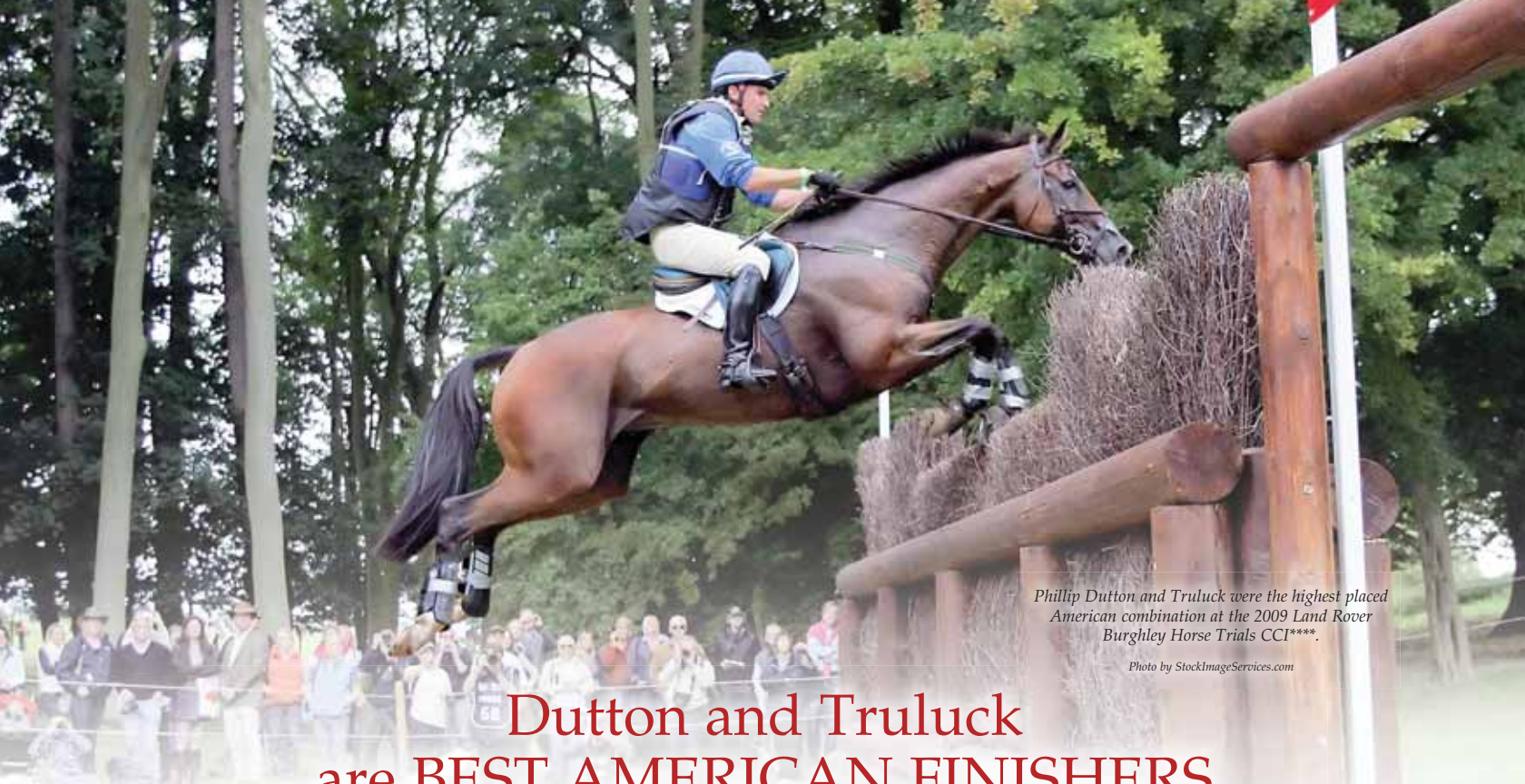
Team USA, comprised of Keady Cadwell, Lisa Singer, and Larry Poulin, finished in the 12th position at this year's FEI World Pair Driving Championship in Kecskemét, Hungary. Keady Cadwell, driving Uniek and Finlandio, was the highest-placed American in the individual competition. ■

— Rebecca Walton

Keady Cadwell, driving Uniek and Finlandio, was the highest-placed American in the individual competition at this year's FEI World Pair Driving Championship in Kecskemét, Hungary.

Photo by Paige DD Singer





*Phillip Dutton and Truluck were the highest placed American combination at the 2009 Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials CCI****.*

Photo by StockImageServices.com

Dutton and Truluck are BEST AMERICAN FINISHERS at 2009 Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials

Phillip Dutton was the highest placed American rider at the 2009 Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials CCI ****. Dutton and Truluck took on the stiffest competition and the toughest cross-country track in the world to finish fourth on a score of 54.5.

Truluck is owned by Annie Jones and Shannon Stimson. Dutton got the 12-year-old Thoroughbred from his student, Amy Smith, and brought him up the levels from Preliminary. The pair represented the United States in the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they won the Individual Silver medal and were members of the Gold medal team.

The duo earned a 45.3 in dressage on the first day. Dutton remarked, "I was really pleased, that's the best he's ever gone in dressage. Everything came together on that day. We had good build-up to our test, and he settled really well. It gives me a lot of confidence about his dressage in the future."

Dutton and Truluck shined on cross-country day and made easy work of Captain Mark Phillips' (the U.S. Eventing Chef d'Equipe) challenging course. Dutton commented on the course, "It's arguably the hardest cross-country course in the world. I thought it was actually toned down this year and it rode quite well. Overall, I think it was a really good day for the sport."

They did have 5.2 time faults on cross-country. Dutton explained of his time faults, "Truluck got a bit tired, and he has had to come back from some injuries and this was his first big event for quite a while." He went on, "You can only do so much fitness at home. You need these big events to get them fit. And he lacked a little bit of fitness so I had to nudge him on a little bit. But overall compared to a lot of horses, the time was pretty good."

Not all of the U.S. riders were as fortunate as Dutton to get around the course without problems. Dutton said, "It was a disappointment for some of them because they had gone through lot of trouble to get there and a lot of people put in a lot of effort to get there. But that's one of the reasons why [the U.S.] sent so many riders over there. We are trying to work out where we as riders are and what we need to work on. So hopefully people who had

trouble at Burghley can work on their problems and come out stronger next year."

The pair had a great show jumping round to finish out the competition. Dutton and Truluck managed to only add four faults to their score and they finished on 54.5 penalty points. "The footing and the ground were very good, very horse-friendly. He felt good and he jumped really well. I was a little cautious with him, and I got some time faults there. So we'll be working on that for next year so I don't get time faults in stadium," he recalled.

"On the whole, he was good," Dutton remarked. "It was the biggest course that he's jumped and the hardest competition he's been in, but it was a great experience for him and I think he's going to be a better horse because of it."

Dutton is uncertain of his plans for the future, but he competed at Fair Hill as his last competition this year. "We'll regroup, see how the horses look, and then start to make some plans," he explained. "We have to formulate plans for each horse based on what they are going to need to be at their best for the 2010 World Equestrian Games."

Dutton was able to compete at Burghley with support from USET Foundation grants. He expressed his appreciation saying, "We are just so grateful to have that support, and it makes it possible for us to be a player on the world stage. We've got to get overseas and experience the standard over there. It just helps us all out so much to be able to do that because it is so expensive to go overseas. It's not just the airfare, (but also) all the other costs associated with it. Having support like this makes a huge difference."

"The support in the U.S. relies on the generosity of individuals. This is very different than Australia," Dutton said of his birth country, where he rode for their team to Olympic gold. "In Australia, most of the international teams are government supported, which we don't have in the U.S. So it's a real tribute to American horse-lovers and the USET Foundation that they are able to be as generous as they are." ■ — Gillian Ellis



Cara Raether and Ublesco were very consistent performers in the Nations Cup competitions for the U.S. team. It was their first time showing in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup Tour.

Photo by Erin Cougill

Second Place Overall for United States on Meydan FEI Nations Cup Tour

*New faces gain valuable experience
over the summer of 2009*

The third leg of the Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour began with a stop in Falsterbo, Sweden in mid-July. Three "youngsters" from the United States, led by veteran Beezie Madden, were tasked with keeping the United States in first place on the 2009 tour.

Joining the tour for the third leg were Charlie Jayne and Urbanis, Ublesco with Cara Raether, and Michelle Spadone aboard Melisimo. The veteran Madden competed on one of her equine "newcomers," the rising star Danny Boy, owned by Abigail Wexner. Interestingly, the United States team featured three of the only five women competing in Sweden this year.

Walking in the ring for the first time on the team at Falsterbo, Michelle Spadone said, "I was definitely nervous. I really didn't know what to expect, but it was certainly a different atmosphere. At home, you really don't realize how different it is to compete at that level, with those huge crowds."

"I'm so grateful to the USET Foundation and everyone on the team," Spadone added. "Without them, none of this would be possible."

The United States ended the day well off the pace in seventh place. Highlighting the day for U.S. was the performance of Meydan FEI Nations Cup newcomers, Cara Raether and Ublesco, who offered up some great hope for the future with the only clear round of the day for the U.S. and a two round total of only four faults.

This was Raether's first time on the major Nations Cup tour, although she had ridden before on the Developing Riders Tour and for the U.S. at the 2007 Pan American Games. She has had Ublesco, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion, for four years, and she felt that moving up to this level of competition suited Ublesco well.

"He has lots of scope and blood, and he loves big venues that have a lot of atmosphere," Raether described. "The more important the event and the more crowds, the better he goes. I know him very well, and it really helped my confidence that I could count on him; he wouldn't wilt or be spooky, and he wouldn't run out of energy. That let me focus on jumping a clear round."

Raether feels that "any chance you get to be on a team is a great opportunity," and noted that the support from the USET Foundation "primarily helps with the cost of the flight." She explained, "That's the most expensive aspect of the whole trip. The grant money covered the biggest chunk of the cost for riders."

The penultimate stop of the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup was a week later in Hickstead, England. On an afternoon in which weather conditions played a major role in the high scores, it was a troublesome day for the Americans who racked up 52 faults. On the day, because of the weather, there were only five clears during the two rounds of competition.

The bright spot for the United States at Hickstead was the continued steady performance of Beezie Madden and Danny Boy, who registered two rounds of just four faults under horrible conditions.

Following Hickstead, the U.S. was still within striking distance of the top spot in the tour rankings. The 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour drew to a close in Dublin, Ireland, two weeks later.

Charlie Jayne and Urbanis added a clear to the score sheet, and Laura Kraut and Cedric were spotless at Dublin in round one. Both Cara Raether and Beezie Madden had just a single knockdown to leave the United States with only four faults going into the second round.

The United States was unable to capitalize on their first round success, however, and would wind up in a fourth place tie on the day, with 20 total faults. The United States had a tremendous start to the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup season and hung on for a satisfying second place finish in this series, just four points behind the team from France. ■ — **Kenneth Kraus**



Laura Kraut piloted Cedric to a clear round in Dublin to help retain the United States' second place finish in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series.

Photo by Erin Cougill



WIN OF A LIFETIME for McLain Ward and the Amazing Sapphire

On a spectacular September day in Calgary, Canada, with a record crowd of 73,736 show jumping fans looking on, U.S. rider McLain Ward and Sapphire posted the biggest win in their already remarkable career together, taking top honors in the \$1,000,000 CN International at Spruce Meadows.

For the win, Ward first mastered a starting field of forty-seven, then the ten best that advanced to the second round of action. But, it was the breathtaking jump-off against Canadian favorite Eric Lamaze and his Olympic Gold medal partner Hickstead that finally sealed the deal for Ward.

With the huge crowd on their feet for the stunning tiebreaker, it was Ward and Sapphire racing across the finish line a mere 2/100ths of a second faster than Lamaze for the win and a first place payday of \$325,000.

Course designer Leopoldo Palacios was thrilled to have a jump-off against two of the best in the world, after a number of years with only one clean, and said his first and second round tests were as big as he dare make them. "I don't know what I could have invented to stop these guys," said Palacios with a grin. "I would simply be too afraid to build anything any bigger."

"I went as fast as [Hickstead] could go; it was just that competitive," said Lamaze. "For me, it was just try as hard as I could, and in the end it wasn't good enough."

"In the jump-off I didn't get to see Eric go, but when he finished, the crowd literally erupted. It was deafening," explained Ward. "It was so close. I didn't see Eric's time, but when I heard that crowd, I thought, 'Oh no, here we go again, bridesmaids again.'"

For Ward, the win was very special.

"I think Aachen, Calgary, and the Championships are the major events, the pinnacles of our sport. I think anyone, if they had to choose two grand prix classes to win, those would be the two," he said. "We've come so close at Aachen a couple of times now, so the win at Spruce Meadows was especially rewarding."

"This was an incredible day," he went on to say. "It was in a non-championship year, so you had all of the very best horses and riders in the world, it was a beautiful day with a huge crowd, so it was very, very special. As an individual, this has to be the biggest thing I've ever won."

As far as his equine partner Sapphire, Ward gives her all of the credit. "She just blows me away," he smiled. "But her success has so much to do with the people around me. Erica and Lee McKeever and the job they've done, the vets, the blacksmiths, plus I am blessed to have great owners that let me keep these horses, and my father,

as I've said many times, is the person who has steered this ship and given me the best advice."

And when the conversation returns to where Sapphire might rank among the all-time greats, Ward is quick to rank her among the elite in show jumping history. "Obviously I'm biased, but I think she has to be ranked among the very best ever. We try not to think about what her legacy is yet. Her legacy will ultimately be decided and measured by someone other than me when her career is in the record books."

On the day before Ward's win, the Netherlands was simply unstoppable in the BMO Nations Cup. The team from the Netherlands finished the two rounds of action with an incredible six clear

jumping efforts, and just a single time fault in total, to give that country their first win at Calgary since 1997.

Lauren Hough's double clear leads U.S. Show Jumping squad to second place finish in BMO Nations Cup

A crowd of over 67,000 was on hand to watch the defending champions from the United States finish second with only 12 faults, bolstered by the double clear performance from Lauren Hough and her rising star, Quick Study.

Joining Hough in the strong second place finish were Richard Spooner and Cristallo, who were clear in the first round and had only a single rail in round two. Ashlee Bond and Cadett 7 had two identical rounds of eight faults, while Beezie Madden and Danny Boy came back with a clean second round after scoring 12 in the first.

The solid second place finished marked a great performance for the U.S. Show Jumping team in preparation for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games next year. ■ — **Kenneth Kraus**



Lauren Hough and Quick Study helped the U.S. team place second in the BMO Nations Cup.



Matthew Metell Shines at Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East



A record entry of 97 riders came to Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, NJ, home of the USET Foundation, for the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East on a perfect fall weekend Oct. 2-4. Autumn leaves served as a colorful backdrop for the toughest of the equestrian championships.

Matthew Metell, the runner-up last year, returned with determination and a very special horse to earn top honors from judges Joe Fargis, the Olympic double Gold medalist, and Linda Hough, mother of longtime U.S. team member Lauren Hough.

"My goal was to get to the top four and ride as best I could," said Metell, a 19-year-old from Falmouth, MA, who attends Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. He has a natural style that was accurate yet in harmony with his mount, making his whole performance look effortless.

Jessica Springsteen, 17, of Colts Neck, NJ, who was third in 2007, finished second, with Maggie McAlary, 19, of Amherst, NH, - second in 2006 and third in 2005 - in third place. Elizabeth Lubrano, 20, of Glenmoore, PA, finished fourth.

But everyone noted that even outside of the top four, there was plenty of depth in the field. The judges remarked that the trainers are doing a good job preparing their students for the challenge of the Talent Search, which is geared to spotlight riders who can represent the country in international competition.

"The American style is alive and well," declared Hough. "The future looks great for the U.S. equestrian team, and



Photo by Nancy Jaffer

Platinum Performance/U.S. Equestrian Federation Show Jumping Talent Search winner Matt Metell on Pioneer

these young people should go on to have great careers."

The class takes on extra significance by being staged at the USET Foundation headquarters because of its illustrious history as the starting point for so many great riders, who have gone on to represent the country in moments of glory across nearly six decades.

While McAlary won the flat phase that started out the competition, Metell went on to dominate the gymnastics segment and the Sunday morning round over a course designed by Fargis' 1984 Olympic teammate, Conrad Homfeld.

The top three were really close there, with Metell scoring a 98.5 on former show jumper Pioneer, while McAlary was only a half-point behind aboard Cheyenne and Springsteen earned 97.5 on Class Action. That was a new ride for her; two weeks earlier, the horse was ridden by Navona Gallegos to fourth place in the Talent Search Finals- West, which was won by Theo Boris.

Several contenders who were ahead of Lubrano in the standings dropped down with mistakes, so her score of 97 got her into the Final Four. Based on the individual medal test at the world championships, this phase requires the riders to compete over a short course, then switch horses with all

the other contenders and demonstrate their ability to "read" the mounts, on which they are only allowed to take two fences before entering the ring.

Lubrano had difficulty at a double with Springsteen's mount, which put her fourth. McAlary earned a 97 with that horse, but two scores in the 80s ended her shot at victory.

Springsteen had the best mark of the competition, a 99 on Lubrano's LB Carte Noir, but one score in the 80s with Cheyenne left her behind Metell, who was in the 90s with all four horses, including a 98 on Cheyenne as he won the competition.

The Talent Search could serve as a big springboard for Metell's ambitions to be an equestrian professional and ride for the U.S., but he's not abandoning his education in the process, noting, "I'm going to make sure I get my bachelor's degree."

Pioneer, who was a 1.45-meter jumper in Europe, is new to the equitation game but quickly earned an extra accolade, the Grappa Trophy as the Best Horse in the finals. The award was presented by 2000 Talent Search winner Sarah Willeman, the owner of legendary equitation horse Grappa (now retired) and USET Foundation Chairman Dr. Armand Leone, Jr.

Metell and McAlary are trained by Andre Dignelli and Kirsten Coe at Heritage Farm in Katonah, NY, the farm that owns Pioneer. Dignelli also acknowledged trainer Teddy Demetriou, who brought Metell to his attention last year and was on hand to pose for the trophy photo.

Dignelli said, "I think the level of riding was higher this year than we've seen it in quite some time. In my career, I will remember Matt's round as one of the best jumping rounds I've seen."

Stacia Madden of Beacon Hill Show Stables in Colts Neck, NJ, who trained both Springsteen and Lubrano with the assistance of Max Amaya and Krista Freundlich, felt the riding from the top 10 was very strong.

"Where do you get the chance to see riders get 98s, 97s, 95s? It was so educational, too, for the green kids," she commented. ■ – Nancy Jaffer



Photo by Nancy Jaffer

Sarah Willeman, the 2000 Talent Search Finals East winner, presents the Grappa trophy for Best Horse in the finals to Heritage Farm's Pioneer, ridden by 2009 winner Matt Metell, with USET Foundation Chairman Dr. Armand Leone, Jr.



Phillip Dutton and Sally Ike

Photo by Nancy Jaffer



Guests who brought a donation for Georgina Bloomberg's "The Rider's Closet" program eagerly await their turn to be photographed with Georgina.

Photo Courtesy of Pennfield Feed



Andrea Leatherman and Buck Davidson

Photo by Nancy Jaffer

USET Foundation Headquarters Hosts Pennfield Feed's *That's a Promise Tour* Finale

A dozen Olympic and international riders turned out on October 7 at Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, NJ, home of the USET Foundation headquarters, to help celebrate the grand finale of Pennfield Feed's *That's a Promise Tour*, a seven-city tour with a mission to raise funds for the USEF's Young Rider program.

After a great presentation on sport horse nutrition by Dr. Joe Pagen of Kentucky Equine Research, and an open forum with eight of the Pennfield Promise Partner riders, everyone enjoyed a champagne toast. Then USEF President and Olympic

Gold Medalist David O'Connor and Michael Barisone wrapped up the evening with a pas de deux performed to '80s rock music. Spectacular!

Other Pennfield Promise Partners in attendance were: Karen O'Connor, Chester Weber, Georgina Bloomberg, Phillip Dutton, Bonnie Mosser, Buck Davidson, Bruce Davidson, and John Williams. The eager guests at the Finale lined up to get autographs from their favorite riders. International eventer Andrea Leatherman and FEI dressage rider Justin Hardin also attended, as did Jim Wolf and Sally Ike from the USEF. — Pennfield Feed



Photo Courtesy of Pennfield Feed

Bonnie Mosser, Phillip Dutton, and Buck Davidson sign autographs for fans after the night's presentation on sport horse nutrition.



Photo by Nancy Jaffer

Chester Weber and Georgina Bloomberg



Michael Barisone and David O'Connor rode in a popular pas de deux

Photo by Nancy Jaffer

USET Foundation President Emeritus, Finn M.W. Caspersen

1941 - 2009

Just ask USET Foundation Chairman Armand Leone Jr. what he remembers most about team President Emeritus Finn Caspersen, and his answer comes instantly. "He said, 'We measure our success in medals.' That's something I'll never forget and that's what drives everything I do here. It's all about the athletes and the horses and the people."



Finn Caspersen, Prince Philip and Barbara Caspersen at the 1993 World Pair Driving Championship, Gladstone, New Jersey.

With his dynamism, vision, and generosity, Finn, who died Sept. 7 at the age of 67, inspired the USET to strive ever higher during the time he was active as a trustee, from 1982 through 2002. He became USET treasurer in 1987, president in 1990, and chairman two years later. His tenure was marked by 71 medals – 25 of which were gold – in the Olympics, world championships and Pan American Games.

For much of the time he was involved with the USET, Finn handled his duties in tandem with his work as CEO of the Beneficial Corp., which was the Team's major sponsor. At his behest, the company supported the Team in many ways, whether it involved deeding the USET its historic headquarters or providing volunteers to help at competitions.

John Krinsky Jr., who served as deputy secretary general of the U.S. Olympic Committee, noted at the time, "Corporate sponsors are rarely that much involved with the sport."

As USET Foundation President and CEO Jane Forbes Clark noted, "His leadership was extraordinary. It brought the team to an entirely new level."

Although he was the dynamic force behind American driving, which was his special interest, Finn took a great interest in each of the Team's disciplines.

He was unable to be in Sydney, Australia, for the 2000 Olympics, but former USET executive director Bob Standish recalled Finn's delight when he called him late at night to say David O'Connor had won the eventing Individual Gold medal.

"He knew the value of medals," said Standish. "He knew if we did not win medals, we weren't going to get the financial support we needed from the corporate sector."

A passionate sportsman, Finn delighted in having his own four-in-hand that competed successfully here and abroad. While Bill Long drove his horses, Finn often rode on the carriage as a groom navigator, taking particular joy in the rough-and-tumble of the marathon phase.

Ronni Nienstedt, a photographer who chronicled driving events during the era when Finn played such a prominent role in the sport, thinks of him this way:

"For me, the image of Finn will always be as a navigator on the back of his four-in-hand, khaki pants splattered with mud and a smile on his face that was bright as the brass on the harness."

Finn founded the Gladstone Driving Association, which put on the Gladstone Driving Event at Hamilton Farm, home of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation. He brought over various foreign drivers to serve as an example to the Americans, who repaid him with a landmark Gold medal in the 1991 World Pairs Championship. That entitled the U.S. to present the 1993 edition of that competition at Gladstone, an opportunity Finn relished. It was hailed as one of the best competitions of its kind ever held.

"Finn put in what he could, financially and emotionally and with a lot of leadership, both for driving and the whole U.S. team," commented four-in-hand driver Tucker Johnson, a longtime USET trustee. "He supported various endeavors and helped them be more than they were without him."

A graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School, Finn was a powerhouse in academic fundraising. His interests were multi-dimensional, prompting him be active in many causes, as diverse as conservation and rowing.

An overflow crowd of more than 700 people drawn from the equestrian, financial, political, and academic worlds attended Finn's funeral at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, N.J. The final hymns were particularly fitting -- America the Beautiful, which spoke to his great love of country, and "Jerusalem," which gained fame as the theme from the inspirational Olympic movie, "Chariots of Fire."

Thomas Kean, the former governor of New Jersey who gave the eulogy, reminisced about getting an invitation to attend the Royal Windsor Horse Show with Finn, an honorary lifetime officer of the organization who wanted the governor to meet a few of his British friends. They turned out to be Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth, and the Queen Mother, who took the governor with them to chapel.

Finn is survived by his wife, Barbara; four sons and nine grandchildren. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Finn M.W. Caspersen '59 Scholarship at Peddie School, 201 S. Main St., Hightstown, NJ 08520 USA or the Memorial Fund at the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, 366 Post Rd., Westerly, RI 02891, USA. ■ – **Nancy Jaffer**



Finn Caspersen navigating for Bill Long, Pine Tree Hazard, Gladstone Driving Event, 1988. A pouring rain marathon day! John Ike is riding as referee.

Photo by Ronni Nienstedt

USET Foundation Honors Legendary Eventing Coach Jack Le Goff with Memorial Service and Fund



Photo Courtesy of the USEF Archives

Legendary Eventing coach Jack Le Goff was honored in a memorial service at Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, NJ, home of the USET Foundation.

The USET Foundation, the USEF, and the USEA honored the legendary Eventing coach Jack Le Goff in a special memorial service at Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, NJ, home of the USET Foundation. The memorial service brought together more than 100 people, including Olympic riders that trained with Le Goff.

Jack LeGoff's Cadre Noir jacket, his boots, and fittingly, an ashtray, cigarettes and champagne, were set up as a display in the rotunda of the USET Foundation stable; it was the first thing people saw when they came to the celebration of his life.

Many of the riders who trained with Le Goff were there, such as Jimmy Wofford, Tad Coffin, Michael Page, David and Karen O'Connor, Torrance Watkins, Kerry Millikin, Mike Huber, Karen Stives, Kim Walnes, Beth Perkins and more. Le Goff's daughters Florence and Corrine, as well as his grandson Aiden, flew in from France. Current Eventing Chef d'Equipe Captain Mark Phillips, along with Phillip and Evie Dutton were there, as well as many others who knew and worked with Le Goff over the years. USEF President and Olympic Gold medalist David O'Connor, along with Jimmy Wofford and Tad Coffin, all gave moving eulogies about the coach and dear friend that meant so much to them.

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins stated, "It was an amaz-

ing tribute to Jack that captured the true essence of his genius and a perfect tribute to someone who has had a lasting impact professionally and personally on those who knew him. The turnout of guests for the evening was also a resounding affirmation of the love and respect these riders and friends had for a man whose legacy will live on forever."

The historic Hamilton Farm stable in Gladstone looked handsome, with its brass polished, freshly stained and painted stalls with name plates bearing the names of the great Olympic and international Team horses trained by Jack, as well as beautiful wool dress sheets neatly draped over the blanket racks. The rotunda and trophy room displayed photos of the legend and evoked great memories and stories of this equestrian giant from those in attendance.

Jack Le Goff came to the United States in 1970 and revolutionized the American equestrian program and defined an era with medals and championships. Le Goff's coaching record at international championships was exemplary; he never missed winning a medal with any of the Eventing teams that he coached in his 14-year tenure in the United States. Eighteen medals in eight international championships is

an outstanding accomplishment by which the U.S. team still measures itself. His innovative, intensive training changed the U.S. Eventing program forever.

His teams won Team Gold medals at the Olympic Games in 1976 and 1984 – proving the Americans were invincible at the highest level of sport during his reign.

Le Goff passed away on Friday, July 24, in his homeland of France at the age of 78. The Jack Le Goff Memorial Fund has been established in his memory. The Fund will provide annual travel grant(s) to riders selected to represent the United States at the FEI Eventing World Cup Final. The Fund supports Le Goff's passion for the U.S. Eventing High Performance program and the FEI Eventing World Cup Competition in particular. This FEI Eventing World Cup Championship event was the brainchild of Le Goff's ten years ago.

This year's Eventing World Cup Final was held in Strzegom, Poland, on August 21-23, and the United States was represented by 25-year-old Kelly Prather of Bodega, CA, on Ballinakill Glory.

Donations may be made in Jack Le Goff's name to the USET Foundation, P.O. Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934. ■

– Jennifer Wood (content also provided by the United States Equestrian Federation)



Photo by Nancy Jaffer

Jack Le Goff's Cadre Noir jacket, his boots and fittingly, ashtray, cigarettes and champagne, were set up as a display in the rotunda of the USET Foundation stable; it was the first thing people saw when they came to the celebration of his life.

USET Foundation Remembers Team Farrier Seamus Brady

1931-2009

The USET Foundation would like to remember and honor Seamus Brady of Whitehouse Station, NJ. Brady passed away on Monday, July 27, at the age of 77. Brady was born in County Cavin, Ireland and trained at the Irish Army Equitation School in Dublin. He immigrated to the United States more than 50 years ago and became one of the most respected farriers in the world. Brady was the official farrier for the U.S. Equestrian Team for many years and was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame in 2002.

Seamus came to the United States and worked for USET Director Arthur McCashin before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After his time in service, Seamus made a name for himself by working for some of the largest show barns in the country, pioneering techniques, teaching a number of up-and-coming farriers, and being a consummate horseman.

Farrier Tom Ciannello apprenticed with Seamus in 1975, and they were close friends for the next three decades. "Shoeing was his life; it was the center of his life," he stated.

In addition to his work with the USET, where Seamus was the team farrier for all three disciplines and was the team farrier at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, he was the farrier at a number of show barns, including George Morris' Hunterdon Farm for 34 years.

Morris agreed, "He was the guru teacher, and subsequent generations will owe him. He brought people in as working students, he shared with other blacksmiths and in a sense, he is a father of American blacksmith technology. He was one of the greats that I ever had anything to do with. I can't say enough about him."

Surviving are his children, son, Douglas Brady and wife, Loriann of Flemington, NJ; his daughters, Linda Colleen Deutsch and husband, Adam of Whitehouse Station, NJ, and Laura Jean Brady of Summerfield, NC; Ruth Moyer Brady, the mother of his children; his grandchildren, Casey Ann and Douglas Brian; eight brothers and sisters in Ireland; along with many other relatives and friends who will miss Seamus. ■ – Jennifer Wood



Seamus Brady was one of the world's best farriers and long-time farrier for the U.S. Equestrian Teams.

Photo courtesy of Maureen Petrick

Show Jumping Hall of Fame Member Adolph Mogavero

1916-2009

Show Jumping Hall of Fame member Adolph Mogavero passed away on August 25, 2009, at the age of 93 in Sarasota, Florida.

Mogavero rode in races on the flat and over fences before becoming a successful professional show rider in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Riding with stylish form that was uncommon in the early days, he showed for leading stables in Boston and New York. Mogavero won jumper championships with First Chance and Sonoro at the nation's top shows. He enjoyed many successes with jumpers Balko's Edge and Ping Pong, as well as with Blue Bird and Fire One, which went on to compete internationally for the United States Equestrian Team.

Equally successful aboard hunters, Mogavero rode Quaker Bonnet and Jane Tanner to AHSA conformation hunter honors. Lea's Boots and Bronze Wing were also frequently named hunter champions with Mogavero in the saddle.

After his retirement from competition, Mogavero remained active in the horse show world as a regular AHSA jumper judge and timer, and as a Director of the American Grand Prix Association.

Mogavero was best known for officiating at the open water obstacle. His wit, sense of humor, and eye for detail could be seen all around the show ring, and the crowd always watched for his flag flying in the air.

He was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 1991.

In 1999, Adolph Mogavero was awarded the Pegasus Medal of Honor, an annual award which recognizes individuals who have exhibited outstanding service to horses and the sport, and who, through their dedication, have attracted people to the sport and contributed to horse sport by advancing its popularity. ■ – Kenneth Kraus



Adolph Mogavero was a successful rider before he became a top show jumping judge.

Photo James Leslie Parker

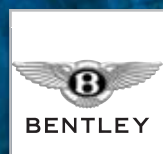
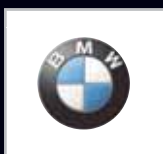
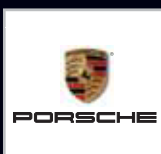
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