



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 2 • SPRING 2009

## U.S. WINS AT AACHEN After Success in Vegas Steffen Peters and Ravel Are Stunning!

BY JENNIFER WOOD

**I**t was a historic week at the World Equestrian Festival CHIO 5\* in Aachen, Germany, for United States dressage. For the first time, an American horse and rider duo swept all three classes to win the Grand Prix Dressage CDIO. For Steffen Peters and Ravel, it was another extraordinary career high in just three short months.

Peters and Ravel, an 11-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Akiko Yamizaki, came into Aachen on top of the world after their performance brought down the house at the 2009 Rolex FEI World Cup Finals. Peters and Ravel won both legs of the World Cup, setting their first historical precedent with a win in Las Vegas.

Competing at the Thomas & Mack Arena in Las Vegas, NV, Steffen Peters topped Anky Van Grunsven (NED) and Isabell Werth (GER) in the Grand Prix and Freestyle classes. With his win, Peters became the second man to ever win the World Cup in its 23 years of competition.

Peters and Ravel scored a career high 77.915% for the momentous win in the Grand Prix, and there was a feeling of electricity in the crowd as they entered the ring for their Freestyle. They put on an amazing display of dressage that brought the crowd to their feet and received an extremely high score of 84.950% for their beautifully performed Freestyle. They even earned two scores of 93% for artistry.

*Steffen Peters celebrates his win in Aachen with Ravel. Their victory was historic, as they were the first American duo to win the CDIO.*

Photo © Arnd Bronkhorst photography  
www.arnd.nl

## *Dynamic Duo Sweep Dressage*





## THAT UNFORGETTABLE FEELING

Some time has passed since Peters' incredible win in Las Vegas, and he admits that the magnitude of what he accomplished is beginning to sink in. "We have done a couple of shows since the World Cup, and people are still coming up to me and telling me how fantastic Ravel looked," he stated. "After the second show, I asked myself again if this really happened, and it really did."

Peters remains modest about his win and gives Ravel most of the credit. He said, "People argue with me about this, but I still believe that Ravel deserves 90% of the credit and then the rest is the supporting team behind me."

"My wife Shannon is my coach; Ravel's owners; Ravel's groom, Raphael Hernandez; Ravel's equine therapist, Tom Meyers; Ravel's veterinarian, Dr. Rodrigo Vasquez; and Ravel's personal bodyguard John Tucker. They are an amazing support team that I have behind me, so most of the credit goes to Ravel and the team," he added.

"I love all of the emails that I get from Akiko," Peters smiled, "and there was one story that really stood out. Akiko told me that the day after the World Cup, the national anthem was played on the radio. Akiko's daughter Miki is only four years old, and when she heard the national anthem she said, 'Mom, listen, it's Ravel's song.' I thought that was really neat and that is something that really stands out to me. Akiko wrote many comments, such as, 'Thank you Steffen, for making Ravel the number one horse in the world.' All of those things just tell me how special this event really was."



FEI President, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, congratulates Ravel and Steffen Peters in Aachen.

Photo by Valeria Streun

## JUST GETTING STARTED

As it turned out, Peters and Ravel were just on the upswing of a curve that would take them to the highest point yet in their careers. After Las Vegas, they were part of a two-person U.S. delegation that traveled to Aachen, Germany for the World Equestrian Festival CHIO 5\*. Grand Prix Dressage CDIO at Aachen is perhaps the most prestigious dressage event in the world, and it is something that an American rider has never won.

After a fourth place performance in last year's Olympic Games and the amazing rides at the World Cup, Peters and Ravel were ready to prove to Europe that they have what it takes to get to the top of the world and stay there.

"I can count on Ravel so much. One could easily have the impression that Ravel won in Las Vegas with a little bit of a home advantage," Peters noted. "That was exactly my reason for competing in Europe at the high international standard. I think Ravel proved that he can keep up. It was not a situation anymore that Ravel was an underdog. Sometimes that is an easier position to start from. It was expected for Ravel to do well in Europe, and some people even expected him to win. That certainly adds quite a bit of pressure."

Peters was able to keep Ravel even and prepared for the months in between Las Vegas and Aachen. "I'm honestly not so worried about his physical abilities: his elasticity, cardiovascular condition," he admitted. "I'm always most concerned about his mental state because he's a horse that offers so much. He's one who can easily overdo it, especially when you're riding an over-achiever like Ravel. The main thing is to allow him that downtime in between. I usually work Ravel four days a week, and three days we don't even go near the dressage arena. That's a huge luxury to have, but it's something to be very strict about, to give him the downtime."

The downtime for Ravel paid off when he arrived in Germany fresh and ready to compete. The duo started out the week at Aachen in the Grand Prix class, and Peters knew from the moment they walked up the in-gate that things would go well. "Already in the warm-up, Ravel had a lot of energy," Peters remembered. "He felt exactly the way I wanted him to. When we came in the ring, he offered



Ravel shows off his phenomenal half-pass work.

Photo by Valeria Streun



even more as far as extensions and half-passes. He wasn't too over-reactive in the flying changes, and that can usually happen if he has a little bit extra energy. I was able to ride a real clean test. Coming down the final centerline, it felt like if he's going to piaffe one more time the way he did in the beginning of the test, this could be really good."

It was good—Ravel was given a score of 77.830%, which was five percent higher than the second place finishers, Hans Peter Minderhoud and Exquis Nadine (NED). Dressage legends Anky Van Grunsven and IPS Salinero (NED), were six percent behind/ "The judges were all in agreement," Peters noted. "It's a huge margin for winning, and then on top of that, I had to look at that scoreboard a couple of times to really believe it. It really happened."

## ONE WIN DOWN, TWO TO GO

The win in the Grand Prix turned out to just be the beginning of a string of unbelievable performances that Peters and Ravel would give in Aachen. They moved into the next class, the Grand Prix Special, on Saturday morning after having a break on Friday. Peters believed that his tactic on the pair's day off is something that helped Ravel.

"I was able to take him for a trail ride on Friday," Peters revealed. "We did the Grand Prix on Thursday, everything felt great, and Friday we had a day off. Instead of working him, I decided to get on him in a snaffle. Aachen has beautiful trails and a gigantic grass field. We walked out there twice a day for 45 minutes, and I think that gave him that little bit extra energy for the last day."

The Grand Prix Special was a closely fought battle between Ravel and Salinero. The two top horses were neck and neck in the scoring until the final movement. "I knew that Anky would be close," Peters acknowledged. "It was honestly a wonderful competition to watch because Anky's test was also very good. They were showing the average percentage as they were going, movement by movement, and Anky and I were one-tenth of a percent higher, then one lower. Even at the last piaffe, Anky and I were at exactly the same score. Salinero didn't quite stand still enough at the end, and that made the difference. I was just slightly ahead of Salinero."

Ravel ended up with the winning percentage of 76.917, while Salinero was given a 76.583%. "I was a little surprised for the Grand Prix Special that I still had a very fresh Ravel underneath me. When I asked for one extension on the long side, he over-reacted a tiny bit. But it wasn't really that obvious; I could just feel how ready he was to go," Peters recalled. "Again, we did a real clean test. We had even better pirouettes than in the Grand Prix. He did super one-temps between the two pirouettes on the center line."



Ravel's owner, Akiko Yamizaki, pets Ravel before he goes back into the main stadium at Aachen for his honor round.

## RAVEL AND PETERS POP WITH MUSIC

The win in the Grand Prix Special gave Peters and Ravel an extra boost of confidence going into Saturday night's final class, the Freestyle, but they could not rest easy with van Grunsven and Salinero in the competition. The Dutch pair has used their Freestyle to garner the most impressive list of accolades in dressage's history, including two Olympic gold medals and four World Cup Finals wins. Peters knew that her test had a high degree of difficulty and that "when Anky pulls off a clean Freestyle, it's extremely hard to beat."

"I knew Anky would totally go for it on the Freestyle," Peters pointed out. "I talked to (trainer) Jo Hinnemann and (my wife) Shannon, and they said, 'If you ride the Freestyle like you did the Grand Prix Special, Anky will be ahead of you.' We were very much aware of that."

Peters and Ravel put everything they had into their Freestyle performance and ended up with another extraordinary result: a third win in Dressage at Aachen. Ravel was given a score of 85.600%, which even topped his score at the World Cup. Van Grunsven and Salinero were behind by more than a full point, in second place with an 84.500%.



Steffen Peters and Ravel made history by being the first U.S. combination to win both legs of the Rolex FEI World Cup Dressage Finals.

Photo by Lauren Fisher





Photo by Laurent Fisher

United States dressage fans were treated to a special spectacle in Las Vegas and showed their support for Steffen Peters and Ravel.

"Salinero looked the way he did in his best years," Peters acceded. "That made it even more special that Anky was very happy with her ride and for Ravel to be slightly ahead of her."

He continued, "When I walked up for the Freestyle, Ravel had still the same amount of energy that he had the days before. He probably did his best Freestyle so far. It felt great. I was extremely happy with him. It's really amazing what this horse can do. In fact, I just watched it for the first time this morning."

When Peters watched the video of his Freestyle for the first time, he was amazed at what he saw, compared to what he felt during the ride. "I have to say, he can feel so smooth. It didn't feel quite as expressive as it looked," he divulged. "His half-passes were pretty amazing in trot and canter. His flying changes had absolutely no tension. I really went for it for the extended canter. The neat thing is that there is one movement where he goes from the canter pirouette directly into the piaffe. Usually, we get half of a walk step in between, but this time he went straight from the canter pirouette into a perfect piaffe. The judges commented on this degree of difficulty."

Peters believes that the combination of his degree of difficulty in the Freestyle, his unique music, and incredible artistry were what pushed him ahead in the results.

"The interesting part was that afterwards, I calculated the score for technical performance. When I added all of the percentages together, Ravel ended up with 402, and that is exactly the same combined percentage that Salinero got. The Freestyle was not decided on the technical part; it was decided on the artistic part, where Ravel was clearly ahead of Salinero," he explained. "I thought that was really interesting, and that certainly says a lot. I need to give a lot of credit to Terri Gallo, who worked with me. We worked intensely on the music."

Peters used his same music from the World Cup, a mix of pop music that includes The Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil" and Coldplay's "Viva La Vida." While some still prefer the classical music for a Kür, Peters' music made his instantly recognizable, likable, and toe-tapping for thousands of dressage fans.

"The music was well received," Peters stated. "I listened to the German TV (afterwards). I don't know the reporter, but he said, 'I'm not the youngest guy anymore, but I have to say that I really, really like this music, even for the older generation. You just can't help starting to move in your seat and get into the music.'"

He added, "The crowd reacted with a standing ovation, which is neat. That's usually something only the German riders get in Aachen. That certainly said a lot for Ravel and the artistic part of the Freestyle as well."



Photo by Valeria Strein

Ravel's amazing movement and action was rewarded by the judges in all three classes at Aachen.

## VICTORY IS SWEET IN AACHEN

For Peters, winning at Aachen fulfilled a lifelong goal for him. Originally from Rhineland, Germany, Peters moved to the United States 24 years ago. He is all American now, and winning with a full contingent of supporters from home and family from Germany made his experience even more rewarding.

"America is my home country, but it is big to win in Germany. Let's face it, I've always dreamed about being in the top three in Aachen," he said. "For Ravel to actually win in Aachen is unbelievable.

To do this in front of a very educated crowd made it very special. Certainly I felt like we were extremely warmly received over there."

Peters said of his winning experience, "In Aachen, you do your honor round in the dressage stadium. It was a packed stadium with 7,000 people. Then, they ask you to do another honor



round in the main stadium with 62,000 people there. When you hear the national anthem being played in that stadium and you look at the flag going up, that's where it sunk in. They showed Ravel's Freestyle on the big screen. I was asked on the PA system to give a few comments on the Freestyle. It was so packed at that time. Seeing it on the big screen and then 60,000 people going crazy was pretty fun. What I really appreciated was that the crowd still got very much into it, even though I'm basically a foreigner."

"We had a big support group in Aachen," he went on to say. "You can't win on your own. Akiko and Jerry (Yang) were there, so were their moms, and Akiko's kids. Dr. Rodrigo Vasquez, Tom Meyers, and Shannon were all there. My whole family was there, four aunts and uncles, five friends from my high school, three friends from the Army services. It was just very, very wonderful support that I had all the time. To share that moment with everyone was awesome."

Aachen capped off an amazing and truly historic year for Peters and American dressage. Both Aachen and Las Vegas were special for Peters in different ways. "I have to say, winning the World Cup was just a touch more special because it was in front of a home crowd," he admitted. "By the end of the Freestyle in Las Vegas, everybody knew that I was really close to Isabell. I still think it would have been very fair if Ravel had been second. For him to win and still be in the arena while the score was announced... the crowd getting ready to do a complete demolition of the Thomas & Mack Arena! That felt wonderful! I would



Photo by Valeria Strain

Ravel and Peters showed technical difficulty and superior artistry to win the Freestyle.

say that topped a little bit the win in Aachen. Let's not forget in Aachen that Ravel had to do three tests. Even there, the crowd was behind me and that made it very, very special."

## THE FUTURE FOR RAVEL

Always gracious, Peters acknowledged the USET Foundation for their support on his trip to Germany. "I just want to say a big thank you to the USET because without their continued support for the grants to compete in Europe, I certainly would not be there with Ravel. I think that even if you are a good rider, without trainers and without being consistently exposed to the level of competition that is being held in Europe, you simply don't gain the experience."

The experience in Europe is something that will be invaluable to Ravel's continuing career. Peters believes that they had their timing perfect to guide Ravel to the crest for performance.

"He certainly peaked for the last four months. For a human or equine athlete, the maximum that you can expect is three to four months. I would say yes, he is at his peak," Peters said. "It's definitely time now to allow him to come down a little bit. We'll try to find that perfect timing for next year again."

While Peters does not have his exact timeline mapped out for Ravel, he does know that the talented horse will have time off from competition for the rest of the year, and he will enjoy more trail rides. "We're going to meet with Akiko in the next few weeks and come up with the schedule for next year. It won't be a very heavy workload. Ravel, unless I'm mistaken, is qualified for the World Cup next year. That could be a very interesting goal, to show once more in Europe before Kentucky next year."

Peters plans to have Ravel ready for the World Equestrian Games trials in the spring before their next major goal - representing the United States at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

When asked what his final thoughts are on his groundbreaking year, Peters replied, "The win in Vegas in front of the home crowd was probably a bigger breakthrough. Repeating it in front of friends and family from home...it's a little hard to describe how that feels. I honestly need to give credit to Ravel. He's just one of those amazing horses. A client said today, 'How does it feel to get on my horse after riding a Rolls Royce?' I said, 'There are a lot of Rolls Royces out there, but very few Ravels.' I can't thank Ravel enough for what he's done for me this year. I'm fully aware that times will not always be as perfect as right now. But in the meantime, I'm going to enjoy every single minute." ■



Steffen Peters greets the crowd in the main stadium in Aachen for his honor round.

Photo © Arnd Bronkhorst photography  
www.arnd.nl



# LAS VEGAS

## McLain Ward and Sapphire

**Are Fault-Free to Finish Second in Rolex FEI World Cup Jumping Finals**

### USA FINISHES WELL IN JUMPING FINALS

For the second year in a row, the United States had the second place finisher at the Rolex FEI World Cup Finals. McLain Ward of Brewster, NY, rode his and Blue Chip Bloodstock's Sapphire to the fantastic finish in the championship competition.

Twenty-nine horses qualified for the first final round on Sunday afternoon, and nine were from the U.S. Ward was one of three U.S. riders that had a clear trip in the first round and were joined by Beezie Madden and Danny Boy, as well as Todd Minikus and Pavarotti.

With Albert Zoer (NED) on Oki Doki pushing the pace and leaving no room for error, it would be up to Ward and Sapphire to put the pressure on Michaels-Beerbaum to be perfect. They did just that, jumping clear in both rounds on the final day and giving a foot-perfect performance that would fall just short of the top place. With the difference in times in the previous speed phase and in the jump-off on Friday, Ward and Sapphire just barely missed taking their first individual championship.

Ward felt that he and his horse did their best, and there wasn't anything he would do differently. "I am very proud of what my horse and I did this week. If I were to do it again, I would do it exactly the same way," he said. "I am proud of my team, and I am proud of my horse. I gave everything I had and my horse gave everything she had, and we came up two seconds short. It is a fine line in sports, but that is what it's about."

Other American finishers were Madden and Danny Boy (12th place), Richard Spooner and Cristallo (16th), Mandy Porter and San Diego (17th), Rich Fellers and Flexible (18th), Hillary Dobbs and Quincy B (19th), Christine McCrea and Vegas (20th), Todd Minikus and Pavarotti (23rd), and Ashlee Bond and

Cadett 7 (26th). Other riders in the Final were Kent Farrington on Up Chiqui, Michelle Spadone with Melisimo, and Danielle Torano on Vancouver d'Auvrey.

### NO REGRETS, MORE WINNING

For Ward, his finish this year at the World Cup Finals is one of his best individual finishes ever. "Our finish in Hong Kong last year (at the Olympic Games) was pretty strong," he related. "And, I came very close to winning the World Cup in Leipzig (in 2002). This World Cup Finals ranks right up there."

The finish is but one of numerous top placings that Ward has had this year. Since he left Las Vegas, Ward has won grand prix events at Old Salem, HITS Saugerties, and the \$100,000 Grand Prix of Devon. Ward said that while the World Cup Finals were a major goal of the year, he has no regrets about sticking to and executing his plan. He said, "It was a pretty exceptional World Cup Finals, so there is no lack of satisfaction on how we did. There is such a fine line between first and fifth, anywhere in that top group is pretty close to winning. That's sport, but I'm young and we'll be back again."

For the rest of the year, Ward has also set goals. He will be a part of the United States team competing in the Meydan Nations Cup series in Rotterdam, the

Netherlands, and Aachen, Germany, and he will also compete in Estoril, Spain. He and Sapphire will compete at the Spruce Meadows Masters in September and will go to the Hampton Classic, which will start up the World Cup qualifying season all over again. ■ — Jennifer Wood



*McLain Ward and Sapphire were clear through five rounds of jumping to finish second in the Rolex FEI World Cup Jumping Finals.*

Photo by Susan Strickland



#### Officers

Armand Leone, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board*  
Jane Forbes Clark  
*President and CEO*  
Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.  
*Vice President*  
Eric L. Straus  
*Secretary*  
Lawrence G. Tribble  
*Treasurer*

#### Board of Trustees

Sherry Adams  
Janice C. Aron  
Sue Blinks  
Kimberly Boyer  
Bill Brewer  
Rebecca Broussard  
Henry L. Collins III  
R. Bruce Duchossois  
James H. Fairclough  
Richard M. Feldman  
Bertram R. Firestone  
Eric Hasbrouck  
Leslie Burr Howard  
C. Michael Huber  
S. Tucker S. Johnson  
Chris Kappler  
Anne Kursinski  
Kerith Lemon  
Mark Leone  
Jacqueline B. Mars  
Debbie McDonald  
Mary Anne McPhail  
Frank G. Merrill  
George H. Morris  
Jan Neuharth  
David O'Connor  
Arlene Page  
Robin Parsky  
Wendy Raether  
Jessica Ranshousen  
Stephen T. Rojek  
Dr. Bernard Salick  
Gunter Seidel  
Melanie Smith Taylor  
Jane Thomas  
William Weeks  
Anthony V. Weight  
Ted Weise  
Peter C. Welles  
Abigail S. Wexner

**USET Foundation Staff**  
908-234-1251  
Bonnie B. Jenkins  
*Executive Director, ext. 215*  
Nancy Little  
*Executive Assistant, ext. 208*  
Mark P. Piwowar  
*Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200*  
Michele Zanzonico  
*Director of Annual Support, ext. 205*  
Mary-Ellen Milesnick  
*Database Manager, ext. 204*  
Cathy Pane  
*Accounting Supervisor  
& Office Manager, ext. 203*  
Maureen Pethick  
*Communications Coordinator, ext. 207*  
Patrick Lynch  
*Facilities Manager, ext. 206*  
Clif Cotter  
*Facilities, ext. 202*  
Jennifer Wood  
*Newsletter Editor*  
Miriam Morgan  
*Graphic Designer*



*September 25 - October 10*

**2010**

## Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Kentucky 2010

The USET Foundation is offering the premier 10CLUB VIP package for those interested in attending.

The packages include four-star accommodations, "A" level tickets, seating in the Champions Club at the Main Arena, VIP Hospitality Tent and shuttle service to and from the hotel.

The package is for individuals who wish to make a special gift commitment for the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

For more information, please contact:

Bonnie Jenkins  
Tel - 908-234-1251 Ext. 215  
Fax - 908-234-0670  
[bjenkins@uset.org](mailto:bjenkins@uset.org)

**Kentucky**

Photo by Susan Stickle.com



# The 2009 Developing Rider Tour:

*"I wouldn't trade this  
experience for anything!"*



Photo by Peter Welles

Co-Chef d'Equipe Eric Hasbrouck, Developing Riders Jessica Siuda, Andrew Welles, Ali Wolff, Katherine Bardis, Laura Teodori and Sally Ike, USEF Managing Director of Show Jumping



**T**wo shows in Linz, Austria and the CSIO 4\* in Lisbon, Portugal, highlighted this year's edition of the Developing Rider Tour. For three weeks in May, five up and coming young riders, under the guidance of Assistant Chefs d' Equipe Michelle Grubb and Eric Hasbrouck, joined forces for their first ever experience competing for the United States of America. The Developing Rider Tour is supported by grants from the USET Foundation.

This year's team was comprised of 21-year-old Katherine Bardis of Pebble Beach, CA, and fellow West Coast rider Laura Teodori, 19, from Scottsdale, AZ. Three riders from the East included 21-year-old Andrew Welles of Wellington, FL, 19-year-old Ali Wolff, home based in New Albany, OH, and Jessica Siuda, 24, from Milford, NJ.

"It's a great opportunity for these young people to come here and gain very valuable experience. I think the shows that the task force came up with were an excellent choice this year," said first time Chef d' Equipe, Michelle Grubb.

"Originally, I was the first alternate, and I was really excited about that. Then, I got moved up, and I can't begin to tell you how excited I was," said team member Laura Teodori. "It was such a huge honor to have a chance to represent the United States."

Teodori went on to explain that learning a mix of both independence and teamwork was what she took away from this experience. "The most important aspect of the Developing Rider Tour was learning how to do things on your own and being put into the pressure-packed situation of representing your country, not just riding for yourself, knowing that your score not only counts for you, but for the entire team."

"It's a great experience," agreed team member Andrew Welles. "It's one of those things you always will remember. You get the coat in the mail, you put it on in the house and go and look at yourself in the mirror, and you think to yourself, 'You have a great opportunity to go and represent the United States of America.' The significance of what it means is more than just riding; it's really a great honor to put that coat on for your country."

While the team failed to produce top finishes, the riders were competitive in all three events. "It didn't show up in the results this trip, but I think the history of the Developing Rider Tour is that when they come home, their continued success and progress is manifested by their time on this tour," stated Grubb. "Winning would be great, but as George (Morris) said to me, 'Michelle, more than scores and results, the most important thing is who they become as people, who they become as horsemen.' Taking that advice from him has given me a lot of spirit and enthusiasm to help this program continue in an even better form than it has been in the past. While George has his hands completely full with the big tour and for the World Equestrian Games next year, he's still fully invested in developing the young riders for the future of our equestrian sports," she said.

*On the banks of the Danube and among  
the rolling hills of the Alps, the  
U.S. Developing Rider Tour competed  
at two competitions in Linz, Austria.*





Photo by Peter Welles

Katherine Bardis and Mademoiselle



Photo by Peter Welles

Jessica Siuda on Lipton de L'Othain

## The Developing Rider Tour has always been about the experience.

"Just walking from the barn to the ring, I remember wearing the red coat, all dressed up, and it was the most amazing feeling," Teodori recounted. "Just that feeling, being with the whole team was amazing, almost indescribable."

"You come into this as total strangers but when it's over, you leave with a great sense of teamwork and accomplishment with other individuals," said Welles.

"That is really the whole crux of the Developing Rider Tour. They gain some independence, and they begin to learn to think on their own and get out of their comfort zone and begin to come up with their own system for how they want to accomplish the task at hand," Grubb described. "That's the first part of it. The second part is, you have to do all of this in a strange and foreign environment," she added.

## All of the riders returned home better for the experience of having competing abroad.

"There are so many positives. You get to see so many great riders. You learn to compete as a team, and you get to learn about a whole new aspect to show jumping - management for a championship," Welles explained. "A speed class the first day, then the Nations Cup, and then having to get ready for the Grand Prix on Sunday; it's just so different competing internationally. To learn how to cope with that and to learn to compete as a team, that's something you can only learn by doing on the Developing Rider Tour."

"The USET Foundation and the USEF have done a fantastic job with the grants that make these tours happen, but we have to continue to get more people involved at all levels, so that their kids and their grandkids and anyone with talent and the desire to compete will have that capacity to continue their dreams," Grubb said. "We can never stop investing in our eighteen, nineteen and twenty year olds. I believe we have the greatest system in the world as far as teaching people how to ride. I am fully invested in making sure we make it possible for the best young riders in the country to be able to experience the thrill of standing center ring and hearing the 'Star Spangled Banner' played following a U.S. victory," she said with pride.

And Teodori concluded, "We all bonded, got to know each other, and became really good friends. These are things I wouldn't trade for the world, and those of us on the tour will always stay close." ■ – **Kenneth Kraus**



Photo by Peter Welles

Laura Teodori with Kasoar d'Uxelles



Photo by Peter Welles

Andrew Welles and Cypria 6



Photo by Peter Welles

Ali Wolff on Residenz



# USET Foundation Hosts Party for Festival of Champions Exhibitors and Supporters

*All photos by Susan Stickle.com*



*Katherine Bateson-Chandler  
congratulates Dea II after a solid  
performance in the downpour  
at the Festival of Champions.*



*Margaret Ryan and Debbie McDonald*



*Jason Dye and Courtney King-Dye*

In respite from the rain, the USET Foundation hosted a get-together in the halls of Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, NJ, during the 2009 USEF/Collecting Gaits Farm Festival of Champions. Exhibitors, supporters, and spectators joined to mingle and enjoy each other's company at the event.



*Michael Barisone, Pam Goodrich,  
Jocelyn Wiese, and Lendon Gray*



*Tuny Page, Jane MacElree, and Richard Barnes*



*Sara Lieser, Lauren Spreiser, and Coree Reuter*



*Jane Thomas, Adrienne Lyle, and Debbie McDonald*



*Adrienne Lyle  
and her parents*



*Michael Barisone, Tuny Page, and Jane Thomas*



*Allyn Schiavone, Kim Boyer, and Tuny Page*



## USET Foundation Awards the Pinnacle Cup Trophy to Buck Davidson at Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI\*\*\*\*

The USET Foundation has named Buck Davidson as this year's recipient of the Pinnacle Cup Trophy at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI\*\*\*\*. Davidson (33), of Riegelsville, PA, and Ocala, FL, rode My Boy Bobby to a third place finish at the top event and was the highest placed American rider, which earned him the trophy.

My Boy Bobby is owned by Carl and Cassandra Segal. This was his first CCI\*\*\*\*, and the 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding was near perfect with Davidson. They scored a 39 in their dressage round and had only 1.2 time faults in the cross-country phase. They were clear in the show jumping, which gave Davidson his best ever finish at Rolex. The pair also won the Rolex/USEF National CCI\*\*\*\* Championship.

Leading the Americans was a great feeling for Davidson, who noted that, "Kentucky is the place where we all want to go. It's our



Buck Davidson accepts the Pinnacle Cup trophy from USET Foundation Board of Trustees member R. Bruce Duchossois for being the highest placed American Rider at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, CCI\*\*\*\*.

biggest event and one of the biggest in the world."

Following in his father's footsteps is yet another positive aspect of his participation in the sport. Buck's father, Bruce O. Davidson, Sr., has won Rolex Kentucky five times (1993, 1989, 1988, 1984, and 1983) and has his name inscribed on the Gladstone Challenge Trophy. When the event achieved four star status, the Pinnacle Cup was introduced to honor the highest placed American rider. Buck Davidson won the Pinnacle Cup in 2003 on Mystic Mike when the pair placed fourth at Rolex. He has also been named the Leading Young Rider numerous times.

"As I get older and do more things, it's cooler and cooler to win what he's won," Buck Davidson said. "There are probably not too many fathers and sons that have won that trophy," he laughed. "I'm starting to do things now that he did. Now I just have to win (at Rolex)!" ■ – Jennifer Wood



## USET Foundation Presents 2009 Maxine Beard Award to Ashlee Bond and Michelle Spadone

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation has named Ashlee Bond (23) of Hidden Hills, CA, and Michelle Spadone (25) of Califon, NJ, as this year's co-winners of the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Developing Rider Award. The recipients of this award are chosen based on their potential to represent the United States in international competition. Bond and Spadone were honored during the 2009 Budweiser American Invitational at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL, on April 4.

In 2008, Spadone stepped up to the international level with her partner Melisimo, a 15-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare. They represented the United States in Nations Cup competition last fall in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and won the gold medal along with teammate Ashlee Bond. This winter, they placed second, fourth, and ninth in World Cup qualifiers.

"It's an honor," Spadone said, "and I'm so grateful that they considered me for the award. The USET Foundation and the USEF do so much for the sport and I'm thankful."

Competing at the Nations Cup competition in Argentina was Bond's first U.S. team experience. This winter Bond won four grand prix classes with Cadett 7, her 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding.

Bond added, "I have to thank the USET Foundation for this award, as well as George Morris, and my parents for their support."

The Maxine Beard Award was developed to assist riders in their quest for equestrian excellence. Observing international competition is a crucial component in the education of an equestrian athlete.



Ashlee Bond and Michelle Spadone receive their awards as winners of the Maxine Beard Award from Ronnie Beard, USET Foundation President Jane F. Clark, and USEF Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris.

Both riders qualified for and competed at this year's Rolex FEI World Cup Finals. If either individual had not qualified as a rider, the USET Foundation would have underwritten her trip to view the 2009 Rolex FEI World Cup Finals. ■ – Jennifer Wood



# USET Foundation Awards the Gladstone Challenge Trophy to Michael Pollard and Icarus

**T**he USET Foundation has named Michael Pollard of Dalton, GA, as the winner of the Gladstone Challenge Trophy at the National Open Spring Championship. Pollard rode his horse Icarus, an 11-year-old Thoroughbred gelding, to the CCI 3\* victory at Jersey Fresh Three-Day Event in Allentown, NJ.

Pollard joins an elite group of riders that have won the Gladstone Challenge Trophy in its 45 year history. Of having his name on the trophy, Pollard said, "Having my name on the Gladstone trophy is incredible. There are certain trophies that are special in our sport. I was lucky enough as a young rider to get my name on the Markham trophy twice. That's always been really special. Obviously the Gladstone trophy is even more of an achievement for me. To have my name on there with all the other great riders - it doesn't get any better than that."

Pollard and Icarus started out the competition at Jersey Fresh in third place after the dressage phase. They added just 2.4 time faults in cross-country to move into the lead. Going into the stadium jumping round, they had a rail in hand. They finished double clear with a score of 46 for the win.

Their win at Jersey Fresh gave them a qualifying score to compete at the four-star level. "This is a horse that deserves to be in competition with the best in the world," Pollard remarked. Pollard is still contemplating whether he will compete at a four-star this fall in Europe, and the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games are on the horizon. He said, "I hope to represent the U.S. some time. We'll do our best to manage him to have him ready for the WEG competition, but a lot of that is not in my hands. We'll just do our best!" ■ — **Jennifer Wood**



*Michael Pollard and Icarus clear a jump on their way to winning the Jersey Fresh Three-Day CCI\*\*\* and the Gladstone Trophy.*

Photo by Anthony Trullipstockimageservices.com

## Washington Bishop 1955 – 2009

**W**ashington "Wash" Bishop, a dedicated Trustee of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2009. He was born on September 25, 1955, and grew up in Birmingham, AL. Bishop had one daughter, Annie, who is married to Robert Onda.

Wash Bishop served as a Trustee for the USET and the USET Foundation from 1998 to 2005. In 1973, he moved to Middleburg, VA, to ride and train Three-Day Event horses. Bishop was a competitor as well as horse trainer and instructor. He originally rode under the tutelage of Jack LeGoff with his horse, "Ask Away." Two of the pair's many victories included the 1993 Bromont CCI \*\* and 1994 Rolex Kentucky Advanced Horse Trials. He participated as a member of the United States Eventing Team at the 1980 Alternate Olympic Games in Fontainebleau, France. He was also a part of the



Photo courtesy of the family

1995 European Championships team and on the 1996 Olympic Games short list.

He passed on much of his knowledge and his love of the sport to his students. His legacy has been enhanced by the success of many of his former students, including 2000 Olympian Julie (Black) Burns and 1996 Olympians Mara Depuy, Kelli McMullen-Temple, and Stuart Black. He also coached the 1993 Area II Gold Medal Eventing Team at the North American Young Riders Championships.

He is survived by his daughter Annie Bishop, son-in-law Robert Onda, his sisters Becky Johnson and Donna Rodgers, and all of those who loved him.

A beautiful memorial service was held on Thursday, May 14, at the Welbourne, in Middleburg, VA.

Donations can be made in Washington's honor to Ducks Unlimited - One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120 or [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).





## U.S. Team Wins Silver Medal at 2009 Pan American Endurance Championships



Photo by Steph Teeter/EnduranceNet

*The United States Endurance Team - composed of riders, crew, veterinarian, Chef d'Equipe, and USEF representative - traveled to Uruguay to win the silver medal at the 2009 Pan American Endurance Championships.*

**A**t the 2009 Pan American Endurance Championships in Costa Azul, Uruguay, a team of four horses and riders from the United States put in a huge effort to finish with the Team Silver medal. This is the first FEI medal won by a United States Endurance team since the Pan American Championship that was held in Pinamar, Argentina in 2005.

In the final 15 kilometer section, the four U.S. riders were very strong. Cheryl van Deusen of New Smyrna Beach, FL, rode DA Al Capone, and Stephen Rojek of South Woodstock, VT, piloted Savvy to finish in just 37 minutes. Team veteran Valerie Kanavy of Fort Valley, PA, rode LM Francesca Pharr to a strong final phase time. They finished sixth individually and secured the Team Silver medal.

A security score was provided by team anchors Gabrielle Mann of Bolinas, CA, and CM Big Easy. Mann was riding in her first international competition. Her completion meant that the U.S. Team was assured of at least the Bronze medal, and it allowed for a more aggressive strategy for the other riders. All four riders finished in the top 25 individually.

The U.S. team was able to send 17 people: four riders, three USEF staff, and 10 crew members, to the championships. Although the riders paid all expenses for themselves, their horses and crews, they were grateful that the USET Foundation and the US Equestrian Federation provided for Chef d'Equipe,

Becky Hart, team veterinarian, Dr. James Bryant, and USEF Endurance Director Vonita Bowers to attend the event.

"The USEF staff pitched in alongside the crews to help the team, doing everything from hands-on horse care to tracking team placement," said team member Stephen Rojek. "Everyone came home with a sweet sense of accomplishment."

"Team camaraderie was really excellent," said Becky Hart, a three-time World Champion. "The riders got along well. We had to manage crews and had horses coming in at different times, and everyone worked together. Vonita Bowers did a lot of statistics, and then she crewed for us. She had everything organized, and she's just invaluable. Jim Bryant was every bit as good, and he kept them going and sound."

If there are no vet issues, he's not afraid to pull a saddle and do what it takes to get these horses through."

Hart said that sending a U.S. team to these championships meant everything for the High Performance arm of endurance. "It gives riders that much more exposure and practice at that level of competition. We don't really have anything in the U.S.

anymore that simulates world class competition. We have three star FEI rides, but not that level of pressure and intensity," she explained. "It is very different at an international ride like that. The speed is faster, and the crews have to be more organized. It gives them an understanding of what's needed, and what it's going to be like out in the real world."

The 120 kilometer course at the championships allowed for a fast pace along beaches, rural roads, and four lane highways. Team USA was just four minutes ahead of the Guatemalan Team and 25 minutes behind Argentina going into the final day of competition, and they made up considerable ground. The U.S. team's time shrank to just six minutes off the winning pace, which was set by Argentina, going into the last loop on the course.

"It was a real confidence booster," Hart added. "We sent out four horses and completed all four rides. One hundred per cent completion on this ride is amazing."

With this great success, the American endurance team is looking forward to next year's Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games on home turf. Hart pointed out, "In many respects, we can now see that our horses can compete at those (championship) speeds. Our riders gave a negative split, which is something we haven't been great at before. We went for confidence and to learn to accept new ways of crewing, which we implemented."

The endurance team's international competition is supported by the USET Foundation. Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins stated, "The involvement and recognition of the non-Olympic international disciplines of Endurance, Driving, Reining and Vaulting is paramount to the success of the United States at the 2010 World Equestrian Games. It is our desire to see that all of our disciplines have the financial support that will prepare them to take on the challenges when the WEG comes to Kentucky next year. Now is the time to help, and I encourage people to get behind these disciplines and help them achieve the same type of support as the Olympic disciplines." ■ — Jennifer Wood

*(Content also provided by the United States Equestrian Federation)*







# A Star is Born

## United States Wins Two Events and Takes Lead in Meydan FEI Nations Cup Tour

Following a shaky start on the first leg of the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour in La Baule, France, where the United States show jumping team finished a distant seventh out of ten teams, the squad turned it around quickly with a dramatic win in Rome, and then one week later, steamrolled their way to two wins in row in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

The one bright light that emerged out of the otherwise disappointing finish in France was the sparkling performance of tour rookie, 23-year-old Ashlee Bond of Hidden Hills, CA. Aboard her talented partner, Cadett 7, Bond went double clear in her first ever major tour Nations Cup appearance. As it turned out, those two clear rounds were only the start of an unprecedented string of success by a newcomer on one of the world's biggest equestrian stages.

When the team emerged victorious in Rome two weeks later, it was rookie Ashlee Bond and Cadett 7 who again showed the

way with the only double clear of the day for the United States. Along with Bond's persistent perfection, Lauren Hough and Quick Study, as well as Laura Kraut and Cedric, were clear in the first round, and it was anchor rider Richard Spooner's impressive pressure-packed second round clear on Cristallo that sealed the deal for the United States. The United States finished the day with only 4 total faults for the win.

"Richard Spooner has matured into the anchor position. He has been very, very impressive on this tour," noted Chef d'Equipe George Morris. "He has become a rider that I can completely count on in that position."

When the team moved to St. Gallen in Switzerland for the third leg of the nine stop tour a week later, Bond's incredible run of clean rounds reached what most were calling record proportions when she added two more flawless rounds to the extraordinary streak.

*Show jumping phenomenon and tour rookie Ashlee Bond was double clear in her first three Nations Cup competitions with Cadett 7 on the first leg of the Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour.*



*Photo by Erin Cowgill*





Photo by Erin Conigill

*In Rome, Italy, the U.S. team of Richard Spooner, Laura Kraut, Ashlee Bond, Lauren Hough, and Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris took home their first win on the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour.*

In Switzerland, Bond was joined by teammate Richard Spooner who also posted a double clear with Cristallo, and then once again secured the United States win with a jump-off victory over Marcus Ehning of Germany. In the first two rounds, Laura Kraut and Cedric added a steady clear and four to the score sheet in St. Gallen. Christine McCrea, a last minute addition to the roster when Hough's Quick Study couldn't answer the bell, had a single rail down in the first round and struggled in round two.

The United States ascended to the top of the Meydan tour standings with these impressive back to back wins. "Especially this year, with the new ten team format, it's quite staggering to win back to back Nations Cups at Rome and at St. Gallen," said Morris. "Unless you've been in the trenches here, it's hard to realize how difficult that is. To win two out of three is a wonderful accomplishment."

"I'm not surprised at all," said Lauren Hough. "I think we have a really strong team. And now McLain (Ward) and Todd (Minikus) will join us in Rotterdam, so we're all very confident about the entire series. Of course winning always makes you feel even more positive, but I think we'll walk into Rotterdam very excited and very confident."

"If you had asked me after LaBaule if we'd be at the top of the standings now, I would have laughed," said an elated Laura Kraut. "But since then, it's been just amazing."

And then there's the story of Ashlee Bond. "She delivers every time she goes in the ring," said Hough. "She and Cadett 7 are such a great match. It's quite exciting to watch, and it's exciting for our sport."

Laura Kraut echoed those sentiments, "I've never seen anything like this run that she's had. She's got the most upbeat personality, and I've never been around anyone in my life that is so completely unfazed by all that hoopla around her. She rides beautifully, and her horse is wonderful. She just enters the ring knowing she's going to produce a clean round. I told her that she's a 'clean round jumping machine.'"

"I can't remember a veteran, world-class rider ever stringing together six clear rounds in a row in Nations Cup, much less a rookie," Morris remarked. "She's always had a reputation as a competitor, from her ponies to the junior jumpers, to now. And, she's got a great team. Richard Spooner has been her mentor over here, and he has done a masterful job as a teacher and as a sup-

porter. Her parents Steve and Cindy get a lot of credit. Ashlee, of course gets a great deal of credit, and so does the horse."

"For everything to have fallen into place the way it has, and all that has happened, it's just incomprehensible," Bond revealed.

She credits George Morris' winning attitude as her inspiration. "I think he expects it because he knows his riders are capable of delivering it. I really like that he's all about success. He doesn't applaud mediocrity, and I'm all for that," Bond acknowledged. "Riders at the top of the sport should not be looking to go into the ring to do just okay. We're trying to kick butt every time we go into the ring, and I think George brings out the best of that in us."

This was a breakout tour for Bond, who previously had only competed in one Nations Cup competition. "It's one thing when you're successful on your coast or in an event you're familiar with. But going to Europe, I had a lot of questions in my mind as to whether I could hold my own with the big guns," Bond admitted. "When I completed the first double clear, I realized that yes, I belong here, and the clear round wasn't just being lucky. I think I felt validated. And, what that second clear round really did was give me a lot of confidence. And that confidence began to build and build, and that's why I think I was able to continue to pull out the clear rounds. It was a great feeling, I'll tell you that."

Morris, of course, refuses to take credit for the success of his riders. "I am not a rocket scientist, but I've had the greatest teachers in the world. I am very organizational by nature, and I have the mileage. I've been everywhere, I've done it all, and I'm very comfortable in this position," he said. "I have had great support at Gladstone and great support in Kentucky. I am a great believer in our American management of horses and our system of teaching. So, I'm not teaching here, I'm just a manager, giving my experience as best I can."

"With all of these riders, we're working backwards from the World Equestrian Games in 2010," Morris added. "And Ashlee is right on track. She's got a great father who will help keep her on track, but she's definitely put herself right into the picture for WEG."

And for Bond, the summer of 2009 is a time she'll never forget. "I will always remember this very special world that I got to live in for a couple of months this year," she said.

Tour Two took over for the events in July in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and Aachen, Germany, where the U.S. Show Jumping Team defended their lead.

*continued page 17*



Photo by Erin Conigill

*The U.S. team of Richard Spooner, Laura Kraut, Christine McCrea, Ashlee Bond, and Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris won in St. Gallen, Switzerland.*





# USET Foundation's Home Plays Host to 2009 Collecting Gaits Farm/U.S. Equestrian Federation Dressage Festival of Champions



Some exciting glimpses of future stars emerged during the 2009 Collecting Gaits Farm/U.S. Equestrian Federation Dressage Festival of Champions, where a variety of promising horse and rider combinations appeared on the competitive horizon.

The location, at the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation's Gladstone, N.J., headquarters, was most appropriate: Many of the greatest riders the country has fielded in any of the Olympic disciplines developed their expertise at this internationally known site. With the landmark stables as a backdrop, the June 18-21 national championships in five divisions gained an extra sheen of glamour and importance. The setting simply awed some participants, while encouraging others to give amazing performances.

"There's so much history here, and the atmosphere is so unique. There's not a place in the world that looks like that building...they're the most beautiful stables," said Grand Prix competitor Michael Barisone.

While everything was in place for a great Festival, the unseasonably rainy weather led to scheduling glitches. Only one class, the first segment of the Young Riders Championship, was held as the event got under way. Daunted by the downpour, officials decided to call it a day and re-worked the program to squeeze everything else in during the rest of the show.

They nearly made it. But a discouraging morning weather forecast on June 21, coupled with consideration for the horses' welfare and concern for their safety, led judges and management to cancel the rest of the show after the final leg of the Young Riders' division. That meant the Grand Prix Special and Intermediaire Freestyle were not held, so the titles were decided in those divisions on the basis of only two classes, rather than three.

Awards at the conclusion were presented in the elegant trophy room, which added style to the proceedings. Leslie Morse earned her fifth national Grand Prix championship with the Swedish-bred stallion Tip Top, based on her 72 % victory in the Grand Prix and a second place in the Freestyle. It was the second such title for her 15-year-old mount, owned by Leslie in conjunction with Laura Petroff.

"I think Tip Top did a fabulous job. I'm really proud of him and very excited," said Morse, who was set to take off after the festival on a tour of England and Europe with her 2006 World Equestrian Games veteran. Asked how she felt about the cancellation of the final part of the program, the Beverly Hills, CA, resident

commented, "I was a bit disappointed because I was looking forward to the Special...it's a wonderful test for Tip Top. In the same breath, I think the decision was extremely wise." But she also praised longtime USET employee Patrick Lynch, who led what she called "brilliant" maintenance efforts on the arena in the face of torrential rain.

Pierre St. Jacques, reserve Grand Prix champion with his Lucky Tiger, also would have liked another chance to show off his 14-year-old Danish bred gelding's prowess.

"I'm a competitor," he explained, "but it's not my decision. You have to abide by the people that run the show." Lucky Tiger, ridden to a team gold medal in the 2003 Pan American Games, keeps on developing. Pierre, of Anthony, FL, gave the horse some non-competitive mileage last year by taking him to three-day events and schooling him there.

The highlight of the Grand Prix section was the Freestyle, moved before the Special by the reshuffling. Although much of it was run in the rain, the class nonetheless intrigued with a wide mix of music that ran up and down the scale from classical to rock and pop. It was won by Grand Prix newcomer Adrienne Lyle on Peggy and Parry Thomas' Wizard, who danced to kicky country/western tunes that were particularly appropriate for a 24-year-old rider from Idaho.

Adrienne, who won the Brentina Cup at last year's championship, was artful in a spot-on ride that earned 74.950 %, with highlights that included double-pirouettes and piaffe pirouettes.

"I thought he handled the atmosphere really well. I was very proud of him," said Lyle, who had taken the precaution before the class of having



Riana Porter and Romax Foldager won the Junior Championship.

Photo by Susan Slick.com



"played in the puddles" in the warm-up ring to get him used to the conditions, since the 10-year-old Oldenburg previously displayed an aversion to water.

Lyle, one of the USA's rising stars, also had the ride on Felix, a 12-year-old Hanoverian with extravagant movement. She got a fifth and a sixth with Felix at the



*Leslie Morse won her fifth national Grand Prix Championship with Tip Top.*

show, gaining experience that should pay off when she goes to Europe with both horses for the first time this fall.

Dea II made a significant mark with Katherine Bateson-Chandler of Wellington, FL, aboard, doing all the movements eas-

ily to win both the Prix St. Georges and the Intermediare I with a 73.105 % and a 74.759 respectively.

Bateson-Chandler, who rides for USET Foundation President and CEO Jane F. Clark, would have liked to work on a hat trick by going in the Freestyle with the 9-year-old Hanoverian mare.

"I love my music. I was really excited to show it, so I'm disappointed," she said, noting she also wanted to perform with Jane's other horse, Rutherford, who was third in the PSG and fourth in the I-1.

There was, of course, no guarantee she would win the I-1 championship if it had run to its planned conclusion, since Jan Brons, another Wellington resident, had been a close second in both classes with Teutobod, a 9-year-old Dutch warmblood owned by longtime USET supporter Carlene Blunt.

"Jan was in fighting form; I could feel him right on my heels," Bateson-Chandler acknowledged cheerfully, but without a chance to contest the Freestyle, she received the title. The division included several other standouts.

"We have fabulous Small Tour horses," said judge Janet Foy, who headed the ground jury for the championship, comparing them to horses she's seen in Europe. That should serve America well with an eye toward assembling the best team for the Alltech/FEI World Equestrian Games that will be held in 2010, when many of the I-1 horses will have graduated to the Grand Prix ranks.

The Young Riders' trophy went for the third time in a row to Kassandra Barteau of Maple Park, IL, as she finished up her time



*Jocelyn Wiese won her first Brentina Cup on Lamborghini.*

in that division. Riding Ginna Frantz' nine-year-old Holsteiner stallion, GP Raymeister, Barteau won both classes and cried during the national anthem as she was saluted for taking the title. Now it's on to Grand Prix for her. Reserve in that division went to Meagan Davis. The Stone Ridge, NY, resident only last fall began her partnership with Bentley, who previously was ridden by Barteau. The 16-year-old Danish warmblood is owned by Kelly Roetto and John Rocco.

The Brentina Cup, designed to help riders 28 and under transition from the Young Rider ranks to Grand Prix, went to Jocelyn Wiese of Keene, NH, a former assistant trainer at Hilltop Farm who now



*The outdoor ring at Hamilton Farms, the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, was meticulously maintained during the deluge at the Festival of Champions. The historic setting and challenging weather made for a very memorable event.*





Photo by Susan/Stock.com

Katherine Bateson-Chandler stepped up to win the Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I on Dea II.

studies at the University of Maryland. She won the first class with the 12-year-old Danish warmblood Lamborghini and was fourth in the second class, but had

enough of a margin to edge out Alyssa Eidbo of Atlanta, GA, on the consistent Johnny Cash, a Dutch warmblood. Eidbo and Johnny Cash finished fourth in the first class and third in the second class.

The rain was coming down at its hardest when high school senior Riana Porter rode the 14-year-old Danish warmblood Romax Foldager in the Junior Individual Test to come from behind and take the Junior Championship, making her trip from Santa Rosa, CA, worthwhile.

Although she was totally drenched, Porter observed, "I think I actually benefited from the downpour, because it kind of drowned everything out and we had to focus more."

Lauren Knopp of Wellington, winner of the Junior Team Test on the 12-year old Oldenburg Rho Dance, was the reserve champion.

Dressage fans who missed this year's Festival of Champions should circle their calendars for August 2010, when the USET Foundation headquarters is slated to host the World Equestrian Games selection tri-



Photo by Susan/Stock.com

Adrienne Lyle, last year's Brentina Cup winner, took the Grand Prix Freestyle win with Wizard.

als for both dressage and para-equestrian, as well as the national championships in the four other divisions. Just hope for better weather next time! ■ – Nancy Jaffer



## NATIONS CUP

continued from page 15

A changing of the guard took place before the second leg of the Tour got underway at the CSIO5\* Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Joining Bond, Hough, and Kraut, who stayed on from the first tour, was McLain Ward and his Olympic partner

Sapphire, along with Todd Minikus who would compete with Pavarotti. Because of the computer ranking system used for selection, Bond would be on the sidelines as the fifth rider for the next two events.

In the second round of the Nations Cup in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, the U.S. team burst into contention, soaring from near the bottom into a tie for first place. For the third time on the tour, the

result would have to be decided by a jump-off.

In the jump-off, McLain Ward and Sapphire returned first and put up a clear round with a fast time of 32.93 seconds. However, Penelope Leprevost of France was outstanding, getting across the finish line 4/10ths of a second faster in 32.59 seconds.

The second place finish ended the U.S. winning streak, but further strengthened the team's impressive grip on the series lead. One week later, the team moved on to the World Equestrian Festival for the CSIO 5\* at Aachen, Germany.

With a faultless first round performance, the United States shared first place with France, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands going into round two. Both Laura Kraut with Cedric and McLain Ward and Sapphire posted double clear rounds. Hough and Quick Study had four faults and a time fault, while Minikus and Pavarotti had eight. The United States finished with five faults to slot into fourth place.

Heading to Falsterbo, Sweden, the United States' lead has been lessened to three points over France and nine over Germany. ■ – Kenneth Kraus

(Left) Laura Kraut and Cedric were double-clear in Aachen to help the U.S. team reach fourth place.



Photo by Erin Cowgill



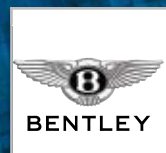
# ***The Paul Miller Auto Group***

*is proud to support*  
**The United States  
Equestrian Team Foundation**



## ***PAUL MILLER***

**Where Luxury and Integrity Live**



**1-800-35-Miller • PaulMiller.com**





## USET Foundation News

United States Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc.  
1040 Pottersville Road  
P.O. Box 355  
Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. postage

**PAID**

Piscataway, NJ  
Permit #129

Address Service Requested

