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## Austrian Nations Cup Victory Highlights United States Show Jumping Young Riders Tour

BY KENNETH L. KRAUS

Some of the brightest young show jumping stars from the United States traveled to Europe this summer to take on the challenge of the USEF Show Jumping Young Riders Tour, which included four highly competitive Nations Cup events.

With Chefs d' Equipe Katie Prudent and Michele Grubb leading the way, the team made tour stops in Belgium, France, Austria and Germany.

This year's squad, comprised of Reed Kessler, Richard Neal, Catherine Pasmore, Karen Polle, Meg O'Mara and Jessica Springsteen, set off to challenge the best that Europe had to offer.

"We felt like we had a great team," said Prudent. "Everyone was very excited to be here and we believed we had a good chance to win some Nations Cups."

At the third stop on this year's tour, Prudent's words would prove prophetic as the team emerged victorious with a fabulous Nations Cup win in Lamprechtshausen, Austria, beating the team from Switzerland.

It all started with a second place finish as the tour got underway at the CSIOJY Bonheiden in Belgium. Following a first round that saw the team tied for third, the United States riders fought their way back to an impressive second place finish behind the riders from Great Britain. Jessica Springsteen and Vornado Van Den Hoendrik highlighted the day's competition with back-to-back clear rounds.

"Jessie was flawless," noted teammate Catherine Pasmore. "We lost this week, but a good lesson was learned by all. You really have to fight for it no matter what. We were a little disappointed we didn't win, but all in all the team rode phenomenally and it was a fantastic experience for everybody."

The following week in France, the team garnered another second place finish in the Nations Cup at CSIOY Reims. While Springsteen led the way in Belgium, it was Reed Kessler who posted double clear rounds in France. As Pasmore pointed out following their performance, it was another valuable learning experience



Jessica Springsteen, Reed Kessler, Catherine Pasmore, and Richard Neal celebrate with Chef d'Equipe Michele Grubb



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Jessica Springsteen  
and Vornado Van Den Hoendrik

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for the entire squad. "It was a great effort and coming so close has made everyone that much hungrier to win," she said. "It was aggravating and motivating to learn that if none of us had had any time faults, we would have won."

In fact, as Michele Grubb prepared to take over the Chef d' Equipe duties following Reims, Katie Prudent left the team with these words of wisdom for the final two events, "Clear rounds, NO time faults!"

The team took Prudent's advice to heart and at the next stop in Lamprechtshausen, Austria, put it all together for a thrilling United States victory over Switzerland.

The two teams were tied following the first round, with each nation scoring only a single fault in round one.

On the strength of another double clear performance by Kessler, and with clear rounds from Pasmore and Springsteen and a one fault ride from Ricky Neal, the United States, after two second place finishes, finally got to step atop the podium and hear the Star Spangled Banner as they came home with a thrilling, right down to the wire victory.

"This was a fabulous win for the United States," smiled Grubb following the celebration. "These kids really put together a fantastic effort."

CSIOY Hagen, in Germany, was the final stop on the tour and saw the team from the United States finish in third place. As Pasmore explained, this stop might have been the toughest of all because of the level of competition. "It's known as one of the most competitive shows. Everyone sends their best teams to Hagen," she explained. "Many use Hagen to make their final decisions for their teams for the European Young Rider Championships."

"Both teams we lost to at the first two shows, Great Britain and The Netherlands, were there with basically the same team members," she went on to say. "The pressure was on, and it was close, but unfortunately we let both teams beat us again! Obviously we wanted to win, but third at Hagen is still respectable." Both Pasmore and Kessler had clear rounds in Germany.

With a win, two second place finishes and a third out of four competitions, the Young Rider tour was a tremendous success.

"I can't express how glad I am that I did the tour. It was an amazing experience and I learned something everywhere we went," said Kessler. "Not only was it an wonderful learning experience, it was so much fun! We had a blast exploring Europe, meeting new people, and our team really turned into a family. I know we had

an amazing five weeks together. I strongly recommend that anyone who is serious about their riding should apply for the tour next year, you definitely won't regret it," she stated.

"The tour helped me learn not only about European show jumping, but about how to represent the country as an equestrian. It also let us bond as a team and get to know how to manage a team. It was very well worth it," said team member Meg O'Mara.

"I didn't know it was possible to learn so much in just five weeks," agreed Pasmore. "I learned about what it takes to be a team member and represent your country. Most importantly, I learned a lot about myself and that this is something I really want to do. I know now that I want to go all the way to the top of the sport and I want to represent the USA in many more Nations Cups to come. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity," she concluded.

When the Young Riders had the chance to visit Switzerland and watch the top United States riders compete in the FEI Nations Cup at St. Gallen, Switzerland, Chef d' Equipe George H. Morris proudly announced during the course walk, "This is the next generation."

"St. Gallen was invaded by the USA," laughed Pasmore. "Seven Young Riders wearing their USA rain coats, five senior riders wearing their USA rain coats, plus Michele, George and Lizzy (Chesson) all wearing their USA rain coats. It was quite a sight."

Following this highly successful and rewarding tour of Europe, the 'next generation' as Morris put it, certainly provided a lot of optimism as we look ahead to the future of United States show jumping. ■



Catherine Pasmore and My Boy



# Young Rider Ali Wolff Travels to FEI World Cup Finals as 2011 Maxine Beard Award Winner

After capturing the 2010 Individual Gold medal at the North American Junior Young Rider Championships, the USET Foundation proudly selected Young Rider Ali Wolff of New Albany, OH, as the 2011 recipient of the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Young Rider Award. The prestigious award was presented during the American Invitational on April 9, 2011, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL. The selection was based on Wolff's competitive record and future potential to represent the United States in international competition. The award provided Wolff the opportunity to be credentialed and travel with the U.S. delegation to the 2011 FEI World Cup Finals in Leipzig, Germany from April 27 – May 1. She observed the operations of an international championship, including the stabling area, veterinary inspections and schooling, and walked the courses with the U.S. Show Jumping Coach, George H. Morris.

Wolff was thrilled to travel to Germany with the U.S. Show Jumping delegation and have the chance to watch as they competed at a World Championship event. "I basically shadowed Lizzy (Chesson, Director of High Performance Show Jumping) and learned what it takes to bring a team to Europe," she explained. "I walked a few courses with George [Morris] and watched the World Cup classes with him. He gave me advice about how he would ride the course and I also listened to the advice he would give the riders."

The chance to watch the top riders from the United States compete at such a prestigious event proved to be an excellent learning opportunity. "I have been to a few big European shows during the Young Riders Tour, but indoors you need to be so precise," she commented. "Outdoors you have a little room for error, but indoors there is no room for mistakes. The best of the best are here and you get to watch how they do it. It has made me more confident in my goals, but I have also taken a step back because I know I still have so much more to learn. I will definitely use this European experience so that hopefully the next time I compete in Europe I will be well equipped for the journey."

At 21, Wolff has already accomplished a great deal as an up-and-coming equestrian. Her biggest win came in 2010 when she won the Individual Gold medal



*Ali Wolff and Lanoo*

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

at the North American Junior Young Rider Championships. After holding the 23rd position she quickly climbed the ranks throughout the competition, eventually capturing the top prize.

"I didn't expect much going into the second round, only to support my team and try to get a team medal," said Wolff. "Things started shaping up from there and it's just such a great award to win, it is still sinking in. I am still excited about it, even though it was almost a year ago!"

At the age of four, Wolff's passion for horses began, and, after she started taking lessons, she could not give up the sport. Now she is a junior at Florida Atlantic University and is training with Michele Grubb.

Wolff has participated in a number of grand prix events and, based on her record, was selected in 2009 to be part of the International Young Rider Tour that competed in Europe. That same year she won the \$30,000 Spy Coast Farm of Traverse City with H & M Necoll at Horse Shows by the Bay. Over the past few years, she has consistently placed in the most challenging classes at the Winter Equestrian Festival. In 2011, she was selected to participate in the George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Clinic.

"This award came as a big surprise," expressed Wolff. "Both of my top horses

were hurt so I had not been in the grand prix ring that much. My horses are now going great and I am really happy with them. The Maxine Beard Award means a lot to me; it means that my hard work has paid off. I am one step closer to my big dream to become an international rider."

Although she is still an amateur rider, Wolff expects to eventually turn professional. "I have plans to become a professional, but I think I should finish school first," she commented. "I want to try and get all the experience I can and not turn professional until I'm ready."

Wolff is a very talented rider whose hard work and ambition will hopefully find her on a U.S. team in the years ahead.

■ – *Rebecca Walton*



*Ronnie Beard, Ali Wolff,  
Jane Forbes Clark and George H. Morris*

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

# United States Successfully Competes at 2011 Rolex FEI Show Jumping World Cup Finals and Reem Acra FEI Dressage World Cup Finals

This year, the United States had the opportunity to send 10 representatives to the 2011 Rolex FEI Show Jumping World Cup Finals in Leipzig, Germany. Three of those riders executed top performances and finished in the top 12 at the end of the four round competition. Beezie Madden led the effort with Coral Reef Via Volo to finish fourth, while McLain Ward and Antares F placed 10th, and Margie Engle rounded out the top 12 aboard Indigo.

It was originally Engle who led the way for the United States, landing in the fifth place position with Indigo, owned by Gladewinds Farm, Garber, Griese, and Hidden Creek, after the first round. The duo left all the rails in their cups and broke



Margie Engle and Indigo

the beam at 65.62 seconds. "I thought it was a really nice course with a couple of good options and I was pleased with Indigo," smiled Engle. "He's never really gone in and gone fast in the first round, so I wanted to just go medium because he tends to be high strung. I wanted to be in the top ten, and he was great. Once I started jumping he felt like he really focused on everything and rode great."

Also placing in the top ten was Ashlee Bond with Cadett 7, owned by Little Valley Farms. They also managed to leave all the fences standing and stopped the clock at 66.44 seconds to take over the eighth place spot during the first round. Sitting in the 12th position was Richard Spooner and Cristallo, owned by Show Jumping Syndications, after the duo had a clear round in 68.56 seconds. Beezie Madden and Danny Boy, owned by Abigail Wexner, incurred eight faults over the course, bringing down the top of a



Beezie Madden and Danny Boy

plank vertical and the tall vertical after the second inside turn, but their quick time placed them in the 18th position. McLain Ward and Rothchild, owned by Sagamore Farms, also had eight faults, lowering the height of the first oxer and the plank, but they also dashed around the ring to hold the 21st position. Madden's and Ward's original time would have netted them a top six finish after day one, had the rails not come down. Taking over the 22nd position was Rich Fellers and Flexible, owned by Harry and Mollie Chapman, after earning twelve faults in a very quick 61.36 seconds, the fastest time of the day.



McLain Ward and Rothchild

Michelle Spadone had a very nice clean round with Uwwalon, owned by the Morgan Hill Partners, but the duo was very slow and their conservative effort had them crossing the finish line in 73.67 seconds to hold the 24th position.

Brianne Goutal and Ballade Van Het Indihof, owned by Remarkable Farms, took the 35th position after a 12-fault effort. In 38th was Kirsten Coe who had 16 faults aboard Tristan, owned by Ilan

Ferder. Charlie Jayne came in 39th with Athena, owned by the London Group, after incurring 20 faults.

During the second round, Ward and Antares F, owned by the Grant Road Partners, had a beautiful first round effort to advance to the short course. They seemed to be well on their way to win, but Ward left a stride out at the final vertical and the top rail popped out of the cups. Their time of 39.37 seconds was the fastest of the night, but their four faults earned them the fifth place honors, and they returned in the tenth place position for the Sunday's final.

"My horse is relatively inexperienced at championships, this is his first, so I wanted him to go well, and I was thrilled with him in both rounds," explained Ward. "I went early in the jump-off, and was going to try to win the class, I'm not hanging on to any great lead to protect. I wanted to try to win, and there was definitely an option at the last fence, but it was a very hard option; it just got a little too far away from me. He made a good effort, but that happens sometimes when you try to win."

Engle and Indigo had a surprising stop and fence disruption during the second round at the first portion of the triple combination. A ten fault score moved them to 17th in the overall standings. Bond and Cadett 7 also had a disappointing round, earning 12 faults and sliding out of the top ten to 21st overall.

Spooner and Cristallo had a very good round, only knocking one fence for four faults to finish in the 16th spot and hold down the 11th position overall. Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo, owned by the Coral Reef Ranch, had one of the fastest four fault efforts and finished 12th, for the 15th position overall. Spadone also only incurred four faults with Melisimo and was ranked 23rd.

Fellers and Flexible were ranked 27th after having 12 faults, and Coe and Tristan were ranked 33rd after nine faults. Goutal and Jayne each had 16 faults with Ballade Van Het Indihof and Athena, respectively, to sit 35th and 36th, respectively.

During the two-round Final, it was Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo who rose to the top. The duo had an excellent day and soared over each obstacle with





Beezie Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo

Photo by Rebecca Walton

ease. Madden's mount never lost her fire as their excellent effort moved them from 12th in the original ranking to fourth, tied with Germany's Marco Kutscher and Cash with a 12-fault total.

"She has plenty of energy still," joked Madden. "She went amazing! There's probably nothing she can't jump, and I had a lot of confidence in that when I went out there. I don't think she's ever tired. She needs experience; she's 13, but she hasn't had a lot of experience in places like this. As you saw today, she needs a little time to settle in and she did that today. She was great!"

Ward had a heartbreaking day, as he entered the event with 10 faults, but after a clear effort during the first round he quickly moved up into sixth with Antares F. During the second round, the pair looked well on their way to a top three finish, but an unfortunate rail at the very last oxer added four faults to their total, to return to the 10th place position.

"I'm thrilled with Antares. He was amazing all week," said Ward. "It's the first time doing the championships with him, and I certainly couldn't have been happier with the horse. Friday, having the last jump down in the jump-off was a little risky. Then today, I thought we jumped



McLain Ward and Antares F

Photo by Rebecca Walton

the jump. It was a big difference from second to tenth, but he'll do something good one day."

Engle was very pleased with the performance of Indigo, who is still a relatively new mount for the veteran rider. With a clear first round and just four faults in the second round, the duo finished in the top 12.

"He's a good boy, he wanted to be good all the way through," smiled Engle. "It's been a great learning experience for him as a young horse, it's a lot for him. One thing nice to see is that I still have plenty of horse left. He could go another round! He was just so up when I went to shape the six I just couldn't get him over, he was spooking at all the people. It is a different atmosphere, but he was great about the rest of it. I thought both courses were really good; they had a lot of technical parts, careful parts and scopey parts. I think Frank [Rothenberger] tested pretty much everything. I think he came out with the right number of double clean, two, which was the right number for a championship. I thought all week long the courses were super. I was really happy



Richard Spooner and Cristallo

Photo by Rebecca Walton

with how my horse was all week. After our little miscommunication, instead of coming back afraid he came back great and strong. He's a fighter."

Spooner held 11th place position originally with Cristallo going into the last day of competition. The duo had a pair of four fault rounds to finish 13th at the end of the day. Fellers, Spadone, and Bond each had difficulties over the first round and did not return for the second round, finishing 24th, 26th, and 27th, respectively in the final standings.

At the end of the competition, Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris said, "Great horse show, great horses, great competition. I think our top group, which is older people with great horses and great experience, are world class. We don't have enough depth at the top yet, it's not in increments, and that is a reflection on the younger professionals, the younger riders,

and they need to work harder at every angle. It's a question of you get what you put in. We still have Margie, we still have Beezie, McLain and Richard, but we need to have some younger people for the top league. So that is disappointing, very disappointing."

Morris continued, "We didn't have the best of luck with McLain and Engle in the first round. That's a new horse for Margie; she had bobble in that earlier class. The top echelon was great but the next echelon needs to work harder at every aspect, at their horsemanship."



Jan Ebeling and Rafalca

Photo by Rebecca Walton

## DRESSAGE

Three riders represented the United States during the 2011 Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Finals, including Catherine Haddad-Staller on her own Winyamaro, Shawna Harding on her Come On III and Jan Ebeling on Ann Romney's Rafalca. During the Grand Prix Freestyle, Ebeling finished 11th with a score of 72.589, while Haddad-Staller finished right on his heels in 12th with a 70.161. Shawna Harding finished 14th in the overall standings.

"She gave her all, I couldn't be happier," commented Ebeling after his performance. "The atmosphere here is just amazing. In America we never get to ride in places like this, never get to ride in front of so many people. I'm just thrilled, it's always fantastic to represent your country."

Shawna Harding was also all smiles this evening talking about her ride. "This is his first time out in such an atmosphere and his first ever World Cup. I've had a great time here, riding with the jumpers and just have millions of people coming around. It's really fantastic. He has been just super: confident and just a bit nervous."

In 2012, the Rolex FEI World Cup Jumping Finals and the Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Finals will each be held in s-Hertogenbosch (the Netherlands) April 18-22. ■ – Rebecca Walton



# Junior Riders Shine During EY Cup at 2011 FEI World Cup Finals in Leipzig, Germany

This year, six of the USA's Young Riders had an incredible opportunity to showcase their talents during the European Youngsters Cup, which was held at the 2011 FEI World Cup Finals in Leipzig, Germany. Reed Kessler, Charlotte Jacobs, Caitlin Ziegler and Katie Dinan traveled to Europe with their talented mounts after qualifying for the event during the 2011 Artisan Farms Young Riders Grand Prix Series. Audrey Coulter and Cayla Richards were also invited to compete after strong performances at HITS Thermal in California.

On the first day of competition the USA had a very strong showing, scoring the second, third, and fourth place honors behind Germany's Alexander Hufenstuhl. Dinan and Vancouver, owned by the Grant Road Partners, placed second with the second fastest clear round of the day during the speed competition. Taking home the third place honors were Richards and Valentine who also completed a clear effort. Ziegler and VDL Groep Camara, owned by Artisan Farms, placed fourth for their fault-free effort.



*Cayla Richards and Valentine*

finishing faster than any other rider during the opening day of competition.

The second day of competition was very exciting for the up-and-coming equestrian talent of the United States. Coulter and Rodenburgh's California had a stunning clear round in a blazing 47.40 seconds to lead the victory gallop, while fellow American Ziegler and Valencia, owned by Artisan Farms, followed in the second place position with a clear round in 49.24 seconds.

After good rounds the first day with only four faults on both of her mounts, Coulter was well prepared for the challenging task. She first completed the course aboard her newer mount, Victory Da, leaving all the fences up, in a conservative time of 55 seconds, that earned 13th. When she entered the ring with her second mount, Rodenburgh's California, she did not hold anything back. The West Coast combo picked up a fast gallop to the first fence and never slowed down. They soared over each obstacle with ease, and despite opting out of one of the inside turns they crossed the finish line in 47.40, taking an easy lead over the competition and earning the winning title.



*Reed Kessler and Ligest*

"I'm thrilled to be here in Leipzig and excited to be watching and riding at the World Cup," noted Dinan after her excellent finish. "Competing against Europeans is a totally new experience. It was really great to have my first horse go so well and according to our plan. I was a little nervous to come, it's all new to me, but my horse couldn't have been better. I think he knew it was important."

During the first round, Dinan rode her second mount, Bella Dame D, owned by the Grant Road Partners, to a solid four fault score. Richards also showed a second mount during the first class, earning four faults aboard Faustino. Coulter had a four-fault effort with her mounts, Victory Da and Rodenburgh's California, both owned by Copernicus Stables.

In addition, Jacobs and Kessler competed during the first round for the United States. Jacobs finished with four faults aboard Umberto, and had two knockdowns with Promised Land, owned by Windsor Show Stables. Kessler and Ligest were not as lucky as the other riders and the duo had four knockdowns. Speedy Reedy, as she is commonly known, lived up to her name



*Katie Dinan and Belle Dame D*



"I wanted to go for it," expressed Coulter. "Yesterday I was really fast, but unfortunately had a rail. Today, I figured I might as well go for it. I am just getting to know Victory Da, so I went a little slower. I've had Rodenburgh's California for about a year and we've done a lot of big classes and she's great at going fast."

Ziegler competed earlier in the class and made a great effort to score the win with her new mount, Valencia. The duo had a quick pace throughout the course and left all the rails in their cups. They stopped the clock at 49.24 seconds to finish with second place honors and help score a one-two punch for the USA.

"This is a new horse and it is only my second week with her," said Ziegler. "We didn't really know what to expect. There were a couple of options on the course, so we decided to go with it and do everything we could; it really worked out. I'm very excited."

Kessler had a much better day, completing the second fastest four-fault effort with Ligist to finish 18th in the standings. Jacobs and Promised Land, Richards and Valentine, and Dinan and Belle Dame D each had eight faults over the course. Jacobs and Richards each had 12 faults with their second mounts, Umberto, owned by North Star Ventues, and Faustino respectively.

During the last day of competition it was Kessler who led the American effort during the European Youngster Cup Finals after placing fifth with Ligist. Throughout the three rounds of the EY Cup, Kessler continued to improve her performance. As the sixth

horse in the ring, Ligist jumped a confident, clear round to be the first to qualify to return for the shortened course.

"I had some really bad luck yesterday, I had a really fast time and Ligist just nicked the back rail in front which is so unlike him," admitted Kessler. "The luck evened out today, as he nicked the first couple, but after the first few fences he jumped really well. I was definitely excited to be the only clean American rider."

Kessler came back for the jump-off and executed a neat methodical round. However, an unfortunate four faults collected for a knockdown at the eleventh fence resulted in a fifth place finish.

Coulter entered the ring determined to join Kessler in the jump-off. She and Rodenburgh's California were on target to do so until they collected four faults at the final oxer, finishing in twelfth place.

Fellow American Ziegler rode Valencia to a tactful round over the twelve obstacle course. A rail down at the fourth fence meant the pair would not return for the jump-off and she finished thirteenth, directly behind Coulter.

Each of the Young Riders representing the United States had solid performances at the European Youngsters Cup, gaining experience competing in Europe during a World Championship, thanks to the opportunities presented during the 2011 Artisan Farms Young Riders Grand Prix Series. ■ – *Rebecca Walton and Alyson Sanderford*



*Charlotte Jacobs and Promised Land*



*Katie Dinan and Vancouver*



*Caitlin Ziegler and VDL Groep Camara*



*Audrey Coulter and Rodenburgh's California*

All photos by Rebecca Walton



# USA Brings Home Gold and Silver Medals at the 2011 FEI Reining World Finals

This past May, two of the United States' top reining riders, Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal, headed to Europe to represent their country at the 2011 FEI Reining World Finals. The prestigious event was held in Bokeberg (SWE) May 18 – 22, 2011, drawing the best of the best from around the world. McCutcheon and Schmersal did not disappoint, earning Gold and Silver medals respectively.

"It was fun for Craig and me to go over and be first and second. It is always a big deal to go in those events and win," said McCutcheon. "There were a lot of good trainers over there and they brought their best riders and they had their best horses."

Double Gold medalist at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG), McCutcheon earned an exceptional score of 229.5. McCutcheon piloted Darlins Not Painted, owned by Turnabout Farm, to a spot on performance earning the Gold medal.

McCutcheon expressed his excitement about the event and his win saying, "That was a lot of fun for us. Going to Europe is always great fun because the fans have such energy and the place was packed full of people. They had loud music and it was just an amazing atmosphere," he noted. "The electricity is high and then to go in and have a run like that tops it off. My mare was really good. We ran pattern 10 and she ran in and nailed our first stop. I knew she was hooked up at that point and she was really good all the way through the pattern. She showed like she has never shown before."

"I decided to skip some events before the Finals to keep my mare fresh and she arrived in Europe in really excellent shape. She was well rested and ready to go. The biggest preparation was to have her fresh and ready to go mentally and physically," noted McCutcheon. "It is always fun any time you can add another Gold medal, but when I can go in there with USA on my shirt it is a big deal."

McCutcheon added, "The USET Foundation has been such huge supporter of us. It is a huge deal to represent our country. Craig has probably been on more teams with me than anybody



Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal

else, so there is good camaraderie," McCutcheon laughed. "I wanted to win for sure, but I wanted the U.S. to win so if it wasn't me I wanted it to be him."

The Gold medal was just a few points away for Schmersal who took home the Silver medal at the end of the day. Schmersal gave an impressive performance aboard Miss Lil Addy Tude, owned by KC Performance Horses. Although this was only Schmersal's second FEI Reining event he thrilled the crowd earning a score of 227.5.

"That mare has been a steady player in all the aged events. She has been a sweet little mare and a welcome addition to our program," said Schmersal. "She took the trip to Europe really well and I think she even gained a little weight. Our rounds were great; she stayed relaxed and both days she showed as sweet as she possibly could. For an older mare to go in there and do that two days in a row, well I was thrilled to death. She had a great mind and so much try during both days. I always liked that mare and after I showed her I felt good about buying her."

"It is a thrill to have the USET Foundation supporting us and we have been big supporters of them," Schmersal continued. "It is really special for us to represent the U.S. and it is fun for us to go to another country, travel and meet new people. It is very cool to participate in these events; it is just something really special. Tom and I thrive on competition and we have been on a few teams together. We are competitive in the show pen but the rest of the time it is pretty laid back."

Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal are looking forward to the next opportunity to represent the U.S. They are two of the most accomplished riders in the industry with many accolades to their names. The success of their accomplishments at the 2010 World Equestrian Games and recently the 2011 Reining World Finals has given reining a significant boost for continued growth of the sport. ■

– Heather Bellock



Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal



# Bruce Duchossois and ACE Private Risk Services Honor Horses Lost with Donation to the USET Foundation

On May 31, fire destroyed the barn rented by international event rider Boyd Martin from Phillip Dutton at True Prospect Farm (West Grove, PA). Of the 11 horses stabled in the wood and stone bank barn, six perished in the blaze. In the wake of this incredible tragedy, USET Foundation Trustee Bruce Duchossois and ACE Private Risk Services have shown true generosity by making a donation to the USET Foundation in memory of the six horses lost during the terrible event.

Bruce Duchossois, who competes in the Amateur-Owner hunters, has owned several of Dutton's top eventing horses, including Connaught. Dutton, who earned Olympic Team Gold in 1996 riding for Australia, became an American citizen in 2006. In 2007, he earned Pan American Games Team Gold and Individual Silver riding for the USA. In 2008 he piloted Connaught to first place in the prestigious four-star Kentucky Rolex Three-Day Event. About five years ago Duchossois became partners with Dutton in the ownership of True Prospect Farm.

Duchossois learned that ACE Private Risk Services, the high-net worth personal lines company of global insurance carrier, the ACE Group – who settled the claim quickly and gracefully – planned to make a donation in honor of the six horses. Several of those horses were being considered to represent the USA at the 2011 Pan American Games and now would never have a chance to prove themselves. Duchossois happens to be co-chair of the USET Foundation's Development Committee, which raises funds for the USA's elite and developing equestrian athletes. He offered to match whatever amount ACE Private Risk Services donated to the USET Foundation.

"I think that what ACE Private Risk Services is doing is phenomenal," said Duchossois. "Insurance – you can't live with it, you can't live without it – and what these ACE people have done really is above and beyond. It was a beautiful old stone barn, and the horses – well, they were priceless. To settle the way

they did and then to come back and make a donation to the USET Foundation in the memory of the horses – well, it's unheard of. It opens eyes that they are good people and that they want to give back. I was blown away."

On Tuesday, August 16th at True Prospect Farm, Bob Courtemanche, Division President of ACE Private Risk Services, and W. Kirk James, Chief Operating Officer of Hub International (the broker that matched up ACE with True Prospect), met with Duchossois, Dutton and his wife Evie, and Martin. Courtemanche presented the check for the USET Foundation to Duchossois. In a spirit of camaraderie and compassion, ACE's donation to the USET Foundation does more than honor the six fallen event horses: it also pays tribute to the incredible bravery of the people who risked their lives to save the five.

"We protect property, but at the end of the day we protect people," said Courtemanche. "If we can help to make a sad situation better by honoring the bravery and compassion of the people at True Prospect Farm, that's part of our job. It's not just property they lost in that fire. They lost horses, and they aren't replaceable the way machines are. I'm learning about the partnership between horse and rider."

ACE's generous donation may be unprecedented in the insurance world, but their humanity seems to be a matter of daily record.



Boyd Martin and Neville Bardos  
Neville miraculously survived the barn fire  
and is now competing in Europe

Photo by Rebecca Willson

"It's moving. It restores my faith in the American culture, that everything's not just about money," said Martin. "It's fantastic when a company goes far beyond the call of duty and sees a terrible situation and they put their hat and money out for such a wonderful donation."

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins commented, "In the wake of such tragedy ACE Private Risk Services and Bruce Duchossois have graciously recognized the loss of these talented and incredible horses

with a gift to the USET Foundation that will continue to help this country's United States Equestrian Teams on the international stage. The generous gifts exemplify the kindness and thoughtfulness of ACE and Bruce, for which the USET Foundation is truly appreciative. We wish Boyd and Phillip the very best as they courageously move forward in achieving competitive excellence, while always remembering the incredible horses that make it possible." ■

– Lauren R. Giannini



Bob Courtemanche (Division President ACE Group Private Risk Services) hands the donation in honor of the fallen event horses to Bruce Duchossois, co-chair of the USET Foundation's Development Committee, flanked by Boyd Martin and Kirk James (COO Hub International) and Phillip and Evie Dutton.

Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

# Sinead Halpin Awarded Pinnacle Cup and Jacqueline B. Mars Training Grant

The 2011 United States Equestrian Team Foundation Pinnacle Cup recipient was Sinead Halpin who finished third aboard Manoir de Carneville at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI\*\*\*\*. Halpin, a resident of Gladstone, NJ, was riding for the first time at the prestigious competition. The Pinnacle Cup is presented each year to the highest placed American rider at Rolex Kentucky.

Halpin piloted Manoir de Carneville, an 11-year-old Selle Francais gelding owned by Carrig, LLC, to their third place finish overall after successfully completing all three phases. The duo concluded the competition with a score of 53.1, after incurring just 4.4 time faults in the cross-country phase.

Winning the Pinnacle Cup is an achievement that Halpin hopes will mark the start of a very bright future. She began riding at the advanced level in 1999, and contested the Boekelo CCI3\* last fall in Holland as part of the USEF Developing Rider program. Halpin excels in the training of young horses and bringing those with talent successfully through



Sinead Halpin and Manoir de Carneville awarded Pinnacle Cup by David O'Connor

the ranks of the sport. Over the years, she has trained under the careful tutelage of Stuart Black, the O'Connor Equestrian Team, Sandy and Mark Phillips, and William Fox-Pitt.

Halpin hopes to use these opportunities to continue to hone her skills in the difficult sport. "The people who have won the Pinnacle Cup before me are riders that I am in awe of, and to actually have my name on that list is a little intimidating," expressed Halpin. "It's certainly a pat on the back that you are on the right path and doing the right thing. I am really flattered."

Just recently, Halpin was named to the USEF Eventing Developing Rider List and she was also the recipient of the Jacqueline B. Mars International Competition and Training Grant. The grant is given by the USET Foundation and awarded to an eventing rider who has been identified and recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors, with an impressive record and potential to represent the United States in future international competition.

■ – Rebecca Walton



## Heather Morris Receives Second Amanda Warrington Grant from USET Foundation

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation has named Heather Morris as the recipient of the 2011 Amanda Warrington Grant. Morris, an eventing rider based in Lewisville, TX, was also the grant recipient in 2009. The Amanda Warrington Grant is awarded through the Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund.

Morris is a professional rider at Gold Chip Stables in Bartonville, TX, for eventer Mike Huber. "I feel very privileged that they picked me for a second time," she commented. "The last couple of years have been up and down for me, but doing Rolex this year and being able to compete was very special."

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund was established by Amanda's family for the purpose of providing financial assistance to a developing event rider who has shown great talent and the ability to represent the United States in the future. As the winner of the grant, Morris will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with her training over the next year.

Morris competes with her three top horses: Slate River, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by The Team Express Syndicate, Sportsfield Maisie Grey, a nine-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare owned by Cheryle Huber, and First Mark, a 13-year-old Thoroughbred gelding owned by Lynne Partridge. Morris was recently named to the USEF Eventing High Performance's 2011 Developing Rider List.

This year, Morris successfully completed the 2011 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI\*\*\*\* aboard Slate River, and placed second in the advanced division during The Fork CIC\*\*\*. She's also had excellent results aboard Sportsfield Maisie Grey, riding the talented mare to a second place finish at the Poplar Place CIC\*\*, and completing the Jersey Fresh CCI\*. ■ – Rebecca Walton



Heather Morris and Slate River



# 2011 Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions Selects Pan American Games Team

A glorious array of impressive American dressage talent, from Grand Prix down to ponies, was on display at the United States Equestrian Team Foundation's Gladstone Headquarters for September's National Championships.

The historic facility has hosted many spectacular performances, but the Collecting Gaits Farm/U.S. Equestrian Federation Dressage Festival of Champions offered a record, as Steffen Peters became the first rider ever to secure both the Grand Prix and Intermediaire I titles at the same show.



*Steffen Peters and Weltino's Magic*

Spectators were privileged to watch six brilliant performances by Peters as he dominated the Grand Prix section with Ravel, and the Intermediaire I division aboard Weltino's Magic, who received a remarkable 81.250 percent for his freestyle.

In the Grand Prix Special, Ravel scored a "personal best" of 80.083 percent that could portend big things looking ahead to next year's London Olympics.

It was the first Gladstone competition for both of Steffen's mounts. Each has excelled internationally. Peters rode Akiko Yamazaki's Ravel, the 2009 World Cup Finals winner who went on to sweep his division at Aachen that year, to two bronze medals at last fall's Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Jen and Bruce Hlavacek's impressive Weltino's Magic, who also won at Aachen this year on the small tour, was the top qualifier for the I-1.

The victories were especially gratifying for California-based Peters because of the location.

"It's always special; this is where it all started," he explained. "My first championship here was in 1992, I first won here

in 1995, I have special memories and it is always a step above other venues."

Last year, Peters did not compete Ravel during the WEG trials at Gladstone because he earned a bye due to his stellar record. This time, he had some real competition. The 2010 national champion, Tina Konyot and her talented stallion Calecto V, finished a strong second in the Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special and Grand Prix Freestyle to become the Reserve National Champions.

The Intermediaire I contest had special significance because it served as the trials for this fall's Pan American Games in Mexico. Peters, Floridian Heather Blitz and her amazing 18-hand Paragon, and Cesar Parra of New Jersey with Sarah and Michael Davis' Grandioso finished 1-2-3 in the Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I, seeming to reserve their team spots even before the freestyle, which only counted 15 percent. In the freestyle, Californian Marisa Festerling and her Big Tyme took third place, giving her the fourth team berth.

Parra, who will be able to serve as team translator, won a Team Silver for his native Colombia before becoming a U.S. citizen. It is the team experience debut for Blitz and Festerling. Although Peters is an Olympic and WEG medalist, he is a Pan Am rookie and looking forward to being on a team for that Games for the first time.

Expectations are that this is a squad capable of bringing home the Gold medal. "This is the strongest line-up we have ever had in any Games," said Technical Advisor Anne Gribbons.

"It's very exciting, and that means we are marching in the right direction, which is a fabulous thing to see."

The first day of the Festival was marked by torrential rains, little more than a week after Tropical Storm Irene rampaged through New Jersey. Officials and riders felt secure that the new footing was fine despite the downpour, and they ran the morning program. In order to work the footing and avoid drenching participants, the Prix St. Georges was put off until the next day, when the sun shone and conditions were optimum.

Gribbons noted that despite the weather problem, "Our riders were wonderful. They didn't hiccup once. Once they realized it wasn't slippery, they went



*Heather Blitz and Paragon*

out there and got pelted by the rain, they weren't worried...they were totally on board and they just kept going. They showed a lot of get up and go. I really admired them."

She's looking forward to having the 2012 Olympic trials at the USET Foundation Headquarters as well, where Gribbons explained, "It's really our place because we can work with everybody there. We can work with the office personnel, we can work with the ground crew; it feels like we belong there. The footing held up under extraordinary circumstances," she said.

With competitors coming from as far away as California, it was important that they had something to occupy their evenings, as Tim Dutta pointed out.



*Tim and Susie Dutta*

Dutta, whose Dutta Corp. is transporting the horses to the Pan American Games, stepped in and gave several parties. One was in the Headquarters' lovely Trophy Room, where people could peruse the past triumphs of U.S. teams in the glass cases that lined the walls. The other, a Saturday night fiesta presented in col-

laboration with the USEF, appropriately had a Mexican theme – complete with a mariachi duo and margaritas, as well as quesadillas and all the trimmings.

On Thursday night, Kelly Roetto threw a party at her nearby home with her niece, junior competitor Julia Burt. On the kids' side, it was a giant pizza bash complete with penny candy for dessert, but it also featured plenty of more sophisticated Italian food for the grown-ups attending.

Lendon Gray, one of the founders of the Dressage Emerging Athlete Program with Robert Dover and Courtney King Dye, read an inspirational letter from Dye to the younger riders about how to make

the most of their experiences in the early years of their dressage careers. Speeches by Youth Coach Jeremy Steinberg and Developing Horse Coach Scott Hassler followed the same motivating lines.

The young people had plenty of opportunities to show their mettle at the championships. The Brentina Cup, named after the iconic medal-winning mare, offers a transition between the Junior/Young Rider ranks and the divisions dominated by professionals.

Caroline Roffman on Beemer, a sales horse she was lucky to ride in the championship since he had yet to change hands, eventually won the prestigious title. She is working with I-1 competitor Endel Ots in a training and teaching business in Wellington, FL.

The much-decorated Isabelle Leibler of Connecticut, winner of the Individual Gold and Freestyle Gold at the Adequan/FEI National Junior and Young Riders Championships this summer, took another Young Rider title with her Watson 108.

Kya Endreson of Maryland, a working student for Hassler Dressage, won the junior title aboard Horses Unlimited's Pik L, the stallion who was the reserve mount for the 2007 Pan American Games with Susie Dutta aboard. Interestingly, he is the sire of Pikko del Cerro HU, Lisa Wilcox's mount in the I-1.

Only two ponies came for the debut of their division at the Festival, but the competitors were thrilled to be at the



*Allison Cyprus and Maple Lane Kero with Jim Wolf*

team headquarters and hoped the section would fill out more next year.

The tri-color went to Allison Cyprus of Texas with the unusual cremello-color Welsh pony Maple Lane Kero, otherwise known as The Peach.

"I'm hoping the ponies will grow for next season and we'll see more kids," said Bebe Davis of Massachusetts, the reserve champion. "It's very cool to know that you're riding in the same ring that so many people who went to the Olympics have. It's great!" ■ – Nancy Jaffer



*Isabelle Leibler and Watson 108*



*Guenter Seidel and Steffen Peters*



*Debbie McDonald and Adrienne Lyle*



*Cesar Parra and Grandioso*



*Marisa Festerling and Big Tyme*



*Jeremy Steinberg, Kelly Roetto and Ann Gribbons*



*The Mariachi Band*

All Photos by Nancy Jaffer



# USET Foundation Headquarters Hosts Dressage Developing Clinic with Debbie McDonald

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation welcomed internationally renowned dressage rider and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Developing Dressage Coach Debbie McDonald to Hamilton Farm July 16-17, 2011 for the first of four Developing Dressage Clinics she will conduct to aid in the training of this nation's up and coming dressage riders. The two-day clinic provided important guidance and insight to the five riders who were invited to participate based upon their potential to represent the United States in international competition. The Clinic was set in an environment that echoes with an ambiance of historic success and future potential which, as McDonald expressed, "has so much history, and is really such a special place."

Following the clinic, McDonald commented, "Of everything we do right now, the Developing Clinics are probably the most important thing as they are all about

the future -- discovering and training new Team members and new horses. We need to create depth in our Teams, because we have some great experienced riders at the top, but we need more younger riders for the future."

"A couple of years ago the program was started through funding of the USET Foundation and it is all through donations that this program is possible," said McDonald. "We are trying to do the best we can to make a stronger future for United States dressage. I have been given an incredible gift to have a great team behind me and to represent the U.S. is very dear to me. I thank the USET Foundation and the donors for trying to help these programs move forward."

Some of the five participants in the Developing Clinic were riders that have qualified for national championships, and some riders had impressive credentials and great potential for the future. The USEF High Performance Dressage Committee



Photo by Nancy Jafer

Developing Dressage Coach Debbie McDonald offered tips to riders during a weekend clinic at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone

invited individuals who fit the requirements for participation in the Developing Clinics. These included Jennifer Wilson-Horr, Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, Betsy Steiner, Caroline Cheret, and John Lee Amber.

— Heather Bellock

## USET Foundation Donor Appreciation Party

Hosted by Trustees Robin and Gerry Parsky, Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang and Gwendolyn and Jay Meyer and The Villas

at Rancho Valencia  
in Rancho Santa Fe

August 24, 2011



Betty Lou Sully, Pam Theodosakis and Tracy Sully



Sean Caddell, Lauren Hester,  
Marsha Hester and Catryn Fowler



Sandy Harper and Gwendolyn Meyer



Robin Parsky and Dale Harvey



Steffen Peters, Shannon Peters, Guenter Seidel,  
Catryn Fowler and Akiko Yamazaki

# Many Lessons Learned for U.S. Show Jumping during 2011 FEI Nations Cup Top League Tour

The 2011 United States FEI Nations Cup Top League tour opened in La Baule, France, this year with the team comprised of veteran riders Margie Engle, Rich Fellers, Ashlee Bond and Charlie Jayne leading the way in this first of eight events pitting the top nations in the world in a head-to-head battle for equestrian supremacy.

On a day that saw only one double clear round through two rounds of competition, Wilsonville, Oregon's Rich Fellers and Margie Engle from Wellington, FL led the way for the United States, each producing a brilliant clear round and a round of four on the afternoon. Fellers, on his long time partner Flexible were fault-free in the first round. Riding her Nations Cup newcomer Indigo, Engle followed up on her first round four with a sensational clear in the second round.



Margie Engle and Indigo

Charlie Jayne, piloting Athena, added a score of eight in the first round, while Californian Ashlee Bond had the drop score of 12 with her mount Cadett 7. Both riders improved to post only a single rail down in the second round as the United States totaled 20 faults on the day to finish in a tie for fifth place when the day was done.

Ireland, with only 13 faults, ruled the day in La Baule over the runners-up from Belgium, while Germany settled for third place.

The second stop, at the beautiful Piazza di Siena in Rome, Italy, saw the Netherlands secure a persuasive win over Belgium and Ireland, while the U.S. Show Jumping Team faded to a disappointing seventh place finish, despite an excellent first round performance that saw clear rounds from Indigo and Engle and Romantovich Take One, ridden by Christine McCrea.

Jayne and Athena added a score of eight to the total, while Fellers and Flexible



Charlie Jayne and Athena

had an uncharacteristic 12 faults, accounting for the drop score in round one.

In the second round, the best the U.S. could muster was two rounds of four faults from Engle and Fellers, with McCrea scoring 16 and Jayne registering the drop score of 20.

Despite the seventh place finish for the team, Engle was thrilled with her rapidly improving partner, Indigo, "I think there was only one double clear at Rome; that was a really difficult, challenging course. I couldn't have asked much more of him there. He was very impressive."

The 32-fault total dropped the United States to seventh on the day and seventh in the overall standings as the team moved on to St. Gallen, Switzerland for round three, seven days later.

On the strength of a brilliant double clear performance by McCrea and Romantovich Take One, the U.S. team rebounded for a much needed fourth place finish at CSIO St. Gallen. McCrea's double clear was one of only five on the day over a very difficult course. Engle and Indigo, Jayne and Athena and Fellers with Flexible completed the squad in Switzerland.

The tour resumed in Falsterbo, Sweden, with a rainy day greeting Californian's Saer Coulter and Lucy Davis, first time competitors on the exciting United States FEI Nations Cup Top League tour. The new duo teamed up with Jayne, making his



Lucy Davis and Nemo

fourth appearance in a row with Athena, and McCrea, who came to Sweden following her brilliant back to back clear rounds in Switzerland.

Davis and Coulter, Team Gold medalists at the 2010 Adequan FEI North American Junior & Young Rider Championships, were partnered with Springtime and Nemo 119, respectively.



Saer Coulter and Lucy Davis

Coulter posted an eight fault score the first time out, while Davis jumped without a knockdown, but a denial in the triple combination cost her four plus a time fault.

Jayne as the lead rider scored eight, but anchor rider McCrea gave the American team a bit of hope as she posted yet another clear round with Romantovich Take One.



Saer Coulter and Springtime

The 15 faults accumulated in the first round would be hard to overcome however. In the second round it was a vast improvement, especially for Jayne who posted the second clear round of the day for the United States. Davis and Coulter each had just a single rail and McCrea had the drop score in round two.

"One of the most rewarding parts about this is getting the opportunity to really work as a team, riding for the USA," said Coulter. "I enjoyed being able to learn from the other riders on the team. Walking the course is a humbling experience. Being



among such accomplished riders and getting the opportunity to watch them and compete against them really shows how much more there is to constantly learn. It was inspiring to compete against them," she smiled.

The U.S. scored only eight faults in the second round, but on a day when the Germans were unbeatable and the Irish and French were superb, the best the hometown team could muster would be a sixth place finish. Even more distressing was the slide down to relegation territory, seventh place in the overall standings.

As the FEI Nations Cup Top League series moved on to the famed arena in Aachen, Germany, it was everyone's hope that the veteran team of Olympians, including McLain Ward and Antares F, Laura Kraut and Cedric, Bezie Madden with Coral Reef Via Volo and Margie Engle and Indigo, would turn the tide on the disappointing season so far.



*Bezie Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo*

While the British, Germans and French held the lead with just four faults at the half-way stage, and the Dutch next in line with eight, the Americans and Irish were certainly within striking distance with a score of 12.

Battling the rain and unseasonably cold conditions, Ward and Engle had disastrous second rounds, each accumulating 16 faults and American chances for a top placing were gone, despite another four-fault round from Laura Kraut and a fabulous clear from Bezie Madden.

Hickstead produced the best finish of the season for the United States, and it came in an exciting Gold medal jump-off. The USA was lying third after round one in Great Britain, counting four faults each from newcomer Kent Farrington (Uceko) and Madden (Coral Reef Via Volo) along with an initial clear from McCrea and Romantovich Take One that negated Laura Kraut's 12 fault score with Teirra.

When the U.S. added just 12 faults to the scorecard in round two, bolstered by a dazzling clear from Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo, it set up a head to head to head



*McLain Ward and Antares F*

matchup between the Americans, Germans and French for the Hickstead title.

Madden was first to go in the jump-off, and while blistering the tough Hickstead track with the fastest time, Via Volo pulled the rail at the final fence of the jump-off to slot the United States into third place. It was the best finish of the season, but not enough to pull the team out of seventh place in the standings, with just Dublin and Rotterdam left on the agenda.

On the final Sunday in Great Britain, as the American team prepared to move on to Dublin, Farrington delivered a dramatic parting shot, riding Uceko to an impressive win in the Longines King George V Cup.

With the pressure mounting and the desperation for a top finish growing, the Americans fell behind the eight-ball right away in round one at Dublin rolling up 12 faults, despite the wonderfully ridden clear round from Lauren Hough and Quick Study. The usually-reliable Cedric had eight for Kraut and Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo rolled a single rail. McCrea and Romantovich Take One also had eight faults.

Roles reversed in round two when Cedric and Via Volo both bounced back with clear rounds and Romantovich Take One improved to score only 4, but when Quick Study fell out of form with 10 faults, the team would need McCrea's score to finish the day with 16 faults and a disappointing fifth place finish.

On a brighter note, for the second Sunday in a row, the American's led the victory gallop in the big grand prix, when Hough and Quick Study captured the Longines International Grand Prix of Ireland.

At Rotterdam, it boiled down to a battle against Belgium, with the United States needing to finish a couple of places ahead to avoid relegation.

In round one, the team could easily have easily been clear if not for two unlucky rails for McCrea and Romantovich Take One and Madden with Coral Reef Via Volo. Their two rounds of four went up on the board to be added to the bril-

liant clear round posted by Cedric with Kraut to put the United States into a second place tie with France with eight faults going into the second round. More importantly, the U.S. squad found themselves with a rail advantage over the team from Belgium as they second round lay ahead. Hough's five fault score with Quick Study was dropped in round one.

Round two though, unfolded as a microcosm of the entire season as the Americans once again could not take advantage of the opportunity presented them in round one. Hough and Quick Study were one of the many partnerships to lower the first fence second time out, and when they also put a foot in the water and picked up a time fault, their nine fault score really put the pressure on the other three to follow. Following that initial setback, McCrea, who throughout the tour, has been simply outstanding, galloped home with another brilliant clear round with her reliable partner, Romantovich Take One to give the team a bit of hope with two riders to go on the entire season.



*Christine McCrea and Romantovich Take One*

Those hopes were dashed quickly when Kraut and Cedric, who was spotless in the first round, ran into problems at the oxer before the water. Another rail coming home, plus the time penalties, put the American hopes in jeopardy with a 10 fault score. By the time anchor rider Madden collected just a single time fault with Coral Reef Via Volo, there was no way to overtake the Belgian riders, who in round two, were simply outstanding.

"We've had plenty of good individuals on the team this year, but we didn't have enough depth. We've loved being in the top league, but when we go down, we'll compete strongly at the next level," said U.S. Chef D' Equipe, George H. Morris.

The United States finished in seventh place with 31.50 points, three and a half points away from the safe zone in position six. The team from Germany scored the season series championship. ■

— **Kenneth Kraus**

# USET Foundation Supports Four Disciplines at CHIO Aachen

The USET Foundation was proud to support the efforts of equestrians in four disciplines as they competed at the World Equestrian Festival CHIO Aachen July 8-17, 2011. This prestigious event was held at the world famous Aachen stadium in Germany, and the USA sent representatives for

Show Jumping, Dressage, Vaulting, and Driving.

After the first round of the FEI Nations Cup for Show Jumping, the United States squad remained within shouting distance of the leaders, tied with Ireland with 12 faults in the first round. As the action unfolded in round two, Ireland soared to a second place finish, while the riders from the United States finished a distant and disappointing sixth.

On a cold, windy and rainy day in Germany, the Americans were problem plagued from the start. While the wet going did not seem to bother McLain Ward and

Antares F, trailblazers for the United States, they still incurred an unlucky single rail down during an otherwise brilliant first round.

On the other hand, Margie Engle and her young and upcoming mount Indigo, a pair that has been a welcome surprise so far this season with their consistency, never seemed to adjust to the



Margie Engle and Indigo

soaked and slick grass at Aachen, scoring an uncharacteristic 12 faults in the first round. The team's fortunes took a turn for the worse when Cedric, who jumped without a rub everywhere else, failed to get across the big water in the center of the Aachen stadium.

Beezie Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo put another four fault score on the scoreboard as the last to go, and by then the damage had been done and the United States already trailed the front-running British, German and French teams by two rails.



Laura Kraut and Cedric

As the second and deciding round rolled around, the weather had worsened and so had the hopes for a badly needed top finish for the American team at Aachen. Ward and Antares F failed to recover from a distracting schooling area incident and, despite Engle's best efforts, Indigo became even more distracted with the wet footing as the American team, for the first time in recent memory, started out a second round of the Nations Cup with two rounds of 16 faults. Troubling too was Cedric's inability to clear the Aachen water jump as he again scored four faults for rider Laura Kraut.

The only real bright spot of the afternoon came from Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo, whose spotless go in second round was the only clear for the United States through two rounds. The group eventually finished in the sixth place position, while the Netherlands led the victory gallop.

Dressage at Aachen is a CDIO 5\* event, and is held at the Deutsche Bank Stadium in Aachen, Germany. In the stadium, leaderboard battles were no less intense. In the Nations Cup, competitors from the United States turned in a respectable fourth place finish. Just missing a bronze award, the Americans' final score of 212.57 was not quite enough to catch up to the team from the Netherlands, as the Dutch achieved a 218.957 to clinch their medal.

The highest-scoring American was Steffen Peters on Ravel, whose grace and precision made for a score of 77.191, giving



Beezie Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo



Peters the individual fifth place finish. Also scoring well in the Nations Cup was American Guenter Seidel on U II with a 68.532. American success extended into the Grand Prix Freestyle CDI, with Peters placing second. Peters and Ravel scored an 82 in this test, just slightly behind winner Matthias Alexander Rath and Totilas, who scored a winning 82.825.

In Vaulting, the United States contingent was able to keep pace with the powerful Europeans. In the Female Individual classification, Mary McCormick's poised agility led to an impressive set of final scores. Over three days of competition, McCormick came in fourth during the Freestyle class with a score of 8.227. The following day saw McCormick's score inch higher to 8.240 during the second Freestyle. A respectable 7.901 on Sunday gave McCormick the overall Bronze medal, and gave the United States a spot in the top three of the Female Individual classification.

During her high scoring turns in the ring McCormick was aboard Gustafsson with Lars Hansen as longeur. American Vaulting success at Aachen was not just limited to the individual categories,

though. In the extremely challenging Pas de Deux class, Americans Devon Maitozo and Rosalind Ross showed the U.S. has what it takes to compete in this demanding section. The 2011 competition at Aachen marks the first time Americans have competed in the Pas de Deux, and Maitozo and Ross proved capable contenders. They earned a score of 7.805 on Friday and 7.911 on Saturday, ultimately earning the U.S. squad another Bronze medal with the horse Flashlight. The duo's longeur was Alexandra Knauf.

Four-in-hand Driving proved to be yet another Aachen event in which the Americans verged upon victory. American driver Chester Weber finished third overall with a 137.76 in the Combined Individual classification. Weber's driven dressage score was 37.25, barely behind Ijsbrand Chardon of the Netherlands, whose score in that event was 37.76. Weber avoided penalty points in the obstacle cone section, and attained a 100.51 in the marathon portion.

During the second dressage test in driving, Weber and Jane Clark's team of Para, Senate, Splash and Uniek earned a first place finish for the United States with



Mary McCormick and Gustafsson

a score of 34.69. However, as with the other Aachen events this year, the Europeans capably filled the top spots overall. Boyd Exell of Great Britain excelled in all three phases, driving right into a final score of 126.73. In second place was Chardon, whose total score was 133.73. ■

— Kenneth Kraus and Robyn Keyster



Steffen Peters and Ravel



Guenter Seidel and U II



Lauren Hough and Quick Study



Chester Weber with Para, Senate, Splash and Uniek

# 15th FEI World Pairs Driving Championships

Facing formidable competition from abroad, the Driving Team for the United States finished tenth at this year's FEI World Pairs Driving Championships in Conty, France. American Joe Yoder earned a solid sixth place finish in the dressage portion, driving past an impressive multinational roster that proved challenging to beat. Germany's Carola Diener took the individual champion title this year, while the team from The Netherlands earned the Team Gold medal again, a repeat of their 2009 victory. Despite the European supremacy at this summer's event, the Americans showcased their ability to compete on a demanding international driving stage.

Held August 24 - 28 in the scenic Picardie region of France, the event was hosted by Ateliers Du Val de Selle. The competition offered individual and team medals to 69 competitors from 24 different nations, making for a competitive and colorful championship. U.S. Team members included Kathi Dancer of Woodside, CA, Misdee Wrigley-Miller of Lexington, KY, and Joe Yoder of Aiken, SC. For all three U.S. drivers, this year's event marked the first time they have competed in a World Championship.

Yoder, who currently drives for Jack Wetzel, conquered some mud-inducing weather conditions during the driven dressage section, plowing through both the competition and the footing to a final score of 115.97. The capable Yoder was also the highest-scoring American in obstacle cone driving, landing in the top third of the final leaderboard for that section. Dancer eventually placed 33rd overall, and despite an excellent effort standing in 22nd place out of 68 entries after the marathon phase, Wrigley-Miller was disqualified after going off-course during the final cones event.

"International championship experience is invaluable and I feel that all three drivers learned an immense amount about the sport at the top level through both their experience competing against the best in Europe and through the intensive coaching from Michael Freund," noted Chef d'Equipe Chester Weber. "They all developed so much in the months leading up to the competition; if they all stay on this path we will reach the podium with this group again." ■ – Robyn Keyster



Joe Yoder with Randro and Veron

We would like to apologize for omitting the following donors from the GMC Major Benefactor category of our Annual List of Donors in the Spring 2011 issue of the USET Foundation News:

*Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Brown  
Linda & Vincent Buonanno*

We thank them for their generosity.

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A promotional graphic for an event. At the top, three small square images show equestrian scenes: a rider on a horse, a rider on a horse, and a rider on a horse. Below these, the text 'Save the date!' is written in a large, elegant script. Underneath, 'USET Foundation' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Then, 'An English Country Evening' is written in a large, elegant script. Below that, 'A benefit to support our United States Equestrian Teams at the 2012 London Olympic Games' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Then, 'Friday, January 27, 2012' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below that, 'Palm Beach International Equestrian Center Special Events Pavilion' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'Honorary Chairs Annette &amp; Matt Lauer' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic is a dark, starry night sky with a faint image of a large, ornate building.



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