



USA CAPTURES TEAM BRONZE

Weber Drives to Individual Silver at FEI World Four-in-Hand Driving Championships

BY KENDALL BIERER

Although the days were hot, the stands were packed as over 15,000 spectators gathered for the FEI World Four-in-Hand Driving Championships in Riesenbeck, Germany. Fifty contenders, representing 19 nations paraded in front of the grandstands as the final obstacle of the driving day got underway. The U.S. team had traveled to Riesenbeck with their hearts set on the Team honors, and they did not disappoint. The United States proved to be a formidable group as they captured the Team Bronze, and team member Chester Weber claimed the Individual Silver.

The U.S. team comprised of Chester Weber, Jimmy Fairclough and Joe Yoder competed with a combination of tremendous mental toughness, experience and youth. Heading into the cones phase of the FEI World Four-In-Hand Driving Championships, the U.S. was ranked fourth in the standings. Falling only seven points behind Sweden, they knew that they could leave nothing to chance with a podium finish within sight.



Jimmy Fairclough, Joe Yoder and Chester Weber

Photo courtesy of the FEI

The World Championships were nothing new for Weber and Fairclough, having had been members of the U.S. Silver medal winning teams in both 2002 and 2010. Using their expertise and Yoder's finesse, the team hit on all cylinders to edge out the Swedes by two-tenths of a point, finishing with an overall score of 289.11, good enough for the Bronze finish. The Dutch team won the Gold medal for the third consecutive time, with the host nation, Germany, claiming the Silver.

"I am thrilled. Everyone is quite excited here," U.S. Chef d'Equipe Ed Young remarked.

"I am over the moon; everything went extremely well today."

Although the Bronze definitely gave America a reason to celebrate their success, the excitement and achievements only continued as Weber stepped into the limelight as the runner-up in the Individual Driving Championships, earning the Silver medal ahead of The Netherlands' Ijsbrand Chardon.

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Chester Weber in the Dressage phase



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DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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It was Australia's title defender, Boyd Exell who continued to show great success during the FEI World Four-in-Hand Driving Championships, claiming the Gold medal after posting consistently high performances in all three categories of the competition. Exell concluded the competition ranked as the number one driver in the world with only 122.01 points, but Weber was right on his heels.

He headed into the final phase of the competition in the second position with 127.80 points. Weber drove a watertight cones course with his own Boy W and Para, plus Splash and Uniek, owned by Jane Clark, adding a mere three points to his score.

The victory in Riesenbeck was the second time Weber has claimed the Individual honors at a World Championship. In 2008, he was also awarded the Silver Individual medal at the FEI World Four-in-Hand Driving Championships in Beesd, The Netherlands. He was the first American to ever win an Individual medal in the Four-in-Hand division at the World Driving Championships. Weber won the Individual Silver that year, and did a valiant job defending his title.

"It was great to be back on the medal podium," Weber said. "The horses were fantastic the entire weekend. They had their best show of the year."

There was something special that stood out for Weber this time around, too.



Chester Weber in the Cones phase

Not only did he make a name for himself in 2008 as the first American to be awarded an Individual medal, but this was also the first time that Weber, a nine-time USEF National Champion, claimed Team and Individual honors during his illustrious profession—it took nothing short of diligence and perseverance. Weber spent most of the summer competing and training in Europe, and he admitted that all

of the hard work must have paid off and contributed immensely to his recent success in the championships.

Most of Weber's focus throughout the summer months was turning in successful dressage tests. Due to his success in the field, the title 'Mr. Dressage' was coined. He maintained the image and title at the World Championships, winning first place with a score of 33.41 on the first day.



Chester Weber in the Marathon phase

DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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"My team has really shown a remarkable improvement in dressage and it is thrilling that we continue to drive away with the best scores," said Weber.

Veteran of the Four-in-Hand Driving sport, Fairclough has been a longstanding member of the U.S. Driving Team, and has played a crucial role in the U.S. claiming its three Team World Championship medals in the past 10 years. Fairclough navigated his own Levin, Charlie Brown, Coletto and Kavango von Falkenstein, as well as Valentino, owned by Patsy Wooten, to a fourth place cones finish with a final score of 129 points and an overall score of 158.3 points, taking the 14th position. It was Fairclough's final phase that moved him from 16th in the standings upon completing the marathon. Fairclough claimed his spot among the top 15 Four-in-Hand drivers in the world.

It was Yoder's debut at an FEI World Four-in-Hand Driving Championships, and he gained invaluable experience. On Sunday, August 19, he drove to a cones score of 35.23 with the de Ronde's Caletta, Celena 6, Majoor, Ruby and Sarasko, owned by Misdee Wrigley Miller. He finished with an overall score of 242.82 points to take the 43rd place.



Joe Yoder in the Dressage phase

In the Team Championship, the Dutch repeated as the World Champions. They finished with a score of 256.17 points. The Germans collected the Silver medal with a final score of 271.18 points.

"Michael Freund, Ed Young and the

entire team of horses and people who participated in the World Championships have clearly shown that the U.S. driving program is becoming a force to be reckoned with." Weber stated. "I am honored to be part of such a competitive group." ■



Jimmy Fairclough in the Marathon phase

United States Produces Solid Performances **AT LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES**

This summer, the USET Foundation and USEF helped send three teams to represent the United States during the 2012 London Olympic Games. In the disciplines of show jumping, dressage, and eventing, the horses and riders showcased grace, power and athleticism as they vied for the top honors. Although the United States was unable to bring home a medal, there were great performances by all of the horses and riders during the Games at the Greenwich Park Venue.

The Eventing Team was the first to compete, beginning with two days of dressage. The leading performance for the United States came from Phillip Dutton and Mystery Whisper, owned Jim and Arden Wildasin, who incurred just 44.30 penalties before the cross-country phase and helped the team secure seventh with 138.80 penalties. Although the team had prepared well for the daunting task of the cross-country course, it proved not to be their day. Riders had to be careful, as many horses got winded during the first half of the course due to the hills, but they then had to make up time during the second half of the course to cross the finish in the very tight time allowed of 10:03 minutes. Early in the day, the grass proved to be very slippery, but riders fought the condition by using hard studs, and by taking extra time through the tight turns to balance their mounts.

Unfortunately for the Americans, two of their riders had stops over the course to finish in a distant fifth with 155.20 penalties. Will Coleman and Twizzel, owned by Jim Wildasin, had a problem going down the ditch, and Tiana Coudray and Jatial, Inc.'s Ringwood Magister ducked out at the third obstacle. Dutton had time faults only - helping him stay in the top 12 individually, as did Karen O'Connor with Mr. Medicott, owned by the Mr. Medicott Syndicate and Boyd Martin riding Otis Barbotiere for the Otis Barbotiere Syndicate.



Karen O'Connor and Mr. Medicott



Tiana Coudray and Ringwood Magister

Photos by Susan Stickle.com

OLYMPICS

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The U.S. was dealt a final blow to the team's standings the next morning when Martin had to withdraw Otis Barbotiere due to an infection in his leg. The loss of his solid cross-country score set the team back and things continued to unravel during the show jumping. O'Connor and Mr. Medicott managed the only clear round, while Dutton and Coudray each incurred rails and Coleman added two time faults. The USA finished with 208.6 penalties in the seventh place position.

Although the U.S. Team was unable to claim a top ranking, O'Connor's steady performance with Mr. Medicott proved to be the shining light on an otherwise disappointing performance. The veteran rider produced two clear rounds during the show jumping phase, finishing in ninth place position individually with only 53.80 penalties.

"I have a horse of a lifetime, he's an amazing horse," smiled O'Connor. "I knew that he is a very scopey, very careful jumper. I was very optimistic going into today, but I needed to have a good plan."

O'Connor was also quick to admit that the U.S. Team has a lot of work ahead of it. "There are so many things that make it come together," she explained. "The USEF debriefing will be very intense. We need to rebuild a program that is able to be amongst the medal contending countries."

The American team will have a lot to think about following their performance in Eventing, but it was a great week for the sport with many wonderful highlights. In 2013, David O'Connor will be taking over as Chef d'Equipe and will begin helping the team to prepare for the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France.



Boyd Martin and Otis Barbotiere



Phillip Dutton and Mystery Whisper



Steffen Peters and Ravel

STEFFEN PETERS AND RAVEL LEAD TEAM DRESSAGE

The first portion of the dressage competition began the second week with the individual qualifiers. The top score went to veteran duo Steffen Peters and Ravel, owned by Four Winds Farm, who received a 77.705% for their test and the sixth place ranking individually. The U.S. Team also included Tina Konyot with her own Calecto V and Jan Ebeling aboard Rafalca, owned by Ann Romney, Amy Ebeling, and Beth Meyers. Following the first day of the team was ranked fifth for a combined score of 72.801%.

American Adrienne Lyle also competed as an individual riding Wizard, owned by Peggy Thomas, scoring a 69.468%. They finished in the 35th ranking and did not qualify for the Grand Prix Special. During the test, the duo was very good in the trot half passes as well as their final passage. Unfortunately they had a misstep in the extended trot, and miscounted in the canter half passes, which proved to be costly mistakes.

The United States was unable to pull out the performances it needed during the team Grand Prix Special. They finished on a score of 72.435% in the sixth place position. Steffen Peters and Ravel provided the day's highlight, finishing seventh individually with a score of 76.254%, which was good enough to move onto the Individual Freestyle.

Peters and Ravel had a very strong test with a beautiful piaffe-passage, easily flowing through the movements. Unfortunately, the pair had a small spook before the pirouettes, and during the one tempis they stumbled and had to re-start the movement. "Ravel was right on," commented Peters. "The half passes felt great. I pushed the changes a bit more forward than the first day. The pirouettes also felt really good, and the piaffe was even better than first day. I am just excited that he still wants to do it after all these years."



Jan Ebeling and Rafalca



Adrienne Lyle and Wizard



Tina Konyot and Calecto V



Rich Fellers and Flexible

Tina Konyot and Calecto V also had another solid performance, bringing in a score of 70.651%. They missed a step in one of the one tempis and also had a mistake in one of the passage-piaffe transitions at the end of the test. The experienced duo did showcase good trot and canter half passes, as well as a relaxed walk.

The first rider for the United States was Jan Ebeling and Rafalca, who received a score of 69.302%. They had a clean test with an excellent final piaffe, but the movements, while very accurate, did not have the expression to move their scores into the 70's.

The results for the United States' team were not what they were hoping for this week. "I think we have really super riders in the country, we have very good horses, but our horses can't quite compare to the top five or six," admitted Ebeling. "We just don't have the horses on the top with that kind of a movement, but I believe that is going to change."

Peters added, "Overall, the top horses are pulling higher scores, the top teams are pulling higher scores. I know we have done everything we could from the training and fitness standpoint. We need to get closer to the 75% mark. Lets not forget Paragon is coming up, Legolas has proven himself, and so those are two very, very young horses. We just need one more and then we are looking pretty good."

Steffen Peters made his way down centerline for the last time with longtime partner Ravel during the Individual Freestyle on the final day of the Games. Unfortunately, their test had several small mistakes, which proved costly. Although they had good two tempis on a loop, the pair received a score of 77.286% for the 17th position individually.

"This is it for him. Unfortunately, that's why it was so sad that it didn't work out today. There's no way of sweet talking this, it just wasn't a good freestyle," admitted Peters. "He was definitely a bit distracted, kept looking around in the trot and canter extensions. I'll remember Ravel for his career and if you put it all together this was just a little glitch today, but certainly very sad that it happened at the end of his career. I still love him and he has given us so much, just not quite today."

Peters added, "He's an extremely generous horse. One of the best horses anybody could ever ride. I'd like to do one big retirement party for Ravel. Hopefully ride the freestyle once more and do it a little bit better than here. Legolas won the National Championships this year, so that's a bright star for the future."

SIXTH PLACE FINISH FOR U.S. SHOW JUMPING Fellers 6th Individually

Show jumping kicked off with the first of three qualifiers for the Individual Finals. The first day was much like a welcome stake or a warm-up, where riders simply had to focus on consistent rounds, so the score did not count going forward. The U.S. had solid rounds from McLain Ward aboard Antares F, owned by the Grant Road Partners, and Rich Fellers riding Flexible, owned by Harry and Mollie Chapman, who left all the rails intact while Reed Kessler on her own mount Cylana had just a single time fault. Bad luck struck late in the day, when anchor rider Beezie Madden had an unfortunate elimination with Coral Reef Via Volo, owned by Coral Reef Ranch, after two refusals. Madden was able to continue competing for the team, but lost her chance at the Individual Finals.

The second day of competition marked the first day of the Nations Cup, and the USA was able to advance to the Team Finals. The standings were very close after the first day, with less than two rails separating those moving forward. The bright light for the Americans came from the ever consistent Fellers and Flexible. With at least 10 clear rounds in a row under their belt, the phenomenal duo was right on target once again, producing the Team's only fault-free round.

Earlier in the day, Ward started the Team off with a solid effort aboard Antares F. They worked well through the course, but had a tight distance after the double combination, making the ride to the water more complicated and resulting in a four-fault score. After the first two individual qualifiers they still only had the single rail to their name, and were still eligible for the Individual Finals

Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo were next. After schooling over a combination the previous day and some poles that morning, the pair was ready to tackle the task at hand. Madden pushed Via Volo to the

double combination after yesterday's setback, which resulted in a rail at the first portion. The rest of the course was excellent and they crossed through the timers with just the four-fault score.

Kessler rode in the third position for the team, and also had a good showing at her first Olympic Games. She and Cylana were solid throughout the course, but had unlucky rubs in the middle of the triple combination, as well as a wide oxer across the middle. They finished with eight faults and were the Team's drop score. The duo's nine faults made them unable to advance to the Individual Final.

The United States was unable to climb back to the top of the rankings during the Team Finals. There were no major errors, but small mistakes from all the horses proved costly, and the team finished with 28 faults, tied with Sweden for sixth place.

Ward was the first to go with Antares F, and did not have the leadoff round he was expecting. Ward suffered an unexpected slowdown headed to the second fence and they also had a rub in the middle of the double combination, which had them ending the day on eight faults. Solid rounds from the previous days helped him advance to the Individual Final.

Madden was next with Coral Reef Via Volo, and the talented mare continued to improve this week. They were going well until the last half of the course. Madden pushed Via Volo to leave out a stride to a tall vertical, and when she tried to bring her back and regroup at the next fence, the horse began rushing and lowered the height of the oxer.

The youngest rider at age 17, Kessler was up next, having some unlucky rails aboard Cylana. The big chestnut mare put a toe in the water and then clipped the top of the white vertical afterwards. They also had a heartbreaker at the last large oxer going towards the gate, which brought their total to 12 faults.

The final rider was Fellers aboard Flexible, and in an unfortunate turn of events their streak of clear rounds came to a disappointing end. After galloping to the water, Fellers tried to gather Flexible making the rollback to a skinny vertical, but they got a bit flat. Then, Fellers took a risk across the oxer in the middle of the course, adding another rail to their score for an eight-fault total.



Photo by SusanJStickle.com

OLYMPICS

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Fellers and Flexible were the highlight combo for the United States during the Individual Finals. Things looked a bit bleak after the pair had single knockdown during the first round, lowering the middle of the triple combination. They also added a surprising time fault after tripping the timers a moment too late. But as Fellers said, "Flexible is a fighter," and fight he did. They were the third duo to enter the arena during the second round, and they were ready to tackle the track. Flexible stretched himself over the oxers and maneuvered through each test with ease. They were perfect, crossing the finish line with no additional faults and finishing eighth individually.

"Flexible is the best," smiled Fellers. "That's a great way to finish, regardless of how it all played out. The course was massive. The biggest we have jumped, which is the way it should be. It was everything. It was scopey and careful. I won't jump many courses that big in my life."

McLain Ward also qualified for the Individual Final with Antares F, but the luck was not on their side and they had 12 faults over the course. The pair had a foot in the water, and then at the end of the course they had rails coming out of the triple combination, as well as the final plank.

Ward noted ruefully, "This week has been disappointing for sure. I have to be honest, I don't think we had the team that we had going into the Hong Kong without Sapphire and Authentic, but we were trying to be a bit

above par and weren't able to do so. I think all of these horses are great horses, but they don't have the record of consistency those horses had, and unfortunately it showed itself this week."

Now, Ward is looking ahead to the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France. "We have to keep going, keep building," he commented. "We have top riders and we have good programs, but you're only as good as the horse stock you are on. We have to look to two years from now and try to put together a stronger team."

Chef d'Equipe George Morris concluded, "We didn't have the superstar horses like Sapphire and Authentic at their peak. We had great riders. Bezie had a very unfortunate start, but she did a marvelous job resurrecting that. We didn't have the best start, but we have a good group of horses and riders. Reed did remarkably for her age. I couldn't tell she was the youngest Olympic equestrian in the history of the sport. She did remarkably well, but she is very green. She earned her spot during the Trials and the Observation Events. I was hoping with this team to maybe get a medal, but the French and Belgians didn't even come back for the Team Finals. So, we ended up in the higher end of the middle of the pack. With what we had, it wasn't better or worse than I expected."

All three disciplines will now aim for the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with plans to improve their performances and bring home medals for the United States. ■ — *Rebecca Walton*



Beezie Madden and Coral Reef Via Volo



Reed Kessler and Cylana

PAS DE DEUX EARNS BRONZE

at the FEI World Vaulting Championship

The exciting five-day 2012 FEI World Vaulting Championships were held at the Boulerie Jump Horse Sport Center in Le Mans, France. More than 150 athletes, 50 lungers and 56 horses from 17 countries competed in the event, which included the Championships for Individuals (male and female), Squad and Pas de Deux. There was a great deal of anticipation for the premiere of the Pas de Deux competition as a new division at this year's World Championship event.

On the final day of competition, the Pas de Deux team featuring Megan Benjamin of Saratoga, CA and Blake Dahlgren of Santa Clarita, CA repeated a brilliant performance in the Free Test. The team earned their spot on the medal podium with Bronze medal honors accumulating an overall score of 8.40. The pair performed their aerial feats aboard Jarl, lunged by Lasse Kristensen.

For Benjamin, the Bronze represented a World Championship milestone. The Californian is the first person in history to have medaled in all three divisions: Individual Female Gold in 2006, Team Silver in 2006, and now a Pas de Deux Bronze in 2012.

"I have to say, of all my medals, I think I loved winning this one the most. I know it sounds a little crazy, considering I have an Individual Gold and a Team Silver from the World Equestrian Games," confided Benjamin. "When I was 18 and won those medals, vaulting was my entire life. These days, at 24, I have so much more going on – a career, my own home, my boyfriend, coaching, Editor-in-Chief of Equestrian Vaulting magazine, board positions... the list seems endless. Bringing home a Bronze despite all those 'adult' commitments makes it that much cooler."

Benjamin and Dahlgren competed together on the 2006 Aachen World Equestrian Games Silver medal Team. They started practicing Pas de Deux in October 2011. Dahlgren also has a career, is a husband, coach, and a vaulting club founder.

"We figured Pas de Deux was the most practical way for us to vault without totally overwhelming ourselves," continued Benjamin. "We trained together every third weekend at first. As we got closer to competition season we trained most weekends."

"It had lots of iterations and drafts - I don't think we went a single practice or a single competition with exactly the same routine. We were always improving, always editing. I guess the routine is pretty difficult, but by the time we competed it at the World Championships, it was pretty easy to take the routine one move at a time. We stacked most of our difficulty in the first half, so once we got through that, we could really just let loose and perform. That was an awesome feeling."

Benjamin credits her equine partners for their success. "Jarl is the steadiest, coolest horse I've ever had the pleasure of working with. His canter is exactly the same - every single stride. Leonardo, our domestic equine partner (the 2006 Women's World Champion and 2008 Team Bronze Medalist with me... and unofficially, part of the 2012 Pas de Deux Bronze) had never officially carried a Pas de Deux before this season. He was our rock all season."

"Of course, Lasse Kristensen is amazing, too. I wouldn't want anyone else in the middle of an international circle," said Benjamin of her lunging partner for over a decade. Kristensen also shares the distinction with Benjamin - first to win a medal in

all three events. He served as the lunger for the Team Bronze in 2008, Bronze in the Pas de Deux this year, and Individual Gold with Benjamin in 2006.



The Woodside Vaulters

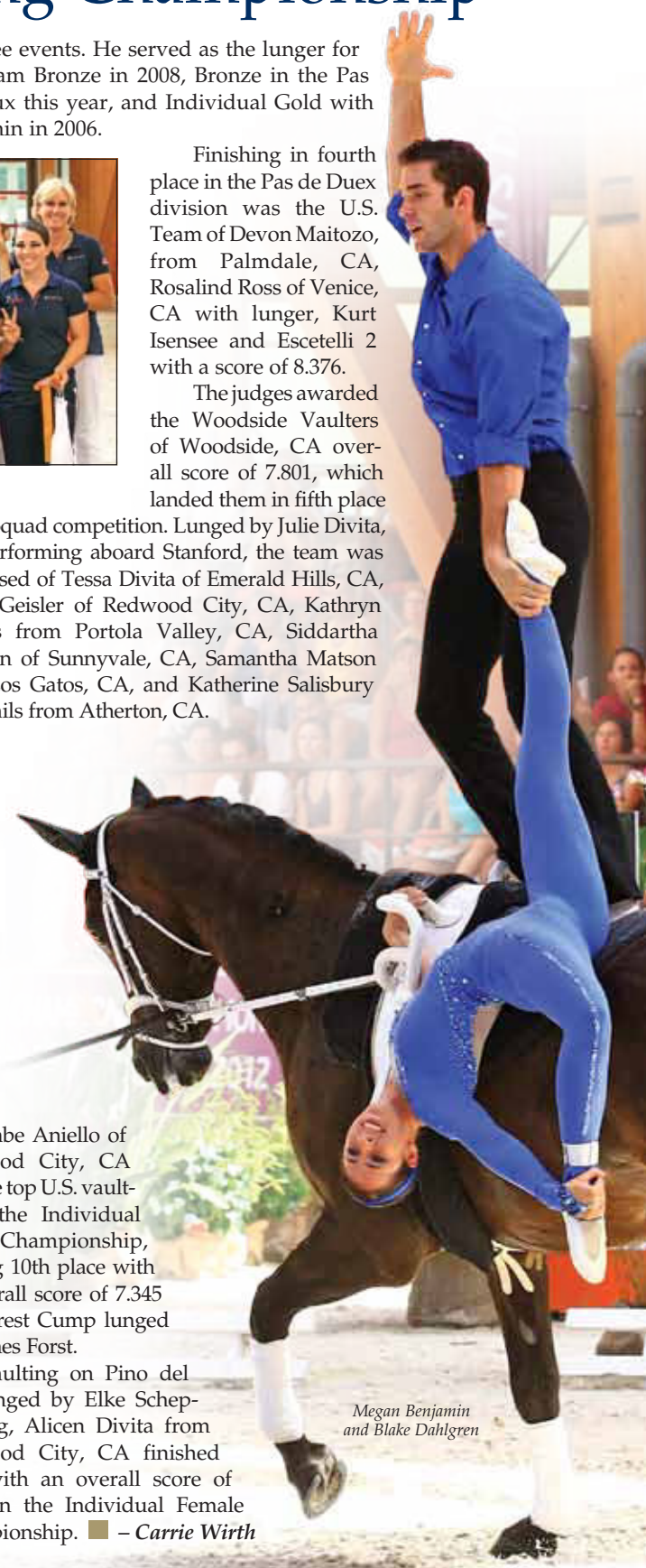
Finishing in fourth place in the Pas de Deux division was the U.S. Team of Devon Maitozo, from Palmdale, CA, Rosalind Ross of Venice, CA with lunger, Kurt Isensee and Escetelli 2 with a score of 8.376.

The judges awarded the Woodside Vaulters of Woodside, CA overall score of 7.801, which landed them in fifth place

in the Squad competition. Lunged by Julie Divita, and performing aboard Stanford, the team was comprised of Tessa Divita of Emerald Hills, CA, Kalyn Geisler of Redwood City, CA, Kathryn Jagers from Portola Valley, CA, Siddhartha Kreaden of Sunnyvale, CA, Samantha Matson from Los Gatos, CA, and Katherine Salisbury who hails from Atherton, CA.

Gabe Aniello of Redwood City, CA was the top U.S. vaulter in the Individual Male Championship, earning 10th place with an overall score of 7.345 on Forrest Cump lunged by Agnes Forst.

Vaulting on Pino del Rio lunged by Elke Schep-Lansing, Alicen Divita from Redwood City, CA finished 11th with an overall score of 7.793 in the Individual Female Championship. ■ – Carrie Wirth



Megan Benjamin and Blake Dahlgren

Photos by Bernd Thierolf

U.S. PARA-DRESSAGE TEAM EARNs SOLID SCORES

During 2012 London Paralympic Games

The U.S. Paralympic Dressage team earned good scores after they entered down the centerline during the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. The Para-Dressage Team members included Jonathan Wentz of Richardson, TX, Rebecca Hart of Unionville, PA, Donna Ponessa of New Windsor, NY, Dale Dedrick of Ann Arbor, MI, and Chef d'Equipe Missy Ranshousen of Unionville, PA.

The team members rode in front of a record number of spectators in the sold-out venue during the six days of competition. In all, 78 horse and rider combinations from 26 nations competed. Team Great Britain came home with the Gold medal, as they have every year since the start of the Paralympic Games. Germany took the Silver medal, and underdog Ireland took the Bronze medal, only tenths of a percentage point ahead of the fourth place finisher, The Netherlands. Belgium and Denmark took fifth and sixth places respectively and the U.S. came in seventh ahead of Canada and France.

Team member Dedrick, 56, the first U.S. athlete in the ring on her own Hanoverian gelding, Bonifatius, was a little uneasy at times, but took a deep breath and finished her Grade II Team Test with a 60.286%.

Dedrick took her notes from the judging panel from the earlier ride and used them to create an even better Individual Test score of 64.619% with



Donna Ponessa and Western Rose

the highlight of her ride a medium trot to an abrupt halt at the end of the test.

"It was a much more forward and obedient test," she said. "But I was much more prepared for it today. I knew he was going to pull and I was ready to attack the minute he tried and I said, 'No, no get in there, get in there and get going.'"

Past Paralympian and Captain of the United States Team, Rebecca Hart was second to complete the Team Test in Grade II with Jessica Ranshousen's Lord Ludger, a Holsteiner gelding. The duo earned a 69.095% and then came back to score a 68.286% on the Individual Test.

"He lost his focus a bit when we were doing our tour but I was able to get him back and to refocus on me," she explained. "I was happy that I was able to take him back from the brink."

Wentz, 21, and Kai Handt's Shire crossbred gelding NTEC Richter Scale scored a 70.364% in the Team Test in Grade 1b and a 70.348% in the Individual Test.



Jonathan Wentz and NTEC Richter Scale

"During the Team Test we got hit for being too conservative, but during the Individual Test we went too much the other way and hit too hard on the accelerator," Wentz said. "We got way too wobbly in the trot work, but on the walk work we finally scored the way we were hoping."

Ponessa, 51, and Western Rose, an Oldenburg mare owned by Wes Dunham, scored a 70.235% on their Team Test and then completed an Individual Test scoring a 69.200%.

"We gave it our all, but it could have been a lot better," Ponessa said. "There was some improvement over the Team Test and some things we didn't do as well. It's a learning process."

The final day of competition included the Freestyle Test to music where Dedrick and Bonifatius put forth their best efforts and earned their highest score of the week, a 69.150%.

"It's just horse showing," Dedrick explained. "You have good days and bad days. None of us get a lot of opportunities to practice at this level or ride in front of an audience this huge."

Ponessa and Western Rose were the only Grade 1A pair to include trot music within their freestyle to earn an impressive 70.750%.

"Rosie is a really smart mare and she gets bored with walking," Ponessa explained. "The walk has no natural impulsion to it, so I can feed off of the trot work because she is using her back-end. That makes my walk a little more fluid with more impulsion."

Wentz ended the week with the most accurate, expressive, and technically difficult freestyle he has ever performed to earn a 73.000%. Just before the Paralympics, Wentz and his trainer, Kai Handt, developed a new test. "We wanted something that highlighted each of the movements," Wentz said. "A little more organized, a little more grandiose for Richter. It is the Paralympics and it needed to be perfect. We made it technically difficult with a lot of 10-meter circles and extensions into a 10-meter circle. An extension into a 10-meter circle is a movement that is really hard to do even for able-bodied riders."



Dale Dedrick and Bonifatius

Hart bested her teammates with a 73.250% on her Freestyle to round out a successful Paralympics for Team USA. All in all, the team had one of their best years in history at the Paralympics Games, with intense competition ridden in front of international FEI judges.

Next stop for the Para-equestrians? The 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France. ■ – Susan Weakley

Editor's Note: We are saddened to report that Jonathan Wentz passed away at the young age of 21 years old on Monday, October 1st, 2012. Please see page 25 for more information about this tremendous athlete.



Rebecca Hart and Lord Ludger

LONDON OLYMPICS

USET and USEF Host Team Receptions

On Saturday, July 28, the USEF/USET Foundation, and Land Rover hosted a reception at the USA House in Greenwich Park, England. The event was sponsored by SmartPak and presented by the Dutta Corporation. All of the Eventing Team riders were present to enjoy the delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, while mingling with owners, support staff, and guests at the 2012 London Olympic Games. The home's beautiful garden proved to be a perfect location for the lovely evening.

USEF CEO John Long took time to address all of those in attendance. "I would like to talk about the team behind the Team. The first person is Jim Wolf, who organized this whole thing. Owners, what you do, you are the engine to our ability to be

here, and I want to thank you for everything you help us to achieve—we could not be here without you. The grooms, you are the fabric that makes this whole sport work and who get us on the field of play every day. I also want to thank Land Rover, you are a huge portion of this team, and we could not have more gratitude for your support."

Kim McCullough of Land Rover said, "I am so excited to be here on behalf of Land Rover. This is an amazing event to watch. On behalf of the entire Land Rover family, this is such an important sport to us. It's a perfect relationship and we are so excited to be a part of it."

The event concluded with well wishes to all of the athletes as they headed into the rest of the weekends' events.



Denisey & Ron Juvonen



Trish Gilbert, Karen Stives and Mark Hagen



Steve Blauner, Silva Martin, Jessica Frankfurt and Lee Lee Jones



Tim and Sheryl Hokekamp



Kirk Henckels & Fernanda Kellogg



Jeanne Sylvester



Jerome Broussard and Sarah Broussard Kelly



Will Coleman Family



Tim Gardner, Jim and Sarah Wildasin



Captain Mark Phillips, Will Coleman, Tiana Coudray, Karen O'Connor, Phillip Dutton and Boyd Martin



Beezie Madden and Katie Dinan



Anne Gribbons and Margaret Duprey



Celene and Alise Oken



McLain Ward and Jane Forbes Clark

The USEF/USET Foundation, and Adequan hosted a second reception during the London Olympic Games for the Dressage and Show Jumping Teams. It was held on Friday, August 3, at the USEF/USET house, sponsored by SmartPak and presented by the Dutta Corporation. Once again there was perfect weather as guests sipped cocktails sponsored by Louisburg Farm and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres in the beautiful garden in Greenwich Park.

"The first thing I want to do is thank the grooms and everyone behind the team that makes this happen," said CEO John Long when addressing those in attendance. "The other thing that occurs to me when we do this every four years is that we couldn't do this without the owners. Tonight is the night I want to thank you for all that you have done. We could not do this without your assistance. We are going to ramp this up in the next few years and take it to a new level."

Team members from both Dressage and Show Jumping took time to pose for photos and enjoyed time with all of the guests that were there to support the United States. ■ – *Rebecca Walton*



Juliet Reid, Beth Johnson, and Terri Kessler



Katie Prudent, Chrystine Tauber and Jane Forbes Clark



Eleanor Bright, Bill Weeks and Sparky Frost



Rick Mitchell, Eva Salomon, Adrienne Lyle, Tina Konyot, Anne Gribbons, Steffen Peters, Jan Ebeling and Jenny Van Wieren-Page



Jan and Amy Ebeling and David O'Connor



Rich Fellers, Reed Kessler, George H. Morris, Beezie Madden, McLain Ward and Charlie Jayne



Photos by Susan [S]tadt.com and Rebecca Walton

CHAMPION JACOB POPE

CONTINUES WINNING WAYS

at USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East

Jacob Pope and Uno

Photo by Rebecca Walton

The USET Foundation Headquarters provided the perfect setting for the rising stars of show jumping to showcase their talent this fall during the 2012 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East. Leading an exceptional group of 92 entries, 17-year-old Jacob Pope of Columbia, MD, scored an exciting victory during the pres-

tigious event. He led the event from start to finish, displaying his talent during the head-to-head Final Four jump-off.

The flat phase kicked off the competition, and under the watchful eyes of judges Karen Healey and Robert Ridland, riders showed their mounts at the walk, trot, and canter, while also demonstrating changes of the lead, voltes, and the coun-

ter canter. The leader after the flat phase was Charlotte Jacobs of East Aurora, NY, who showed Stallone VDL to a score of 92.

Pope, winner of the 2011 Emerging Athletes Program (EAP), quickly jumped to the lead later in the day when riders participated in the gymnastics phase of the competition. The course designed by Healey and Ridland featured four

tests with increasing difficulty alongside increasing point value. The tests included making circles through four cross rails on each lead with an add stride, and then a second add stride the next direction, as well as hand gallop to a triple bar followed by two liverpool verticals and concluding with rollbacks to a single oxer.

Executing a flawless test aboard Heritage Farm's Uno, Pope mastered the difficult circle test through the cross rails. The pair flowed through the remaining challenges and the judges rewarded their efforts with the day's high score of 95.5.

"The wheel with four jumps actually

walked in a nice three strides," explained Pope. "On the course sheet they told us how many strides they wanted us to do and it was a very tight add. The first time around I did four because my horse lands left easier, so I decided to make him land right and do four strides. Then on the way back the five strides worked well landing left and shaping left for that tighter distance."

With a score of 92 during the next day's jumping phase, Pope maintained his lead going into the Final Four. Meg O'Mara and Catherine Tyree were tied for second before the third phase and solid scores over fences helped them main-



Andre Dignelli

tain their position for the ride-off. Sylvia deToledo jumped up from seventh place into the Final Four after earning a score of 86 for her efforts in the ring during the jumping phase.

Pope, O'Mara, Tyree, and deToledo were the elite four to compete in the final phase of competition. The horse rotation included deToledo's mount Drake, owned by Donald Stewart and Derbypie LLC, Tyree's mount Can Can, O'Mara's mount Fernway Park, owned by Donald Stewart and Pope's mount Uno, owned by Heritage Farm.

The competition stayed tight until the last fence for the final rider. Pope set the standard with a score of 94 aboard Uno, but after lowering the height of the final Swedish oxer on his second mount, Fernway Park, he opened the door with a score of 81. He recovered with scores of 92 aboard the remaining horses, but O'Mara was close on his heels. She earned a 92 riding Fernway Park, followed by an 89 and an 88. It looked like the victory was in her hands, but as the last rider at the very last fence in the last round she had an unlucky



Meg O'Mara and Fernway Park



Meg O'Mara, Sylvia deToledo, Catherine Tyree and Jacob Pope

distance and a hard rub that earned her a heartbreaking 87. Pope's score totaled 359 for the championship win, while O'Mara claimed the reserve position with a score of 356. Meanwhile, deToledo continued her climb through the ranks, earning a total score 345 for the third place honors. Time faults with three of the horses proved costly for Tyree, who ranked fourth with a score of 338.

"I really wasn't sure how the results would turn out," admitted Pope. "I knew I had a rail, and since the Talent Search is more of a jumper style class, I wasn't sure how they were going to weigh that. Meg is great. She rode really well and she's a great girl, so I was happy either way being in the top two."

O'Mara commented, "I knew Jacob was going to win. He was the winner through all the phases and he was the winner coming in. I knew that he was definitely



Charlotte Jacobs and Stallone VDL

the favorite. He rode all of the other horses amazingly well. Every single kid wants him to win. They root for him. I knew Jacob was the winner. He works the hardest and he's really nice."



Catherine Tyree and Can Can

It has been a whirlwind year for Pope after his EAP victory last fall. His trainer, Street Moore from the McDonogh School, pushed him to join the program, which helped Pope earn a ticket to the George H. Morris Horsemastership Clinic in Wellington, FL. Patricia Griffith and Kent Farrington recognized Pope's talent and recommended he begin riding with Andre Dignelli at Heritage Farm, where he became a working student.

Pope has had the opportunity to ride and show many horses with Dignelli, and only began showing Uno in August. "I have never owned a horse that can compete at this level," he explained. "I have never had a steady ride. I think that really helped with the ride-off, because I am used to riding any horse."

Dignelli added, "Jacob has tremendous feel and work ethic. I am not surprised he won this class. He's pretty much won a big class at every show we have been to since I started helping him. When I was able to purchase Uno I knew that this could be magic: a great rider on a great horse. Jacob has been very appreciative and hard working and that's why good things keep happening for him."

Judge Karen Healey is on the EAP Committee and was thrilled with Pope's performance, "This is a tremendous outcome for that program," she commented. "For this to happen gives me hope again. Jacob has beautiful style and great empathy for the horses. The horses all love him. Besides being stylish and accurate he has tremendous feel for the horses."

Fellow judge and future U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland stated, "I thought the quality of riding this weekend was great. The Final Four put in great performances. It's encouraging for me for the future of the sport. The top third was at a very high level. This is what Gladstone is all about. It doesn't get any better."

At the end of the day, Pope took home the French Leave Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Gerald A. Nielsen Family and the led the victory gallop. Trainer Andre Dignelli of Heritage Farm received the Leading Trainer Award, donated by the late Mr. Hugh J.B. Cassidy, III. The final award went to Drake, the mount ridden by deToledo, who received the Best Horse title, the Grappa Trophy, donated by Sarah Willeman.

The Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Program seeks to educate and test participants by encouraging Juniors and Young Riders to develop show jumping skills, thus laying the groundwork for future international successes. With Finals held each year on the east and west coasts, this program has produced some of the country's top jumping riders including McLain Ward, Richard Spooner, Lauren Hough, and Meredith Michaels-Berbaum. This year's champion Jacob Pope has proven his talent and now joins the list of prestigious winners. ■ – *Rebecca Walton*

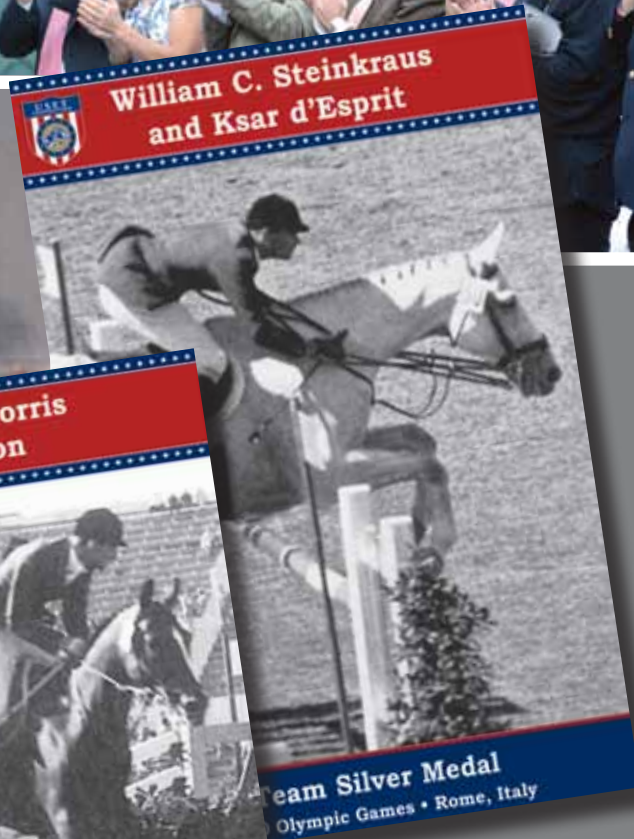
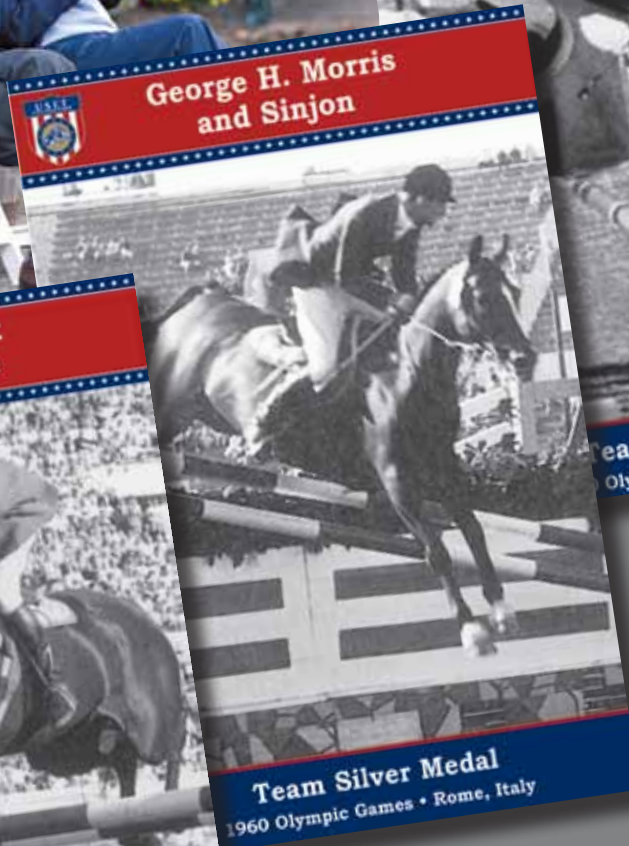
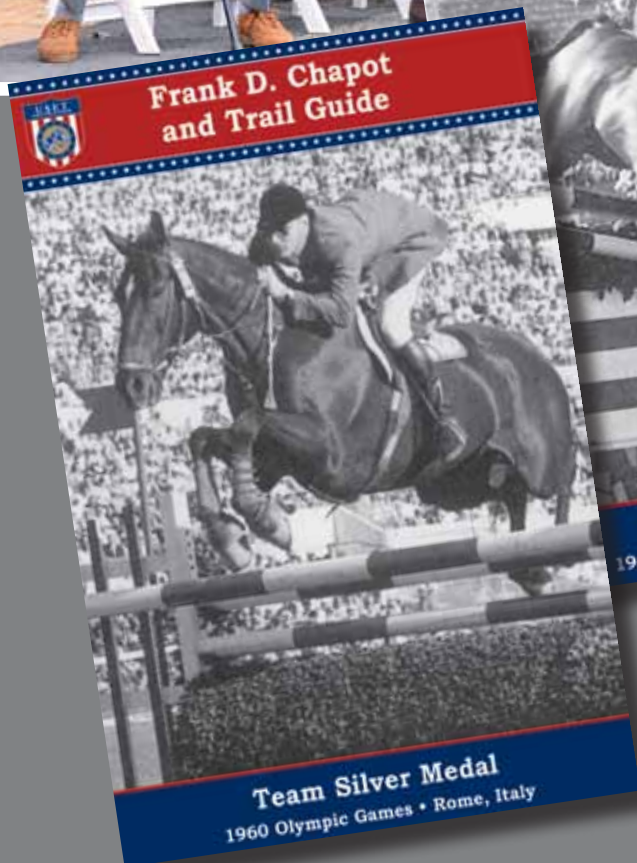
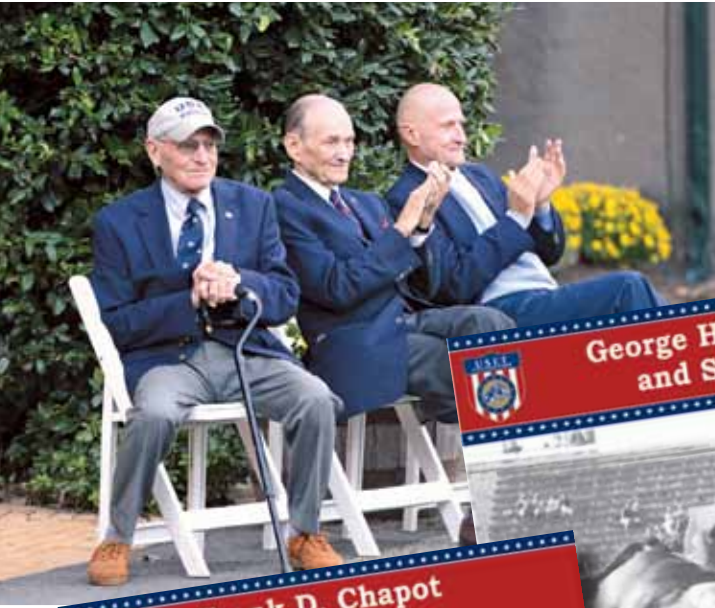
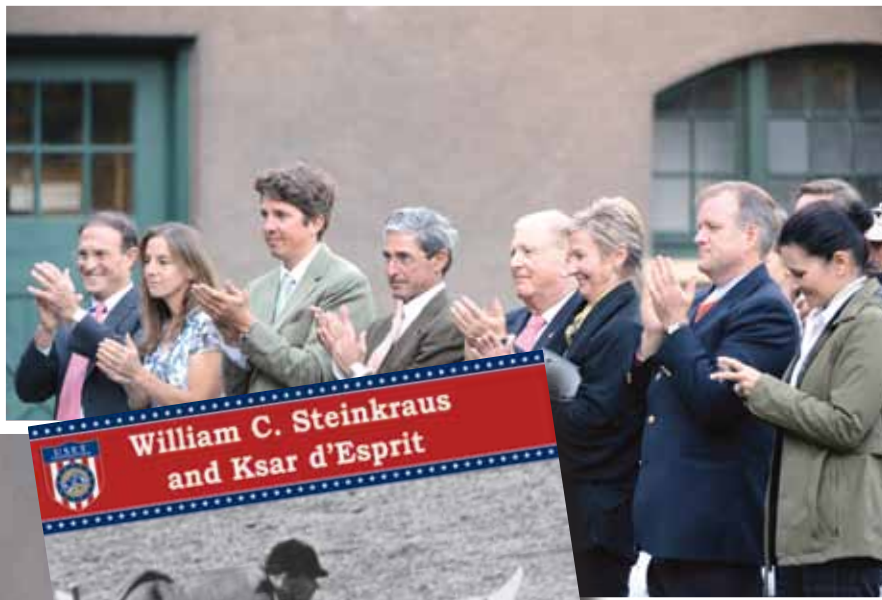


Sylwia deToledo, Amy Serridge and Phillip Richter



*Jacob Pope and Uno
Presentation
Ceremony*

The 1960 Courtyard Dedication



"It is with great admiration, and appreciation, that we dedicate the Hamilton Farm Stable Courtyard to Frank, to Bill, to George not only for their numerous contributions but their Silver medal at the 1960 Olympic Games."

- Jane Forbes Clark

Hamilton Farm Stable, Gladstone



THE 1960 COURTYARD RECOGNIZES *Show Jumping Legends*

CHAPOT, MORRIS AND STEINKRAUS

The country's leading riders, trainers, owners, and equestrian supporters gathered at the USET Foundation's picturesque Hamilton Farm Stable on Saturday, October 6, 2012, for a historic day in equestrian sport: the dedication and naming of the courtyard in honor of Frank D. Chapot, George H. Morris and William C. Steinkraus, and their Team Silver medal at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. The expanse is now called, "The 1960 Courtyard." The dedication and naming was made possible through a generous gift made to the Gladstone Fund by Jane Forbes Clark, USET Foundation President & CEO.

Leading the dedication ceremony, Clark recognized the important contributions made to the sport by Chapot, Morris and Steinkraus, as well as the history at Hamilton Farm. "Since 1952, when the cavalry was disbanded and civilians first fielded our U.S. Equestrian Team, these men have ridden on, coached or been Chef d'Equipe for every U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team," she stated. "Their leadership and influence has been at the forefront of this country's show jumping program and our United States Equestrian Teams. There is not one of you here today whose riding these men have not impacted."

"They won the Team Silver medal at the Rome Olympic Games

in 1960 behind the formidable German team of Alwin Schockemohle, Fritz Thiedemann and Hans Gunter Winkler," continued Clark. "At the time, this was the best placing ever in Olympic competition for the United States Show Jumping Team. It is with great admiration, and appreciation, that we dedicate the Hamilton Farm Stable Courtyard to Frank, to Bill, to George, not only for their numerous contributions but to their Silver medal at the 1960 Olympic Games. Starting this afternoon, it is 'The 1960 Courtyard'."

The dedication took place at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, NJ, in conjunction with the USEF Talent Search Finals - East where approximately 90 of the top young show jumping riders in this country were competing in this prestigious championship. The importance of recognizing Frank, George and Bill in front of this country's aspiring young talent was a wonderful opportunity for the past, and the future, generations of show jumping to come together in honoring these iconic men and their accomplishments.

"Having ridden on our country's first civilian Olympic equestrian team in 1952, before we had a permanent training base, I am totally aware of the huge contribution Hamilton Farm has made to our subsequent international equestrian success," commented Steinkraus. "As a team rider for twenty years, USET President or



Chairman for another twenty and now Chairman Emeritus, I'm delighted that part of the facility now bears my name, together with those of my lifelong friends and former teammates Frank Chapot and George Morris. It has been very gratifying to witness Gladstone's evolving role for more than half a century, and I am confident that it will continue to play a key role in meeting future challenges."

Morris added, "After the military, Gladstone was our first common base. Gladstone is very important because it represents our first home. It was a very historic property before the Team became based there. It's a great honor to be associated with Gladstone, the USET, the USEF, and especially Billy and Frank. I am very lucky that I was the new kid on the block when they were there and they were my mentors."

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Hamilton Farm Stable (2017), the USET Foundation established "The Gladstone Fund" to preserve this important legacy and historic facility. The Hamilton Farm Stable is central to supporting the Foundation's mission through providing a world-class facility for Olympic, Pan American and World Championship Selection Trials, National Championships, Training Sessions and special equestrian events and exhibitions. The USET Foundation's headquarters and the High Performance division of the United States Equestrian Federation remain at the facility in Gladstone, NJ. ■ – *Rebecca Walton*



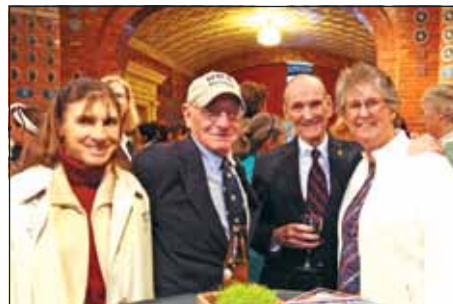
Anne Kursinski and Leslie Howard



Michael and Georgette Page and Jim Wofford



Robert Ridland, Lizzy Chesson and Chris Kappler



Laura Chapot, Frank Chapot, Bill Steinkraus and Mary Chapot



Armand and Alison Leone



Frank Chapot and Jane Forbes Clark



George H. Morris and Jane Forbes Clark



Philip Steinkraus, Stephanie Steinkraus and Bill Steinkraus



Bill Steinkraus



Chrystine and George Tauber



George H. Morris

Photos by Nancy Jaffer, Parker/Russell - The Book LLC and Rebecca Walton

UNITED STATES SECURES SIXTH PLACE FINISH at FEI World Driving Singles Championships

All eyes were on Lezirias, Portugal September 13-16, 2012 as the United States sent three drivers to the FEI World Driving Championships for Singles. The 2012 Singles World Championships was the largest to date with 70 competitors from 22 nations. The team consisted of Sterling Graburn, Donna Crookston and Leslie Berndl with Marie De Ronde serving as U.S. Chef d'Equipe.

The United States got off to a swift start, standing fourth after the first phase of competition with a score of 96.5 points. Leslie Berndl led the way after scoring 46.46 in the dressage portion, to stand sixth place in the individual rankings. She was the only U.S. competitor to perform her dressage test on Friday. She did not disappoint, however, with Fritz Grupe's 11-year-old KWPN gelding Uminco. Donna Crookston was able to earn a 50.05 score for her dressage test aboard her 16-year-old Morgan gelding RG Cowboys Black Cadillac. They headed into the marathon in the 13th position.

Berndl admitted that she had hoped for a stronger performance in the first phase, but had left herself well within reach of a medal. "I thought it [the dressage test] was OK. The horse was great but I could've driven better."



Leslie Berndl and Uminco

drivers completed the final phase of the Championships. The Team secured a strong sixth place team finish.

Graburn led the U.S. individual standings finishing in 22nd place, rebounding from a disappointing first phase to secure a top 25 placing. The duo completed the cones adding just 6.29 penalties after knockdowns at obstacles four and fourteen in addition to adding .29 points time penalties. The combination finished with a score of 144.55 points.



Sterling Graburn and Ulano

Sterling Graburn and Larry Denny's Ulano, an 11-year-old Dutch Harness gelding performed their dressage test early on Thursday morning, scoring 57.47. They stood 48th individually after the first phase, and the U.S. went into the marathon phase in fourth place.

With the completion of Saturday's marathon, the U.S. team stood in eighth place. Drivers had to navigate through eight hazards. Graburn and Ulano made an impression as they moved their way up the leader board with a rapid marathon phase. They posted an overall time of 6:23.96 through all the hazards and stood on a score of 80.79. They rose from 48th position following dressage to stand in the 21st position individually.

Berndl and Uminco posted a combined time of 7:22.91 through the eight hazards, and headed into the cones phase with a score of 90.58, while Crookston and RG Cowboys Black Cadillac headed into Sunday on a score of 91.82 in 61st place.

Sunday's cone phase was highly anticipated as all three U.S.



Donna Crookston and RG Cowboys Black Cadillac

Crookston narrowly one-upped Graburn in the final phase adding just six penalties to her overall score. Crookston faulted at obstacles two and sixteen and the Morgan gelding completed the Championships with a score of 147.87 in 32nd place. Berndl was the third driver for the U.S. finishing in 36th place with a score of 151.70 points after adding 14.66 to their score in the cones phase.

It was a solid three-day competition for the U.S. Team. The team will now prepare for future competitions, which will include many appearances throughout the Fall Circuit at shows such as Capital Challenge, Morgan Grand National, PFHA Grand National Championship Show and the Pennsylvania National.

■ – Kendall Bierer



U.S. TEAM FOURTH IN STORMY FINISH at World Endurance Championship

The Longines FEI World Endurance Championship, held Saturday, August 25th, drew Team and Individual competitors from 38 countries. What started out as a perfect weather conditions for an endurance race at Euston Park near Thetford, Suffolk, United Kingdom, turned into a stormy finish later in the day.

According to Ian Williams, FEI Director of Non-Olympic Sport, "We had a venue in Euston Park that was outstanding and a track that challenged the best in the world and produced competitive performances of the highest level."

Through the day, the weather worsened, culminating with a powerful thunderstorm with gusty winds, thunder and lightning. The event was called for dangerous weather when the leading 52 individuals and the top four teams had already made their way across the finish line, deciding the medal standing. In an atypical outcome to an endurance competition, several riders were placed according to their position on the course when the event was ended.

"The weather conditions provided us with major challenges towards the end of the ride but we had the systems in place to cope and react quickly," said John Robertson, Technical Advisor to the Championships.

The competition was fierce, but the U.S. Team managed to complete the rigorous course in fourth place with a combined time of 24:45:00. The legendary Valerie Kanavy of Fort Valley, VA and her Reach for the Gold were the first of the U.S. Team to cross the finish line, putting them in 20th place with a time of 08:00:06. Immediately following Kanavy, her teammate, Jeremy Reynolds from Dunnellon, FL and A Kutt Above finished in 21st place with a time of 08:00:09. Jeremy's teammate, wife and endurance super star, Heather Reynolds and Riverwatch finished in 36th place with a time of 08:44:45. Heraldic, the great endurance horse ridden by John Crandell III of West River, MD did not pass the mandatory Vet Check 5 and did not finish the race.

In the individual competition, Margaret "Meg" Sleeper from Frenchtown, NJ and Syrocco Reveille was the first U.S. rider to finish, landing her in 11th place in 07:49:11 and an average speed of 20.46 kph. ■ – Carrie Wirth



Jeremy Reynolds and A Kutt Above enjoy a post-race bath

SAYING GOODBYE TO JONATHAN WENTZ

Paralympic Games Team Member

Jonathan Wentz, 21, a member of the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Games Team from Richardson, TX, passed away due to complications from Cerebral Palsy on September 30, 2012.

Wentz placed fourth in the Grade 1B Individual Championship Test at the Paralympic Games in London, just 4.695 points behind the bronze medalist. He earned fifth place in the Individual Freestyle Test for a combined seventh place while riding Kai Handt's Shire cross gelding, NTEC Richer Scale. Wentz was the highest placed equestrian athlete on either the London Olympic Games or Paralympic Games Teams.

"Jonathan was very, very dedicated," Handt, Wentz's coach, said. "When he first came to us, he said he wanted to go the Paralympics. He didn't have a horse. He had only been riding at the local level. We had to come up with a plan. But we made a plan and he worked seven days a week to follow that plan."

He stayed in the athlete's village while in London and was able to live his dream of participating in the Paralympic Games while his parents, sister and best friend looked on. Wentz told friends, "It was a dream come true" when the Games were over.

Wentz and Richter Scale rode to the World Championships, the Paralympic Games and won a national title. They represented the U.S. at the 2010 Alltech Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky and won the championship title at the 2011 United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) National Para-Equestrian Championships. They earned Reserve Champion at the 2012 USEF National Para-Equestrian Championships and Paralympic Selection Trials to earn their place as one of four athlete and horse pairs on the roster for the London Paralympic Games.

Wentz started equine-assisted therapy at the age of 2 at Equest Therapeutic Riding Center in Wylie, TX. At the age of 5, he started riding for sport and was hooked. He began training with Handt at the North Texas Equestrian Center in 2008, and six months later, Wentz competed in his first USEF Para-Equestrian National Championships. Wentz set his sights on competing in the Olympics when he was 13 and he found his riding partner, Richter, in 2009.

He served the para-equestrian community as a member of the USEF Youth Council and as a member of the USEF Para-Equestrian Technical Committee.



Jonathan Wentz and NTEC Richer Scale

Photo by Lindsay Yossey McCall

Wentz was a senior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, where he was on full scholarship and was interested in political science, history and law. He planned to attend law school after graduation.

Donations can be made to United States Para-Equestrian Association (USPEA) at USPEA/Jonathan Wentz Scholarship Fund, 3940 Verde Vista Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA, 91360. The USPEA is a 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax-deductible.

■ – Sue Weakley

Avid Horseman and USET Foundation Supporter RICHARD THOMPSON PASSES AWAY

Richard "Dick" Harte Thompson, of Malvern, PA, an avid supporter of Three-Day Eventing and equestrian sport communications, passed away on June 5, 2012.

He and his wife, Vita Cowperthwaite Thompson, joined the Radnor Hunt Club in Malvern, PA, and they soon shared a passion for the sport of three-day eventing, an interest that spanned five decades. He was a founding member and chairman of the Radnor Three-Day Event as well as the Radnor Hunt Club president. Thompson served on the United States Combined Training Association (USCTA) Board of Governor's from 1982-1987, and as Treasurer in 1984. His proudest honor was being awarded the USCTA's Governor's Cup, given to an individual for commitment and personal contribution to the sport of Eventing.

He was an avid supporter of the United States Eventing Association and the United States Equestrian Team and, at

the time of his death, he was a trustee of the United States Equestrian Association Endowment Trust. His horses made significant contributions to the United States Equestrian Teams' national and international success. Most notable of his horses were Mr. Maxwell, Upstage, Joker's Wild, St. Barths, Regal Scott and Castlewella. Most significant of all was Biko, the 1996 Olympic Silver medalist, 2006 United States Eventing Association Hall of Fame inductee, and the "Horse of the Century." For the last three decades, he and his wife owned many of the horses that represented the U.S. on international teams under Jim Wofford and Karen O'Connor, whose names are synonymous with Castlewella and Biko. Recently, he turned his attention to providing mounts for the future stars of eventing when he gave Hannah Sue Burnett the ride on St. Barths.

He was also well known as an announcer, timing and technical coordinator and communications manager through his Sea



Horse Communications and Ox Cap companies. After serving as a Three Day Eventing competition volunteer at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Thompson then became the Discipline Manager for Three Day Eventing at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He was also the Manager of the Competitions Communications Center at the 2010 Alltech World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Lexington, KY.

Thompson most enjoyed being home at his beloved Sea Horse Farm. He found great joy in mowing the fields on his tractor, accompanied by his dogs. He reveled in fixing and tinkering with his equipment and gadgets, and in simply embracing life on the farm.

A celebration of his life was held at the Radnor Hunt Club on June 19, 2012. ■

– Sue Weakley

USET FOUNDATION MOURNS LOSS OF JOHN H. "JACK" FRITZ

(1925-2012)

John H. Fritz, 87, of Rockford, IL and formerly of Gladstone, NJ, was a graduate of Princeton University and a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. He played a key role in nearly every aspect of the equestrian world from founding organizations to governing and officiating. Jack Fritz dedicated his life to promoting equestrian sports.

Fritz was an integral part of the United States Equestrian Team for nearly three decades. He was a member of the USET Board of Directors since the early 1960's and an officer since 1974, which included his role as USET Vice President for Administration and Chief Executive Officer from 1974-1989. He served as Secretary for nearly two decades before retiring in 1999. After retiring he continued to serve as a volunteer member of the Board and Assistant Secretary, and was an Honorary Trustee at the time of his passing.

A Technical Delegate for Dressage and Combined Training for 25 years and a dressage judge for over 20 years Fritz judged many three-day events and dressage shows. In addition to judging and officiating, he was the author of a number of books on horse sports.

He was a founder of numerous equestrian organizations including the United States Combined Training Association (USCTA), whose foundation he chaired in 1959. He was also a founder of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) whose



Photo Courtesy USET Archives

foundation he chaired in 1973.

Fritz was an ardent supporter of the American Horse Shows Association (now USEF) and proudly served on numerous committees. He was a sustaining member of the United States Pony Club (USPC) since 1955, was named USPC Governor in 1960 and in 1961 became a National Examiner, a role he held for 30 years. Over that time he also served on numerous USPC Committees. In 1972 he was elected USPC Vice President followed by his election to First Vice President in 1976, a position he held until he was elected President in 1981. In 1982 he became a member of the Advisory Committee and served as its Chairman from 1988-1990. He was also the USPC's represen-

tative to the USET and an ex-officio member of the Advisory Committee since 1988.

Fritz had many accolades over the years including being honored with the USEF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000, "Horseman of the Year" first in 1968 by the New Jersey Professional Horseman's Association and again in 1969 by the New Jersey Horse Council. In 1978 he won the prestigious Wofford Trophy, awarded annually by the USCTA to a "non-riding" member who has done the most to further the sport of Combined Training. He was inducted into the USCTA's Hall of Fame in 1999. The Chronicle of the Horse listed him as one of the top 50 most influential people in this century.

In addition to his equestrian interests, Fritz was also deeply involved in early American history. A professor of history at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, he was Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University's Madison campus. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees and Officer Trustee of Centenary College.

Fritz is survived by numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at the Scandinavian Cemetery in Rockford, IL. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of "Jack" may be made to the USET Foundation, P.O. Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934, and Culver Military Academy, 1300 Academy Road, Culver Indiana 46511. ■

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