



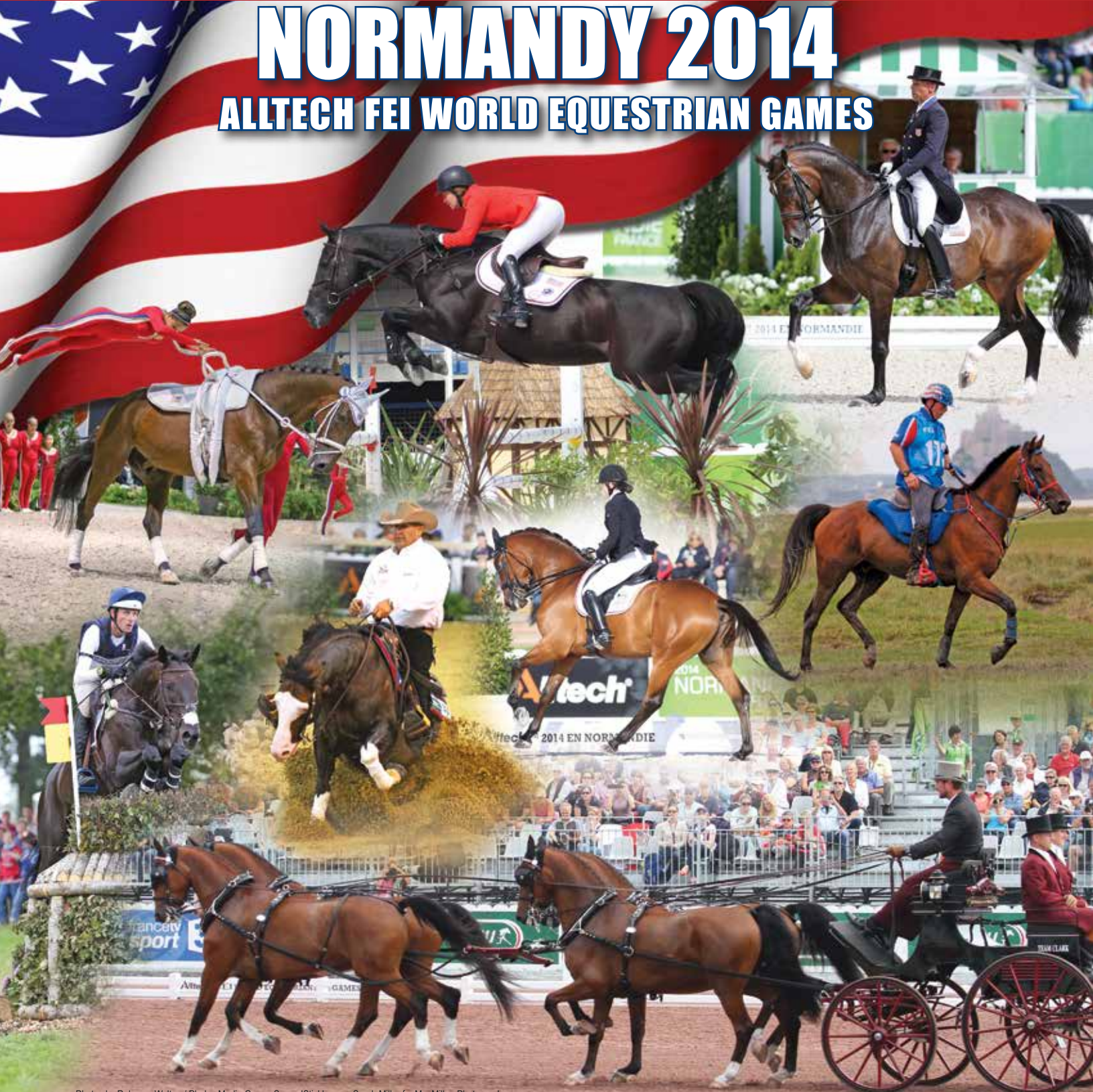
# USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 2 • FALL 2014

## NORMANDY 2014

### ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES







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Dear USET Foundation Supporters,

Watching our United States Equestrian Teams compete at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy last month was exciting and rewarding. As President of the USET Foundation, I was able to see the results of the funding we have been honored to provide.

Having retired from competition four years ago after the 2010 WEG in Kentucky, it made me reflect and appreciate the hard work, sacrifice and commitment our athletes make to represent us at the highest level of equestrian sport.

I could not have been more proud to see them enter the arena, or take to the marathon and cross country courses with confidence and poise knowing the country was watching and that we were there to support them. Team USA achieved excellence in Normandy, winning seven medals including: Reining - Team Gold, Shawn Flarida/Individual Gold, Andrea Fappani/Individual Silver, and Mandy McCutcheon/Individual Bronze. Driving - Chester Weber/Individual Silver, Show Jumping/Team Bronze and Beezie Madden/Individual Bronze.

In addition to returning home from the Games with seven medals, Beezie's horse, Cortes C, owned by Abigail Wexner, was awarded "Best Horse in the World." We saw strong performances from Dressage newcomer Laura Graves and our Show Jumping teams qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games. Endurance, Eventing, Para Dressage and Vaulting all gained tremendous experience that will be instrumental in their continued training and preparations for the international championships in the years ahead.

The entire U.S. delegation for the WEG including 53 athletes, 117 support staff and 52 horses, was in France for almost a month coordinating, administering and competing for TEAM USA. This huge undertaking is only possible through the grants the USET Foundation provides to the USEF each year.

Next year is an important year with the Pan American Games in Toronto, and the World Cup Finals for Dressage and Show Jumping in Las Vegas as well as for continued preparations for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The programs and international experience we can provide for our athletes and horses next year will directly impact our ability to medal.

Thank you for all you do to help the USET Foundation continue to be an important partner in supporting our United States Equestrian Teams.

Sincerely yours,

S. Tucker S. Johnson  
President and CEO



Photo by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group

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Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



Andrea Fappani  
Individual Silver – Reining



Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



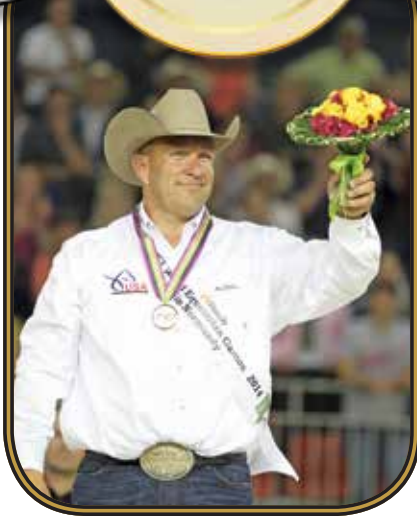
Mandy McCutcheon  
Individual Bronze – Reining

Photo by Susan Stickle.com



Chester Weber  
Individual Silver – Driving

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



Shawn Florida  
Individual Gold – Reining

Photo by Susan Stickle.com



Beezie Madden  
Individual Bronze – Jumping

## 2014 ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES NORMANDY FRANCE

Photo by Susan Stickle.com



McLain Ward, Beezie Madden, Lucy Davis, Kent Farrington  
and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland  
Team Bronze – Jumping

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



Jordan Larson, Mandy McCutcheon, Andrea Fappani and Shawn Florida  
and Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska  
Team Gold – Reining





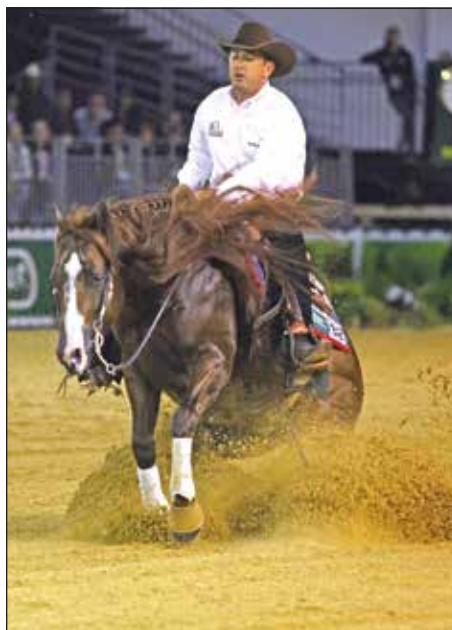
Shawn Flarida and Spooks Gotta Whiz

# GOLD MINE!

## REINING TEAM SWEEPS MEDALS

The United States is home to the top reiners in the world, and they proved that without a doubt at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Defending their Team Gold medals from 2010 as well as 1998, 2002 and 2006, the U.S. riders captured not only the Team Gold medal in a decisive victory, but took home all three of the individual medals, led by Shawn Flarida and Spooks Gotta Whiz, owned by Michell Kimball.

The U.S. Team Gold medal marked their fourth World Championship win as the heavy favorite going into the final day of team competition. Shawn Flarida, Mandy McCutcheon, Andrea Fappani and Jordan Larson galloped away with their fourth consecutive Gold medal, besting the Silver medal Belgian team by over 14 points.



Andrea Fappani and Custom Cash Advance

Andrea Fappani with Silver Spurs Equine's Custom Cash Advance and Jordan Larson with Heritage Farm's HF Mobster set the stage for an American victory on the first day with scores of 224 and 221 respectively. It took some of the pressure off of Mandy McCutcheon, the first U.S. rider to compete on the second day, but it did not stop her from pushing Yellow Jersey, owned by her parents, Tim and Colleen McQuay, hard through every maneuver. With precise spins and some of the fastest circles of the competition, the duo posted a score of 224, tying Fappani for the early lead individually, and furthering the U.S. lead in the standings.

"I focused on what I had to do and the horse I was riding," admitted McCutcheon. "He's been an amazing show horse for so many people that I'm really lucky to have a horse like that. It's my privilege to be able to ride him."

Shawn Flarida, the lone world champion-

ship veteran, entered the arena with the Gold medal all but sewn up, but he, too, chose to give the packed audience a show, and he did not disappoint. After nailing the spins and the circles, Spooks Gotta Whiz galloped hard for the stops, sending the dirt flying and the scores through the roof. The judges awarded the amazing pair a 229.5, the highest score of the competition, giving them the individual lead and sealing the U.S. Gold medal victory with a total score of 677.5.

"My horse was good and my teammates had already won the gold medal, so that was awesome," smiled Flarida. "I was scared if I went in there and was conservative, I would make a mistake. I had a game plan before I left the U.S. and I just stuck to it. I knew the horse could do it, he's done it before, so I knew if we went and did our job, we could have a great run."

Although Flarida is a veteran of the World Championships, McCutcheon, Larson and Fappani were each making their Team USA debut. These are



Shawn Flarida and Spooks Gotta Whiz





Jordan Larson and HF Mobster

all people I look up to and respect," said Larson. "It's an amazing group. It's so different from what we do everyday, because we ride in an individual sport. Here, it's a different perspective, it's a different kind of pressure, but it's something that's very fulfilling."

Fappani was thankful to have the support of the U.S. team after changing his citizenship from Italian to American. "I didn't know what to expect," he commented. "I didn't realize what kind of work it took to be a part of the American team - meaning all the people that you don't see. I didn't realize what kind of work it took to prepare us and get us here. They don't take anything for granted. They make sure every horse is prepared the same and they are a huge part of the team."

Chef d'Equipe, Jeff Petska, has been to all four of the World Equestrian Games and is also grateful for all of the support from the United States. "Our Federation makes all this possible and it takes a tremendous amount of work and a tremen-



Mandy McCutcheon and Yellow Jersey

dous staff to make all this happen. From the sponsors like Allyn Mann of Adequan and donors like the Merrills with the Dogwood Foundation, to the people in the office - those people do so much for us. To have the opportunity to stand on that podium, to see the flag go up, to hear the anthem and know you had a part of it is an amazing experience."

For the Individual Finals, the U.S. riders continued their dominating ways, where McCutcheon set the original score to beat by showcasing Yellow Jersey's speed in the fast circles and sliding in with a score of 227. "Yellow Jersey gives you so much confidence that sometimes I feel like I should be worried about more things, but he just waits for you and does what you say," noted McCutcheon after her run. "It was really exciting. I just tried to focus on my job more than going around. I just tried to stay with him the best I could. He's a great horse and it's just a blast to show him. He hooked up on those circles so well it was almost like driving a racecar!"

McCutcheon's lead did not last for long though, when Andrea Fappani and Custom Advance were precise in the spins and fast through the stops and rollbacks. The judges awarded their performance with a score of 229.

"I loved it," expressed Fappani. "I kept pushing and pushing. I couldn't have asked for anything better. Custom Cash Advance was there for me. It's a first time for me at the WEG and I wanted to top it off with a good performance."

Fappani added, "I'm really happy with my score. He was with me all the way, for a 229. I knew even if we got beat I was going to be happy. He's just so fun to

ride, and these kinds of horses just don't come along. I've only shown this horse five times, but he's gotten better every time."

Shawn Florida had the best score during the First Individual Qualifier, and earned the spot as the last rider to compete. The packed crowd was on the edge of their seat, and it was for good reason. The 2002 World Champion came in ready to capture the title again and that is exactly what he did. Every maneuver was perfect with Spooks Gotta Whiz and the marks were off the chart. As they exited the arena, a score of 233.5 was announced and a new World Champion was crowned.

"It was so loud," admitted Florida. "I don't think he heard any of my verbal communications, but he is so broke and so used to me now that he ran his little butt off. Sometimes it doesn't always go that well, but he gave me his heart."

At the end of the night, new World Champion Florida concluded, "Spooks Gotta Whiz was awesome tonight. He's been good all week. Andrea put so much pressure on my horse, and we set the world on fire. It was a lot of pressure, but also a lot of fun!" – Rebecca Walton



Mandy McCutcheon



# TEAM BRONZE FOR SHOW JUMPING!



Beezie Madden and Cortes C

## Beezie Madden Takes Home Individual Bronze

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group

In Show Jumping, the smallest details can determine the outcome, and that is exactly how the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games played out for the U.S. Team. They started in the Silver medal position going into the final round of the Team Competition, but early on slipped into fourth place. After some bad luck by the German team and some good luck for Beezie Madden, the U.S. clawed its way back into the Bronze medal position, earning the chance to stand on the podium at the World Championship and at the same time, qualifying for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

McLain Ward was the first to compete for the U.S. team with Rothchild, owned by Sagamore Farm, and was unfortunately unable to reproduce his clear effort from the first round of the Nations Cup. A light rub at the second fence incurred four faults; Ward was able to stay focused though, jumping the rest of the round without error, although adding pressure to his teammates.

"He's been jumping so well that I was thinking about the back rail and I put on a little too much pressure," he commented. "It was a very small rider error, but it was rider error. Rothchild jumped amazing again, he got better and better as the course went on. I had one down though, so the team has to be good. There is no margin for error."

Ward was right, as all of the teams sat within a rail of each other.

Clear rounds by riders from the French and German teams helped them edge up, as another four fault round from the U.S. moved them into fourth. Kent Farrington and Voyer, owned



McLain Ward and Rothchild

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



by Amalaya Investments, had a light rub before the last line, meaning the team would need to add one of the four fault rounds to their score.

"There were faults all around the course today, and in the end, the top five teams are within a rail of a Gold medal and I think that shows how good the competition is here," admitted Farrington. "An unlucky touch here and there is the difference between third or fourth and winning a Gold medal. I thought my horse jumped great and we had a little bad luck."

A great deal of pressure was put on young rider Lucy Davis, who was putting in a fantastic round with Old Oak Farm's Barron, but at the second to last fence the rail hit the dirt and it looked like the U.S. would not be able to climb out of the hole it had created.

"We just are a little bit unlucky this week - all of the U.S. riders were," expressed Davis. "Kent only rubbed one, McLain only rubbed one, I only rubbed one, but they all came down. It's a bit frustrating and I would have loved to bring home a clear and take some of the pressure off of Beezie, but again, we are relying on her and that is what she does best."

For the U.S. to move up, Germany would need to have a rail and Beezie Madden would have to go clear.

Somehow that show jumping luck reappeared and all of the chips managed to fall into place. When Ludger Beerbaum lowered the height of the second oxer with Chiara 22, it left the door open for the U.S. to take Bronze, but only if Madden was absolutely perfect. Luckily for the home team, Madden is a veteran of that kind of pressure, and she had confidence in her mount, Cortes C, owned by Abigail Wexner, to handle the task at hand.

"I was in the warm up area and I didn't really know what our position was, if we had a chance at a medal or not," said Madden. "As I was going down to go into the ring, Ludger had one down, and they said for sure that we have a chance for a medal now. It was inspiring to know that we could still win a medal."

The United States, just one rail away from the Gold medal, finished with 16.72 faults after three days of competition, beating the German team for Bronze by just 1/10th of a fault, based on results from Tuesday's speed event.

"A medal is what we came here for," stated Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "Obviously, we were clearly aiming for Gold, but, where the sport is now, it is unbelievable. It is a privilege to be here. We believe we have one of the top teams we have ever fielded. We had a great summer leading up to it. We came in with confidence. It was good sport, and we gave it our all."

The competition did not end there though, and it was Madden who vaulted to success to capture a second Bronze medal individually after qualifying for the Final Four. During the final individual qualifier, Ward came heartbreakingly close to the Final Four, finishing in fifth place after two brilliant clear rounds with Rothchild.

Qualifying for the Final Four after five rounds of competition against the best in the world is a feat in and of itself, and to stand on the podium for a second time representing the United States is something only Madden has accomplished.

For the Final Four format, all four of the riders compete one shortened course on each of the four mounts. The riders that



Kent Farrington and Voyeur


made it to the final stage of the competition were Jeroen Dubbeldam (NED) with Zenith SFN, Rolf-Goran Bengtsson (SWE) with Casall Ask, Patrice Delaveau (FRA) with Orient Express HDC and Madden with Cortes 'C',

They each first showed with their own mounts after completing their own warm-ups. The first new mount for Madden was Bengtsson's Casall Ask. The pair had trouble in the combination, adding four faults to her score.

Madden returned first for the third round with Zenith SFN, incurring another four faults at the combination to bring her total to eight, while Bengtsson's sat at 10. Bengtsson and Madden would have to battle it out for the Bronze medal, and when the spectacular Cortes 'C' produced a fourth clear round for the Swedish rider, it added a bit of pressure to Madden. She had room for one rail and one time fault. Aboard Orient Express HDC, she had yet another rail in the combination, bringing

her total to 12 faults while Bengtsson had 14, and she could not afford another problem. Madden rose to the occasion though, finishing with the remaining rails intact, earning the Bronze medal.

Cortes 'C' proved that he was the star mount of the day, completing four clear rounds without a single rail after having already shown over five courses during the week. "I am so, so proud of my horse," smiled Madden. "I've always believed in him and that he was a championship horse and I think he proved it this week for sure. He's taken a little while to get consistent at this level, but I think now that he knows his job and what he's supposed to do; he is happy to do it. It's relatively easy for him too - he's so powerful."

The U.S. Team came ready to stand on the podium at the Games, and that is exactly what they did in Normandy, producing two Bronze medals in Show Jumping thanks to brilliant efforts by all the horses and riders. – **Rebecca Walton** 



Lucy Davis and Barron



# CHESTER WEBER STEERS TO DRIVING SILVER MEDAL

*"Some people call that [the Silver] the bridesmaid award, but I am really pleased with it."*

That is what Chester Weber said after standing on the podium during the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The three phases of the Individual Four-in-Hand Driving Championship saw two worthy adversaries battle to the top of the podium. Weber sat in second place going into the cone driving competition, and after posting a double clean round, had Australia's Boyd Exell under pressure to usurp him from the golden throne. Exell, the defending World Champion, will continue to reign for another two years after finishing just 2.77 points ahead of Weber for the win.

Weber put the pressure on Exell after taking the lead with his score of 32.21 in the dressage, but fell just behind after ranking 12th in the marathon. He navigated through the obstacles with his and Jane Forbes Clark's team of KWPN geldings.

"It was challenging out there. It was sort of like everything you could imagine was asked of you from the most technical to really racing," Weber explained. "I had

a little bit of trouble in the last obstacle with my right leader. I made the decision to give him 10 seconds rest before that and I think that it just sort of took him off the bit a little bit, which was 360-degree turn sort of shocked him a little bit but that's life."

He was one ball behind Exell after the Marathon phase, but was unable to close the gap in the final Cones phase. Weber still sits atop the World Rankings as the leading driver and was thrilled with his horses' Silver medal performance.

"I am so pleased with the horses, and I wouldn't trade them for any other group of horses here," he commented, adding "I will see you again in two years!"

Team USA finished just shy of a podium placing, taking the fourth place position for their efforts over the three-day event. Misdee Wrigley-Miller impressed the crowd during the cones with only 6.20 penalties, while Lisa Stroud finished on 11.85 penalties.

"Finding the line was just crucial in this cones course," Wrigley-Miller described. "There were no big tricks or anything. It was just looking ahead, finding the line, and finishing with that nice tempo. You can just feel it when you have the right speed. I found the lines, just a little too much brake at 9 and 19."



Misdee Wrigley-Miller and her team

Stroud was slightly disappointed in her round, but her scores from the two previous days in dressage and the marathon supported Weber's rounds for a shot at the medals.

Stroud admitted, "I am a little disappointed, but cones is a hard phase for me because I have been spending so much time on the first two [dressage and marathon]. It's hard to get all three phases in such a short time. It is difficult for me to get the rhythm for that, especially with the artificial footing."

The U.S. Team finished strong with Weber leading the way, and all are looking ahead to the next competitions, where they plan to stand atop the team and individual podiums.

— Kendall Bierer



Chester Weber and his team



# U.S. EVENTING TEAM

## Learns Important Lessons at WEG

After four long and grueling days of Eventing at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the U.S. team walked away with valuable insight for the future. After a costly turn of events when Phillip Dutton riding Trading Aces of Trading Aces LLC, and Buck Davidson riding Carl and Cassandra Segal's Ballynoe Castle RM, retired during cross country, the team was out of the running for a medal. The four remaining U.S. riders stepped up to the plate in the Show Jumping phase though. Boyd Martin led the way as the top finisher for the United States on the Shamwari 4 Syndicate LLC's Shamwari 4, placing eighth with just 63.9 penalties.

Individual competitors Kimberly Severson and her own Fernhill Fearless left the ring with a clear round, maintaining their 91.2 penalties. Sinead Halpin and Manoir de Carneville, owned by the Manoir de Carneville Syndicate, who competed as individuals for the U.S., finished with an eight fault round to bring them to a total of 114.4 penalties. The 14-year-old gelding made a comeback after an unexpected run-out on the very difficult cross-country course.

Lynn Symansky and her own Donner produced a solid four fault round. Her ever-improving mount stepped up to the plate at his biggest event yet, finishing with 135.4 penalties.

Chef d'Equipe David O'Connor said the result was disappointing, but expressed optimism for the future of the U.S. Eventing team.

"I think that the program itself is fairly healthy overall; the riders feel good and the owners are behind it," he commented. "The morale is very good. The riders believe in the program and are all positive about what we're doing. It's a start; we will grow and get better, we have to stay with the program. We will bring back medals in the future." – **Lauren Buettner**



Boyd Martin and Shamwari 4

# PALMER SISTERS and MARY MCCORMICK

## Score Top Five Finishes in Vaulting

Vaulters at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games demonstrated the depth of the United States program with competitive performances across the divisions as they made serious bids for medals.

Kimberly and Cassidy Palmer were crowd favorites with their "Frozen" themed freestyle. They achieved fifth place in the Pas de Deux on Leon 364, lunged by Wolfgang Renz. Not far behind them were Mary Garrett and Kristian Roberts, who put in a strong effort in the second round to clinch seventh on Diva 506, lunged by Carolyn Bland.

McCormick paired with Palatine, also lunged by Bland, for a string of impressive performances to take fifth in the individual women's division. Finishing that competition in 10th for the U.S. was Elizabeth Ioannou, who vaulted on Jarl, lunged by Lasse Kristensen. Garrett, vaulting on Palatine with Bland lunging, was 20th.

"Being here with my country and representing the U.S. was amazing," McCormick said. "I could not be more proud of my team."

Roberts also competed on Diva 506 in the individual men's vaulting alongside U.S. teammates Gabe Aniello (on Ferdinand 194, lunged by Bettina Gross) and Patrick Stevens (on Stanford, lunged by Julie Divita). Roberts took home 11th place, followed closely by Aniello in 12th, and Stevens finished 17th.

In the squad competition, the young U.S. squad from Woodside Vaulters in Woodside, CA, showed plenty of promise for the future, taking seventh with their Wizard of Oz themed act.

Lunger Julie Divita was proud of how the squad handled the pressure. "These girls were remarkable," she commented. "We came out and did exactly what we wanted to do. Our journey here has been nothing but highs." – **Mary Adelaide Brakenridge**



Woodside Vaulters



# U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM

## Earns Impressive Fourth Place Finish

**T**he names of Laura Graves and Verdades were on everyone's lips at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games after the pair seemingly came out of nowhere to achieve an incredible fifth place in the Grand Prix Freestyle. The talented young dressage rider and the horse she's had since he was a foal scored 82.036 percent to prove they belong among the best in the world.

Graves also contributed a key score of 74.871 percent to the U.S. team's strong fourth place finish. Steffen Peters and Legolas 92, owned by Akiko Yamazaki's Four Winds Farm, scored 75.843 percent to put the highest mark on the board for the U.S. in the Grand Prix, which determined team results.

Adrienne Lyle and Peggy Thomas's Wizard scored an excellent

72 percent, and Tina Konyot closed out team stalwart Calecto V's career with a 69.643 percent for the team.

"This is his last hurrah, and I'm very happy with how it went," Konyot said after the Grand Prix. "I had some little mistakes, but he had plenty of energy, and I feel like I got an 80 percent."

Peters, Lyle and Graves all made the top 30 after the Grand Prix and advanced to the Grand Prix Special. Lyle did not have the ride she was hoping for in the Special, but was pleased that she and Wizard were able to contribute to the team effort.

"The focus was 100 percent on the team, and we got that done," Lyle said. "I'm really happy with that. You want so badly to do well for your teammates."



*Laura Graves and Verdades*





*Steffen Peters and Legolas 92*



*Adrienne Lyle and Wizard*

Both Peters and Graves placed in the top 15 in the Grand Prix Special and moved on to the Grand Prix Freestyle, where Graves was fifth and Peters 10th. Peters was happy with Legolas 92's energy and effort on the third day of the demanding competition, and he also had plenty of praise for his teammate.

"My hat goes off to Legolas," Peters said. "This is one of the best freestyles he's ever done, and to do that at a major competition is fabulous. Seeing those two American flags up there making it into the final is just awesome."

The 27-year-old Graves' success may not have come as a complete surprise for U.S. supporters who followed her progress as she blossomed into a top contender with longtime partner Verdades. But the European dressage community was amazed at her meteoric rise.

She and Verdades are in their first season at Grand Prix and made their European debut as part of the U.S. tour leading up to WEG. Graves credits USEF Developing Dressage Coach, Debbie McDonald, with helping her up her game in recent months.

"I can't even begin to tell you how much she's changed my life," Graves said of McDonald, who jumped up and down with joy as she cheered for her student following each test.

Graves enjoyed the thrill of representing the U.S. at her first major championship.

"It's very fun, and to be here on a team is different than being anywhere else by yourself," she said. "It feels like family."

She was determined not to let the pressure get to her, simply focusing on doing the best she could each day for her country and her team.

"Because I came in with no expectations – I wasn't even expecting to come here, let alone ride on this team – it makes everything more playful instead of just pressure," Graves said. "When you're at the bottom, no one expects you to do well. There's nowhere to go but up. – *Mary Adelaide Brakenridge*



*Tina Conyot and Calecto V*



# YOUNG PARA DRESSAGE TEAM

## Earns Top Marks: Sets Sights on Rio

The United States fielded a young team of competitors for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, developing riders for growing the discipline. After two days of competition, the U.S. finished with a score of 407.042 for 10th place overall, an impressive feat for such a young team.

The 2014 Para Dressage World Championship has increased in size significantly since the 2010 WEG held in Lexington, KY, with 33 national federations sending riders. Angela Peavy represented the U.S. as an individual, competing in Grade III. She finished tenth on the first day with a score of 65.421 percent aboard Ozzy Cooper, owned by Rebecca Reno. She then duplicated her efforts in the Individual Championship with a test score of 63.561 percent.

The U.S. Grade 1b rider, Sydney Collier, made a splash at her first international competition. The 16-year-old rode Willi Wesley, owned by Victoria Dugan, with a score of 65.960 percent on the first day and an inspiring 68.103 percent

during the Individual Championships.

The U.S. Grade IV para-dressage rider, Susan Treabess, put in a solid effort for a score of 65.83 percent with the 9-year-old PRE stallion, Kamiakin, owned by Kathryn Hill, on the opening day of competition. Susan's second-day score of 60.667 percent had the team sitting just outside of the Freestyle Qualifiers.

Two-time Paralympian, Rebecca Hart, rode Schroeters Romani, owned by Hart in conjunction with Margaret Duprey and Cherry Knoll Farm, Sycamore Station Equine Division, Barbara Summer, The Ruffolo's and Will and Sandy Kimmel, for a beautiful Grade II Individual test. They finished with a score of 67.486 percent for seventh place, qualifying them for the opportunity to debut their new Freestyle, finishing seventh on the final day.

The United States came out to impress with the last rider and horse of their contingent, Roxanne Trunnell and Nice Touch in Grade 1a. They started their test strong, never earning below a



Rebecca Hart and Schroeters Romani

6.2 for their movements. The pair's final score of 69.435 percent closed out the Individual Championships going on to finish in seventh place in the final of the competition. The U.S. finished strong with this up-and-coming team filled to the brim with potential and talent as they set their sights on Rio! – Kendall Bierer

# JEREMY OLSON COMPLETES

## Challenging Endurance Test for U.S.

The 160 km Endurance trail at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games proved to be the real winner this year, as only 38 of the 165 entries crossed the finish line. Rain throughout the week created difficult footing for the horse and rider combinations and many were unable to finish the task.

The United States fielded a team of five combinations including Ellen Olson and Farzad Faryadi's Hot Desert Knight; Heather Reynolds and her own Chances; Jeremy Reynolds and his own RR Gold Dust Rising; Kelsey Russell and Valerie Kanavy's My Wild Irish Gold; and finally, Jeremy Olson and Wallace Hill Shade, owned by Jeremy Olson and Amy Wallace-Whelan. Jeremy was originally an alternate for the team but was called up after Dr. Meg Sleeper withdrew her entry, Syrocco Reveille.

The long, difficult course soaked with mud and featuring difficult terrain, took its toll on all but one of the U.S. entries. Jeremy Olson from La Motte, Iowa, and Wallace Hill Shade were the lone pair to cross the finish line at the end of the day. The 39-year-old rider and the 12-year-old half-Arabian finished in 31st place with a time of 10 hours, 46 minutes and 16 seconds.

"It was very slick and slippery as everybody knows, and it was definitely a daunting task we faced on race morning," explained Olson. "We did the best we could with the track that we were given. I feel fortunate to have represented our country and it was a feeling of accomplishment to have finished the course."

Olson added, "My horse gave me everything he had. He's a big heavy horse, so he sinks in a lot deeper than the smaller horses, which made it even more difficult on him, because he was sinking



Jeremy Olson and Wallace Hill Shade

in so deep on every single stride. He's a good strong horse though and there is no quitting with him - he didn't take a bad step all day."

Jeremy and Wallace Hill Shade's effort showcased their grit and determination, bringing home a solid finish for the U.S.

– Rebecca Walton





## REIN IN LUXURY



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# Chateau La Chenevière

## Provides Perfect U.S. Home in France



Karl Cook, Signe Otsby, Suzanne Porter, Juliet Reid, Chester Weber and Tucker Johnson



Kathy and Joe Patton, Eve Thompson, Katie and Henri Prudent, Linda Starkman



Hans Juergen-Meyer, Debbie McDonald, Dr. Irina Juergen-Meyer and Fritz and Claudine Kundrun



Steffen Peters, Doris Peters, Anke Poepperling, Jerry Yang, Akiko Yamazaki, Shannon Peters, Margaret Ryan

Each week of the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the USET Foundation welcomed riders, owners, and supporters to the breathtaking Chateau La Chenevière for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and the rare opportunity to come together in one place to cheer on and celebrate our U.S. equestrian competitors.

The two USET Foundation cocktail receptions held during the WEG brought together individuals from all of the eight WEG disciplines, individuals who might otherwise not have had the chance to connect.

An unanticipated delight was uncovered during the Week One reception as the USET Foundation discovered our newest junior reporter! Six-year-old Emi Yang, daughter of Jerry Yang and Akiko Yamazaki, was a natural with the camera and a big help capturing images from a new perspective during the reception! Thanks, Emi!

In addition to the two USET Foundation receptions, Hermès and the USEF welcomed the U.S. rider, owner and supporter contingent to two separate celebrations held in the beautiful Hermès villa located within the WEG Games Village. As the official sponsor of the Hermès United States Show Jumping Team, Hermès outfitted not only the show jumpers, but also all U.S. athletes competing at the WEG and much of the support staff. The beautiful Hermès U.S. apparel was on display throughout the receptions. Hermès also treated guests to an impressive saddle-making demonstration during their parties. – Emily Riden



Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska, Shawn Flarida, Mandy McCutcheon, Jordan Larson and Andrea Fappani



Steffen Peters, Shannon Peters, Jenny Van Wieren-Page, Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang



Sarah Willemann, Michele Welton, Victoria Carling and Misdee Wrigley-Miller



Mimi Abel Smith, Robin Parsky, Jacquie Mars, Dr. Mark Hart and Karen O'Connor



Meg Krueger, Paige Bellissimo, Mark Bellissimo and Jane Clark



Michele Welton, Suzanne Porter, Chris Welton and BG Porter





*Philip Richter*



*Sydney Collier, Margaret Duprey  
and Rebecca Hart*



*Chateau La Chenevière hosts beautiful reception*



*Tom and Carolyn Cadier*



*Bonnie Jenkins, Richard Barnes,  
Chris Hickey, Betsy Juliano and Emi Yang*



*Joseph Noah and Suzanne Mott-Dansby*



*Adrienne Lyle, Debbie McDonald  
and Laura Graves*



*Fiona Tibone, Christy Baxter and Sara Ike*



*Olivia Weeks, Sophia Pessoa and Bill Weeks*



*Joe and Kathy Patton*



*Kent Farrington and Robin Parsky*



*Rebecca Hart and Susan Treabess*



*Suzanne, Lucas and BG Porter*



*Anita Failkow and Sandra Presciti*



*Leet Denton, Patsy Denton, Chrystine  
Tauber and George Tauber*



*Betsy Juliano, Claudine Kundrun  
and Debbie McDonald*



*Karen O'Connor, George Tauber  
and Jacquie Mars*



*Chris and Michele Welton*



*Joe Patton, Kathy Patton and Eve Thompson*



*Rita and Peter Heydon*



*Linda Starkman and Leslie Herron*

*All photos by Emily Rider / Phelps Media Group, assisted by Emi Yang*



# THE JONATHAN WENTZ MEMORIAL CHALLENGE

## Increases Funding for Para Dressage Athletes

When Margaret Duprey suggested to para dressage rider Rebecca Hart, a member of the U.S. Para Dressage Team for the World Equestrian Games, that she ask the USEF for funding to travel to Europe to compete this past spring, Hart told her she had, but there was no funding available.

Therefore, Margaret Duprey decided she would change that and, thanks to her generosity and initiative along with that of The Barnfield Foundation, The Jonathan Wentz Memorial Challenge for High Performance Para Dressage was then established through the USET Foundation.

### The Jonathan Wentz Memorial Challenge for High Performance Para Dressage



dream was to not only be a world-class equestrian, but to also help develop a world-class United States Para Dressage team. This, as you know, not only takes dedication, sacrifice, training and skill of the athletes, but also the funds to compete nationally and internationally. My hope is that The Jonathan Wentz Memorial Challenge will raise awareness and the funds needed to carry on his dream of developing a world-class team!"

The financial need for Para Dressage athletes at the High Performance international level can be significant. Unlike in most countries, the United States Equestrian Teams do not receive any government subsidies. Their main source of funds for the athletes to participate in international competition comes through the USET Foundation. Not only must they transport and ship the horses and supplies, and make sure support staff such as vets and farriers are in place, the riders often need additional support staff so that they can function at the highest level both physically and emotionally when they are competing.

While traveling, especially overseas, wheelchair accessibility can be limited, a rider may need help mounting a horse or a physical therapist may be necessary to help the athletes remain in peak physical condition.

During the Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship, the USET Foundation hosted the Jonathan Wentz Memorial Challenge Reception, generously sponsored by Mission Control, at their Hamilton Farm headquarters. The initial response has been encouraging and generous. Parents, trainers and philanthropists have all come forward and pledged their support to help these athletes in their quest to represent the United States on the world stage, raising \$600,000 towards the \$800,000 goal.

Please call Bonnie B. Jenkins, Executive Director or Sara Ike, Major Gifts Officer at (908) 234-1251 for more information about The Jonathan Wentz Memorial Challenge for High Performance Para Dressage. – Sue Weakley



Rebecca Hart and Schroeters Romani

Duprey and The Barnfield Foundation have each pledged up to \$200,000, and they will each match, dollar for dollar, every gift commitment of \$4,000 and above made by April 1, 2015. The goal of the initiative is to raise \$800,000 for High Performance Para Dressage.

"I called [USET Foundation Executive Director] Bonnie Jenkins at the Foundation and said, 'What can we do to help the para riders?'" Duprey said. "And from there we developed the plan for the Challenge to increase funding for these high-performance athletes to get the experience they need to excel internationally." Duprey also supports other high-performance disciplines including show jumping and dressage.

"I just wanted to be the kick start," she said. "I knew I needed to help these athletes who look at every day as a gift. Thanks to The Barnfield Foundation joining me, we were able to really make a significant impact."

The fund is named for Jonathan Wentz, a Paralympic athlete who successfully competed for the U.S. at the London Paralympics but who died in 2012 at the age of 21.

"Our family is so excited and honored that Jonathan is being recognized in this way," Tina Wentz, Jonathan's mother, said. "His



Sydney Collier and Willi Wesley



# CAROLINE MARTIN

## Carries Home USET Foundation Markham Trophy


Caroline Martin and Quantum Solace bested a field of some of Eventing's biggest names to finish fifth at this spring's Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\*. Their impressive effort at the event, which ran May 8-11, was rewarded with the presentation to Martin of the esteemed Markham Trophy.

The Markham Trophy is presented by the USET Foundation to the young rider, under the age of 21, who places the highest at the USEF CCI\*\*\* Spring Championship, held at Jersey Fresh.

Martin, 19, of Miami Beach, Florida, began the weekend in the 14th position with a dressage score of 56.20 on her own Quantum Solace; they only improved from there. The duo added just eight time penalties to their score on cross country, bumping them up to the sixth place position going into the final show jumping phase. They finished clear over the show jumping course with just four time faults, clinching them the fifth place award with a final score of 68.20.

Martin trains primarily with the winner of the 2014 Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\*, Buck Davidson. She and Quantum Solace, a 9-year-old Argentinian Sport Horse gelding, together are a dynamic partnership with top finishes including both the Team and Individual Gold Medals in Eventing at the 2013 Adequan/FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships.

The prestigious Markham Trophy is presented in honor of Markham, a 16.2 hand black Thoroughbred gelding donated to the USET by Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Plumb. Their son Mike qualified for the 1964 Olympic Games on Markham and was scheduled to ride him in Japan. When Markham had to be put down during the trip, the Olympic team alternate rider, William Haggard, offered to lend his horse, Bold Minstrel. The horse was then flown to Japan and Plumb rode him as a member of the silver medal winning three-day eventing team and placed 15th individually.

The Markham Trophy will be presented again this fall to the highest placing rider under the age of 21 at the Fair Hill International CCI\*\*\*, to be held October 16-19, 2014. — Emily Riden 



*Caroline Martin and Quantum Solace*





# FESTIVAL OF

## STEFFEN PETERS

### MAINTAINS DOMINANCE AT U.S. DRESSAGE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

#### Young Guns Trailing Closely Behind

**S**teffen Peters may have proven he's top dog with wins in the Freestyle, Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special aboard Legolas 92 to secure the large tour Championship at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions presented by The Dutta Corp. at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, but he had better watch his back, as there are some young pups nipping at his heels.

Peters claimed his seventh win as the national Grand Prix champion and this victory aboard Legolas 92, a 12-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Four Winds Farm and Akiko Yamazaki, was their fourth. But Peters better not take anything for granted, as some less decorated riders are gunning for his glory.

Newcomer Laura Graves, a 26-year-old sensation at the Festival of Champions, took the Reserve Championship spot on her own Verdades in their first year at Grand Prix while besting seasoned veterans.

Graves and Verdades, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding she's brought up the ranks since buying him as a weanling, thrilled the crowd at every turn, earn-

ing the applause of the crowd and nods from the judges.

Graves said she took a huge gamble when she made the decision to put everything on hold, including her business as a trainer, to work with Debbie McDonald, a move she said was worth it. She said McDonald has the finesse to know when to push a horse and rider and when it's time to stop for the day.

"It's hitting me in waves," she said. "I have times where I don't feel like it's as important as it is, and things are really mellow, and then I'll get a wave of butterflies that's like, 'Wow, this is huge.'"

Peters was quick to praise Graves and the other younger riders. "Us old guys over here need to see that," he said. "It was truly exciting. This is really what we want in the sport. We want to have the depth, the quality of riders and the quality of horses, so it was very exciting."

Peters' London Olympic Games teammate, Jan Ebeling, was also gracious about Graves besting his performance on Rafalca, a 17-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Ann Romney, Beth Meyer and Amy Ebeling.



Jan Ebeling and Rafalca

"Being beaten by someone like her is absolutely wonderful," he said. "We have always said we want more young riders coming up. Finally, it's happening with good horses and good background and good training. This is what the horse world needs here in America."

Graves is not the only youngster edging the more seasoned riders to up their game. Twenty-nine-year-old Adrienne Lyle, who competed as an individual at the 2012 London Olympic Games, also wowed the crowd aboard Wizard, a 15-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Peggy Thomas. After 25-year-old Caroline Roffman and her own Her Highness O, an 11-year-old Hanoverian mare, went down centerline to halt and salute, the gallery erupted in cheers.

Other Olympic Games veterans, Tina Konyot on her own Calecto V, a 16-year-old Danish Warmblood stallion, and Lisa Wilcox on Denzello, an 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Betty Wells, were also on top of their game, as was 1998 World Equestrian Games rider, Shelly Francis aboard Doktor, an 11-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Patricia Stempel.

(Left) Laura Graves and Verdades





# CHAMPIONS



*Jan Ebeling, Laura Graves and Steffen Peters*

A total of eight horse and rider combinations boarded planes to Europe to train and compete for the four spots available for Team USA for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Peters and Legolas 92, Graves and Verdades, Lyle and Wizard, Konyot and Calecto V, Ebeling and Rafalca, Francis and Doktor, Roffman and Her Highness O, and Wilcox and Denzello comprised the Short List for the WEG team.

The U.S. competitors made a splash at the Fritzens CDI4\* in early July. Peters and Graves led the charge, each earning two second place finishes. Konyot, Lyle, Roffman and Francis all placed within the top five in at least one of their outings.

At CHIO Aachen, Graves, Konyot, Lyle and Roffman comprised the U.S. team for the Nations Cup CDI05\*, while Francis, Wilcox, and Kathleen Raine on Breanna competed in the CDI4\*. Highlights of the CDI4\* included a fifth place finish for Raine in the Special, followed by Wilcox in seventh. Francis took seventh place in the Freestyle.

The U.S. team finished in seventh overall in the Nations Cup. Both Graves and Lyle broke into the top 10 individually in the Grand Prix Freestyle, and Graves also took eighth in the Grand Prix Special. The success of the young U.S. riders caught the attention of the crowds of spectators at Aachen, and Graves' mount Verdades was recognized as the July 19 "horse of the day" at the prestigious show. — Sue Weakley



*Caroline Roffman and Her Highness O*



*Adrienne Lyle and Wizard*



*(Right) Steffen Peters and Legolas 92*

All photos by Sue Weakley / Phelps Media Group



# FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

Pony, Junior, Young Rider and  
Brentina Cup Riders

**CLAIM CHAMPIONSHIPS AT U.S.  
DRESSAGE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS**



*Anna Buffini and Sundayboy*

**T**he future of U.S. dressage looks bright, judging by the quality of riders and horses competing for the Pony, Junior, Young Rider and Brentina Cup championships June 12-15 at the 2014 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions presented by The Dutta Corp. and held at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.

The Young Riders and Juniors dodged some raindrops as the skies over Hamilton Farm let loose a deluge on Friday the 13th, but the riders smiled through the storms and displayed amazing sportsmanship.

Anna Buffini, 20, and her 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Sundayboy, claimed the crown in the AGCO/USEF Young Rider division. As a Californian, Buffini said she never saw so much rain in her life, but her horse rose to the occasion for the pair to snare the win.

"Today was just a dream," Buffini said. She credited her trainer, Sandy Gardner, and Guenter Seidel, for encouraging her to finish the show strong.

Buffini also received the First Annual Anita Owen Perpetual Junior/Young Rider Trophy for Outstanding Sportsmanship. She was nominated for the award by fellow competitor and third-placed finisher 20-year-old Devon Wycoff.

Katrin "Kati" Dagge, 22, and her own 13-year-old Oldenburg stallion, Dream of Love, claimed the championship in the Young Adult Brentina Cup competition, who noted the division is an ideal way to move up from small tour to large tour competition.

"This is my first season doing the Grand Prix with my horse," Dagge said. "It's been a learning curve the whole way,



*Katrin Dagge and Dream of Love*



*Katrina Sadis and Poldy 10*

having to figure out the different steps it takes to get to Grand Prix."

Seventeen-year-old Cassie Schmidt took top honors in the Junior division aboard Velasquer, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Leslie Schmidt, edging out Barbara "Bebe" Davis and Rotano, the 2013 Junior Rider champions.

Katrina Sadis, a 15-year-old pony rider from Michigan, and Poldy 10, an 18-year-old German Riding Pony, won the Pony Championship. Poldy has a record of winning under former rider Bebe Davis.

"He was with me the whole time," Sadis said, "He was pretty tired from a long weekend, but he tried his best and gave me everything he had. Everyday he just wants to work with me and he always wants to be the best."

U.S. Chef d'Equipe, Robert Dover, was pleased with the level of riding of the younger competitors.

"I can't tell you how proud I've been of all of the kids through this whole competition," Dover said. "They're the best in the country. They've risen to the occasion beautifully. We're showing we're on the rise with more Young Riders, Juniors and Pony riders who are learning where the bar is and how to excel. That bodes well for the future for the United States that our youth division is getting stronger. In the next six months, you'll see an even stronger youth program for these kids that will rival the finest youth programs of the world." — Sue Weakley



All photos by Sue Weakley / Phelps Media Group



# STRONG PARA DRESSAGE TEAM

## for World Equestrian Games



*Rebecca Hart  
and Schroeters Romani*

*Susan Treabess and Kamiakin*



The 2014 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship, held at the USET Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, showcased the increasing depth and quality of contenders for the U.S. Para-Equestrian Dressage Team. The top athletes in the country turned out to vie for a chance to compete at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France.

"The caliber of riding has gone through the roof," Judge Kristi Wysocki said of the 2014 National Championship field. "It was very exciting to judge because our riders are so good."

At the selection trial, riders competed in the Individual Championship Test, Team Test, and Musical Freestyle, in their respective grades. Their scores in each test were used to determine an overall score, with the Individual and Team Tests each counting as 40 percent and the Freestyle counting as 20 percent. Riders were then ranked by their overall scores.

The first three positions on the Short List for WEG were automatically filled by the athletes and horses ranked first through third in the selection trial provided they met selection criteria. USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage Selectors had the option of making a discretionary choice to fill the fourth position on the Short List. The U.S. squad for WEG includes four rider/horse combinations as well as an additional combination to compete as an individual entry.

Leading the way at the selection trial was Rebecca Hart. She and Schroeter's Romani earned outstanding marks in each of the three tests to take the National Championship title with an overall score of 74.642 and earn a spot on the team for WEG.

"To see the growth (in the sport in the U.S.) from where it was when I first started is amazing," Hart commented.

Hart is backed by a group that came together to purchase Schroeter's Romani for her to compete. The mare is owned by Hart in conjunction with Margaret H. Duprey, Cherry Knoll Farm, Sycamore Station Equine Division, Barbara Summer, The Ruffolos, and Will and Sandy Kimmel.

Second place at the selection trial went to Margaret McIntosh and her own Rio Rio with an overall score of 71.628. McIntosh, who rode as a Grade Ia at the Trial pending the FEI's confirmed classification of her grade, was classified as a Grade Ib by the FEI and was, therefore, ineligible for selection to the team.

Roxanne Trunnell and Nice Touch collected third place at the selection trial and joined the line-up for WEG. Sydney Collier, the youngest athlete at 16 years old, and NTEC Cuplee, owned by Patricia Mendenhall, were fourth. Collier will ride her other mount, Victoria Dugan's Willi Wesley, on the WEG team.

Susan Treabess and Kathryn Hill's Kamiakin were fifth at the Trial and rounded out the WEG team. Angela Peavy finished sixth at the Selection Trial on Lancelot Warrior, was named as the individual entry for WEG, and later made a horse switch to Ozzy Cooper. All five riders named to the squad – Hart, Trunnell, Collier, Treabess and Peavy – demonstrated they have the talent, ability and drive to successfully represent the U.S. at the highest levels of their sport. – *Mary Adelaide Brakenridge*



*Roxanne Trunnell and Nice Touch*



*Sydney Collier and Willi Wesley*





# Riders Prepare for World Equestrian Games

## BY TAKING NEW PATHS

The World Equestrian Games have come and gone, throughout the spring and summer the riders preparing for the championship had one goal in mind: making the team. The U.S. looked to put together the strongest horse and rider combinations in each discipline, and careful preparation and observation events paid off with a successful showing on the world stage.

### EVENTING

An accomplished group of horses and riders secured places on the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Normandy, France. The USEF Eventing Selection Committee considered results over a series of CCI3\* and 4\* competitions in 2013 and 2014. Factors considered included overall performance and soundness throughout the selection trials, international experience, fitness, and will to win. Throughout the run-up to WEG, Chef d'Equipe, David O'Connor, conducted USEF Eventing High Performance Training Sessions and assisted team hopefuls in fine tuning their skills and planning suitable schedules for their horses.

The chosen combinations were Buck Davidson and BallyNoe Castle RM, owned by Carl and Cassandra Segal; Phillip Dutton and Trading Aces, owned by the Trading Aces LLC; Sinead Halpin and Manoir de Carneville, owned by the Manoir de Carneville Syndicate; Boyd Martin and Shamwari 4, owned by the Shamwari 4 Syndicate LLC; Kim Severson and her own Fernhill Fearless; and Lynn Symansky and her own Donner.

Dutton and Trading Aces earned their spot on the team in an unusual fashion. Martin, who typically rides the horse, was injured in the spring of 2014 and asked Dutton to step in for him. The pair gelled quickly, earning a win in the Advanced divisions at The Fork in Norwood, NC and then went on to place eighth at the international 2014 Rolex Kentucky CCI4\*, proving they were up to the task of a World Championship.

Martin recovered from his injury and rode new mount Shamwari 4 to an impressive third place at the 2014 Luhmühlen CCI4\* in Germany. With Shamwari 4 establishing himself as a top team contender, the Trading Aces Syndicate and Martin agreed to open up the option of Dutton riding Trading Aces on the WEG team so that both of Martin's talented mounts could contribute to the United States effort.

Other horses and riders took various paths to reach the goal of team selection. Symansky, like Martin, traveled overseas during the selection period. She and Donner were 13th in a large field at the 2013 Pau CCI4\* in France.

Davidson and BallyNoe Castle RM were consistent at home, taking fourth place at the 2013 Rolex Kentucky CCI4\* and returning a year later for third place at Rolex in 2014. Halpin and Manoir de Carneville finished just behind them in fourth place in the 2014 edition. Seasoned U.S. team rider, Severson, also stayed on home turf while developing her partnership with Fernhill Fearless.

All six combinations named to the squad, as well as the chosen alternates, competed in the mandatory Preparation Event at Great Meadow in The Plains, VA; a chance to tune up before traveling to France. Dutton and alternate horse, Mighty Nice, took first place over Davidson and BallyNoe Castle RM.



Buck Davidson and BallyNoe Castle RM

### REINING

It was a long winding road to qualifying for the U.S. Reining Team. With a long history of success at the Games, the United States was looking to defend its Individual and Team Gold medals from the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

Horse and rider combinations wishing to compete were required to achieve high scores in at least two of the qualifying trials to be eligible for the Selection Trial.

The Final Selection Trial for the U.S. reining team took place at the Kentucky Reining Cup, April 25-27, where the final team was named. The prestigious event was held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, running alongside the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. Prize money and spots to compete at WEG in Normandy were on the line. The four riders who stepped up to the plate were Shawn Flarida of Springfield, Ohio, Mandy McCutcheon of Aubrey, Texas, Jordan Larson of Whitesboro, Texas, and Andrea Fappani of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Flarida and Michelle Kimball's Spooks Gotta Whiz clinched a 3.5 point lead with a 225 in the first go and a 227.5 in the second go, bringing them to a 452.5 total. This impressive score could not be touched. Flarida was a part of the 2010 WEG U.S. Reining Team in





*Mandy McCutcheon and Yellow Jersey*

Kentucky and wanted to be a vital component for the 2014 Team. Spooks Gotta Whiz has an admirable \$316,022 in National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) earnings at only 7-years-old.

Closest to Florida's score were McCutcheon and Tim McQuay's Yellow Jersey. Scoring a 224 followed by a 225 brought them to the grand total of 449, leaving one point between this pair and the bronze finishers. McCutcheon made history by being the first amateur rider and woman ever to represent the U.S. in the reining discipline. Yellow Jersey, a 10-year-old palomino stallion, has an impressive \$116,582 in NRHA earnings.

Larson and Heritage Farm's HF Mobster were one point shy of a tie for silver. A 223 in the first go and a 225 in the second provided for a grand total of 448. The remarkable 7-year-old buckskin stallion was the 2013 NRHA Derby open champion.

Fappani and Silver Spurs Equine's Smoking Whiz snuck into the fourth position at the cut off for qualifying for the games. Their 223.5 first go and 223 second go scored earned them a 446.5, a score that bested the 14 other horse and rider teams at the event. The impressive 7-year-old sorrell stallion was ranked in the top 10 in AQHA year-end reining standings.

The alternates for the Games were Troy Heikes of Scottsdale, AZ, and Tom McCutcheon of Aubrey, TX. Heikes scored a total of 442 while McCutcheon scored a 440.5.

## SHOW JUMPING

To prepare to compete against the best teams in the world, the Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team used Nations Cup events to select their top horses and athletes. The best way to know where you stand going into a world championship is to compete on the international stage. The United States sent teams to Aachen, Hickstead and Dublin, and with the U.S. riders aiming for a spot on the WEG team; each rider showcased their winning skills. They started off strong with a second place finish at Aachen, concluding with only eight faults.

Then it was on to Hickstead and Dublin, where the United States was relentless with their will to win. The teams captured the top prize in not one, but both international events. Two wins

in two weeks left Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and the selection committee with a difficult decision, as many riders proved they were ready to take on the challenge of WEG. After careful consideration the team was named, with each rider choosing a different path to prepare.

Beezie Madden, a staple for the U.S. Show Jumping Team, broke her collarbone in May, but a strong team at John Madden Sales was able to keep her horses in top condition. Focusing on healing for three months, Madden was able to come back stronger than ever, making her team debut for the summer during Hickstead. It was clear she never lost a beat; as she went double clear with Cortes 'C', owned by Abigail Wexner. She then went on to win the Hickstead Grand Prix two days later, making it an easy decision to add the pair to team.

McLain Ward and Rothchild, owned by Sagamore Farms, were equally impressive at Hickstead. They posted a double clear effort as the lead-off duo on the team. During the year, Ward and Rothchild also captured top honors in the \$210,000 CP Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows and the Antwerp Global Champions Tour Grand Prix. The international competitions prepared them to take on the world class competition at WEG.

Kent Farrington is currently the leading U.S. rider in the world, and that's thanks to the many wins throughout the year on Amalaya Investments' Voyeur. They took top honors in a leg of the 2014 World Cup Finals, and then in early July they went on to win the \$210,000 ATCO Power Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Spruce Meadows. After that it was off to Europe as part of their road to WEG, and at Aachen they proved their speed could not be beat by winning one of the first events of the week.



*McLain Ward and Rothchild*

Young rider Lucy Davis is no stranger to international competition with her top mount Barron, owned by Old Oak Farm, and she proved that she is ready for her world championship debut. They won the Lausanne Global Champions Tour Grand Prix last fall, and helped the United States secure the consolation victory during the Barcelona Nations Cup Finals. After top placings during the Winter Equestrian Festival, they were chosen for the U.S. Team at Aachen, and in one of the world's biggest equestrian venues, Davis and Barron were perfect. Davis piloted the Belgian Warmblood gelding to two clear rounds, aiming for a repeat performance at WEG.

With wins at Hickstead and Dublin, the U.S. had cleared the path to WEG, with Madden, Ward, Farrington and Davis vying for the podium.





*Chester Weber and team*

*Photo by Shannon Brinkman*

## DRIVING

In July, Chester Weber (Ocala, FL) made history in what was called a 'career defining moment.' He had driven to victory in the Four-in-Hand Driving Division at CHIO Aachen, officially making him the first American ever to do so, and also making him the top ranked Four-in-Hand driver in the world.

That major victory became yet another peak in a year full of tremendous triumphs for Weber. He had won the USEF Four-In-Hand Driving National Championships in March, the Royal Windsor CAI\*\*\* in May and the CAIO\*\*\*\* Saumur in June. By August, his unrelenting success had shot Weber to the top of the FEI World Cup Driving Ranking List and officially clinched his spot on the 2014 U.S. Team for the World Equestrian Games.

However, while Weber's year had been exceptionally phenomenal, he was not alone in his success for the U.S. leading up to the WEG. Drivers vying for their shot to be a part of the 2014 U.S. Team were required to compete at a minimum of two selection trials, held throughout the year from January 30 to June 15, 2014.

Turning in strong performances throughout the year were two other top contenders, Allison Stroud (West Grove, Pa.) and Misdee Wrigley-Miller (Lakewood Ranch, Fl.).

Wrigley-Miller finished second behind Weber at the USEF National Four-in-Hand Championship, a Live Oak International, and from there she followed much the same path in preparation for WEG as Weber. Like Weber, she traveled to Europe to compete in the Royal Windsor CAI\*\*\* in Great Britain, the CAIO\*\*\*\* Saumur in France and the CAI\*\*\* Lahden in Germany.

Her adept abilities throughout the year in the chosen selection trials and in Europe helped secure her spot along side Weber for the WEG with her own team of horses including Agussto's Armoel, Beau, Carlos 663, and Clemens 49, as well as Saco., owned by Tomas Eriksson.

Weber's team will include Boris W, Boy W, and Para, owned by Weber, as well as Splash and Uniek, owned by Jane Forbes Clark.

Allison Stroud has her own string of accomplishments this

year and also qualified to represent the U.S. with the team of Anesco 4, Mozes, Ulco and Zenno, owned by Willow Star LLC, and Olando, owned by Koos de Ronde.

With all three drivers in great shape and their horses in tip-top condition, the U.S. team 'drove' into WEG prepared to top the podium alongside Combined Driving Team Chef d'Equipe, Ed Young.

## VAULTING

As the 2014 World Equestrian Games approached, America's top vaulters put the finishing touches on their routines and trained hard, with hopes of outstanding performances in Normandy. The short list of vaulters named for the Female, Male, Pas de Deux and Team divisions was decided after five highly competitive selection trials.

Top competitors began gearing up in March for the first World Equestrian Games U.S. Vaulting Selection Trial held at the Vault into Spring show at Lynden, Washington. The event, held March 28-30, kicked off the fierce competitive road towards qualification for the WEG. Top ranked female vaulter, Mary McCormick, performed her best to win the Individual Gold Female division, with Mary Garrett placing second. In the Men's division, Kristian Roberts dominated the Individual Men's Gold. The high-flying sisters, Kimberly and Cassidy Palmer, took the top spot in the Pas de Deux division.

In late April, individual and team vaulters flocked to California for the Mozart Memorial Classic, another WEG selection trial. Mary McCormick demonstrated once more her winning determination with a score of 8.434. Mary Garrett earned second place honors with an 8.192. The men had outstanding performances as well with Kristian Roberts, a 2010 World Equestrian Games competitor, taking first and Gabe Aniello receiving second. The team competition proved the perfect place for the Woodside team to show off their moves and they nabbed the division. In the Pas de Deux division, the successful sister duo of Kimberly and Cassidy Palmer claimed top ranking.



## ENDURANCE

Top U.S. Endurance competitors trained all year, logging hundreds of miles, for the chance to be named to the team at the 2014 Alltech World Equestrian Games.

The Endurance Team Selection Trial CEI2\* 120km, that was held April 17-20 in Broxton Bridge, SC, was the grounds for the team member selection. Seventeen riders (14 rider applicants and 3 proxy riders) showed up for the trial, but the event was delayed due to rain and oversaturated trails. When the event could finally be held on Sunday the 20th, riders were eager to get out on the trails.

After the trial, it was down to Chef d'Equipe Emmett Ross, the team selectors and veterinarians to determine who would bring their best to Normandy. Ross possesses a lengthy resume and a wealth of knowledge to prepare riders for the terrain. He has trained hundreds of endurance horses, as well as coached riders in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. He brings his valuable knowledge to the United States as Chef d'Equipe, placing the U.S. focus on Team Gold.

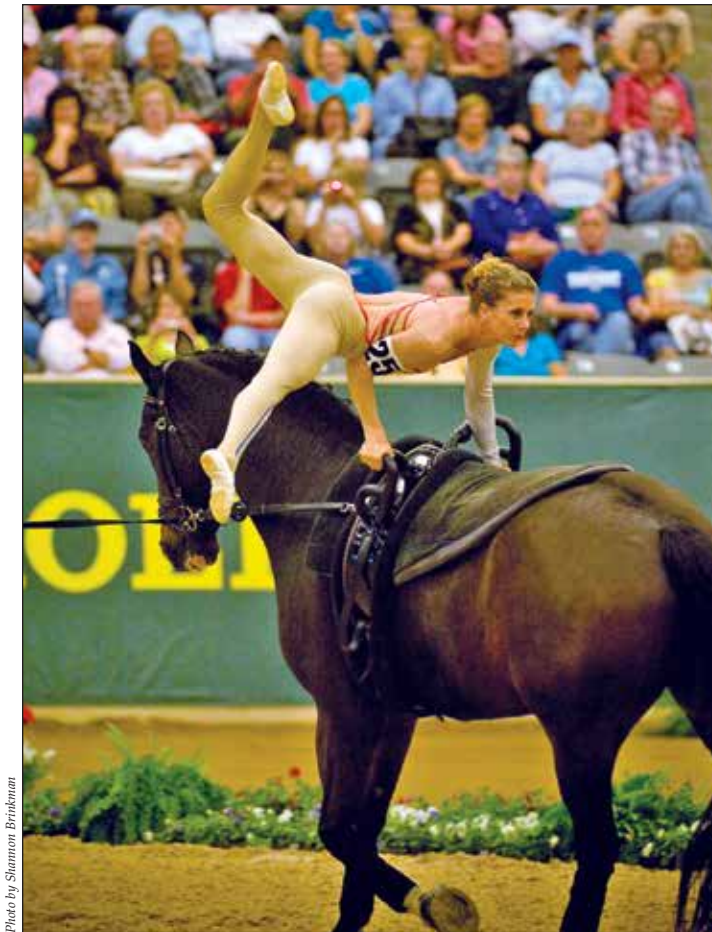
Ross and the selectors decided on a group of riders that was experienced in a variety of terrain as the French course presents paved roads, corn fields, forests, beaches and pastures, and the riders also needed to show mental discipline and remain calm while handling the pressures and excitement of international championship competition.

In the end it was Heather Reynolds of Dunnellon, FL and her own Arabian gelding, Chances, that would be at the top of the list. Ellen Olson of La Motte, Iowa and Farzad Faryadi's Hot Desert Knight were listed second on the short list, followed by Dr. Margaret Sleeper of Frenchtown, NJ, and her own Syrocco Reveille. The "traveling squad" also included Jeremy Reynolds of Dunnellon, FL, and his own RR Gold Dust Rising, as well as Kelsey Russell of Williston, FL, and Valerie Kanavy's, My Wild Irish Gold.



Meg Sleeper and Syrocco Reveille

Ross said about the chosen pairs: "Our team's strength lies in having ridden so many diverse trails throughout the United States. The terrain at the WEG will vary greatly, but it is to our advantage. The most important thing is that our riders make good judgments and use their speed. We are not going to sightsee, we are going to win." – **Phelps Media Group**



Mary McCormick

At the third WEG qualifier at the USEF/AVA Region IV Mayfest competition in Loveland, Colorado, Nicole England-Czyzewski and Kimberly Palmer took first and second place respectively in the Individual Female Gold division. Colton Palmer won the Men's division, and Kimberly and Cassidy Palmer earned Pas de Deux honors.

Top vaulters returned to California, May 17-18 for Garrod's Spring Classic. Mary McCormick continued her domination of the Women's Gold division, with Elizabeth Ioannou following. Gabe Aniello took the Men's Gold division with Patrick Stevens taking second. In the team competition Woodside took first with Mount Eden coming in second. Pas de Deux featured the winning Palmer sisters.

At the final WEG selection trial at the Woodside Spring Fest in June, emotions were high as vaulters prepared to make their final effort towards qualification. Mary McCormick put in a stunning performance to take the Women's Division Gold and Mary Garrett came in a close second. In the Men's Division, 21-year-old Kristian Roberts took first place and Patrick Stevens received second. Woodside Vaulters, competing to music from The Wizard of Oz, wowed the audience and judges and were awarded first place with the high score of 7.705. The team included Alicen Divita, Tessa Divita, Elizabeth Ioannou, Audrey Kiernan, Siddhartha Kreaden, Kristen Kuhn, Rachel Polati and Miki Yang. In the Pas de Deux, Cassidy and Kimberly Palmer put in a spectacular performance to win the division with a score of 8.125.

With multiple performances under their belt under the watchful eyes of the selection committee, Team USA vaulters selected included Gabe Aniello, Mary Garrett, Elizabeth Ioannou, Mary McCormick, Kristian Roberts and Patrick Stevens, who worked tirelessly get their routines on point to perform in Normandy.



# KAREN STIVES

## and Gold Medal Club Members Honored

### AT SALAMANDER RESORT & SPA

Owners, riders, trainers, parents and Gold Medal Club supporters gathered together on Friday, July 25, as the USET Foundation hosted a special reception to honor Gold Medal Club anniversaries, as well as Karen E. Stives, at Sheila Johnson's Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, VA.

The occasion paid tribute to Stives, who donated one million dollars to create the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund for High Performance Eventing. Her gift will fund an annual grant for an Eventing High Performance activity that will have a direct impact on the United States' ability to win medals at CCIO competitions.

"Karen's generosity and interest in giving back to the sport that has meant so much to her is simply extraordinary, said Bonnie

B. Jenkins, USET Foundation Executive Director. Karen and our other Gold Medal Club members make it possible for the USET Foundation to help fund teams for the WEG, the Olympics, Pan American Games and all the High Performance programs and international competitions that take place throughout the year."

Philip Richter, USET Foundation Treasurer served as master of ceremonies and explained the significance of the Gold Medal Club, established in 1980. Membership in the Gold Medal Club honors those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. This year's support has increased to \$2.9 million in grants to the USEF and an additional \$300,000 in direct athlete grants for a total of \$3.2 million. The USA fielded teams and individuals to compete in the eight FEI disciplines in Normandy, France, August 23 to September 7 for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games and much of that support comes from our Gold Medal Club members.

The Gold Medal Club members in attendance celebrating anniversaries were invited to come up and receive a gift in appreciation of their ongoing support: 10 years – Carolyn and Paul Rizza; 15 years – Gregory W. Gingery, Philip Richter; 20 years – Mr. and Mrs. Stagg Newman, Karen E. Stives; 25 years – Jacqueline B. Mars and Mr. and Mrs. George R. Tauber.

*Others recognized but who were unable to attend were:*

- 10 year: Patricia Adikes-Hill, Carol and Rebecca Cohen, Joan and Bill Cvengros, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Dutta, Karin W. Flint Fund, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hester, Carole Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kalman, Peter R. and Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation, Joyce V. Phipps, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Roberts, Alexandra Storm, Mr. and Mrs. Chester C. Weber and Penny Youngblood
- 15 year: Jerome Broussard, Mr. and Mrs. Mario Deslauriers, Margaret H. Duprey, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Mahler, Jr., Col. John W. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Simpson, Anne C. Snyder and Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Sutton
- 20 year: Mr. and Mrs. James Bramsen, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnstone, Mrs. Charles H. Jones, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Justin Sadrian
- 25 year: Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Don T. Hibner, Cindy W. Nord, Judy Richter, Linda Irvine Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Pascal Tone
- 30 year: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest S. Bessette, Jr., Major General Jonathan R. Burton, Dr. and Mrs. Peter N. Heydon, Mrs. Dewitt Horner and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Ridland;
- 35 year: Frances B. Steinwedell



Bonnie Jenkins, Philip Richter and Karen Stives

Then, the focus turned to the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund for High Performance Eventing. "This is an extraordinary gift to the USET Foundation and it will have a direct impact on the United States' ability to win medals," Richter said, before turning



the podium over to Jim Wolf, U.S. Chef d' Mission and long-time close friend, who had the privilege of introducing Stives.

"No one rider has given as much back to the sport as Karen Stives and as a rider and donor, I think she's really setting a tone," said Wolf, "Selector, donor, rider, volunteer, judge – she has done all those things for the love of the sport, for the people and the horses."

Stives partnered with the challenging but talented Ben Arthur, owned by her mother, Lillian Stives, to become the first woman to earn an Individual Silver Olympic medal in Eventing in 1984 (Los Angeles) where she anchored the U.S. to win the Team Gold medal. During her two decades in Eventing, Stives was named USCTA (now USEA) Rider of the Year in 1981, '87 and '88. She has stayed involved ever since.

"My wish is to assist our riders to compete at the very highest level and to encourage them to give back to the sport in any way that they are able," Stives said. Stives spoke softly with great passion about learning to connect with an independent personality that does not speak our language, how it requires patience, listening, understanding and compromise. She gave special thanks to her horse Ben Arthur who taught her the most.

"It was basics, basics and more basics that ultimately proved the key. Let's bring back gold from Normandy!," concluded Stives.

The Endowment Fund has already made awards to Marilyn Little and Hannah Sue Burnett, the traveling reserve riders named to the U.S. 2014 World Equestrian Games Eventing Team. Little and Burnett will each receive \$25,000 toward their trip to Chantilly, France which will enable them to train and prepare as full team members in the event they are needed at the Games. Should they not compete in Normandy, the grant will allow them to compete at either CCI3\* Blenheim or CCI4\* Burghly this fall.

– Lauren R. Giannini 



*Sheila Johnson and Peggy Arundel*



*Trish Gilbert and Jacqueline B. Mars*



*Carl and Cassandra Segal*

*Bonnie Jenkins, Carolyn and Paul Rizza, Jacqueline B. Mars, Gregory Gingery, Karen Stives, Cheryl and Stagg Newman, Chrystine and George Tauber and Philip Richter*





# LAUREN KIEFFER LEADS U.S. EFFORT AT ROLEX CCI\*\*\*\*



Lauren Kieffer and Veronica

The Rolex CCI\*\*\*\* brings together Eventing's best horses and riders as they vie for the winning honors over four days of intense competition. Based at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, the United States puts their best foot forward to be at the top of the rankings during the international competition. This year, Lauren Kieffer of Middleburg, VA, and Veronica captured second place overall honors at the prestigious event and she was the highest placed American rider. Their efforts in the dressage arena, over the cross-country course, and during the stadium jumping phase earned them the USET Foundation's Pinnacle Cup Trophy.

Veronica is a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Team Rebecca, LLC. Although Kieffer only took over the reins from Olympian, Karen O'Connor, a year ago, the duo has already developed a strong partnership. They finished with 46.7 penalties in the dressage phase and continued to move up the rankings after completing a clear cross-country phase.

The pressure was on when they returned for stadium jumping on the final day. The pair was perfect though, completing a double clear round to finish on their dressage score, taking home the second place honors overall behind William Fox-Pitt, and earning the Rolex/USEF National CCI4\* Championship title.

"I am really thrilled," smiled Kieffer. "Veronica could not have gone any better. It's what we work for everyday for years and years, and other riders have worked just as hard, if not harder. I am thrilled that it happened to be my day."

Kieffer continued, "Veronica is a really talented mare. She's a real fighter, and she's very competitive in her own head. She always wants to go out there and play the game, which is really nice. I got to ride on her after Karen was injured at the beginning of last year, and so we spent that time getting to know each other and we've gotten along really well from the beginning. It really came together at Kentucky." – Rebecca Walton



Lauren Kieffer and R. Bruce Duchossois

shannon brinkman photo



# Rising Stars Lillian Heard and Kurt Martin

## AWARDED JACQUELINE B. MARS GRANTS

Jacqueline B. Mars has made it a personal goal to give back to the Eventing community, and through the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grants and the USET Foundation, she is able to support the sport's rising talent. This year's recipients are Lillian Heard and Kurt Martin, identified and recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors for their impressive records and potential to represent the United States in future international competition.

As recipients of the Jacqueline B. Mars Training Grants, Heard (Hamilton, VA) will travel to France to compete her gelding, Share Option, at the Les Etoiles De Pau CCI\*\*\*\*, and Martin (Middleburg, VA) and his mare, Anna Bella, will travel to the Netherlands to ride at the Military Boekelo CCIO\*\*\*.

"This is a really, really big deal for me," said Heard. "I actually lived abroad for a little while, and I always had dreams of coming back to the United States, getting [Share Option] back in action and bringing him back to Europe to compete at a 4\*. It was one of those things that you hope could happen, but you don't actually think it could happen. I'm just over the moon."

Throughout her eventing career thus far, Heard has had the opportunity to train with internationally ranked rider Jan Byyny, show jumper Katie Prudent and her current trainers Boyd Martin and his wife, Silva. In 2013, Heard and Share Option finished fourth at the Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\* and 10th at the Fair Hill International CCI\*\*\*. This spring, Heard achieved one of her biggest goals to date, competing successfully with Share Option at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, the pairs first 4\* competition.

"Once you get to this point there aren't a lot of moments in your career where you get to do something that you've never ever done before, and this is one of those moments for me," Heard said. "I did my first 4\* this spring, and now I'll get to do another first which is competing abroad at that level."

For Kurt Martin, Military Boekelo CCIO\*\*\* was the event that he felt would be the best fit for Anna Bella, the talented 8-year-old Holsteiner that he has been bringing up the ranks.

"She's a really special horse that's just getting started," Kurt said. "I really have high hopes for her, and I'm really honored to have received this grant for her. I feel like this is a huge step in the right direction for our long-term goals. I work hard every day to get better, and I'm going to continue to do that."

Kurt and Anna Bella finished off the 2013 season with a second place finish at the Plantation CIC\*\*, before kicking off the 2014 season at the 3\* level, winning the Fair Hill International CIC\*\*\* and finishing in sixth in the Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\*.



Kurt Martin and Anna Bella

Over the years, Kurt has trained with Jimmy Wofford, Phillip Dutton, Boyd Martin and David O'Connor, among others. He presently operates his own training and sales business, based out of The Plains, Virginia, and the fact that he does so much on his own is part of what makes being named a grant recipient all the more meaningful and valuable to Kurt.

"It's unbelievable because I own my own horses; I pay for everything," Kurt said. "I've had my parents, but this the first time in my entire life that anyone else has gotten behind me like this. That's really just a big turn in the right direction for my career and the longevity of wanting to ride for a living. It's just such a huge gift."

Kurt and Anna Bella will head to the Netherlands in October for the Military Boekelo CCIO\*\*\* running October 9-12, 2014, while Heard and Share Option will compete in France later in the month at Les Etoiles De Pau CCI\*\*\*\*, running October 22-26, 2014.

"We can't thank Jacquie enough for her support of these talented eventing athletes who, because of her grant, are able to get the international experience to put them in a position to ride for a place on the U.S. Equestrian Team in the future," said Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the USET Foundation. — Emily Riden



Lillian Heard and Share Option

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



# W. James McNerney, Jr.

## USET Foundation New Trustee

The USET Foundation is pleased to announce that W. James McNerney, Jr., has been elected as a member of its Board of Trustees.

McNerney, chairman and chief executive officer of The Boeing Company, has been a member of the USET Foundation's National Advisory Committee for two years. He is active in the equestrian community through his family's long-standing involvement in show jumping. He and his wife Haity have supported show jumping development and events, with a focus on young rider development. Their daughters Julia and Hilary are active competitors in the hunter and jumper divisions. They also own young and Grand Prix jumpers ridden by Kent Farrington.

"We are so pleased that Jim has joined our Board. His vision and business acumen as well as his support of equestrian sport make him an incredible asset for us and we feel fortunate to have him join our leadership. We look forward to Jim's expertise and help in establishing the USET Foundation as the premiere philanthropic sports organiza-

tion in this country," said Tucker Johnson, USET Foundation president.

"I am honored to be asked to serve the USET Foundation in support of our country's competitive tradition in the sport and to work on behalf of the athletes and



horses that represent us internationally," McNerney said.

Before taking the helm at Boeing in 2005, McNerney served as chairman of the board and CEO of 3M, which he joined in 2000 after 19 years at the General Electric Company. Prior to joining GE, he worked at Procter & Gamble and McKinsey & Co., Inc.

McNerney is active in a variety of business and philanthropic leadership roles. By appointment of U.S. President Barack Obama, he chairs the President's Export Council, which operates as an advisory committee on international trade. He is a member of The Field Museum Board of Trustees in Chicago, a trustee of Northwestern University, and a member of the Northwestern Memorial HealthCare Board. He is also a member of the executive committee and a past chair of Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies; and serves on the board of trustees of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, a bipartisan, non-profit organization that seeks to advance global security and prosperity.

## \$35 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR CONTINUING OUR COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE

### \$28 Million to Goal

The dedication, determination and commitment of our athletes has positioned the United States among the world's most respected equestrian powers. To maintain this tradition of excellence, to be the best in the world, we must provide the resources that will allow our riders, drivers and vaulters to earn medals in international competition and maintain the preeminent position which has taken us so long to establish.

Please contact Bonnie B. Jenkins, USET Foundation Executive Director to see how you can participate in this exciting Campaign, and help our athletes and United States Equestrian Teams achieve competitive excellence at the upcoming Pan American Games and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.





# R. BRUCE DUCHOSSOIS

## Leaves Lasting Legacy in Equestrian World

On July 2, 2014, the USET Foundation lost a dear friend and leader when Vice President, R. Bruce Duchossois, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Elected vice president of the organization in 2013, Duchossois has long been an invaluable supporter of the USET Foundation, giving generously of his own time and resources for the betterment of High Performance equestrian sport in the United States. He served as a member of the USET Foundation Executive Committee, as the Chairman of the Development Committee and as a trustee of the Foundation for 16 years.

"Bruce's passing is an incredible loss to everyone who was blessed to know him. His love of the sport and his enthusiasm for our United States Equestrian Teams was unparalleled," said Tucker Johnson, President and CEO of the USET Foundation. "He led by example not only in his support, but also in the time he gave and the committees he served and chaired. We were so fortunate to have Bruce as part of the USET Foundation leadership and will miss him very much."

Throughout his invaluable legacy with the USET Foundation, Duchossois was also instrumental as an owner in multiple disciplines including Driving, Eventing and Show Jumping. Of the most notable of Duchossois's horses for TEAM USA was Connaught, ridden by Phillip Dutton. Connaught helped the U.S. Eventing Team earn Team Gold and Individual Silver at the 2007 Pan American Games, and in 2008, Connaught earned the win at




Photo by Christian Palmer

the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event. The talented mount sadly passed away in September 2014, at the age of 21.

In addition to his work within and support for the USET Foundation, Duchossois also maintained a role as a member of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Zone 4 Committee and as Co-Chair of the Owners Task Force. He served on the National Horse Show Board of Directors and also was the Chair of the Gentleman's Committee for the prestigious 2013 Alltech National Horse Show. He was a strong supporter of the Middleburg Classic, Capital Challenge and Blowing Rock, as well as having served as an Executive Board member for the Equestrian Aid Foundation. In February 2013, he was awarded the Equestrian Aid Foundation's Luminary Award.

Duchossois served as the Executive Director of Friends of Handicapped Riders, also volunteering his time as a walker within their therapy program. His generosity and support also spilled over to the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center (VTRC) in West Palm Beach, Florida. He adopted a horse each year for use by the VTRC, even then re-homing two of their retired therapeutic horses to his own barn.

Duchossois' pursuit of excellence and integrity continued into the show ring where he competed as one of the nation's leading exhibitors in the Adult and Amateur-Owner Hunter divisions. He dedicated his life to the equestrian sport, and his legacy will live on as the epitome of a true horseman. — Emily Riden 

# DR. ARMAND F. LEONE

## USET Foundation Mourns Loss

Lifelong horseman and supporter of equestrian sport, Dr. Armand F. Leone of Franklin Lakes, N.J., passed away on April 28, 2014 at the age of 90. Leone was a Life Trustee of the USET Foundation.

A skilled radiologist, Leone is perhaps best known within the equestrian world for his role as a father to some of show jumping's bright stars – brothers Mark, Peter and Armand Leone, Jr..

It was under the direction and aid of their father that the boys learned to ride at their parents' Ri-Arm Farm. During their junior years, Mark, Peter

and Armand, Jr. competed successfully across the country winning national pony hunter, hunter and equitation championships, and things only progressed upward from there. All three boys went on to ride for the United States Equestrian Team in World Cup, World Championship or Olympic competition, and it was their father who played a vital role in helping them get there.


Armand, Sr. is survived by his three sons, who continue to remain extremely active within the equestrian community. Mark has kept the family's Ri-Arm Farm very much alive and well, successfully

operating it as a full boarding and training operation. Peter, a member of the 1996 Olympic Silver Medal team, resides in Connecticut where he continues to ride and train at his own Lionshare Farm. Armand, Jr. carried on his father's legacy as a highly acclaimed radiologist, before also becoming an attorney focused on medical malpractice. Armand, Jr. also serves as an incredibly valuable asset to the USET Foundation, having served as the Chairman of the Board, President and the USET Vice President of High Performance Activities.

The USET Foundation extends heartfelt condolences



Photo courtesy of the Leone family

to all of Armand Leone, Sr.'s family and friends on his passing. — Emily Riden 





# The George H. Morris GLADSTONE PROGRAM

Returns to 2014 with Rave Reviews Thanks to Gifts  
from Suzanne and BG Porter and Diane Carney

**T**he George H. Morris Gladstone Program returned for its second year bigger and better. The legendary George Morris handpicked 20 riders to participate at the USET Foundation Headquarters at Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, New Jersey from May 20-25, as well as at Annali-Brookwood Farm in Antioch, IL from June 23-28. The six-day training session pushed horses and riders alike with daily riding sessions, instructive lectures and unparalleled experiences.

Legendary horseman, George Morris, helped the riders achieve their fullest potential in the flat and gymnastics phases. The riders were tested through training in classical dressage, no stirrup work, as well as over a full jumping course featuring a water jump, liverpool, airy verticals, and a difficult triple combination.

## 2014 George H. Morris Gladstone Program participants at Hamilton Farm:

Alec Bozorgi.....Antioch, IL  
Karina Busch.....Elizabethtown, KY  
Sloane Coles.....The Plains, VA  
Katie Cox.....Conroe, TX  
Christi Israel.....Ocala, FL  
Scott Lico .....Westlake Village, CA  
Maggie McAlary .....Amherst, NH  
Jacob Pope .....Columbia, MD  
Brittni Raflowitz.....Palm City, FL  
Savannah Talcott.....Pittstown, NJ

"This was a great group of riders," Morris stated. "When we chose them, it was based on their individual talent. They are all exemplary, sharp and talented, but you must always remember that every horse and rider is an individual—they have different needs, which these sets of sessions allow for me to address."

Each morning session began with the riders working on their own program on the flat. They utilized the knowledge they had gathered from the six days, using latitudinal and longitudinal schooling to make their horses suppler. Each rider put their horse through a series of downward transitions, circling and changing direction. Morris added in his two cents when he taught the riders how to complete the three crucial turns of classical dressage: the turn on the forehand, haunches and center.

"You have to respect classical dressage," Morris elaborated. "Even if it is just from the soundness perspective. Dressage helps to make the horses sound; it also makes them mentally more adaptable, emotionally content and more obedient. You need classical dressage in every horse's training."

As the program progressed, riders went through a series of obstacles ranging from cavallettis to backwards oxers. The theme of the lesson was always education. The riders practiced their distances to a variety of obstacles, as well as making shorter turns, similar to those they would have to make in a jump-off.



Sloane Coles and George H. Morris



Adrienne Dixon

"If you don't have a little cowboy in you, you won't make it," Morris said to the group. "You have to understand progression and education in horse training, it is not all smoke and mirrors. Sometimes in order to accomplish what you need the horse to do, you must have a little cowboy in you."

The 2014 George H. Morris Gladstone Program offered one-of-a-kind seminars and guest speakers, featuring German veterinarian and leading expert in biomechanics, Dr. Gerd Heuschmann, Equine Attorney Yvonne Ocrant, United States Show Jumping Team Veterinarian, Dr. Tim Ober, DVM, and Equine Physiotherapist for the United States Show Jumping Team, Janus Marquis.

Each of the 10 riders met one-on-one with Morris during the week to discuss their current and future plans, and Morris guided them in putting together a program that will continue their preparation for international "team" competition. Morris will remain-savaiable to the riders after the conclusion of the program to follow up and monitor each rider's progress.



## *The George H. Morris Gladstone Training Session at Annali-Brookwood Farm*

The six-day training session at Annali-Brookwood Farm, organized by Diane Carney, motivated participants more than ever to take the next steps in their equestrian careers.

The George H. Morris Gladstone Training Session included daily riding sessions with Morris and afternoons packed with industry experts who shared their knowledge with the ten riders who were hand picked by Morris.

The participants for the week at Annali-Brookwood Farm included:

Adrienne Dixon..... Hillsborough, CA  
Stephen Foran..... Lake Forest, IL  
Courtney Frederick... Longmont, CO  
Lisa Goldman ..... Hawthorn Woods, IL  
Hunter Holloway ..... Topeka, KS  
Caitlin Hope..... Barrington Hills, IL  
Lindsey Lamb ..... Tulsa, OK  
Caroline McLeese..... Omaha, NE  
Ashley Stannard..... Tucson, AZ  
KC Van Aarem ..... Ocala, FL

Morris' sessions emphasized basic dressage and straightness of the horse along with utilizing the power of the inside hind leg. Olympian Anne Kursinski gave a demonstration on correct flatwork during the first day of the training session, giving riders an example to follow for their future training. The riders were put through gymnastic exercises all week and a no stirrups session to prepare for the final day, which the riders referred to as "The Grand Prix of Brookwood." The difficult course asked questions of the horses and riders that they were given the answers for throughout the week.

Besides Morris, the training session was filled with top-notch experts beginning with Carney, who has organized the Chicago George Morris clinic for over 25 years and competed with Morris as a young professional. Another bonus to the session was Diane Langer, the Developing Riders Chef d'Equipe. During her time there, Langer met with riders one-on-one to help them establish a road map for getting on a team list.

Behind the scenes, Dr. Mark Cassells of Homestead Veterinary Clinic not only made sure the horses were healthy, sound and well cared for, but also spent hours at the end of the day with curious riders. Barn Manager for the program, Laurie Pitts ran a tight ship, keeping the riders focused on their ultimate responsibility, their horse.

In addition to the core people making the clinic happen, the afternoon presentations provided in depth information with humor, rider participation and open question and answer periods. Guest speakers included Brenda Mueller from Phelps Media Group/Chicago Equestrian in a "How to Talk to the Media" presentation, Dr. G. Marvin Beeman of Littleton Equine Medical Center from Denver, CO, world-class farrier Bill Liggett from Woodstock, IL, and Equine Attorney Yvonne Ocrant.

Riders headed home to sign up for dressage lessons, fine tune their show schedules and stay connected with each other with a book of the month club to expand their knowledge. They left the Gladstone Program as better horsemen, better riders with increased inspiration for the sport. Carney and Dr. Cassells stayed in touch with the riders making sure they arrived at their next location safely with horses in great shape.

—Kendall Bierer and Brenda Mueller



Photo by Aulmyn Photography

*Caitlin Hope at the George H. Morris Gladstone Training Session at Annali-Brookwood Farm*



Photo by Brenda Mueller / Chicago Equestrian

*Caroline McLeese*



Photo by Kendall Bierer / Phelps Media Group



# SHOW JUMPING YOUNG RIDERS *and* U25 TOURS

The pipeline is flowing.

The pathway  
has become clearer.



**F**or riders with a dream and vision of eventually competing for the United States of America, there is now a well-mapped route to navigate to get there.

It is this pipeline that will propel these talented young riders with a vision, from their early days of showing in junior hunter, junior jumpers and equitation, to the often only dreamed about world equestrian stages, those with the brighter and more intense spotlights and a keen focus on country, team and teammates. It is this pipeline that will give our up-and-coming young riders a chance to walk into the competition ring with the proud feeling of wearing the Stars and Stripes on the saddle pad and a chance to know that unrivaled feeling of riding for your country, and competing for the United States of America.

This year, 13 of our rising stars got to experience that special feeling.

As Chef d'Equipe DiAnn Langer stated recently, "It is a top priority for the USET Foundation and the USEF Show Jumping High Performance Committee (SJHPC) to actively provide riders, who haven't competed on a CSIO5\* team, the experience needed in order to compete successfully at the CSIO5\* level in the future."

Alise Oken, a veteran of two European tours, talked about the pipeline. "In terms of the pipeline, I was really lucky to be on the U.S. Young Rider Tour in 2012, a tour that included Young Rider Nations Cups in Bonheiden, Reims, and Hagen where we had really good team and individual results. That summer gave me valuable experience in Nations Cup situations, something that young riders don't really get doing jumper divisions in the States," she said. "It's a completely different atmosphere at these shows and I feel as though the pressure is even greater to give your best performance in a team setting."

With Langer serving as Chef d'Equipe, the United States Equestrian Federation sent teams to compete in the Nations Cup competition at CSIO3\* Lisbon and CSIOY Hagen.

Taking part at CSIO3\* Lisbon, Portugal at the end of May, were Abigail McArdle of Wellington, FL, Alise Oken, home based in Charlotte, NC, Catherine Pasmore of Wellington, FL, Paris Sellon from Los Angeles, CA, and Jessica Springsteen of Colts Neck, NJ.

"The desperate need of a pipeline system was apparent in both Lisbon and Hagen when the U.S. teams did not get the results we wanted," stated Abigail McArdle. "I think the more young, aspiring professionals such as myself that can get opportunities to be members of these teams, the stronger the teams will become at both the Young Rider, U25, and 5\* level."

At the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup at CSIO3\* Lisbon the team produced a sixth-place finish with a two-round total of 32 faults. The day included two clear rounds for the United States, one from Catherine Pasmore and Pasmore Stable's 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, Bonanza Van Paemel in the opening round and another from Alise Oken and Hi Hopes Farm, LLC's Teirra who were spotless in round two.

"I know we didn't have the result we wanted by finishing

*Abigail McArdle and Cosma 20*

*Photo by Nuno Pragana*



sixth because I think we all believed we had the ability to produce a top result. But we were a young team and it was a valuable learning experience I think for all of us," Oken reported. "It was also great to get to know DiAnn and now we will be even more prepared for the future Nations Cup appearances."

The U.S. team for CSIOY in Hagen, Germany, in June, was comprised of Calvin Dobbs of Carmel, IN, Hunter Holloway of Topeka, KS, Abigail McArdle of Wellington, FL, Wilton Porter based in Bartonville, TX and Adrienne Sternlicht of Greenwich, CT.

At Hagen, it was a seventh place finish for the American squad as they failed to advance to the second round.

Wilton Porter and Hunter Holloway each had rounds of 4 faults to top the United States effort, while Abigail McArdle and Adrienne Sternlicht each had 8 faults.

Chef D'Equipe, DiAnn Langer, led a promising group of riders, all under the age of 23, into CSIO3\* Bratislava's Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup to jump Eduard Petrovic's 12-obstacle track. The team of Kaitlin Campbell, Paris Sellon, Wilton Porter and Lillie Keenan got off to a quick start in round one, finishing on a score of four faults to head into the second round in joint-third place. In round two, the U.S. was unable to replicate their clears from the first round and added 16 faults to their overall score, dropping one

place to fourth on a two-round total of 20.

"I think they all rode great, it's a young team and they have all learned a lot from this tour and they're thankful for it," said Langer. "We just had a few unlucky breaks and without those, it would have been a very different result."

Leading off for the young team were Campbell (Georgetown, KY) and her own Rocky W. The pair set the pace for the U.S. in round one, producing a fault-free round. They came back later in round two looking to add their names to the double-clear list, but it was not meant to be after the 16-year-old Holsteiner/Dutch Warmblood gelding collected eight faults.

Sellon (Los Angeles, CA) was next up for the Americans with her own 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding, Heracross. In the first round, the pair faulted a single time to finish on a score of four. The combination returned in the second round, producing an eight-fault effort.

Jumping third for the United States were Porter (Bartonville, TX) and Sleepy P Ranch LLC's 13-year-old Selle Francais gelding, Paloubet, who jumped eight faults in the first round. The reigning Individual Gold medalist from the Adequan/FEI North American Junior & Young Rider Championship, presented by Gotham North, produced an improved effort in round two, to finish on four faults.

Riding in the anchor position was Keenan (New York, NY) with Chansonette Farm's, Pumped Up Kicks. The 2013 USEF Junior Equestrian of the Year showcased the form that has earned her titles in the equitation, hunter and jumping ranks with an immaculate clear in the first round. They looked poised to join the double-clear list, but a rail midway through the course meant the 11-year-old Warmblood gelding would finish on four faults in round two.

Germany proved victorious in CSIO3\* Bratislava's Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup finishing on a total of four faults, with Switzerland finishing in second place on eight faults and Canada earning third-place honors on a score of eleven. "It is so important for young riders to get the Nations Cup experience at this level so we can eventually help support 5\* teams in the future. I think that the YR, 3\*, 5\* pipeline is so critical to the future of U.S. show jumping and I think experiences like Lisbon, even if we didn't have the result we wanted, are beneficial," Oken said. "It's because of the generous aid of the USET Foundation by sending teams to Europe, that the U.S. can help grow its pool of experienced international riders for the future." – Kenneth Kraus



Photo by Nuno Pragana

Alise Oken and Teirra





Beezie Madden and Simon

## U.S. RIDERS IMPRESS at FEI World Cup Finals in Lyon

**B**eezie Madden set out to defend her title in the 2014 Longines FEI World Cup Jumping Final, held April 17-21 in Lyon, France. Joined in Lyon by a strong contingent of U.S. horses and riders, Madden rode Simon through three days of tough competition against the world's best.

She had the weight of the world resting on her shoulders as she entered into the last leg of the competition. The two-round final phase was grueling, with only seven horse and rider combinations posting clear first rounds. The U.S. had two of those clear rounds from Katie Dinan and McLain Ward, while Madden clipped a rail through the triple combination for a 4-fault score, resulting in a cumulative score of 8 penalties and putting her sixth in the ranks after that round.

Going into the second round, the spectators were on the edge of their seats. With so many moving parts to the competition, anything could happen. Only 20 riders returned for the second course, and of those 20, just five rode to clear efforts. Lucy Davis and Barron as well as Charlie Jayne and Chill RZ achieved clear jumping efforts for the U.S., and although Jayne incurred one time fault, he was pleased with their rounds and ended up in 10th place. Ward finished in the ninth position overall with a cumulative score of 17.

As Madden entered the ring aboard Simon, a silence fell in the sold-out arena. Luck was not on their side for the final round as Madden piloted Simon through the second course. A light rub resulted in a rail at the challenging double combination. Madden finished the competition with a collective 12 penalties for seventh place.

"He felt very good, actually. I think I got a little bit unlucky—well, not unlucky—but we had that light rub, and it fell down," Madden said following her two rounds. "For the second round I had opted to do five strides to the liverpool, which I think was right, but he took over a bit at the end and it resulted in a rail. The rest felt great."

While the World Cup title was just out of reach for the U.S. for 2014, there was also plenty to celebrate. Kent Farrington and Voyer claimed the second leg victory with an impressive effort, and the U.S. team, a mix of veterans and up-and-coming riders, performed well throughout the demanding competition and gained valuable seasoning on the world stage.

Three U.S. riders – Madden, Ward, and Jayne – finished in the top 10, and four others – Katie Dinan in 15th, Leslie Burr-Howard in 16th, Lucy Davis in 17th, and Charlie Jacobs in 20th – ended up in the top 20 in the field of 40 top international riders.

U.S. Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland explained, "The first thing was to get as many in the money as possible in the overall standings. That's what I told the riders last year. We had five again in the money, and we obviously had a great second leg.



Charlie Jayne and Chill RZ



Overall, it was a pretty impressive performance."

"It was a great mix of veterans and new riders," he added. "To test these young riders, remind the veterans what it's like in a championship competition and see these results – we're pretty happy."

The U.S. could also take some pride in the World Cup champions, Germany's Daniel Deusser and Cornet D'Amour. The horse is owned by Stephan Conter of Stephex Stables and Hunter Harrison of Double H Farm, located in Wellington, FL, and Ridgefield, CT. Conter and Harrison secured Cornet D'Amour for Deusser to ride with the World Equestrian Games in mind.

Two dressage athletes, accompanied by Chef d'Equipe Robert Dover, represented the United States at the Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Final. Tina Konyot and Cesar Parra qualified through the North American League, racking up



Tina Konyot and Calecto V

high freestyle scores in CDI-W competitions to earn a spot in the lineup in France.

Konyot rode her longtime partner Calecto V, a 16-year-old Danish Warmblood stallion. The pair previously competed on the U.S. team at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Parra rode Van the Man, a 12-year-old KWPN gelding, owned by Michael Davis.

Parra and Konyot faced off against a star-studded group of horses and riders at the World Cup Final, including defending champion Helen Langehanenberg on Damon Hill NRW and Olympic champion Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro.

Konyot kicked off the competition on a high note, finishing just out of the top 10 in the Grand Prix. Their score of 70.443 percent earned them 11th place.



Cesar Parra and Van the Man

"I was very happy," Konyot said after the Grand Prix. "He was fabulous in the warm-up. I had a couple of mistakes that cost me some points, but just to break over 70, I was happy. It is an honor to be here."

In the Grand Prix Freestyle on the following day, Konyot and Calecto V earned a score of 71.929 percent for their freestyle, finishing in 12th place.

Parra and Van the Man took 16th in the Grand Prix with 65.543 percent, putting in a test that had many highlights but also some mistakes that brought down their score. Parra was determined to improve in the Grand Prix Freestyle, and the pair put in a solid effort, with Van the Man stepping up to handle the atmosphere of his first indoor show. They finished 16th in the Freestyle with 68.429 percent.

"It was much better than the Grand Prix," Parra said after the Freestyle. "The horse improved a lot. I am very, very happy with him. To be able to represent the United States is amazing. It is a learning process to be in the ring with these international riders. It was a good feeling and a very exciting place." – Kendall Bierer and Mary Adelaide Brakenridge



Lucy Davis and Barron



Kent Farrington and Voyuer



McLain Ward and HH Carlos



Katie Dinan and Nougat



# MATTHEW BROWN

## To Compete at Fair Hill International Thanks to Jacqueline B. Mars Training Grant

**T**his October, Matthew Brown of Petaluma, California was awarded the Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant. The grant is given 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.

Brown began riding at the young age of 6 and has always dreamed of being an Olympian. After the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Brown renewed his commitment to the sport and has been focused on becoming one of the best athletes in the nation. He has joined forces with the Blossom Creek Foundation and trainer Derek di Grazia to make his dream a reality, achieving success throughout the 2013 and 2014 show season.

With the help of the Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant, Brown has set his sights on the Fair Hill CCI3\* with his top mount Super Socks BCF. The pair placed third in the Galway Downs Fall International CCI2\* last year, and in July they went on to capture the top honors in the Rebecca Farms CIC3\*. They also took top honors at the Advanced level during the Copper Meadows Horse trials and The Spring Event at Woodside.

Brown's talent and determination make him the perfect fit for the Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant, which helps offset the costs of competing and training at the highest levels. "It's a huge honor to receive the grant," noted Brown. "This is our first trip back east. We made the decision to come back and do Fair Hill after the Rebecca Farms event. Having

the grant means we can relax and focus on the competition and not worry about how we are going to pay for this."

Brown expressed thanks to the USET Foundation, Jacqueline Mars, his family, his clients and all of his supporters for the opportunity to compete at Fair Hill and hopes to eventually compete overseas at a CCI\*\*\* and make his debut in a CCI\*\*\*\* in 2015.

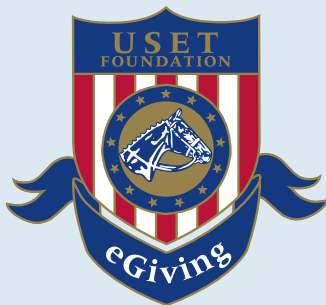
– Rebecca Walton



Matthew Brown and Super Socks

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

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