



USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3 • WINTER 2015

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Grants Athletes' Team Dreams

Competing at the top of equestrian sport and bringing home medals takes more than just drive and dedication in the modern era of show jumping, dressage and eventing. The financial commitment of competition has become prohibitive for some athletes, but thanks to the generous donors at the USET Foundation, riders like Callan Solem, Laura Graves and Matthew Brown have been able to reach their goals through grants and funding, bringing home top honors for the United States.

SHOW JUMPING

Callan Solem

In equestrian sport, all junior riders dream of making it to the top of the sport and competing at the Grand Prix level, but the saying "it takes a village," truly applies for the nation's top show jumpers. Callan Solem began her riding career as a working student for Carol Thompson, who recognized Solem's talent and passion for the sport right away. With a dedication to her job and a love for the horses, Solem became the professional rider for Thompson in 1997, and in 2010 began riding for Virginia and Collin McNeil.

Over the years, Solem has earned multiple top placings at some of the country's biggest events, and has represented the United States at Nations Cup competitions in Europe and Mexico. But to be a part of the U.S. Show Jumping Team, it has taken more than just talent and dedication; it has taken the support of organizations like the USET Foundation.

In 2015, Solem was selected to represent the United States at Nations Cup competitions in Guadalajara, MEX, and Mannheim, GER. Despite having the talent to be selected and a horse, VDL Wizard, that was up to the challenge, the cost would have prevented Solem from competing if not for the financial support of the Foundation.

"Shipping to Mexico was incredibly expensive and would have been prohibitive for me and my team," explained Solem. "Being able to go to those places, especially to Europe, with air and ground shipping is very costly. This summer when we were in Europe the horses flew there, then ground shipped to Sweden, then back to Belgium and Germany. All of that is a tremendous expense, especially being able to do it in a way where the horses



Callan Solem and VDL Wizard at the 2015 CP National Horse Show

Photo by Rebecca Wallum for Phelps Media Group



Officers

Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

S. Tucker S. Johnson
President and CEO

W. James McNerney, Jr.
Vice President

Philip Ernst Richter
Treasurer

Elizabeth Juliano
Secretary

Board of Trustees

Sherry Adams

Georgina Bloomberg

Kimberly Boyer

Jane Forbes Clark

William Coleman, Jr.

George Davis

Debi Dobbs

Margaret H. Duprey

Richard M. Feldman

Bertram R. Firestone

Brianne Goutal

E. Hunter Harrison

Elizabeth L. Johnson

Murray Kessler

Anne Kursinski

Lyle Lovett

Beezie Madden

Jacqueline B. Mars

Debbie McDonald

Mary Anne McPhail

Frank G. Merrill

Gwendolyn Meyer

Elizabeth Miller

Misdee Wrigley Miller

George H. Morris

Signe Ostby

Robin Parsky

M.K. Pritzker

Wendy Raether

Juliet Reid

Patti Scialfa

Eric L. Straus

Chrystine J. Tauber

Jeannie Tisbo

Chester C. Weber

William H. Weeks

Anthony Weight

Jack Wetzel

Abigail S. Wexner

Akiko Yamazaki

USET Foundation Staff

908-234-1251

Bonnie B. Jenkins

Executive Director, ext. 215

Mark P. Piwowar

Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200

Sara Ike

Major Gifts Officer, ext. 209

Michele Zanzonico

Director of Annual Support, ext. 205

Mary-Ellen Milesnick

Database Manager, ext. 204

Catherine Pane

Accounting Supervisor

& Office Manager, ext. 203

Maureen Pethick

Communications Coordinator, ext. 207

Clifton J. Cotter, Jr.

Director of Facilities, ext. 202

Eric Cohan

Facilities, ext. 206

Rebecca J. Walton

Phelps Media Group

Newsletter Editor

Miriam Morgan

Graphic Designer

Dear Friends,

This year has been busy and full of impressive performances from our athletes and United States Equestrian Team in international championship competition. The Pan American Games in Toronto was the main championship, which resulted in eight medals, five Gold, one Silver and two Bronze. All Olympic disciplines have now qualified full teams for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio and Paralympic qualification will conclude in January.

There were numerous other significant placings including Laura Graves fourth place finish at the Reem Acra FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas, US Dressage Team Bronze at the CDIO5* Rotterdam Nations Cup, Chester Weber finished in first place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and second and fourth at World Cup qualifiers in Germany. In Eventing the U.S. Team finished second at CICO3* Boekelo and third place at CICO3* at Aachen. The Jumping Team won Nations Cups at CSIO4* Wellington, CSIO4* Coapexpan, Mexico and CSIO5* Mannheim, Germany and had a strong showing at the FEI Nations Cup Final in Barcelona finishing fourth against 19 countries.

We are positioned well for 2016, where the U.S. will field teams for the Olympic Games in Dressage, Eventing and Jumping, the Endurance World Championships in Dubai, the Reining World Championships in Switzerland and the Vaulting World Championships in France. Additionally there are numerous developing and elite High Performance programs in all the disciplines that are critical to our future success.

In this issue, you will read about three incredible athletes who have benefited from your support and the difference it has made to their dreams and aspirations to represent this country. Callan Solem, Laura Graves and Matthew Brown were beneficiaries of funding and specific competition grants like the Jacqueline B. Mars International Competition and Training Grant.

The USEF Talent Search Finals held in Gladstone and Los Angeles produced winners, Tori Colvin and Ransome Rombauer that we will no doubt continue to see in the winner's circle in the years to come. This competition has produced numerous United States Equestrian Team riders and remains an important element in identifying talent for future teams.

My sincere thanks to the Washington International Horse Show and the CP National Horse Show who both dedicated marquee event nights at their competitions to support the USET Foundation. Raising awareness and funds from some of this country's most prestigious competitions is appreciated and welcomed.

Thank you for your loyal and generous support and for helping us achieve our mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future.

Happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Sincerely yours,

S. Tucker S. Johnson
President and CEO



Photo by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group

Foundation Support

continued from page 1



Callan Solem and VDL Wizard at 2015 Live Oak

arrive in a condition to do a good job. It's not a part you can cut corners with."

Even though riders want to support the United States and bring home titles for their country, the expenses of the sport continue to increase worldwide, and the work of the USET Foundation becomes even more vital.

"Without the Foundation I would not have been able to compete in Mexico," said Solem. "It was such an important event because we won the North American League and won the Nations Cup there. It was important for our country, but I would have had a hard time justifying spending so much for one show. I was beyond excited to go, but it would have been hard for us to justify it."

In many other countries, equestrian sport is supported by the national government, but in the United States riders must look to the USET Foundation and its donors to make competing internationally a reality. "Most of us in this country have to have a business and a way to produce an income in order for us to compete," noted Solem. "It is really important for all

of us riders who are trying to do this sport at that level that we try the very best we can to provide the best service to our owners, clients, and sponsors. It goes back to the team aspect. It really does take a really good team to be able to do this and make it possible in this country."

The reward for making major wins possible? Hearing the national anthem play when the U.S. stands atop the podium. "There is nothing like it," expressed Solem. "I think it is a very special part for everyone and it is a huge honor. It is a big responsibility that everyone at the top level takes very seriously. It's a culmination of a lot of hard work from the entire team - the riders, the Chef d'Equipe, the vets, the farriers. It's a big contribution from everybody on the team to have that happen. It is very special."

Solem concluded, "It's important to thank our owners and supporters. As they say, 'A horse without a rider is still a horse, but a rider without a horse is not a rider.' Without people who are equally excited about top international sport and U.S.



*Callan Solem and VDL Wizard
at the 2015 CP National Horse Show*

being at the top, we can't do it. We need support to help get the best athletes and horses to the top. It makes a big difference for our sport and for our country. I'd like to thank everybody who has contributed to the life long pursuit of the top riders of our country." – **Rebecca Walton**

continued on page 4

Photos by Rebecca Walton for Phelps Media Group



Laura Graves and Verdades at the 2015 World Cup Final

Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge for Phelps Media Group

DRESSAGE

Laura Graves

Laura Graves captured the attention of the equestrian world with her rapid rise to prominence in 2014, and she has quickly established herself as a top U.S. Dressage Team contender. She rode her own Verdades to a fifth place finish in the Grand Prix Freestyle at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) and Team Gold and Individual Silver medals at the 2015 Pan American Games, and she now has her sights set on qualifying for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Achieving her American dream has not been easy for Graves, who had to make plenty of sacrifices to give herself a shot at reaching her goals. Funding from the USET Foundation has been essential in allowing her to compete internationally and develop her partnership with Verdades.

"This has been a dream I've had since I was a little kid," Graves said. "It was something I knew that I would have to work really, really hard at and also be lucky. It has been a real honor to achieve in my life, and I've learned the hard way that having the dream and working really hard isn't necessarily enough. There is no way I could have done it without the financial help from the USET Foundation."

Her journey with Verdades began when she purchased him from Europe as a foal after seeing him on a video. It took years

of patient, dedicated work to make progress with the sensitive, challenging horse – Graves even tried to sell him at one point, but found no one else could get on him. She nursed him through a broken jaw sustained in a stable accident and slowly saw her efforts begin to pay off as he gained confidence.

At the beginning of 2014, Graves and Verdades had yet to compete in a CDI at the Grand Prix level, but that changed quickly. They notched several solid scores at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, FL, and were listed as alternates for the 2014 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, presented by The Dutta Corp., and moved up to earn a starting spot when others withdrew.

The Festival, held at Gladstone, NJ, served as the Selection Trial for the WEG that year. It was the perfect time for Graves to show what she and Verdades were capable of, and she stepped up for a surprise second place finish behind only Steffen Peters and Legolas 92, giving her the chance to ride on her first international team for the U.S.

After bringing Verdades up through the ranks herself without a major sponsor backing her, Graves knows well the tradeoffs inherent in pursuing competitive goals with limited funding.

"It forces you to make decisions that are not always healthy," she explained. "You're saying, 'I need to go to this competition, so I won't have health insurance this year,' or, 'He can't have his supplements because it's not in the budget.' Having the USET Foundation's support allows us to live a healthy lifestyle and maintain ourselves and our horses as world-class athletes without the fear of being unable to afford rent or board. This type of support is life changing."

Before the 2014 WEG, Graves joined the U.S. Team's short-list-

ed athletes and horses for a European tour, gaining valuable competitive experience abroad. Since then, her travels have taken her to Las Vegas for the 2015 Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Final, where she and Verdades finished fourth, and Toronto for the Pan American Games, where her efforts helped the U.S. Team secure a place at the 2016 Rio Olympics. She noted that being away from her training business poses a financial challenge but is essential in order to reach the next level.

"It is easy to hang out where you're a big fish and you're doing well," Graves said. "But it's important to have people and foundations that believe in you when you want to go somewhere and be the little fish again, to go over to Europe and struggle a little bit and learn to rise to the occasion to become a stronger combination."

Graves is quick to acknowledge the role that the USET Foundation and its donors have played in her blossoming career.


"We don't get a chance to say thank you a lot!" she pointed out. "It's easier to thank a single person than to thank an entire organization. With my personal sponsors I always ask them, 'What's in it for you?' I think it is important to make sure we give back in ways we are able." – *Mary Adelaide Brakenridge* 



Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge for Phelps Media Group

Laura Graves and Verdades at the 2015 World Cup Final

EVENTING

Matthew Brown

Competing at the highest levels of eventing takes guts, talent, the right horse, and, ultimately, it takes extensive financial support. Eventer Matt Brown has nearly every piece of the puzzle, but, in order to realize his dreams of competing internationally, just one piece was missing: the funds.

In October 2015, everything changed thanks largely to the support of the USET Foundation through the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant. The grant was awarded to Brown and Super Socks BCF and utilized toward their competition expenses as part of the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team riding at the Military Boekelo-Enschede CCIO3* in The Netherlands.

There, Brown and Super Socks BCF, a 2006 Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by the Blossom Creek Foundation, burst on to the international scene in their European and Nations Cup debut, finishing in sixth place as the highest ranked U.S. pair and helping the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team claim the Silver medal.

"It was really good timing to go overseas with [Super Socks] and have Boekelo be our first event as a team in an international competition. Our partnership was very much ready for it," Brown said. "It was our first Nations Cup team experience, and it was great to feel a part of the team. All the team members were really fun, and

it made it a great experience. The energy of Boekelo is amazing, and everyone in the area comes out to watch the event. They are crowded around the cross country course. There were bounce houses beside the galloping range and bars and music going on everywhere. It was unlike any event I have ever been to."

In addition to receiving the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant to travel to Boekelo, Brown was a recipient of the Rebecca Broussard Developing International Rider Grant through the United States Eventing Association.

"Because we had the Jacqueline B. Mars Grant and the Rebecca Farms International Travel Grant it really took a lot of stress away so we could focus on the horses and the competitions, which is stressful enough," Brown said. "The financial end of it is huge. It is pretty overwhelming to be perfectly honest."

Brown and his wife, Cecily Clark, relocated from their home base in California to Pennsylvania in early 2015 in order to more effectively make a bid for Brown's shot at a place on the team.

"We lost the lease on the California property while we were away, and we had to make the decision whether to go back to California and find another farm, or stay here," Brown explained. "Staying in



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Matthew Brown and Super Socks BCF at Richland Park, MI

Foundation Support

continued from page 5

California meant having multiple trips to the East Coast to be able to compete at some of the bigger competitions, which is time consuming being away from the business and also very expensive. Our relocation and walking away from our business has been costly. In order to make the decisions we need to make for ourselves and our business and our horses, it's been very difficult."

Brown continued, "It's only been because of the support of Bob and Valerie Fish, the owners of a few horses, and the Jacqueline B. Mars, Land Rover and Rebecca Farm grants that this is possible. Every single cent is helping."

For Brown, while the financial support of the Jacqueline B. Mars Grant has the most noticeable and immediate impact, he was also quick to realize a second benefit of the grant.

"An unexpected benefit of it is that it has helped my confidence knowing that there are groups of people in the sport that are looking at us riders as individuals and looking at our horses – the fact that they see something and want to support that, it was really a big boost of confidence for me," Brown said. "When there is a group of professionals within your sport that sees



Matthew Brown and Super Socks BCF at the American Eventing Championships

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

something in you and sees something in your horses and want to help you develop, that to me has been so helpful. That is also a huge mental benefit, besides the huge financial support."

Brown continued, "After this year, I feel so lucky to have received the grants, and it made me realize the importance of grants like this. There are a lot of kids and young riders who are very talented, but don't have

the means to keep going in the sport unless they have support. It has made me think about what ways we could be helping individuals in our sport. It doesn't have to be a financial commitment, it can be simply be saying 'good job' to someone I see who has been working really hard – that way of saying, 'I believe in you, you have to keep going.' That really kicked in for me when I received the grants." – *Emily Riden*



Matthew Brown and Super Socks BCF at Fair Hill International

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

USET Foundation

Olympic and Paralympic Benefit



Rockin' Rio

Friday, January 22, 2016

Wellington, Florida

Honorary Chairmen
Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen

Please help our

United States Equestrian Teams Achieve Excellence at the
Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games

For more information, please contact:
Nancy Little at 908-234-1251 (ext 208)
or email nlittle@uset.org
www.uset.org



Where Olympic and Paralympic Journeys Begin



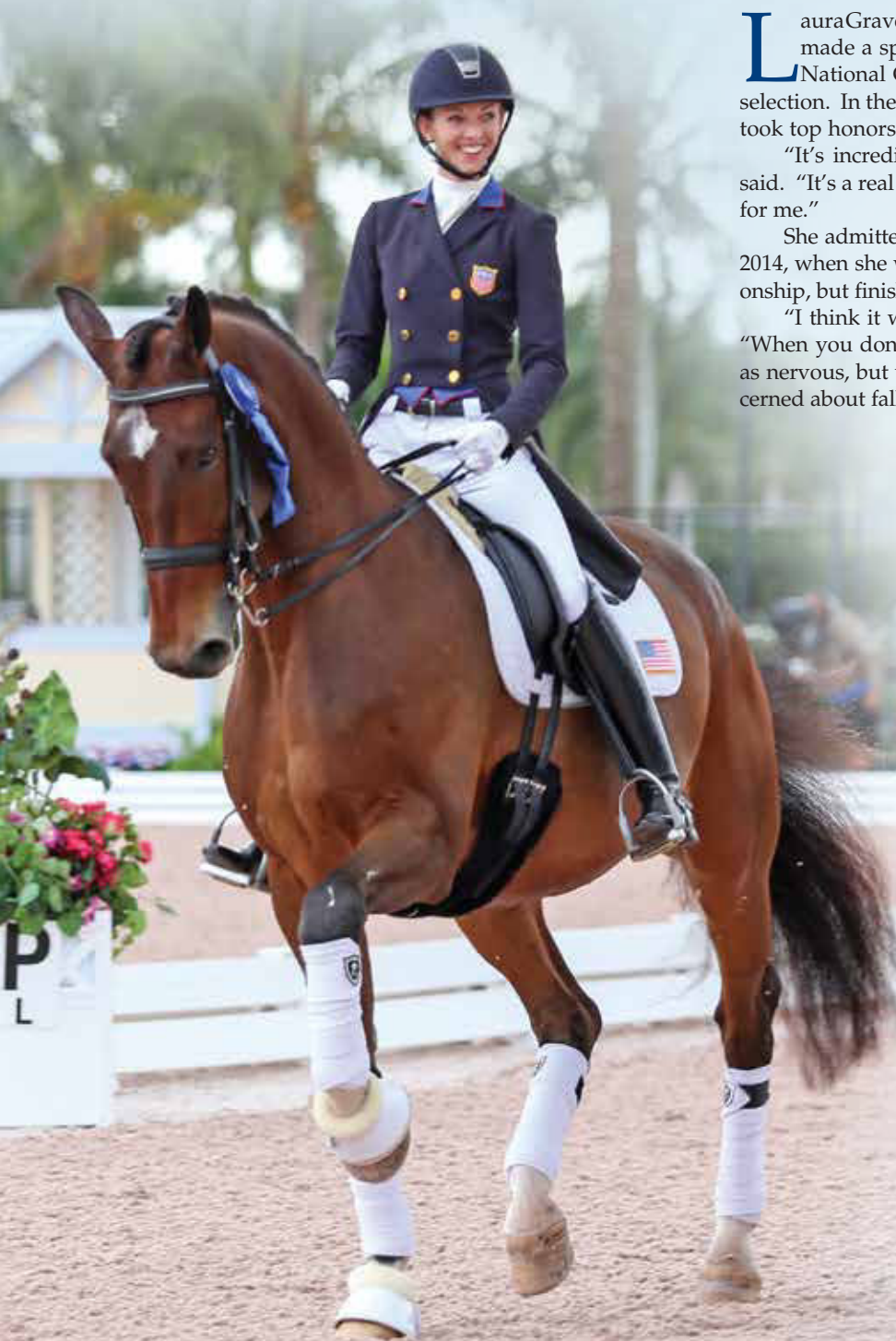
Photos by Mary Adelaide Brukenridge and Rebecca Walton for Phelps Media Group, Susan Stickle.com

FESTIVAL OF

LAURA GRAVES AND VERDADES

Vanquish Competitors to Claim First National Title

The U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions presented by The Dutta Corp. marked both the close of the 2015 competitive season and the opening of the 2016 season in Wellington, FL. With the youth divisions of the Festival taking place at Lamplight Equestrian Center in August, Grand Prix and Intermediaire I contenders had the limelight during December's event at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival facility.



Laura Graves and her own Verdades, a KWPN gelding by Florett AS, made a splash in The Dutta Corp./USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship, a qualifier for Olympic Games Team selection. In their first outing since the Pan American Games, the pair took top honors with impressive scores.

"It's incredible to win my first national championship," Graves said. "It's a real honor. This is a really encouraging place to start 2016 for me."

She admitted to feeling more pressure than at her first Festival in 2014, when she was not expected to be in the running for the championship, but finished in the reserve spot nonetheless.

"I think it was so much easier being an underdog," Graves said. "When you don't know what you are capable of, it's easier to not be as nervous, but when you know what you are capable of, you're concerned about falling short."

She explained, "That's something I learned this spring. Lisa Wilcox pulled me aside and said, 'Stop riding like people are watching. That's one of the most charming things when you ride: you don't even care, and you are just riding for that moment.' That's what I do now. I have to take all that and put it in a box, lock it up, and ride."

And ride she did, putting in top-notch performances from the first day of the Festival to lead the race for the championship wire-to-wire. She and Verdades threw down the gauntlet in the Grand Prix with a score of 76.460 percent, just a hair off their personal best score for that test, and then followed up that effort with a score of 77.137 percent in the Grand Prix Special. The Grand Prix Freestyle did not go quite as planned, with a very fresh Verdades a little on edge in the charged atmosphere, but they still pulled off a solid 75.125 percent that was enough to secure the championship.

"I think tonight was kind of a demonstration of how much horse I have now," Graves said after the Freestyle. "I'm still on a very sharp learning curve of learning to ride this horse in that environment, and it's our first outing of the year. It's the perfect opportunity to figure this out as we are going into our qualifiers. He's been phenomenal and so fun to ride. He is just an amazingly athletic horse. When he goes like that, the feeling is unreal."

Graves ended the four-year Grand Prix championship streak of Steffen Peters, who teamed with Legolas 92 to take the national title in 2012, 2013 and 2014 after winning with Ravel in 2011.

Laura Graves and Verdades

Photo by Annan Hepner for Phelps Media Group

CHAMPIONS



Steffen Peters and Legolas 92

Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge for Phelps Media Group

To the 2015 edition, he brought his Olympic and World Equestrian Games partner Legolas 92 and the 8-year-old Rosamunde, one of the brightest up-and-coming stars on the U.S. dressage scene. Both horses are owned by Akiko Yamazaki's Four Winds Farm.



Steffen Peters and Rosamunde

Legolas 92, a Westphalian gelding by Laomedon, and Rosamunde, a Rheinlander mare by Rock Forever, were closely matched throughout the competition. "Rosie" had the advantage on the second day in the Grand Prix Special, defeating her much more seasoned stablemate for the first time in head-to-head competition.

"She was absolutely fantastic for me," Peters said after the Special. "It was the overall feeling of how she flows through the test, how awesome the connection was, and how much she tries for me. The fun factor of this horse is incredible."

Legolas 92 ultimately prevailed in the battle for the reserve championship after a stellar Freestyle performance that Peters called "one of the best Freestyles he has ever done." That performance earned him the best score in the Grand Prix Freestyle, a 77.675 percent, while Rosie scored a 74.950 percent for her second Freestyle ever to music previously used by Ravel.

Despite missing out on the championship title, Peters was visibly thrilled to end the Festival on such a positive note with both of his horses.

"It was very kind of Laura to give me at least one blue ribbon out of the three days," he said with a smile. "That's what teammates are for."

Legolas 92 had some mistakes in the earlier tests at the Festival of Champions, but he and Peters pulled everything together for the Grand Prix Freestyle.

"Robert [Dover] and I talked a little bit, and we weren't quite in the fighting mode again since the first day," Peters said. "We managed to get back there tonight with a very clean Freestyle, and I'm extremely excited."

continued on page 10

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD Cap Breakout Year with Intermediaire I Championship

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD have made a name for themselves on the U.S. dressage scene after a streak of big wins in 2015. As their season finale, they entered their first Festival of Champions and came away with The Dutta Corp./USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship.

Vinios and her own Oldenburg gelding by Fidertanz edged out the rest of a small but competitive field to take the title.

"I had a lot of fun with my horse this year, and to end it like this is really nice and special," Vinios said. "This was a reach goal, and I was really excited just to come and compete!"

Also in 2015, the pair won the Markel/USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges National Championship at Lamplight Equestrian Center and swept all three small tour classes at Dressage at Devon. Vinios credits trainer Juan Matute with helping her up her competitive game and learn to bring out the best in Folkestone, and also appreciates the hard work of her groom, Luis Hernandez, in keeping the horse looking and feeling his best.



Photo by Annan Hapner for Phelps Media Group

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD

Reserve champion Shelly Francis made the most of limited preparation with Rubinio, owned by Patricia Stempel, after bringing him back to training less than a month before the Festival following a health issue with lack of sweating. The pair was in third before the Intermediaire I Freestyle, but moved up to the reserve spot with a spectacular performance, finishing ahead of Jane Karol and Sunshine Tour in third.

"He really put out in the Freestyle," Francis said of the Westphalian gelding by Roh Magic. "He tries really hard; he's kind that way. I was very proud of him."

Francis had a busy week at the Festival of Champions, with three horses competing, but her hard work paid off as all three placed in the top five of their respective divisions. Doktor took fourth and Danilo fifth in the Grand Prix Championship.

"It's a group of amazingly great riders and horses," U.S. Dressage Chef d'Equipe Robert Dover said. "I'm seeing an evolution in horses coming up. I could not be more excited and hopeful going into 2016."

— Mary Adelaide Brakenridge



Festival of Champions Competitors Enjoy USET Foundation-Sponsored Party

The USET Foundation sponsored a competitors' party following the second day of competition at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions presented by The Dutta Corp. Athletes, owners and supporters relaxed in the Global Dressage Pavilion, enjoyed a delicious dinner and watched a video put together by Steffen Peters showcasing the travels of U.S. Team competitors in 2015.



Photos by Annan Hapner for Phelps Media Group

Rowan O'Riley, Dorothy Morkis and Alison Redston



Tim, Susie and Timmy Dutta



Katherine Bateson Chandler, Laura Graves, Curt Maes, Betsy Juliano, Debbie and Bob McDonald and Freddie Graves



Elena Allen, Charlotte and Agnes Stillfried, and Emily and Seth Copeland




JENNY CARAS and TAMRA SMITH

Showcase Rising Talent
at Fair Hill International


The nation's top eventing riders all turned out for the Dutta Corp./USEF Fair Hill International Three-Day Event held in Elkton, MD, on October 14–18, 2015.

With a dedication to recognizing excellence in the sport, the USET Foundation presented Tamra Smith the Gladstone Challenge Trophy, and Jenny Caras the Markham Trophy.

As the winner of the USEF National Championship title and the CCI***, Tamra Smith was recognized with the Gladstone Challenge Trophy after leading the competition from start to finish aboard Mai Baum. As the top-placed rider to have not completed a CCI****, Smith was named the USEF National Developing Rider Champion.




Jenny Caras and Fernhill Fortitude



Tamra Smith and Mai Baum

Smith from Murrieta, CA, and Mai Baum began their weekend with a beautiful performance in dressage to score 38.5. After an impressive trip around the cross-country track, the pair added nothing to their overnight score and began the day with a rail in hand. Having won in her last three outings with the 2006 German Sport Horse gelding owned by Alexandra Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn and Eric Markell, the pressure of the lead did not affect Smith as she executed a bold and careful show jumping round, adding two time penalties, to finish on 40.5.

"He was super. Normally he's pretty spooky in the ring, and today, he wasn't at all," said Smith. "He went in there and was all business, I was really proud of the ride; he jumped fantastic. He's got everything — he's the whole package. It's an unbelievable feeling to be sitting on him; I am blown away every time I ride him."

The Markham Trophy is presented by the USET Foundation twice a year to the highest placing U.S. young rider at Jersey Fresh CCI*** (spring) and Fair Hill International (fall). This year, Caras received the Markham Trophy for her incredible ride aboard Fernhill Fortitude — acknowledging her efforts as the highest placed U.S. young rider at Fair Hill International. — Taylor Renner 

Olympic Dressage Groom

EDDIE GARCIA LUNA

Receives FEI Best Groom Award

Each year, the FEI recognizes the world's best equestrians who have greatly contributed to the sport at the annual FEI Awards Gala. At this year's gala, held in the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan, Hollywood actress Bo Derek presented the Best Groom Award to Eddie Garcia Luna.

Luna has played a vital role in Olympian Steffen Peters' success, as he has been Peters' groom for the past 10 years and has had the responsibility of caring for top international dressage horses and handling logistics of their health and travel. Luna has been a part of numerous European tours, and his favorite shows to attend have been their trips to Aachen, Germany and Florida.

"I always trust Eddie with my life, but even more important to me is that I trust him with the life of the horses," Peters said. "He is a very kind, generous guy, who is a great team player."

Luna grew up working with horses in Mexico with his family and then became a groom in the hunter/jumper industry before joining Peters' dressage team. He contributes his passion for grooming to his love of horses and working with a supportive employer.



Eddie Garcia Luna and Bo Derek

"I love working for the team with Steffen and Shannon because they are like family to me," said Luna, who was surprised to win the FEI Best Groom Award. "It is amazing, and I am really excited about receiving the award. It inspires me to work even harder now to get better and better as a groom."

Luna embodies every quality of an outstanding groom, and his selfless support of the sport has earned him respect throughout the equestrian community. He is a tremendous representative of U.S. Dressage, and Luna jumps at the opportunity to help fellow grooms and riders at competitions.

"The recognition is well deserved!" Peters said. "We were very excited that our team and the United States Federation could put his name forward for the award. When you think about all the grooms from all the different disciplines, not just dressage, but jumping, three-day eventing, driving, reining and endurance, there is a huge number of grooms doing fantastic jobs. To have Eddie's name up on top makes us very proud."

— *Annan Hepner* 

(Below) Eddie Garcia Luna with Rosamunde and Steffen Peters
Photo by Annan Hepner for Phelps Media Group



SILVER MEDAL EFFORT

for Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team at Military Boekelo-Enschede CCIO3*

The Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team blazed to a Silver medal finish against 10 countries in the Nations Cup at the Military Boekelo-Enschede CCIO3, held in Boekelo, Netherlands, Oct. 8-11.*

Matthew Brown, Buck Davidson, Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp and Marilyn Little earned their place on the podium alongside Ireland (Gold) and New Zealand (Bronze) with a final score of 197.00.

"It was a good performance," Chef d'Equipe David O'Connor said. "The cross-country course is not a typical course that we see with how twisty and turn-y it is, and it was even more so this year. We had nine clear rounds, which was huge, and it put us into play for the medals. Show jumping went well; the riding was good, and they kept fighting. I'm very excited about the finish."

Finishing sixth for the U.S. on a score of 52.60 penalties and playing a major role in the team's success were Brown, of Petaluma, CA, and Super Socks BCF, owned by the Blossom Creek Foundation. The pair started the competition with a beautiful dressage test, scoring 46.40 penalties. They tackled the tough cross-country track with ease, picking up just 5.20 time penalties, and went on to complete the show jumping phase with a clear effort and only one time fault. It was the European and Nations Cup debut for horse and rider, who benefited from a Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant.

"It was a great experience made possi-



Matthew Brown and Super Socks BCF

Photos by Libby Lane

ble by the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant through the USET Foundation and the Rebecca Farm International Travel Grant; otherwise, it would have made a lot to do on our own," Brown said. "My horse is more confident having finished this event, and I am more confident having completed my first European event. This experience has gone a long way for our partnership. I am looking forward to doing a four-star with him next year."

Davidson, of Ocala, FL, and Copper Beach, owned by Sherrie Martin and Carl

Segal, were the pathfinders for the U.S. throughout the competition, and they finished on a score of 67.40. Halliday-Sharp, who hails from East Sussex, England, rode Deborah Halliday's HHS Cooley to an overall score of 77.00. Pan American Games individual Gold medalists Little, of Frederick, MD, and RF Scandalous, owned by Robin Parsky, Jacqueline B. Mars and Michael and Phoebe Manders, got off to a great start with an impressive dressage test and a solid cross-country effort. They unfortunately did not complete the competition as a minor injury necessitated the withdrawal of RF Scandalous before the final horse inspection for show jumping.

Several individuals put in strong efforts for the U.S. over the course of a challenging competition, where Sue Benson's cross-country track proved highly influential. Lauren Kieffer and Landmark's Monte Carlo finished 12th with a score of 57.80 penalties, and Jon Holling rode Downtown Harrison to a score of 63.40 penalties to finish 23rd. Davidson, Little and Kieffer all brought second mounts who gained valuable experience over the course, and Katherine Coleman teamed up with Longwood to complete their first CCI3* as a combination.

—Mary Adelaide Brakenridge



Buck Davidson with Copper Beach, Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp with HHS Cooley, Matthew Brown with Super Socks BCF and Marilyn Little with RF Scandalous



EVENTING LEGEND KAREN STIVES



Karen Stives and Ben Arthur

Photo courtesy of USET Foundation Archive

REMEMBERED AS A 'CLASS ACT'

Eventing legend Karen Stives, 64, died after a long illness on August 14, 2015 in her Massachusetts home. An Olympic medalist and three-time United States Eventing Association (USEA) Rider of the Year, she was inducted into the USEA and New England Women's Sports Halls of Fame.

Stives was involved with the USET Foundation for two decades, serving as a Trustee from 1989-2002 and as a member of the National Advisory Committee from 2003 until her death. In 2014, she established the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund for High Performance Eventing with a \$1 million gift that provides an annual grant for an Eventing High Performance activity that will have a direct impact on the United States' ability to win medals at international championship competitions.

She earned the Leading Lady Rider title in 1981, the Mercedes-Benz Horsewoman of the Year in 1984 and the prestigious Wofford Cup in 2000. She later became an FEI judge and was the chairman of the USET Three-Day Event Selectors' Committee for many years.

"Karen was the epitome of a competitor, philanthropist, businesswoman and friend. She achieved Gold medal status both on and off the field of play. She will be dearly missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her," said Bonnie Jenkins, USET Foundation Executive Director.

Bruce Davidson, who rode with her for many years on the Team, described Stives as "a real competitive gal," adding, "She was determined. She knew what she wanted and how to go after it."

While a consummate horsewoman and competitor, it is the personal side of Stives that those close to her miss most. Her partner, Robert Hutchison, Jr., described her in a Boston Globe interview as having "an incredible knack, when meeting people,

of making them immediately feel like a good friend with her warm smile and friendly laugh."

Kim Walnes, who rode on the U.S. three-day team from 1980 to 1986 and medaled with Stives, remembers her as "a class act" and "a voice of reason in a crazy world."

"Karen was always kind on the Team trips we took," said Walnes, who laughed as she recounted some of their experiences. "On one of the trips, we stayed in France for a while, and the stable was just around the block from a wonderful patisserie. Karen and I had lunch there every day until (Team coach) Jack LeGoff told us that our seats were straining the seams of our britches, and perhaps we should find another place to eat."

That was particularly amusing, considering that Stives was a powerful package in a tiny body—5'3" and 105 pounds. The indomitable redhead looked like a Pony Clubber atop the 17-hand Ben Arthur, who she rode to the Team Gold and Individual Silver medals at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Mike Plumb, then U.S. team captain, was Stives' role model, mentor and coach. They medaled together at the '84 Olympic Games. Her goal, she often said, was to become his best student.

Stives took her last ride just a few months before her passing during a trip to California with Hutchison. He said she told him there was nothing left on her "bucket list" and that she was grateful to have had "a wonderful life enriched by wonderful friends."

In addition to Hutchison, she is survived by her sister, Linda McCabe, and three nieces and nephews. Contributions to the USET Foundation for the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund for Eventing will further Karen's goal of supporting this country's athletes and High Performance programs. — *Darlene Ricker*



Top Four Finish

for Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team

at Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Jumping Final in Barcelona

The Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team comprised of top riders Lauren Hough, Lucy Davis, Reed Kessler, Laura Kraut, and Beezie Madden secured an impressive fourth place finish in September in the Finals for the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Jumping series in Barcelona, ESP.

It was the first time in the three-year history of the event that the team from the United States was able to advance to the final round after competing against nineteen teams from around the world in the opening qualifier on Thursday afternoon.

The event was staged at the Olympic arena at the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona and it was Spain's Santiago Varela designing the courses for this year's championship.

The Belgian team accumulated just five points in the Thursday qualifier to lead the way followed by Germany and Sweden who each qualified with 8 penalty points. The United States finished just behind in fourth place with nine faults accrued in round one.

Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland elected to go with a team of Lucy Davis, Lauren Hough, Laura Kraut, and Beezie Madden in the opener. With Laura Kraut as the trailblazer, the United States got off to a strong start with Kraut, riding the Evita Group's Nouvelle, accumulating only a single time fault for her excellent first round effort.



Lauren Hough and Ohlala

Riding second, Lucy Davis, piloted Barron, owned by Old Oak Farm, to a 12-fault total. The team, now really needing a good score, got one from Lauren Hough and The Ohlala Group's Ohlala, who had just a single knockdown along the way. Anchoring the U.S. team was Madden and Abigail Wexner's Cortes 'C'. Fence eight came down for Madden and her long-time partner, but the four fault score and a team total of nine, would assure them a spot in the coveted final round.

It was a tension packed Saturday night for the eight teams vying for the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Jumping Final title in front of a huge crowd at the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona. For the Finals, Coach Ridland made one adjustment, substituting Reed Kessler for Lucy Davis in the second round.

Ridland tabbed Laura Kraut to lead the way with Nouvelle. As a testament to the difficulty of the championship track, Kraut, who only had one fault on Thursday, finished with eight faults on



Beezie Madden and Cortes 'C'

Saturday. Next to go were newcomers Kessler and Cylana, owned by the Kessler Show Stables, and they too collected eight faults.

With two rounds of eight faults already in the books and the red hot Belgians notching clear rounds, it was time for the United States to step up and make their move. With the pressure on, Hough and her talented little fireball Ohlala had a disappointing early rail at fence number three, but was spotless the rest of the way around to add a four fault tally to the United States score sheet.

If the United States had any hope of finishing in the top grouping, the pressure would fall squarely on the shoulders of double Olympic Gold medalist and World Cup Champion Beezie Madden and her reliable mount, Cortes 'C'. As is usually the case, Madden came through beautifully in the clutch, posting one of only seven clear rounds in the championship. The clean round moved the United States into a solid fourth place finish.

"I couldn't be more pleased with my horse," concluded Madden. "He's been super all year. His owner, Abigail Wexner, is a huge supporter, and it was neat to be able to share it with her, and it was also good for my whole team." – Kenneth Kraus



Tori Colvin and Avalanche, winners of the 2015 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East

Tori Colvin and Avalanche

TORI COLVIN

Captures Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East Title

A young phenom, the list of accomplishments earned by Tori Colvin is unmatched by many of this country's greatest riders both past and present, and this October she added another title to the list: 2015 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East Champion.

“This win is important to me because it’s more of a jumper style,” said Colvin. “You have to look pretty with equitation, but it’s more jumper style, so for me it’s important because I want to move forward in the jumpers as well.”

After dominating performances in the flat and gymnastics phases in front of judges Chrystine Tauber and Candice King on Saturday, Colvin returned at the top of the leaderboard Sunday morning for the jumping phase. Unfazed by the pressure of leading in a major equitation final, Colvin once again laid down a flawless round aboard her mount Avalanche to score a 97 and advance to the Final Four.



Hunter Holloway and Any Given Sunday

stayed the same with each one laying down a solid performance during the third phase. The group included TJ O'Mara on Kaskade, Hunter Holloway on Any Given Sunday and McKayla Langmeier on Skyfall.

Riding their own horses as well as the three other competitors' horses, riders returned for the final round with a clean slate, earning new scores for each individual ride.

Langmeier and Skyfall were the first to compete and they set the standard very high for the other riders when they expertly navigated the track and earned a score of 90. Colvin came the closest to catching Langmeier in the first round with a score of 89 on Avalanche.

A score of 90 for Colvin and Skyfall in the final round gave them a total score

of 359 to take home the 2015 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East Championship. Langmeier finished on a score of 350 for the reserve championship. Holloway tried to catch her with a score of 92 on Kaskade, but their total of 340 would capture third place.



McKayla Langmeier and Skyfall

Wrapping up the weekend, judge Chrystine Tauber concluded, “I was very impressed with the quality of horsemanship. All four ride beautifully. I thought everyone did a really, really good job. There were a few places they would get a little deep or cut a corner or let the balance slip away a bit, so those were the small things that separated who was leading each round. When you look at the overall score it told the story.”

– Rebecca Walton



TJ O'Mara and Kaskade

RANSOME ROMBAUER

Tops West Coast Championship

At the 2015 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West, it was Ransome Rombauer who earned the victory.



Ransome Rombauer and Lalonde, winners of the 2015 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West

Rombauer bested Savannah Jenkins by just one point in the Final Four to take home the championship title, while Eve Jobs placed third and Mitchell Endicott placed fourth.

"It feels great to win the championship. I competed in the finals last year with the same horse and won the flat, but missed an inside turn in the gymnastics phase so I didn't get a score. I was just under a lot of pressure. I love the new format because a lot of different riders can do it, and it helps riders move up the levels," said Rombauer.



Savannah Jenkins and Vador

The judges for the West Coast event were Alex Jayne and Debbie Stephens. Jenkins topped the leaderboard with a score of 76 in the flat phase aboard Cristobal Collado's Vador, while Rombauer was in fourth place with a score 71.5 on Alexis Graves's Lalonde. In

the gymnastics phase, Jenkins was able to retain her lead with a score of 84, doing an excellent job completing the test that included a trot fence, bounce, and several combinations. Rombauer moved into third place with an overall score of 194.5, while Jobs took over second place with her own Esprit 373, having earned an 87 for her gymnastics phase.

Rombauer took over the lead when she dominated Phase III, scoring a 90 over the show jumping track for a total of 374.5, just half a point ahead of Jenkins, who earned an 86 for her round. Jobs moved into third with a total score of 364.5, while Endicott rounded out the Final Four with a score of 357.5 for the first three phases of competition.

"The jumping course was long and challenging, but I nailed it. I wasn't that nervous. There wasn't time to get anxious," commented Rombauer.

For the final test, Rombauer, Jenkins, Jobs, and Endicott each rode the shortened course on their horse as well as each of



Eve Jobs and Esprit 373



Ransome Rombauer and Lalonde



Mitchell Endicott and El Paso

the other competitors' mounts. The scores stayed very close, with a tie after the first three rounds of the ride-off between Rombauer and Jenkins on 265. Rombauer just narrowly secured her victory with a solid round on Endicott's El Paso to take one point lead over Jenkins, who would earn the reserve championship title.

After judging all four phases, Alex Jayne concluded, "I was super pleased with the results. The courses were fair. The flat test was great, and the top group stayed the same through the entire competition, which doesn't always happen. With the flat test, we got to see the strength and weakness of each rider. I was pleased with the gymnastics course as it prepared the horse and rider for the final day. It came down to the wire with the finalists, and the horses jumped great. It was just a super group of riders." – Rebecca Walton

A large photograph of Colleen Rutledge riding her horse Covert Rights. The horse is a bay with a white blaze on its face and is captured in mid-air, jumping over a red and white striped obstacle. Colleen is wearing a dark riding jacket, a black helmet, and white breeches.

Colleen Rutledge and Matthew Brown

Named 2015 Jacqueline B. Mars
Competition Grant Recipients

The great generosity of the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant makes competing at the highest level of international Eventing a more affordable and attainable reality for the United States' up and coming stars of the sport.

This year, the 2015 grants made the Burghley CCI4* and the Blenheim CCI3* competitions possible for Colleen Rutledge and Matthew Brown, respectively.


Rutledge and Brown were selected as 2015 Jacqueline B. Mars Competition Grant recipients after being identified and recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors as riders with impressive records and potential to represent the United States in future international competition.

With the aid of the Mars Grant, Rutledge, of Frederick, MD, traveled to the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials with her own Covert Rights, a 9-year-old Thoroughbred cross gelding. While at the trials, held from Sept. 3-6, 2015, Rutledge and Covert Rights were one of just 49 of the original 74 starting combinations to make it through all three phases, and they finished in the eventual 22nd spot.

"I was shocked when I got [the grant]," said Rutledge. "It was a blessing because I could go do the stuff that I needed to do for [Covert Rights] and not have to stress about where everything was coming from. It took such a load off of my mind. I've been over there before, but I did all of the fundraising. It was very grass roots when I went over before. To have that type of help, it made my job easier. It was such an amazing trip. It was a great learning across the board, and I was so happy to go back there again."

Colleen Rutledge and Covert Rights

Previously, Rutledge and Covert Rights were victorious in the Morven Park CIC3*. Rutledge has also just been named to the USEF Eventing High Performance Winter/Spring Training National List.

For Matthew Brown, the Jacqueline B. Mars Grant enabled him to travel to the Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials CCI3* with his mount Super Socks, a 2006 Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by the Blossom Creek Foundation. – Emily Riden 

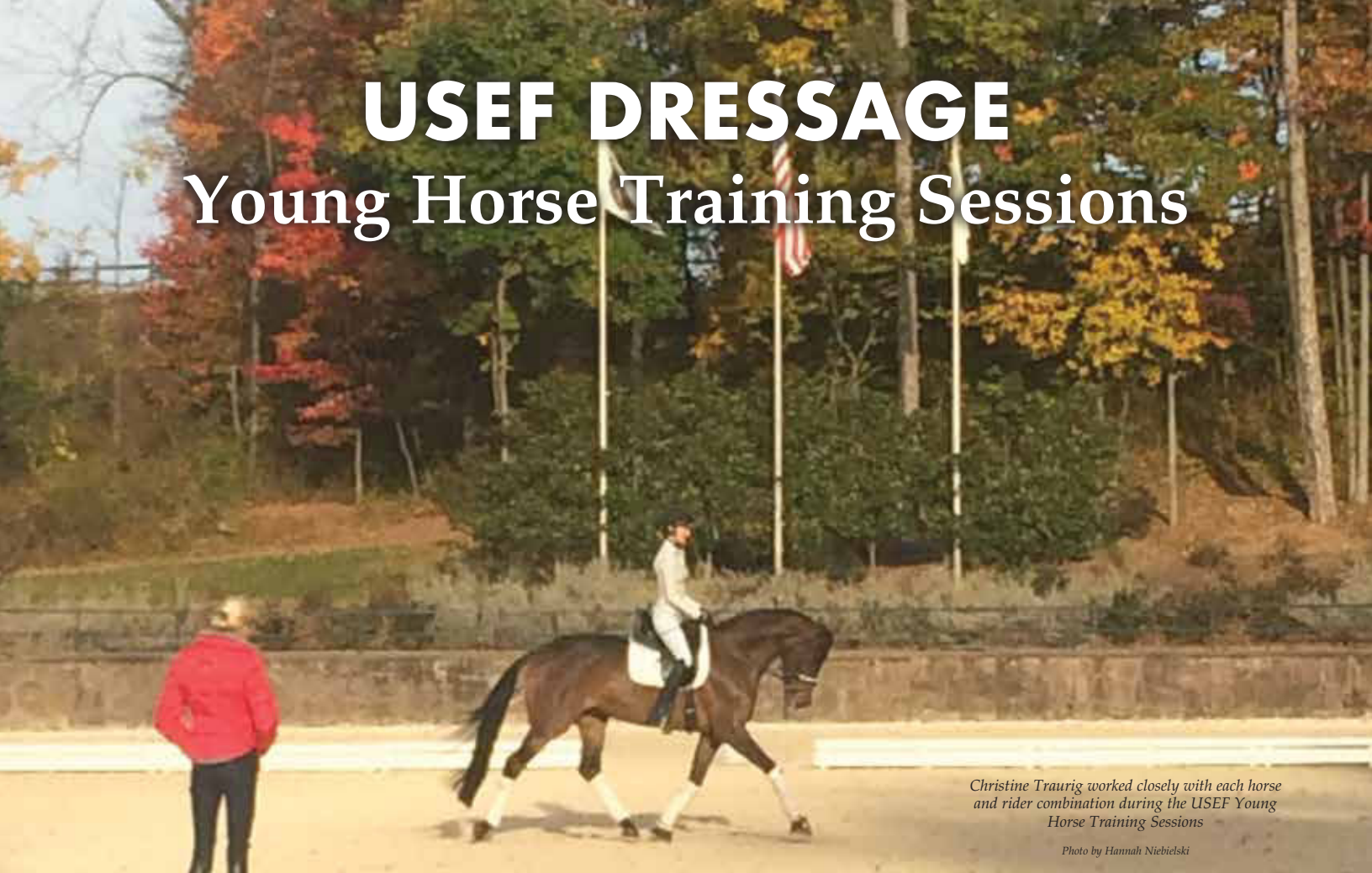


Matthew Brown and Super Socks BCF

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

USEF DRESSAGE

Young Horse Training Sessions



Christine Traurig worked closely with each horse and rider combination during the USEF Young Horse Training Sessions

Photo by Hannah Niebielski

Each year, the USEF Dressage Young Horse Training Sessions take place across the country and the USET Foundation was proud to host a clinic at the headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, Oct. 24-25. A second Young Horse Training Session also took place in Thousand Oaks, CA, Nov. 14-15. The goal of the invitation-only program was to identify exceptional upcoming combinations and to provide training tools to guide the riders on correct young horse development.

Horses and riders were selected by the USEF Young Horse Coach, Christine Traurig, based on the rankings and results from the Markel/USEF Young Horse National Championships, which were held at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL in August. Rankings from the FEI World Breeding Championships were also taken into consideration. Talent scouting from other USEF clinics, CDI performances, and recommendation from other USEF trainers filled a few other clinic spots.

The USEF Dressage Young Horse Program's training sessions are designed to build the depth of upcoming dressage talent in the United States and to help grow a world-class and competitive pipeline of horses and riders. Each two-day clinic was structured with daily riding lessons for the seven horse and rider combinations, and participants were expected to audit all training sessions on each day.

"The clinics went very well and I was very happy with the response from the riders," said Traurig, who was the clinician for both Young Horse Training sessions. "We had many talented riders who are trying to improve their skills with young horses, and in my opinion it is a very important skill that I would like to encourage riders to develop further."

Traurig's vast amount of experience has helped expand the Young Horse Programs in the United States. In Germany, she rode sales horses at the Hanoverian Elite Auction and she trained with legendary trainer Otto Meyer at the National Riding School in Hoya. Holger Schmezer, the German National Trainer, offered her a working student position to Traurig and she trained with Schmezer until she moved to the United States in 1982. In 1999, she began training with Johann Hinnemann in Germany and she was selected to represent the United States in the Sydney Olympics where the United States earned a Bronze medal.

"I was very impressed with the skill of some riders in respect to the development of a young horse," Traurig said. "The riders had a clear idea of where they needed to go in their training and what they needed to do to help train different exercises in respect to how the young horse develops physically. Every horse is an individual, so during the training sessions I always try to get a feel of where a horse is coming from, his conformation and his training. I use the scale of training to help the rider best lay out a training format for the near future for that combination."

The training sessions are used to help prepare young horses for future FEI-level careers and hopefully step up to participate on United States' High Performance teams. Alongside the lessons, the clinic riders also participated in strategic discussions on how to further develop young dressage horses.


Traurig concluded, "There was a lot of feedback which gave me more information about how I should orient my coaching, and how I can make the Young Horse program more popular and to get more people to participate. Not only do we really need nice young horses to develop, but we also need more riders who are interested in riding young horses. They have excellent riders for the young horses in Europe and I hope to increase that number in our country." – Annan Hepner 



Photo by Shawn McMillen

USET Foundation Night at the CP National Horse Show Raises Funds for U.S. QUEST FOR SUCCESS IN RIO

Founded in 1883 at the original Madison Square Garden in New York City, the National Horse Show is America's oldest indoor horse show. Four years ago, The National Horse Show found a new home at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky and each year has held a USET Foundation Night with ticket sale proceeds benefiting the organization.

Mason Phelps, Jr., president of the National Horse Show Association who participated in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City in three day eventing, dedicated the night in support of the USET Foundation and our country's hopes for success at Rio.

"The USET Foundation's mission is near and dear to everyone at the National Horse Show Association," said Phelps. "We aim to see our country at the top of the podium at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio and want to do everything we can to support that effort."

The 2015 CP National Horse Show held USET Foundation Night Saturday night and featured the third and final round of USEF U25 Championship showcasing the country's top young show jumping talent.

After two rounds of competition held Wednesday and Thursday, 26 riders returned to compete in the \$30,000 USEF U25 Championship, presented by The Porter Family, The Jacobs Family, The Jobs Family and The Keenan Family. Lucy Deslauriers and Hester crossed the finish line without error, completing the entire competition without fault and earning the \$35,000 USEF U25 National Championship. Katherine Strauss and All In earned the second place, while Catherine Tyree was third.

U.S. Show Jumping Young Rider Chef d'Equipe DiAnn Langer concluded, "These three outstanding athletes are our future. We just have to make sure we keep providing them with the right opportunities to further their careers and then be successful in representing the United States in the future. I have no doubt that we are going to be very successful."

Another highlight of the 2015 CP National Horse Show were performances by America's beloved Budweiser Clydesdales. A drawing was held to win a ride on the Budweiser Clydesdale hitch with proceeds benefiting the USET Foundation. – **Carrie Wirth**



Lucy Deslauriers and Hester



Bill Weeks, Bonnie Jenkins
and Mason Phelps Jr



Dougie Mutch, Michael Bombar
and Brooke White



Joseph Pugliese, Jack Walker
and John Walker



Ken, Emily and Alexandra Smith



Steven Wilde, Eric Straus and John Kyle

Photos by Phelps Media Group



Nation's Capital Raises Funds and Awareness for "RIDE TO RIO"



Photo by Rex Reed

The Washington International Horse Show hosted a special benefit for the USET Foundation on President's Cup Night, Saturday, October 24, at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.

Held in the Acela Club overlooking the action in the arena, the President's Cup Party helped raise funds for the USET Foundation's "Ride to Rio" initiative to support the U.S. teams heading to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (BRA).

"We're honored to welcome the USET Foundation to Washington on its Ride to Rio, and we're proud to recognize and support the accomplishments of Team USA in the heart of the nation's capital," said WIHS President Vicki Lowell.

President's Cup Night brought out a star-studded lineup of international horses and riders, celebrities, business and military leaders and thousands of spectators to enjoy a full schedule of exciting competition, entertaining exhibitions, elegant hospitality and special events.

The President's Cup Party was co-hosted by The Young Nelson Society of Washington, WIHS's newest young philanthropic professionals group. Guests were welcomed by the CityCenterDC red carpet before enjoying an evening of dinner, drinks and socializing. Washington Life magazine photographed the party for its Winter issue and Breckenridge Brewery



Top U.S. riders honor Rodney Jenkins on Presidents Cup Night

offered a beer tasting. Author Vicki Moon had a signing for her new book, "The Stylish Life Equestrian."

Guests had a great view of the action in the ring as two of the show's most prestigious championships were decided – one for a junior rider in the WIHS Equitation Finals and the other for an international rider at the top of the game. Victoria Colvin of Loxahatchee, FL, won the 2015 Equitation Championship in her last year as a junior.

Harrie Smolders of The Netherlands topped a field of international show jumpers from five countries to win the highlight event of the week, the \$125,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC, just beating Callan Solem (USA) by a fraction of a second in the jump-off. He was presented

with the President of the United States Perpetual Cup, commissioned for the show by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961.

All eyes were on the ring as the announcer invited the 12 riders competing at the show, who have represented the U.S. in official international competition,



Margaret and Agnes Nagle, Joe Fargis and Wyatt Stewart

Photo by Rex Reed

to gather in the ring wearing their official pink coats to be recognized while a special video celebrating Team USA's success this year was played on the jumbotron.

In a moving moment, a former U.S. Team rider joined the group at center ring. Rodney Jenkins, the winningest rider in U.S. show jumping history was welcomed as the 12th inductee into the WIHS Hall of Fame. He was selected to represent the USET starting in 1973 at the fall indoor circuit (Harrisburg, Washington, New York and Toronto) with Idle Dice and Balbuco competing on many winning Nations Cup teams, and in 1987 he won Individual and Team Silver medals at the Pan American Games in Indianapolis on Czar.

The Washington International Horse Show wishes Team USA every success in Rio de Janeiro next year! – Nara de Sa



Photo by Rex Reed



Cassidy and Kimberly Palmer with Zygo

VAULTING VICTORY FOR PALMER SISTERS

at FEI World Cup™ in Paris

The American sisters Cassidy and Kimberly Palmer took top honors in the Pas-de-Deux competition during the second leg of the FEI World Cup™ Vaulting 2015/2016 series at Salon du Cheval de Paris in France Nov. 28, 2015.

Vaulting on Zygo, lunged by Maurits de Vries, the pair performed a meticulously choreographed routine set to a Christmas-themed accompaniment.

"This was our first time meeting and competing on the horse Zygo," said Cassidy. "We weren't sure how it would all go, but we were very pleased with the outcome. Our goal was just to have a clean round in hopes of having a high enough score."

After two competitive rounds from France's Lucie and Simon Chevreil, who finished in second, and Germany's Timo Gerdes and Jolina Ossenberrg-Engels, who finished in third, the sisters posted a mark of 7.414 which left them in second place but, when combined with their winning mark of 7.660 from the night before, were awarded the victory with a final scoreline of 7.537.

"We didn't watch any of the other pairs, we never do," said Kimberly. "We try to stay focused on our routine before we enter the arena. We control our nerves by moving around, dancing, jumping or practicing our

moves on the ground. We had a few difficult moments when the horse trotted but we hoped our score from the day prior would keep us in the lead.

"We were both super excited when we found out we won," continued the Palmer sisters. "We couldn't believe it. One of the best moments after winning was to hear our national anthem in the big stadium."

The sisters from Half Moon Bay, CA, were the first U.S. vaulters to win a FEI World Cup™ Vaulting qualifier at the Stuttgart German Masters in 2013 and represented their country at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy. The pair has produced an outstanding and consistent 2015 season thus far and already are looking towards continuing to achieve big goals in 2016.

"For the rest of the year our goal is to make it to the finals at the World Cup™," said the Palmer sisters. "Then for 2016, it's definitely to qualify for Worlds!"

Following the events in Paris, there will be two remaining competitions in the series held in Mechelen (BEL), on Dec. 26-30, 2015 and Leipzig (GER), on Jan. 14-17, 2016 before qualifying vaulters are announced for the finals to be held in early 2016.

– Taylor Renner



USET FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Helps Tracey Morgan Finish Strong at FEI Pony World Driving Championships

Early in March 2015, supporters of the USET Foundation put on their cowboy boots and joined the Foundation and hosts Katie Whaley and Jennifer Matheson for the inaugural Driving Derby Hoedown, held at the Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, FL.

The fundraiser, which featured live and silent auctions in addition to a driving derby competition, helped raise money to support U.S. pony driving. In September, those funds aided Tracey Morgan of Beallsville, MD as she made the trip to the 2015 FEI Pony World Driving Championships in The Netherlands. There, at the Prinsenhoeve Estate in Breda, Morgan and her own Fuego 88 finished in eighth place in the cones phase before taking 19th place overall amongst a highly competitive field of 32 of the world's top singles driving ponies.

"The competition was outstanding and there were a lot of new drivers on the scene. This is my second time driving Fuego 88 in these World Championships. He is a wonderful competitor," Morgan said of the 14-year-old German Riding Pony.

Morgan is no stranger to the FEI Pony World Championships, having helped the U.S. team win the Bronze medal in 2007 in addition to competing in 2009 and 2013. In 2015 alone, Morgan and Fuego 88 finished third in the National Single Pony division



Tracey Morgan and Fuego 88

at CAI3* Beekbergen, won the CAI2*-P1 at Live Oak International, took first in the CAI2*-P1 division at the Kingdom of the Sun CDE and reclaimed the USEF Combined Driving Single Pony National Championship – a title Morgan hopes to hold onto again in 2016.

Morgan concluded, "I'm looking forward to next year and defending our National Championship title as well as helping to bring along new talent through the USEF Developing Drivers Program so we can compete on a team level." – Emily Riden

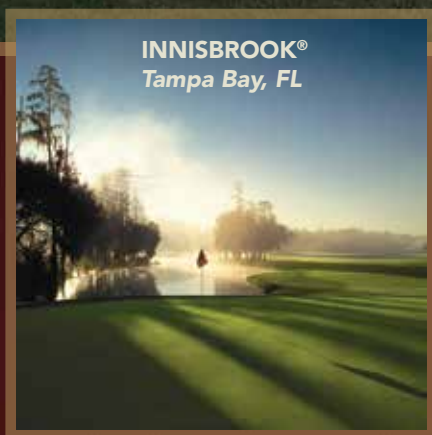




REIN IN LUXURY



SALAMANDER® RESORT & SPA
Middleburg, VA



INNISBROOK®
Tampa Bay, FL



REUNION®
Orlando, FL



HAMMOCK BEACH™
Palm Coast, FL

Discover the warmth of Salamander Hotels & Resorts. Take a journey into unlimited luxury, where thoughtful touches embrace, and world-class activities unite. Four unique destinations from unbeatable championship golf in Florida to equestrian perfection in Virginia. Your next adventure awaits.

Plan your visit today: SalamanderHotels.com

Salamander® Hotels & Resorts
SalamanderHotels.com



Salamander® Resort & Spa
Middleburg, VA

Innisbrook®
Tampa Bay, FL

Reunion®
Orlando, FL

Hammock Beach™
Palm Coast, FL





USET Foundation News

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. postage

PAID

New Brunswick, NJ
Permit #928

Address Service Requested

