



# USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2016



## FUTURE STARS

### U25 Prepares America's Best

**BEBE DAVIS**



*Photo by Ilana Cramer / Phelps Media Group*

**LUCY DESLAURIERS**



*Photo by Rebecca Walton /  
Phelps Media Group*

**Young riders across the nation have one dream in common:  
to represent their country at international competitions.**

**T**o get there, though, it takes more than just raw talent and a passion for the sport. Talent has to be molded, skills need to be honed and passion needs to be directed. A top pony rider does not become a top Grand Prix rider without the right building blocks, training and pathway. In the last year, the pipeline has a new addition that is helping athletes achieve their goals the right way.

The Under 25 (U25) High Performance programs and divisions have been a much-needed addition to show jumping, dressage and eventing in the United States. Bridging the gap between the junior and the open divisions, the U25 programs allows athletes to move up the ranks and gain valuable experience as they aspire to the top levels of competition.

In supporting this effort, the USET Foundation has established the International Developing Rider Talent Fund to support the United States Equestrian Federation's High Performance International Developing Rider/U25 Programs. An integral part of the long-term High Performance strategy, this fund plays a critical role in developing the best possible United States Equestrian Teams for the future.

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**CAROLINE MARTIN**

*Photo by Shannon Brinkman*



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Dear Friends,

With only two months until the Opening Ceremonies for the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, our athletes are in the midst of the final selection process. This will determine the members of our teams who will have the privilege and honor of representing the United States at the pinnacle of sport, the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This Road to Rio is one that tests our riders, coaches and their support teams to carefully manage their programs for both horse and rider so they peak at just the right time to be competitive with the world's best.

As our elite athletes are vying for a spot on the Olympic and Paralympic teams, the next generation of riders is equally as dedicated to pursuing the training and competition opportunities in the Developing and U25 High Performance programs. As you will note, the future looks bright for the United States Equestrian Teams as our U.S. riders matriculate through these programs and stars emerge. While three talented young riders are highlighted in this issue, there are many more that we will be hearing about as they step up and take their place on a team in the very near future.

In January we celebrated and had an incredible evening at *Rockin' Rio*, our Olympic and Paralympic benefit. It exceeded our expectations by raising over \$1.5 million dollars. My heartfelt thanks to the most amazing and enthusiastic group of guests, and to our Honorary Chairs, Bruce and Patti Springsteen and to Beth Johnson, who graciously opened her farm and welcomed the 600+ guests. This benefit topped off our *Campaign for Continuing Our Competitive Excellence* by exceeding the \$35,000,000 goal, raising \$36,500,000.

This year the United States has already had some solid results. Show jumping won the Nations Cup competition in Ocala and finished second in the Nations Cup in Xalapa, Mexico, solidifying their qualification for the Nations Cup Final later this year. Additionally, they had a solid outing at CSIO Wellington, also finishing in second, and Callan Solem had an incredible week at the World Cup Show Jumping Final in Sweden, finishing in the top 10. Our dressage team put in some personal best scores at the CDIO in Wellington and won the Stillpoint Farm Nations Cup convincingly. Charlotte Jorst and Guenter Seidel competed at the World Cup Dressage Final and gained valuable experience. Lauren Kieffer, Mya Black, Phillip Dutton, Boyd Martin, Buck Davidson and Sinead Halpin had very strong performances at Rolex, Kentucky, finishing in the top ten, making selection for Rio very competitive.

Please stay informed by checking out the newly designed and launched USET Foundation website ([uset.org](http://uset.org)). It has added some great new information that will allow you to keep up each week with U.S. riders competing abroad. It will also show you ways you can join the team and continue to support our United States Equestrian Teams, which is central to our mission.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Foundation and helped to pave the way on the Road to Rio. By now you should have by now received a copy of our 2015 Annual Report which recognizes not only the accomplishments of our teams, but of all of you who make it all possible!

Sincerely yours,

S. Tucker S. Johnson  
President and CEO



Photo by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group





# SHOW JUMPING ★ Lucy Deslauriers

BY REBECCA WALTON

In 2015, 16-year-old Lucy Deslauriers took the show jumping scene by storm, concluding the year by winning the USEF U25 National Championship at the CP National Horse Show aboard Hester. This victory came shortly after Deslauriers earned the Show Jumping Individual Young Rider Gold medal at the 2015 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. She then went on to win a U25 event during the Winter Equestrian Festival and represented the United States during the International U25 Championships at Saut Hermès in Paris, France.

"The U25 division helped me get more comfortable at the higher level of competition, not just in the height, but I think also competing with more seasoned riders and getting experience in various arenas," said Deslauriers. "When you go directly from the High Juniors to the Grand Prix level there's a very big gap, and being able to do the U25 division in between is definitely comforting. It makes horses and riders more confident and ready for the next step when the time comes."



*Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group*

*Lucy Deslauriers and Hester*

For Deslauriers, the time to move up came at the end of February, when she competed at the CSI5\* level during the Winter Equestrian Festival. Thanks to careful preparation and the opportunity to compete in the U25 level first, she and Hester had a very successful show, qualifying for the jump-off during both of the classes their classes.

"Being able to do the U25 and having that experience from the previous year under my belt definitely made the transition into the Grand Prix level, and especially into the 5\* level, a lot easier," noted Deslauriers. "One of the things that helped that first experience be so successful was the mentality that I had the right team behind me and I just had to ride it like I had been riding the U25 classes. I just did my best to stay focused and prepare as I would have for a U25 Grand Prix because I had felt confident doing those."

In addition to giving athletes experience in different venues, the U25 division features different formats, including team competitions. These types of opportunities have given Deslauriers even more desire to continue with the sport in the hopes of representing her country.

"There's something invaluable about being on a team and having the camaraderie of representing your zone and eventually your nation," she expressed. "I was able to do the U25 team competition at Saut Hermès this year, which gave me a little glimpse of what it was like to compete for the United States. Having the privilege of competing for the United States and for your zone is something that you carry with you for a long time."

Deslauriers continued, "There's definitely an added pressure to perform the best you can. Seeing all those things combined definitely makes for even greater competition. For those experiences to have gone so successfully definitely solidifies my yearning to compete for the United States in World Cup Finals, World Championships and eventually the Olympic Games."

This year, Deslauriers will be focused on competing at Spruce Meadows to keep gaining international experience at world-class events. Thanks to programs like the U25 division and awards like the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy (*see page 14*), athletes like Deslauriers can continue to pave their path to the podium. ■

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*Photo by Taylor Renner / Phelps Media Group*

*Lucy Deslauriers and Hester*



# DRESSAGE ★ BeBe Davis

BY MARY ADELAIDE BRAKENRIDGE

BeBe Davis, 18, is a poster child for the youth dressage pipeline. Starting out in the FEI Children division, she has worked her way up the ranks through the Pony, Junior and Young Rider divisions to finally reach the Under 25 Grand Prix level. After achieving success at each step of the way, including U.S. national championship titles and medals at the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, Davis is drawing on the lessons she has learned as she aims to conquer her newest challenge.

"It was a huge jump from the Young Riders, which is the equivalent of small tour, to the U25," Davis said. "I don't think there was anything that could have prepared me to do my first Grand Prix. It was such a cool feeling. I'm really glad I had the opportunity to jump in with no pressure from my trainers or parents; they were super supportive."

The transition is a significant one, but Davis has made it look easy. She and Equestricon's Carrera had their U25 debut together in February at the 2016 Adequan Global Dressage Festival, just a month after Davis began riding the mare. The pair's consistent scores in the high 60s position them among the top U.S. competitors in the division.



Bebe Davis and Equestricon's Carrera



BeBe Davis and Feivel Mousekewitz

"The difference between riding the Grand Prix at the beginning of the season and now is huge," she said. "I'm much more comfortable and have been able to truly ride the test instead of just being a passenger."

Aiming to gain international experience, Davis is representing the U.S. in Europe this summer. She received a USEF Developing Dressage Program European Competition Grant to support her travels with Equestricon's Carrera, and she was also selected to compete in the USEF Dressage Young Rider European Tour with Feivel Mousekewitz.

Davis, who lives in Wellington, Florida, began riding with Endel Ots in October 2015 and credits him for giving her a new perspective on the training process.

"It's been such an awesome learning experience," she said. "He comes from a background of young horses and focuses so much on basic training. Whether it's a 6-year-old or a Grand Prix horse, we work on the same things on a daily basis, including lots of transitions, serpentines and leg yields. The most important thing he's helped me to realize is that I don't have to school movements every day. If you have the basics down, the movements will be easier."

As she progresses, she also hopes to keep finding ways to give back to the sport in the U.S., recognizing how critical it is to support youth competitors.

"Dressage can be a tough sport," she said. "I would love to help encourage younger generations of dressage riders to stick with the sport and keep working hard and keep going."

Davis will begin college this fall at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Her current plan is to major in entrepreneurial studies. Thanks to the school's flexible scheduling options, Davis will be able to continue working toward her goals in the sport of dressage, giving the talented young rider the best of both worlds. As to her future career, Davis is keeping her options open while she completes her education. But whether she becomes a dressage professional or chooses a different path, she has her heart set on one day making the U.S. Olympic Team.

"It's anyone's dream to be able to represent our country," Davis said. "When I started riding, it was always my goal to represent our nation in international sport. It's such an honor to be selected to compete in Europe this summer. I'm still shocked and feel so blessed." ■



# EVENTING ★ Caroline Martin

BY LAUREN BAKER

In the realm of eventing, Young Rider Caroline Martin and her horses have proven their talent time and again over the years, contending for victories at highly competitive venues including Fair Hill, Bromont and other top eventing competitions across North America. While the United States has not added the U25 division yet for eventing, the USEF is focused on this group of riders through their U18/25 High Performance talent identification and program. The Karen E. Stives Developing European Tour is just one example of the incredible opportunities being afforded this group of athletes.

Martin, who has been training with top eventer Buck Davidson at her family's farm in Ocala, Florida for the past six years, got her start on the United States training list in the Under 18 division. She continued to follow the pipeline up through the National Junior and Young Riders Competition, where she competed in 2011 and returned in 2013 to claim the Gold medal in both the Team and Individual competitions.

"I think having Young Riders in the United States is really, really important, because for most of the kids, it's their first taste of the team experience," Martin said. "For me, it was really great to be a part of a team atmosphere and realize you're riding for a team and not just yourself. Having a



Caroline Martin and Center Stage

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

real team coach and a strong atmosphere was just an unbelievable experience. It is great that it's FEI recognized because you get the credit you deserve. It is a hard competition; it is the best in the country competing against each other. That was actually the first time that I really decided I wanted to do eventing for my full-time profession."

Now 21 and competing on the international stage, Martin's resume has expanded to include an impressive fifth-place finish at the 2015 Richland Park CIC3\* and clear rounds at the challenging Fair Hill with her horse Center Stage [Conner], a 10-year-old Holsteiner.

Most recently, Martin was selected, along with Jenny Caras, as one of two recipients of the Karen Stives Developing Tour Grant (see page 7), which will provide the developing U.S. riders with a chance to compete at the 2016 Houghton Hall CIC3\* and the 2016 Bramham International CCI3\*-U25 in Great Britain – an invaluable chance to continue along the pipeline of riding for Team USA in the future.

"The U25 in England is no joke," Martin said. "I think our country has taken the first step in being able to utilize the Karen Stives Grant, and I am so grateful and so glad that our country is making that

step. We have to make a pipeline, and I think with first the U18 and U25, then with having this grant, they're building foundations for us. When the U18 kids come in, they see where the U25 riders are at and how they're performing, and then the younger U25 riders want to get this grant; they have a goal to work for."

During their month in England, Martin and Caras will further their education, both in and out of the saddle, under the mentorship of British Olympian Leslie Law.

"This is the first time I get to represent the USA," Martin said. "I've been training my whole life for this moment, and just being able to have this responsibility and being able to shadow Leslie, like I do with Buck, and learn from him in his own country is going to be an invaluable experience. I think this is just the next mile marker in my career, and we're really lucky that we got this grant to help us get that little bit better."

To add to the excitement on the young rider's horizon, Martin also plans to compete in her first 4\* competition sometime in the near future.

"I'm aiming for something with Conner [Center Stage] this spring," Martin stated. "He's super happy and super fit." ■



Caroline Martin and Center Stage

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

# LAUREN KIEFFER AND VERONICA

## Capture Second Pinnacle Cup Title at Rolex

Many athletes talk about a horse that is a once-in-a-lifetime mount. During the 2016 Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event CCI4\*, Lauren Kieffer of Middleburg, Virginia, was aboard her special partner. She and Veronica scored a second place finish, and as the highest ranked American rider, Kieffer earned the USET Foundation's Pinnacle Cup Trophy.

This is Kieffer's second time receiving the Pinnacle Cup after being the top placed American rider at Rolex in 2014. When she received the Pinnacle Cup in 2014, she was also riding Veronica, her seasoned 14 year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Team Rebecca.

"I think she's quite a beast, that one," Kieffer said of Veronica. "She's very competitive in her own head and always has been.

We've certainly gotten a lot more experience under both of our belts.

She's a very confident horse, and a very mentally competitive horse.

Genuinely understands the game and knows what she has to deliver in all three phases. She really fights for it each day."

Kieffer and Veronica kicked off Rolex with a 43.9 penalty score in dressage. Her score cumulated to a 51.5 after the cross country round, including the deep and muddy track to search for good ground. The event ended with a final score of 52.5 after finishing a double clear in the eventing jumping round, with one time fault. Kieffer finished behind Germany's Michael Jung riding FischerRocana FST, clinching the Rolex CCI4\* National Championship.

On receiving the Pinnacle Cup, Kieffer said, "It feels good. It feels like it validates my program and my team. The first time was a bit of a pleasant surprise, but now we kind of know that our program is working and we can deliver results consistently."

Kieffer continued, "A big thank to Veronica's owners, Team Rebecca, and also my other horses' owners, Monte Carlo, Jacqueline Mars and my team. We certainly couldn't do it without everyone in our barn and all the support staff."

With the Rio Olympic games right around the corner, it would appear that Kieffer and Veronica are contenders to represent the United States. Kieffer can hopefully leverage her success at Rolex as a stepping-stone toward the Olympic dream.

"We went into Rolex and knew we had to deliver and show a consistent performance and she came out of it great," she said. "We really haven't planned anything past this weekend. She'll enjoy a holiday, she came out of the weekend really well, and we'll just kind of start planning for the summer and fall in the next few weeks."

The athletes from the United States claimed five of the top six placings at the world-class competition. Maya Black and Doesn't Play Fair, owned by Dawn Dofelmier, earned third place honors, while Phillip Dutton was fourth and fifth with Mighty Nice, owned by the HND Group, and Fernhill Cubalawn, owned by Tierney, Roosevelt and Moran, respectively. Boyd Martin rounded out the top six aboard Blackfoot Mystery, owned by the Blackfoot Mystery Syndicate. – Allyson Lagiovane



Laura Kieffer and Veronica awarded 2016 Pinnacle Cup

This photo is NOT  
Lauren Kieffer. It is  
Caroline Martin

Photos by Shannon Brinkman



# CARAS AND MARTIN

## EMBARK ON OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

*Thanks to Karen Stives Endowment Fund Grant*

As an Olympian and passionate equestrian, Karen Stives believed strongly in giving back to the sport and helping athletes achieve their dreams. This summer, thanks to her generosity, Caroline Martin and Jenny Caras will be traveling to Great Britain to continue developing their skills, while also representing their country.

Martin and Caras have been named as the recipients of the 2016 Karen Stives Endowment Fund for High Performance Eventing Grant. They will participate in the Karen Stives Developing European Tour, which will give these U25 athletes a chance to represent the United States on an international stage at the 2016 Houghton Hall CIC3\* and Bramham International CCI3\*-U25 in Great Britain.

Established with a generous \$1 million gift from Stives, the Karen Stives Developing Tour aims to encourage up-and-coming eventers in the USEF's Developing Rider Program to step up and prepare themselves to represent the United States internationally in the future, strengthening the pipeline of qualified riders to create future medal-winning teams.

Under the mentorship of British Olympian Leslie Law, the two developing riders will spend a month in Great Britain furthering their education and gaining valuable competition experience.

"I'm just in awe of the generosity that everybody has shown me and the faith that they're putting in me by awarding me this money," said Caras. "It's kind of a dream come true and I think this opportunity will make a world of a difference for my career."

Caras, who trains with Phillip Dutton, will be bringing her 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse Fernhill Fortitude, or "Forty." The proven pair claimed a number of top finishes at 3\* competitions in 2015, including fourth place at Bromont and sixth place at Jersey Fresh. Aside from being the highest-placing Young Rider at Fair Hill, Caras and Forty were one of only nine horse-and-rider pairs to go double clear in the rigorous cross country phase.

Martin, who has trained with Buck Davidson for the past six years, will compete with Center Stage [Connor], her 10-year-old Holsteiner. In 2015, the duo placed fifth at the Richland Park CIC3\* and

had clear rounds at the challenging Fair Hill. The 21-year-old rider is grateful for the opportunity to return with Connor in a team setting.

"Karen Stives was a fierce competitor, so being named to this grant is a huge honor," Martin said. "This trip isn't just about competing; it's about making us better horsemen. We're going to learn under the pressure of representing the United States, so it's a good preparation for the next step, which would be competing on the senior team."

Bramham CCI3\* is widely regarded as the toughest level of U25 eventing competition, and therefore will serve as an invaluable learning opportunity for the talented riders to put their abilities to the test.

"We're really fortunate that we have this grant because the Bramham U25 is the highlight for U25 riders in the world," Martin attested. "This is the most important competition we have. We need this so that we know what we need to work on for the future, because hopefully, at some point, Jenny and I will be on teams together."

— Lauren Baker



*Regrettably, Caroline Martin's horse, Center Stage, contracted a virus the week before the horses were due to depart for England. In the best interest of her horse, she has chosen to withdraw from the 2016 Karen Stives European Developing Tour.*



Caroline Martin and Center Stage  
Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Jenny Caras and Fernhill Fortitude  
Photo by Shannon Brinkman

# Campaign for Continuing Our Competitive Excellence **EXCEEDS GOAL** **WITH \$36.5 MILLION RAISED**

*Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors, and the leadership of Campaign Chairman and USET Foundation Vice President, Jim McNerney, the USET Foundation has achieved its goal of raising \$35 million for the Campaign for Continuing Our Competitive Excellence.*

**W**ith a final total of \$36,500,000 raised, the campaign has been a resounding success, providing support to expand programs for developing and elite athletes and create new programs that will optimize this country's ability to bring home medals at international championship events.

McNerney commented, "I would like to salute Bonnie Jenkins, our tireless executive director; Tucker Johnson, our dedicated president; and the generosity of Patti and Bruce Springsteen for a high energy, star spangled, *Rockin' Rio* gala finish to the campaign that put us over the top! Equally important was the tireless effort of all the trustees and the energized donors who stepped up when our sport and country needed them!"

The money raised from the campaign has been used to fund High Performance programs in all eight international disciplines, as well as to support the United States Equestrian Teams at the 2010 World Equestrian Games, 2011 Pan American Games, 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 2014 World Equestrian Games, 2015 Pan American Games and the upcoming 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Fundraising "Challenges" established for specific disciplines were instrumental in increasing funding for para-dressage, eventing, dressage and reining, as well as providing for the establishment of the new Human Sport Science and Medicine program.

The iconic facility at Hamilton Farms in Gladstone, where the U.S. equestrian teams once lived and trained under the great coaches Jack LeGoff and Bert DeNemethy, is undergoing renovations and capital improvements as a result of gifts made to the campaign for the Gladstone Fund. This will ensure that this world-class facility will continue to be a vital part of this country's High Performance programs through its use for training sessions, national championships, world championships and Olympic

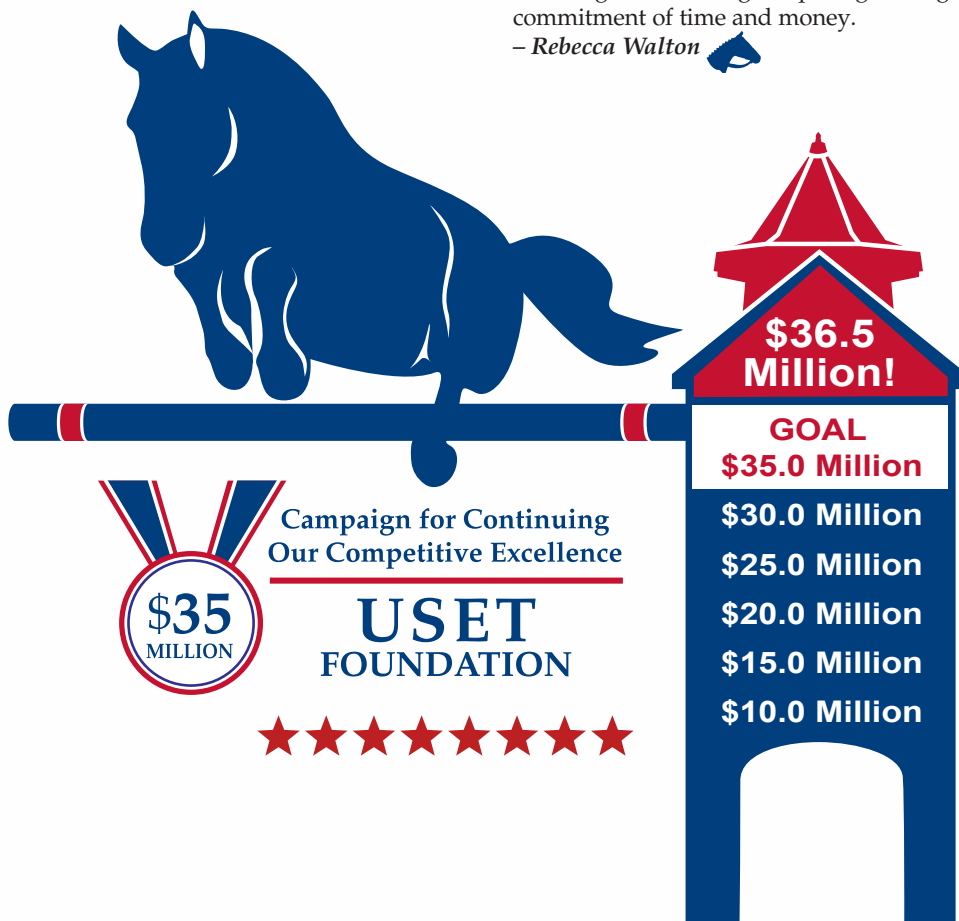
selection trials, as well as offices for some of the USEF's High Performance staff and the headquarters of the USET Foundation.

The three main goals of the campaign were achieved; first, to increase the annual grant from the USET Foundation to the USEF for High Performance programs. In 2016 the largest grant of \$3.5 million will be made, reflecting the strength of the campaign and being able to meet the needs of our teams as they prepare and participate in the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer. The second goal was to grow

the endowment, which increased by 86 percent, and the third was to expand the donor base at the Gold Medal Club level, which increased by 37 percent.

For more than 50 years, equestrian athletes have represented the United States in international competition, bringing home medals that have clearly established the United States as among the world's equestrian elite. However, dedication, hard work and dreams alone do not bring home medals. The costs of fielding international teams are enormous. Training, coaching and transporting of human and equine athletes around the world in order to compete against the sport's best athletes is a daunting undertaking, requiring a huge commitment of time and money.

– Rebecca Walton 





# USET FOUNDATION LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE NEW WEBSITE!!

This month, the USET Foundation launched a brand new website design at [www.uset.org](http://www.uset.org). Featuring a dynamic interface that connects donors, athletes and fans, the new site features the latest news and information about the U.S. Equestrian Teams and the Foundation, and how to be a part of this important organization.

The USET Foundation is a vital part of equestrian sport in the United States, supporting the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing international High Performance horses and athletes in partnership with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).

The USET Foundation website features all of the latest information including current information about athletes competing internationally, news updates about the Foundation and athletes, and athlete bios. The site offers ways for individuals to show their support for U.S. athletes as they train and represent their country on the world stage. There is also information about the history of the Foundation including the iconic Hamilton Farm and a complete medal history.

Fans of the sport can become a part of The Team, learning more about the Foundation and the important role it plays in helping athletes achieve their dreams and bring home medals for the United States in the "About Page." There is an easy way to donate and become a contributing member of Foundation. Every dollar counts towards helping athletes participate in programs that allow the United States to continue as one of the top nations in all eight FEI disciplines.

"We hope the new website will be a great resource for those who love following our developing and elite athletes, as well as an easy way to show their support in helping them pursue their dreams and to stand on top of the podium," said USET Foundation Executive Director, Bonnie Jenkins.

Visit the new USET Foundation site at [www.USET.org](http://www.USET.org) and join The Team today! – *Rebecca Walton*



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# Dressage Community Welcomes **RAFALCA'S NEW FILLY**

*"We are thrilled," expressed Ebling. "It's the best filly ever born! Rafalca is a great mom and the filly, Rafaela, is just as sweet and smart as Rafalca. She is very good with people – she walks right up to you. We have been working with her every day, picking up her feet, putting the halter on, and leading her. She really likes people and will come right up to you and nibble on your hand!"*

The dressage community was excited to welcome a new member to its ranks recently. Rafalca, a 19-year-old Oldenburg mare (Argentinius-Ratine, Rubinstein) gave birth to a healthy filly named Rafaela on April 29 at The Acres in Moorpark, California. Rafalca is best known as the 2012 U.S. Olympic team mount of rider Jan Ebeling. In addition to the Olympics, highlights of the pairs' career include representing the U.S. at three World Cup Finals (2009, 2011 and 2012). She was retired from competition in a ceremony at the 2014 Central Park Horse Show in New York City. The filly was eager to get her dressage career started, arriving several weeks early. This early entry into the world foiled plans by rider Jan Ebeling to be there for the birth as he was showing at the Del Mar National Horse Show when she arrived.

Rafalca was bred to Dutch Warmblood stallion Connaisseur (Con Amore-Donna Clara, Donnerhall). Connaisseur is an impressive stallion, approved in four countries: Germany (Westfalen), Holland (KWPN), Sweden (ASVH) and Belgium (BWP).

Connaisseur successfully completed the KWPN's 50 day performance test in 2011 as a four year-old with 82.5 total points. He was described as an "honest, reliable stallion with a good attitude."



Rafalca is owned in partnership by Amy Ebeling, Beth Meyer and Ann Romney. Her whole team is excited to see what the future brings for this new addition to the dressage world. – Sarah Harper 

## Eventing Community Remembers Roger Haller

The eventing community suffered a tremendous loss on March 30 with the passing of Roger Haller, following a battle with cancer. Haller grew up with a great love for horses and was a force in the eventing community. An alternate for the 1972 Munich Olympics, Haller contributed to the sport in many roles including as a competitor, judge, course designer, event organizer and technical delegate.

Haller was instrumental in the establishment of the Essex Horse Trials in 1968 at his family's Hoopstick Farm in Bedminster, New Jersey. He served as the first show organizer, course designer and course builder for the event.

His course designing skills in demand, he served as the course designer for both the 1978 World Championships in Lexington Kentucky as well as for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Haller also officiated at events in 46 different states and 14 countries including major North American competitions such as the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event.


Haller was instrumental in making



Photos courtesy of USEA

the sport of eventing what it is today. As a member of the FEI's Eventing Committee he helped to revamp the rules for eventing including the introduction of the star system for international events.

In 2012, Haller was inducted into the Eventing Hall of Fame in recognition of his far-ranging contributions to the sport that he loved. He was generous about giving back to the eventing community as a life-long volunteer of the United States Combined Training Association (now the USEA). He also served on the USEF Eventing Technical Committee and the USEF Eventing High Performance Committee.

Roger Haller is survived by his wife, Ann Haller, his sister, Barbra Pace, and step-siblings Sidney Funston and Richard Reid. Donations in Roger's memory may be made to the USET Foundation, P.O. Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934. – Sarah Harper 

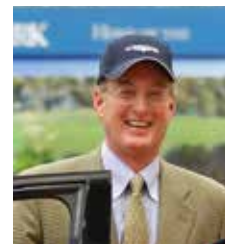


# NEW TRUSTEES

## Welcomed to USET Foundation

During the 2016 United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Saturday, January 23 in Wellington, Florida, the Foundation welcomed three new trustees, Alex Boone, Suzanne Porter and Tom Tierney, to serve a four-year term.

**Samuel A. B. Boone (Alex)** is a Lexington, Kentucky native and a long-time supporter of the equestrian sport in the disciplines of show jumping and eventing. He was a co-owner of Up Chiqui, the 2007 and 2008 Show Jumping Horse of the Year, ridden by Kent Farrington. Alex serves on the Finance Committee for the USHJA, is the Treasurer for the National Horse Show, and is a founding member of the North American Riders Group. In addition to supporting the USET Foundation, Alex is involved with the Markey Cancer Center. His wife, Tricia, is an equine veterinarian and his daughters, Catie and Ali, both compete in the amateur show jumping divisions.



**Suzanne Thomas Porter** oversees the Sleepy P Ranch, her family's horse operation based in Wellington, Florida. A native Texan, Ms. Porter grew up in London, England and is a graduate of the University of Colorado (BA) and the University of Texas (MBA). She gained business expertise as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company, and as Senior Vice President of Business Development for Tenet Healthcare, an \$11 billion public hospital company. Suzanne is a past trustee of the Washington International Horse Show, the Dallas Children's Theater, Affirmative Insurance and The Lamplighter School. Suzanne and her husband, BG Porter, are the parents of Wilton and Lucas, who are avid show jumping competitors and Vanderbilt University underclassmen. When not ringside, Suzanne enjoys team tennis and snow skiing.



**Thomas A. Tierney (Tom)** is a portfolio manager based out of New York with deep commitment to the eventing community as a long-time supporter of Olympian Phillip Dutton. He shares ownership of Dutton's top 4-star mounts Fernhill Fugitive, Fernhill Cubalawn and Mr. Medicott. Tom is also a part of the USEF Event Owners Task Force and the treasurer for the Millbrook Horse Trials. The sport is a true family affair, as Tom competes with his own horse, Otter, and his daughter, Caitlin, is an up-and-coming Young Rider. He is married to Jennifer Hand and they have two sons, Conor and Jack. When he is not riding or cheering on Phillip and Caitlin, Tom enjoys golfing and cycling.



## Hamilton Farm is Getting a Shiny New Look

**H**amilton Farm, the iconic and state-ly headquarters for the USET Foundation and offices for some of the USEF High Performance staff, is approaching its 100th anniversary in 2017. In contributing to the celebration, the stables are undergoing some wonderful renovations.

Phase One of the renovation project began in January with expected completion at the end of July. The first updates will be made to the 23 stalls on the lower level of the barn. The renovations of the additional 24 stalls on the upper level will commence later this year.

The renovations began with sandblasting and repainting the steel on the frame

posts and bars of the stalls, with a goal of preserving the steel and giving it a fresh look. For the same purpose, the wooden areas of the stalls are being replaced with new southern yellow pine, the same type of wood as the original construction, which was chosen for its strength and durability.

All the stall windows have been refitted and the latches replaced. The elegant brass pieces that adorn the stall area, including the tie down rings in each stall and the brass on the center partition posts, which were removed over the years, are being fabricated and will be replaced. The brass medallions on the stalls, as well as the brass

latches, steel post tops and vent covers, will be removed, polished and sealed with a protective ceramic coating.

The fluorescent lighting will be replaced with LED lights, which are brighter, conserve energy and start instantly when turned on, even in cold weather. Finally, the flooring in the stalls will be removed and replaced with new concrete and topped with a layer of rubberized flooring.

Hamilton Farms has played a central role in the community and for our U.S. Equestrian Teams over the last 100 years and we'd like it to last another hundred.

– Darlene Ricker



# Springsteen's Rockin' Rio BRINGS DOWN THE HOUSE With Record Setting \$1.5 Million



History was made on Friday, Jan. 22, as the USET Foundation hosted the Olympic and Paralympic Games benefit, *Rockin' Rio*, at Louisburg Farm in Wellington, Florida. With more than 600 guests in attendance, *Rockin' Rio* featured honorary chairs Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen. The celebratory evening included award presentations, an elegant dinner, a surprise performance by Springsteen and a lively auction, which helped raise more than \$1.5 million for the Foundation, a new record, after which the guests danced the night away.

*Rockin' Rio* captured all of the elements of an amazing evening. The tent was transformed into a festive Brazilian wonderland by designer Reed McIlvaine (Renny and Reed) and included an exquisite dinner by Ken Rose catering. USET Foundation Executive Director, Bonnie Jenkins, and Committee Chairmen Kimberly Boyer, Gloria Callen, Margaret H. Duprey, Elizabeth Johnson, Elizabeth B. Juliano,

Jacqueline B. Mars, Robin Parsky, Rebecca Reno, Jeannie Tisbo and Akiko Yamazaki all helped organize the highly successful event.

Olympian Rodrigo Pessoa of Brazil kicked off the festivities, welcoming the American delegation to his country this summer for the upcoming 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. USET Foundation Treasurer Philip Richter then welcomed honorary chairmen Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen, who recognized the guests for their dedication to the sport and the Olympic movement, as the USET Foundation prepares for the 2016 Olympic Paralympic Games.

"Patti and I have been involved with the horse world for 20 plus years since Jess started riding when she was 5 years old," Springsteen said. "Needless to say retirement is nowhere in sight for me. I literally play for horse feed night after night."

Springsteen continued, "Patti's and my life have been deeply enriched by our

involvement in the riding world. I've gotten to watch my daughter grow up into a young woman of character and excellence. I've gotten to watch a lot of you grow up with her. I've gotten to watch the best in the world compete year after year, and I know what that takes. We're here tonight to honor your focus, your hard work and your dedication. I know it's not always an easy life, and we want to show you that we are 100 percent behind you."

Following dinner the auctioneer, Field Ladd, took control of the microphone and revved up the crowd to begin the live auction. Auction items included a four-piece equine collection by artist Sharon Lynn Campbell, tickets to the International Tennis Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony and Championships with a stay at the Relais & Chateaux Castle Hill and the painting "Precision" by Andre Pater, donated by Misdee and James Miller. The Duchossois family, Steve Wilson, Jeannie and Tom Tisbo donated a once in a lifetime trip for four to the Kentucky Derby, and Sharon Lynn Campbell also donated a custom oil portrait. A generous bidder claimed the prime summer week at Thistle House in the village of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard donated by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Weeks. Guests also had the opportunity to bid on an amazing trip to California on



Philip Richter





Elizabeth Johnson and Kevin Hively



Elizabeth B. Juliano, Debbie McDonald and Adrienne Lyle



Emma, Tucker and Charlotte Johnson



William Cleary, Jacqueline B Mars,  
Robin and Gerry Parsky



Jim, Julia and Haity McNerney with Robert Ridland



Jessica, Patti and Bruce Springsteen

a private jet with a stay at Montage Resort in Laguna Beach as well as an 11.63 carat yellow sapphire put in a setting of their choice, donated by Moti Ferder and Lugano Diamonds.

The benefit really started to rock when the final item was introduced as donated by Sialfa and Springsteen. What started as a signed guitar by "The Boss" quickly escalated to 10 VIP tickets with sound check and backstage meet and greet passes to one of Springsteen and the E Street Band's "River Tour" concerts. To encourage the bidders, Springsteen took to the stage and brought the guests to their feet with one of his iconic performances. The hotly contested item eventually sold to two lucky bidders for \$300,000 each.

Rockin' Rio proved to be wildly successful for the USET Foundation, thanks to the generosity of the guests and auction donors, and their goal to help fund the United States Equestrian Team riders as they prepare to compete at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. – Rebecca Walton



Michael and Wendy Smith  
Kentucky Derby Auction Winner  
Churchill Downs  
May 6, 2016





# Phillip Dutton Honored with 2016 Whitney Stone Cup

Performing on the international stage requires a rider that can produce grace under pressure. During this year's *Rockin' Rio* fundraiser, five-time Olympian and Team Gold medalist from the 2015 Pan American Games, Phillip Dutton, of West Grove, Pennsylvania was awarded the 2016 Whitney Stone Cup after producing consistent results in 2015.


The award is presented annually to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition and high standards of sportsmanlike conduct while serving as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport.

Dutton helped lead the U.S. Eventing Team to its Gold medal victory at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, where an Olympic qualification was at stake. Earlier in the year, he won the USET Foundation's Pinnacle Cup as the highest placed U.S. rider during the 2015 Rolex/USEF National CCI4\*. Dutton was also reserve champion during the 2015 Dutta Corp./USEF National Championships at the CCI3\* and CCI2\* levels, followed by a win at the 2015 Galway Downs CCI3\*. He led the U.S. Team to a Bronze medal finish at the CIC03\* Nations Cup in Aachen, and he has had 15 top five finishes at the FEI level in 2015 with his talented string of horses.

"I'm very fortunate because a lot of people have supported me, not only this year but in years building up to this year," expressed Dutton. "It's been a rewarding year, but it's also great for the people involved to see some of the results. It's very exciting for me, but I think it's exciting for the future as well."

Representing the United States is always at the forefront of Dutton's mind, and he is thankful to have that opportunity on so many occasions. "Representing your country never gets old," he

stated. "In my mind, it's the ultimate of what you can achieve, and you always go out there and try to do your personal best at every competition. When you have four riders that get their personal best it's incredible. It's an honor really. It's something that I think everybody aims for, but you're pretty lucky when it comes up."

Dutton concluded, "It's an exciting time for eventing because I do see we're making a push for better things ahead. It's not going to be easy by any means, but the next couple of years hopefully we can have some even better performances." – *Rebecca Walton* 



Jim McNeerney, Phillip Dutton and S. Tucker S. Johnson

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group


## Lucy Deslauriers Awarded 2016 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy

Each year, the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy is presented to a young rider in one of the Olympic disciplines who exemplifies both sportsmanship and horsemanship. In 2015, Lucy Deslauriers' career took off when she captured the "Grand Slam" of show jumping for a young rider, winning Individual Gold and Team Silver at the Adequan/FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, Individual and Team Gold at the Neue Schule/USEF National Junior Jumper Championships, and Individual Gold at the 2015 USEF Under 25 National Championships.

Sixteen-year-old Deslauriers was presented with this prestigious award at *Rockin' Rio*, and commented, "It's a huge honor that I wasn't expecting. I've received this thanks to the incredible team I have behind my horses and myself. I'm very thankful that I've been recognized and have received this honor."

"I think that is part of the reason that I was able to accomplish these goals, because I didn't get caught up in how I had done previously or how much I had ahead of me, but took it step-by-step," she said. Deslauriers quickly added, "I also think that it's important that I don't get too caught up in how successful 2015 was. I'm definitely very lucky to have the results that I did. I am looking forward to competing this year and continuing my partnership with Hester. Hopefully we'll continue to do well as we bond and move up and forward into next year."

This year, Deslauriers' goal is to move into the 1.50m division with Hester, where she already had success competing against

the best in the world during the Bromont CSI3\* over the summer. Deslauriers concluded, "In the more extended future, being able to represent the United States is something that I have dreamed of for a very long time, so that would be an amazing goal for me to accomplish." – *Rebecca Walton* 



Jim McNeerney, Lucy Deslauriers and S. Tucker S. Johnson

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group



# Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.'s Dedication Recognized with R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award

Last year, the USET Foundation announced the creation of the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award in honor and recognition of the late Bruce Duchossois. During *Rockin' Rio*, Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. was presented with the 2016 award.

The R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award was created in recognition of Duchossois' leadership, generosity and outstanding character. His life was celebrated last year as the first recipient of the prestigious award. However, the example he set for all of us lives on in others as the award is presented annually to a USET Foundation Trustee who exemplifies exceptional leadership, philanthropy and character.

For over 30 years Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. has lent his wisdom, passion and philanthropy to the United States Equestrian Team and the USET Foundation. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Foundation and



over his many years as a Trustee he has served as Vice President, Chairman of the Development and Nominating Committees, and been an important member and advisor on the Investment and Finance Committees.

As an owner, Currey and his wife Agneta, had the honor of watching their wonderful mare, "Touch of Class," ridden by Joe Fargis, win the Individual and Team Gold medals in show jumping at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. A true champion, Currey's distinguished service through excellence in leadership, philanthropy and character has positively impacted the Foundation's mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future.

"I'm highly honored because it's Bruce's award," Currey said after receiving the trophy. "It's a pleasure having known him and to receive this special award."

– Rebecca Walton 

Jim McNerney, Brownlee O. Currey Jr.  
and S. Tucker S. Johnson

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group

## Lillie Keenan Earns 2016 Maxine Beard Award

On the show jumping circuit, 19-year-old Lillie Keenan is quickly becoming a household name. Turning professional in 2015 while also furthering her education as a freshman at the prestigious Harvard University, Keenan has taken on new challenges and new adventures while earning top honors against the best in the world.

The Maxine Beard Show Jumping Rider award is presented to a Young Rider who is talented in the sport of show jumping and also shows great potential to represent this country in Nations Cup competitions and international championships. This year, Keenan added the award to her already impressive list of show jumping accomplishments.

In 2015, under the tutelage of Ireland's Olympic Bronze medalist Cian O'Connor, Keenan adapted to a new training regimen for herself and her horses. "I really needed to challenge myself, and I always knew that I had a lot to learn, but now I feel like I've come a long way," said Keenan. "I feel much more confident in myself than I did last year at this time, simply because I had new experiences, and I'm excited for continued change and trying new things, and trying to establish myself as a professional."

One of Keenan's most exciting opportunities this past year was beginning her training with O'Connor and spending the summer in Europe at O'Connor's Karlswood Stables. Through her work with the Irish Olympian, Keenan achieved top results in 2016, including third place finishes in the \$380,000 Douglas Elliman CSI5\* Grand Prix at the Winter Equestrian Festival and the HITS Great American \$1 Million Grand Prix with her Super Sox, a 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding.




Jim McNerney, Ronnie Beard, Christian Craig, Lillie Keenan and Bill Weeks

Photo by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group

Along with the trophy, the award also offers the recipient the opportunity to travel to a Nations Cup competition to shadow the American team. In 2016, the Nations Cup events will have added importance, as the U.S. squad will be preparing for the Olympic Games in Rio later this summer. Keenan will observe the stabling area and veterinary inspection, and she will also be able to walk the courses with Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and the team.

Keenan concluded, "It's exciting for me to receive this award because it's an honor, but also it's a nice confidence boost at the end of a season and now that I'm going to Europe. I especially want to thank the team behind Karlswood, and of course my family."

– Rebecca Walton 



# TEAM USA SHOW JUMPERS SHINE at Ocala Nations Cup



*McLain Ward, Beezie Madden, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, Lauren Hough, and Todd Minikus*



*Todd Minikus and Babalou 41*

The U.S. Show Jumping Team led the lap of honor in front of their home crowd at the 2016 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup at HITS Ocala, taking a big step forward in qualifying for the Finals later this year in Barcelona. Leading after the first round with no faults, the team fought hard during a difficult second round where rails accumulated for all of the teams as the sun began to set. A clear jumping round with just one time fault by anchor rider Beezie Madden on Abigail Wexner's Breitling LS, secured the U.S. their top position on the podium at the end of the day.

With the goal of earning a spot at the 2016 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Final, U.S. Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland brought a top group of athletes, which included Madden along with McLain Ward on Rothchild, owned by Sagamore Farms, Lauren Hough with Cornet 39, owned by Paris Sellon, and Todd Minikus aboard Babalou 41, owned by Two Swans Farms. It was a team that certainly proved their merit in the first round, finishing with no faults at all after Ward, Minikus and Madden each produced faultless rounds.

Colombia held the second place position after the first round with eight faults, and Mexico was third on nine faults. The Alan Wade designed course would prove much more difficult during the second round, as the sun began to set and change the shadows on many of the fences.



"When I walked the course I thought it was quite big, but straightforward enough," said Ward. "I was a little concerned – we have a strong team here and we wanted it to be difficult. I was thinking it might be a little too easy, but in the end there wasn't a double clear, Beezie was the closest with a time fault, and I think that shows a great job."

Madden added, "I was worried because things were falling apart for a lot of people. The sun going down had a little effect with the shadows and your eyes, so that's why I took a little extra time in the second round."



Lauren Hough and Cornet 39

Only two riders had clear rounds during their second attempt, compared to eight clears in the first round (including two with a time fault). Ward led the way for the U.S. team in the second round, but had one rail down with Rothchild. Hough had even more trouble as Cornet struggled through the triple combination for an 8-fault total.

"The first round, Cornet held himself a bit at the triple and I knew I'd have to really ride him strong and the second round, he helped himself even more at the triple, so I was lucky to actually get out of the triple with only two down" admitted Hough. "Going second on the team you fight for every jump and I still had a long way to go and I fought really hard to make it home and he stepped up to the plate."

Minikus was the third rider for the team, and although he had a clear effort in the first round, Babalou seemed to lose her edge in the second round, faulting at an oxer going into the sun, the water and the double combination for 12 faults.

The other teams left the door open for Madden though, the last to show with Breitling LS. "I had nice position because I could afford to have two rails down and still win," she explained. "As an anchor rider that's one of the best positions you can be in. My horse jumped great in the first round and I thought he could come through the second time."

Taking a conservative route and adding one time fault to the clock, Madden and the 10-year-old stallion crossed the finish line with all the rails intact, helping the U.S. Team claim the victory on their home turf.

After the win, Ridland commented,



Beezie Madden and Breitling LS

"We knew coming in that the competition was going to be tough. The level of competition in the Americas has gotten tough. We had to bring our best team to be able to have a chance to win. It was definitely stressful. Clearly the course was not going to ride easily the second time around. We did come with our best hand and we were fortunate to come away with the win."

The U.S. Team worked together and fought hard, making their way to the top of the podium and capturing a major victory as they look ahead to the 2016 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Final in Barcelona.

– Rebecca Walton 



McLain Ward and Rothchild



# Second Place Finish in Xalapa Helps Solidify Spot for Show Jumping Nations Cup Finals

The United States Show Jumping Team continued its path to the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup Finals in Barcelona, Spain later this year during the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup at CSIO4\* Coapexpan in Xalapa, Mexico. While only three nations competed, it almost came down to three-way jump-off, with the United States, Canada and Mexico each sending top athletes to compete. Double clears from two of Mexico's competitors gave them a narrow victory on eight faults, but the United States tied with Canada for second place on 12 faults.

The team was led by Chef d'Equipe, Robert Ridland, and included Jonathan McCrea on Candy Tribble's Aristoteles V, Ali Wolff with Quirie, Christine McCrea riding Windsor Show Stable's Dynamo and Richard Spooner aboard Big Red, owned by Gerardo and Alfonso Pasquel.

Jonathan McCrea and Wolff led off the team with four fault efforts, while Christine McCrea and Dynamo, a new partnership, struggled during the first round with a 12 fault round that would eventually be the drop score. A clear round by Spooner and Big Red came at a critical moment as the anchor pair fought to keep the United States in the running. After the first round, the United States had eight faults, sitting behind Mexico and Canada tied on four faults.

As things began to go downhill for the Canadian Team, the United States rose to the challenge. Wolff returned with a faultless effort on Quirie, and Christine had a much better round with Dynamo, only lowering the height of one obstacle.

Mexico sealed their victory with a clear round by their anchor combination, while Canada's anchor, Eric Lamaze, on



*Richard Spooner and Big Red*

Coco Bongo, put the pressure on Spooner with a clear effort in the second round. If Spooner and Big Red had even one rail the U.S. Team would drop to third place and lose valuable points towards Barcelona. The pair was up to the challenge though, clearing the track without penalty to tie with Canada and sit just five points behind Mexico and in the overall standings.


"We knew the stakes were high and Big Red was ready to perform," said Spooner after his double clear effort. "There were

a few tough questions on the track and he answered them all perfectly. I am thrilled with the way he jumped and excited that our scores were able to help the Team. I only brought one horse to this event and we were totally focused on the Nations Cup, ready to deliver a great performance."

Ridland concluded, "All week we knew that this was going to be a tough competition. All three teams could have won at the end, and we were in position for a three-way tie. Richard did what he was supposed to do. His double-clear was perfect, especially with a relatively new ride. He needed to be clean. Chris' second round was great and a nice improvement from the first round; she's getting used to a new horse, too. Ali's clean round was amazing



*Jonathan McCrea and Aristoteles V*

and just a well-ridden ride. Jon was just a hair off clean in both rounds with the stallion. Obviously, we would have loved to have won; it's disappointing not to when we were so close. It was a fantastic event. The footing was amazing and the facilities are as good as they get." – *Rebecca Walton* 



*Ali Wolff and Quirie*



*Christine McCrea and Dynamo*



# Luck of the Irish Narrowly Edges Out U.S.

## IN CLOSELY CONTESTED

### \$150,000 CSIO4\* Wellington FEI Nations Cup

**A**s Georgina Bloomberg and Gotham Enterprizes LLC's Lilli crossed the finish with a beautiful clear round as the first pair to compete for the United States, they set the tone for the team that would continue throughout the entire first round of the \$150,000 FEI Nations Cup at CSIO4\* Wellington in February.

Next for the United States came Audrey Coulter and Copernicus Stables LLC's Capital Colnardo, then Laura Kraut and Old Willow Farms LLC's Zeremonie, and, even as rails continued to fall for many of the six other competing nations, with each U.S. ride came the same result: a picture perfect clear.

With no faults at all accumulated through each of Bloomberg, Coulter and Kraut's rides, anchor pair Bezie Madden and Abigail Wexner's Simon could save themselves for the second round.

Headed into the next round, while it was still anyone's game, it was clear that the U.S. and Ireland would be the top contenders – both teams had advanced with no faults at all while Mexico sat in third on five faults.

As the second round began to unfold, it seemed a bit of luck fell to the side of the talented Irishmen.

Following the first three riders for each team, Ireland sat on two scores of four and



*Georgina Bloomberg and Lilli*

one clear for a total of eight faults with the chance to drop a score to just four faults. The USA's Coulter and Kraut had managed impressive double clear efforts, and the U.S. also sat on just eight faults with the opportunity to potentially drop to a perfect, fault free score.

It all came down to the final two riders: Cian O'Connor and Madden. A clear from Madden and Simon would make the U.S. the winners with no faults at all, and a rail down from Madden and Simon could potentially tie the two teams and advance the competition to a jump-off round.

Instead, Madden, Simon and the rest of the team experienced the heartbreaking unpredictability that is all too often the equestrian sport. As Madden entered the ring, she could tell that something was not quite 100 percent with the talented former World Cup Champion. She was further proven correct as he highly uncharacteristically fumbled through the third fence and Madden elected to retire on course.

With Madden's early conclusion becoming the drop score, the U.S. would finish on eight faults, while a clear round from Cian O'Connor and Sam du Challois would guarantee the Irish the win on just four faults.

"When I jumped the first fence it wasn't like he normally does," Madden said.



*Laura Kraut and Zeremonie*

"He doesn't ever do that, what he did at the third jump. Then when he landed, I put my leg on him, and he almost broke to the trot. He really never does that."

Despite a bit of misfortune however, none can deny the impressive performance from the team of U.S. ladies.

"It's a tough way to end. We're guessing he's going to be fine," said Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "That's show jumping; that's sport. We really had control of the class, but it's not over until it's over. We sure felt good going in with this class. We knew we'd have a good chance, and it showed." – *Emily Riden*



*Audrey Coulter and Capital Colnardo*



# TEAM USA CLINCHES GOLD MEDAL

## at Stillpoint Farm Nations Cup CDIO3\*

*Laura Graves and Kasey Perry-Glass Earn Individual Gold and Silver*

The United States Dressage team of Shelly Francis, Arlene (Tuny) Page, Kasey Perry-Glass and Laura Graves seized gold in the Stillpoint Farm Nations Cup CDIO3\* in Wellington, Florida. The team of Olympic hopefuls enjoyed their time on top of the podium after earning a few personal bests to secure the win over five other countries. Canada took home the Silver medal, and a close fight for third between Denmark and Spain ended with Denmark just out of the medals and a young team of Spanish riders with the Bronze.

Robert Dover, Chef d'Equipe of the U.S. Dressage team, was thrilled with the team's strong showing.

"The Nations Cup has been a tremendous competition this year and has grown in quality each year," Dover said. "I am extremely proud. I was hoping for our riders to achieve personal bests, and that's what I am seeing from these riders. I couldn't be more proud of them."

Laura Graves rode her 14-year-old



Photo by Ilana Cramer / Phelps Media Group

Tuny Page, Kasey Perry-Glass, Laura Graves, Shelly Francis and Chef d'Equipe Robert Dover

KWPN gelding, Verdades, to two personal bests over the course of the Nations Cup. She was the highest scoring competitor during all three days of the event. After starting out with a strong Grand Prix performance, she and Verdades soared to a 78.294 percent in the Grand Prix Special, helping Team USA wrap up the victory.

"The Nations Cup is always super fun, and to be invited to ride on a team is something you just don't say no to. The opportunity to compete on a team is always a real honor," Graves said. "I love that we are able to put America at the top of the podium. That's always a nice feeling, having such a strong team to compete with. It takes a lot of the pressure of competing off of yourself as an individual. It's a very different mindset, and it's something I love to do."

Team medals were determined by the results of the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special, as well as the Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I for those countries fielding



Laura Graves and Verdades

Photo by Annan Hepner / Phelps Media Group



mixed teams of big tour and small tour competitors. On the final day, athletes and horses faced off again, performing their Freestyles to determine individual medal honors.

Graves wowed the judges with her “Rudy” themed Grand Prix Freestyle, winning the large tour Nations Cup Individual Gold medal with an 82.8 percent. The impressive score was the highest recorded mark in the history of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival as well as a new personal best for Graves.

“It was an incredible atmosphere!” Graves said. “I could not ask for a better high to end our season with Team Gold, Individual Gold and personal best. I am looking forward to the rest of this year and the amazing Team USA we are creating.”

Her teammate Kasey Perry-Glass took the podium alongside her after earning the Individual Silver medal on Goerklintgaards Dublet. In only his first year at the international Grand Prix level, the 13-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding has achieved remarkable results. The growth was reflected in their scores over the course of the week. They contributed excellent scores to the U.S. team in the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special before putting the final touch on their Nations Cup performance with a personal best of 81.325 percent in the Grand Prix Freestyle.

“We have had a really fun week, and I love the team,” Perry-Glass said. “We are really supportive of each other. I was very proud of Dublet. I was able to push him a little bit harder in the Special, and I’m really working on going for it and finding my grit.”

Perry-Glass was in tears after her podium finish in the Freestyle.



*Shelly Francis and Doktor*

*Photo by Annan Hepner / Phelps Media Group*



*Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet*

*Photo by Annan Hepner / Phelps Media Group*

“I am so blessed,” she said. “I could not have asked for a better year. It’s just going to keep getting better for us; I really believe that. We are both really patient, and we are in it for the long haul. I want to keep him happy and healthy.”

Fellow American Tuny Page and her 13-year-old KWPN gelding, Woodstock, stepped up with strong efforts throughout the week. Page and Woodstock joined the list of personal best performances by receiving a 75.925 percent in the Grand Prix Freestyle, falling just short of the Bronze medal.

“I am really proud of the season Woodstock has had this year,” Page said after the Freestyle. “I was very, very happy to be selected to be on this team, and very proud to sit amongst this group. It makes it really fun. I am proud of the development of my horse just from yesterday to today. He felt like he was in the right place to develop a whole lot more power and expression.”

Shelly Francis, completing the team with Patricia Stempel’s 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding Doktor, has several CDI wins under her belt this year. Her highlight performance of the Nations Cup was her Grand Prix test, where she rode Doktor to a score of 71.74 percent to help the U.S. take the lead. She enjoyed the camaraderie of working together with her teammates to represent the U.S.

“For me the team thing has been really fun,” Francis concluded. “It was nice we got to be first place.”

– **Annan Hepner** 



*Tuny Page and Woodstock*

*Photo by Annan Hepner / Phelps Media Group*





# CALLAN SOLEM

## Claims World Cup Finals Top 10 Finish for United States



Callan Solem and VDL Wizard

**A**s a rider, attending your first World Cup championship can be a huge learning experience. But for Callan Solem, it was also a proving ground. During the final leg of the 2016 FEI Longines World Cup Final, Solem proved that her mount VDL Wizard, owned by Horseshoe Trail Farm, is more than just her best friend; he is a world-class mount who can hold his own against an international field.

On the first day of the competition, Solem had a speedy clear which earned her the tenth place spot, and with good performance during the second leg she edged her way to a three-way tie for sixth place with just five faults to her name. During the first round of the final day, the duo had an unlucky rail at the first fence, but fought through the rest of the track to keep their new total at just nine faults. In the second round, they came back ready to play. Solem and VDL Wizard never rubbed a rail, breaking the beam with each obstacle intact to claim the seventh place spot overall and beat some of the best in the world.

"Wizard is amazing," said Solem. "He should have been double clear; I was just

a little too slow when I first went in. Even after having the first one down in the first round, he came back and was perfect again. He's the best. Every morning, when the alarm goes off and I'm going to show him, I'm excited for the day just because I know I have a chance."

As the top ranked rider for the United States, Solem guaranteed herself a spot on the short list for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. "My expectations were about doing the very best job that I could do," she admitted. "Wrapping up my first championship appearance, I was really happy with the whole thing. I think that this was a good test of some the skills you need to do that kind of level of competition. Whether I would go to Rio or not, just to be in that group! A lot of the things I've done here have made me more comfortable with that."

"I'm so happy to not have let Wizard down," concluded Solem. "It's a really big responsibility. This was such a great way to end my time here!"

Peter Lutz also earned a top finish during his first championship appearance with Robin de Ponthual, owned by

Katherine Gallagher and Michael Meller. While the final day did not go quite as planned with 12 faults in each round, their stellar performances on Friday and Saturday helped them finish in the top 20 overall.

"I thought Robin finished really well," noted Lutz. "A little bit of his inexperience showed. He felt fresh, and I thought he jumped easily over the hard parts. It was just the lack of experience. All the scopey parts of the course I felt like he was so good. The important things he did well. He needs a little bit more ring time for the other stuff."

Lutz added, "I learned so much here, just the experience of doing it, the whole process. I came here wondering just how big the jumps were going to be because everyone kept saying they were huge. They were, but the horse can do it. It was kind of an exciting experience, because I know what I need to work on, but mostly I think it is just doing it a few more times. He has the ability. These are the biggest tracks I have ever jumped, and it was one of the most difficult things I have ever done, and for that I am thrilled."

Both riders will now give their horses some rest before preparing for the spring and summer show seasons. In 2017, the FEI World Cup Finals will return to the United States' home turf as athletes head to Omaha, Nebraska, for the World Cup championship next year. **Rebecca Walton**



Peter Lutz and Robin De Ponthual

All photos by Rebecca Walton / Phelps Media Group





Guenter Seidel and Zero Gravity

# CHARLOTTE JORST AND GUENTER SEIDEL

## Carry U.S. Flag to Sweden

Two United States athletes trekked to Gothenburg, Sweden, to represent their country at the 2016 Reem Acra FEI World Cup Dressage Final. One, Charlotte Jorst, was competing in her first Final; the other, Guenter Seidel, is a veteran of multiple World Cups who was returning to the event after an 11-year hiatus. Both competitors made the most of their time in Gothenburg: Jorst and Kastel's Nintendo earned two strong finishes just outside of the top 10, while Seidel guided the less seasoned Zero Gravity through positive rides in the electric atmosphere.

Jorst and Kastel's Nintendo, a 13-year-old KWPN stallion owned by Kastel Denmark, drew the second starting position in the lineup of 18 horses for the Grand Prix. Jorst's goal was to make a good impression, and she did just that, earning a solid score of 71.114 percent that would eventually land her in 11th place among a competitive field of 18 athletes representing 11 different countries.

Returning for the Grand Prix Freestyle, Jorst and Nintendo performed to Bocelli's "Time to Say Goodbye," Rachel Platten's "Fight Song," and "Amazing Grace." Their effort put them in 12th place with a score of 73.232 percent.

"He was a dressage ninja," Jorst said after her freestyle. "He was wonderful, and he always is. He is such a great horse, and

I'm so happy with him. It was a fun test."

Jorst's ride earned a special mention at the press conference for her enthusiastic final centerline. Louise Parkes, conducting the conference on behalf of the FEI, commented to Gustav Svalling, judge at C, that Jorst came so close to the end of the ring that her horse could have reached out and kissed the judge.

"I liked that American, even if she came a little close!" Svalling replied. "Her music and everything about her performance – it was a great show!"

Jorst laughed, "I thought I was going to run out of music and obviously I didn't – I should have turned a little later. But I am very happy with that being my first time in a big arena like that."

The huge Scandinavium arena, filled to the brim with spectators, proved to be a challenging atmosphere for Zero Gravity, but Seidel gave his horse masterful, confidence-building rides that earned him plenty of praise from those watching. Zero Gravity, a 12-year-old KWPN gelding owned by James and Charlotte Mashburn, is a relatively new face on the international scene who is showing a great deal of promise.

The pair started out by taking 15th place in the Grand Prix with a score of 69.8 percent. In the Grand Prix Freestyle, they rode to a beautiful piano composition created for them by a friend of Seidel's.

Although the horse's tension kept him from being perfectly with the music, the relaxing melody showed off his elegant gaits. They finished 18th with a score of 67.464 percent.



Charlotte Jorst and Kastel's Nintendo

"A little electric is an understatement!" Seidel said following his Freestyle. "Considering that, we pulled it off together OK. It's a big step for him. I think he did a lot of good stuff. The horse was not shown much before we got him, and he has never been in an arena like this in his life. I think if he would have stayed a little calmer it would have been a very good test."

– Mary Adelaide Brakenridge

All photos Arnd Bronkhorst



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## 50 Years of Giving Back with Madeline Gage

For half a century, 71-year-old Madeline Gage of New York has been contributing to and supporting the United States Equestrian Team Foundation. Madeline was first introduced to the USET while in high school when her mother took her to the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden in New York City; she has been a dedicated supporter ever since.

"I officially became a member of the USET in 1966," said Madeline. "I used to love to stand on the rail at Madison Square Garden and shoot pictures of Bill Steinkraus, Kathy Kusner, Mary and Frank Chapot and so many others. The original U.S. Equestrian Team did not receive any funding from the Olympic Committee at all. People, like me, who wanted to see the U.S. represented in the Olympics and in international competition, donated to the USET. I consistently have been a member of this organization and I love it."

Madeline was taught to ride by her mother in Brooklyn, New York, when she was very young, and although she does not

ride anymore, her love of horses and the equestrian sport never faded. Madeline has treasured her involvement with the USET Foundation over the years, and boasts an impressive collection of historical memorabilia to prove it.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that does not allocate government funding for its equestrian teams. Although the United States Olympic Committee does provide approximately 30% of the USEF's annual High Performance budget, athletes still rely heavily on the support of fans and donors nationwide to help finance their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

Madeline has made her own history by becoming the first consecutive 50-year donor to the USET Foundation, but she's made an even larger impact on the history of the sport by continuously supporting U.S. equestrian athletes and giving them the chance to represent the U.S. on the world stage.

"I'm very proud to be a supportive member of the U.S. Equestrian Team," said



Photo courtesy of Madeline Gage

Madeline. "To me, it's very important that this country be represented in equestrian events. It's an honor to be a member of the USET Foundation, it really is, and I will be a contributor for as long as I can."

– Taylor Renner 

## SUZY STAFFORD

### 2016 USEF Single Horse Driving National Champion




Photo by Pies Of You

Suzy Stafford and PVF Peace of Mind

A talented field of athletes vied for top honors in the 2016 USEF Single Horse Driving National Championship held at the Southern Pines CDE. Suzy Stafford and PVF Peace of Mind led from start to finish to claim their second consecutive National Champion title, finishing on a score of 134.17. In addition to the championship, the CAN2\* Single Horse and Four-in-Hand divisions served as selection trials for this summer's FEI World Driving Championships.

She and the 2007 Morgan mare displayed excellent trot work, quality canter work, and impressive halts to win the dressage phase with a score of 37.60. The pair delivered a great marathon performance over Richard Nicoll's challenging track around the Carolina Horse Park to win the phase with a score of 87.32. In Sunday's cones phase, Stafford and her 2015 USEF International Horse of the Year partner had two balls down and 3.25 time penalties, totaling 9.25 penalty points. However, the combination had a significant lead going into the final phase, allowing them to win the title.

Reserve Champions Leslie Berndt, Newcastle, California, and Uminco had top performances in all three phases throughout the weekend, and concluded the championship with a total score of 135.31, just one point behind Stafford.

In the CAN2\* Four-in-Hand division serving as a selection trial, James Fairclough, Newton, New Jersey, won the top prize, finishing the event on a score of 185.42. The reserve honors went to Josh Rector, Dyke, Virginia, with a final score of 266.29. – Kathleen Landwehr 



# PACIFIC CUP CVI SHOWCASES VAULTING SUPER STARS

This spring, the Pacific Cup CVI offered the vaulting community a unique opportunity to come together to compete and connect. Being that it is the only FEI vaulting competition in the United States, the USET Foundation took the opportunity to host a luncheon at the 2016 Pacific Cup CVI and establish relationships with the up-and-coming generation of the sport.

With more than 250 people in attendance at the luncheon, the athletes and their friends and families enjoyed refreshments and networking opportunities, while the organizers took advantage of the opportunity to gather valuable feedback from the vaulters. The USET Foundation engaged with the community while generating awareness and interest in its mission.

For many competitors, the Pacific Cup marked their first FEI competition. Over the course of three days, the vaulters competed at the 1\*, 2\* and 3\* level, with the CVI3\* serving as a selection trial for the 2016 World Championships in Le Mans, France.

In the CVI3\* Individual, Mary McCormick of Pacific Coast Vaulters scored a 7.725 to secure the top spot. Teresa Jane Devita of Portola Valley Vaulters followed behind in second with a score of 7.292. Finishing just underneath with a score of 7.103 was Elizabeth Osborn of Woodside Vaulters.

In the CVI3\* Pas de Deux, Cassidy and Kimberly Palmer of Half Moon Bay Vaulters took home the win with their score of 7.73.

In the CVI3\* Squad competition, the P.I.E. squad of Pacific Coast Vaulters earned a score of 7.183 to lead the pack. — *Lauren Baker*

*Elizabeth Osborn*



*Young athletes enjoy USET Foundation luncheon*



*Vaulting supporters gather for Pacific Cup CVI*



*All photos by Susie Bors*





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