



USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2017

“LAURAS” REIGN SUPREME FOR TEAM USA AT CHIO AACHEN

BY PHELPS MEDIA GROUP

The mecca of equestrian sport, the World Equestrian Festival CHIO Aachen, boasted the world's top athletes competing in the five disciplines of show jumping, dressage, eventing, driving and vaulting before crowds of 350,000 fans from July 14–23. Founded in 1898, CHIO Aachen is long-standing on the list

of top international equestrian events. In addition to elite equestrian competition, the event includes a folk festival and party. This year, guests from the media, show business and politics turned out to enjoy the exceptional atmosphere of the Soers showgrounds, alongside families and fans from all over the globe.

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Laura Graves and Verdades
Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Laura Kraut and Zeremonie
Photo by Shannon Brinkman



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Dear Friends,

In the lead up to the World Equestrian Games next year in Tryon, North Carolina, our athletes and United States Equestrian Teams are well into their preparation of both training and competing. The results in international competition this year, against some of the best equestrian nations, are exciting and promising.

McLain Ward and HH Azur's World Cup Final victory in show jumping was the epitome of a master at work. They dominated the competition, keeping a firm grasp on his goal of winning one of the few titles in show jumping that has eluded him. Laura Graves and Verdades also showed the world that her rise to the top is a place she intends to stay, thrilling the home crowd with a personal best 85.307%, finishing second behind Germany's Isabell Werth.

Nations Cup competition in dressage, eventing and show jumping has given our seasoned elite athletes, as well as many new and talented athletes, the opportunity to represent the United States and the results have been tremendous. Nations Cup wins at CDIO5* Rotterdam, CSIO5* Sopot, CSIO4* Langley, and CICO3* Great Meadow, with incredibly impressive performances at CHIO5* Aachen had our United States teams finishing second, in both dressage and show jumping. At CSIO4* Coapexpan, our show jumping team had a solid second place finish.

While our teams have been traveling the world, friends of the USET Foundation have been continuing their loyal and generous support that provides for the high performance programs. This year donors have made it possible for the Foundation to provide over \$3 million dollars to the United States Equestrian Federation. Additionally, individual grants from the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund and Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Fund have benefited emerging and developing athletes, allowing them to gain valuable experience in Europe.

I am also extremely grateful to several Trustees and National Advisory Committee members who continue to exemplify leadership. Three "challenges" have been established this year to raise much needed funding; Jacquie Mars has established The Giltedge Endowment Fund, Frank Merrill the Dogwood Foundation Reining Challenge and Misdee and James Miller, Steve Wilson and his wife Laura Lee Brown have established the Driving Challenge. Please learn more about these fundraising challenges in this newsletter and call us to discuss how you might participate and help our United States Equestrian Teams.

Throughout the summer and fall, athletes in all eight disciplines are working hard and competing, all in hopes of making a United States Equestrian Team and representing their country at the 2018 World Equestrian Games. The USET Foundation is offering VIP Hospitality packages that will include hotel accommodations, transportation to and from the venue, as well as A level tickets and hospitality throughout the duration of the Games. If you are interested in cheering on TEAM USA with us, please call the Foundation offices for more information.

GO USA!

Sincerely,

Bonnie B. Jenkins
Executive Director



Aachen

Continued from page 1

DRESSAGE

The United States brought their dressage 'A' team to Aachen, Germany, for the CDIO5* Nations Cup. Consisting of Laura Graves, Adrienne Lyle, Kasey Perry-Glass and Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, they aimed to give Germany a run for their money during the prestigious event.

After the Grand Prix, which was the first test of the competition, the U.S. dressage team ranked second overall, earning a total score of 222.842 percent. Lyle was the first American to head down centerline, and earned a 71.814 percent on Salvino, a 10-year-old Hanoverian stallion owned by Salvino Partners, LLC. The pair finished in 13th place at the end of the Grand Prix. Perry-Glass was next and scored a 68.929 percent on Goerklintgaards Dublet, 14-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Diane Perry. LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir, a 13-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by LaGoy-Weltz and Mary Anne McPhail, scored 71.514 percent and finished in 14th place.

Graves was the last rider in the Grand Prix, and rode her 15-year-old KWPN gelding, Verdades, to a score of 79.514 percent. The duo, unfortunately, had mistakes in the two-tempi changes. With that score, the American anchor was able to pull the team's overall average into second place. Individually, Graves finished only behind the world's number one combination, Isabell Werth and Weihegold OLD.

Heading into the Grand Prix Special, Graves and Germany's Werth battled it out



Laura Graves and Verdades

for the top placings in the CDIO5* Grand Prix Special. It was Graves and Verdades who beat Werth for the first time in her career with a score of 81.824 percent. Werth and Weihegold OLD took second place with a score of 81.059 percent.



Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet

"I always come out to win, but she puts on some tough competition," Graves said on competing against Werth. "It's just whoever has the best details on that day. I'm very proud to be in the top and considered for this position at all.

"It was an amazing opportunity to be invited here to Aachen and to compete against the best riders in the world," Graves stated. "My horse delivered for me and our whole team today. I thank everyone for coming out and supporting us."

Graves' fellow U.S. teammate, Lyle, earned a score of 73.608 percent in the Grand Prix Special aboard Salvino. LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir scored a 72.118 percent, and Perry-Glass earned 71.608 percent aboard Goerklintgaards Dublet. The U.S. dressage team took a second place finish at Aachen with a total score of 450.392.

Despite Graves' victory in the Grand Prix Special, Team Germany held on to first

place in the team standings after the class with a total of 471.046 percent, while the Swiss surpassed Denmark on the second day of competition to earn third place in the overall competition.

"Three of our four horses have never shown at Aachen before," said Robert Dover, chef d'équipe for The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team. "Two of these horses are in their first season of showing internationally in Europe and one of them is competing in his first handful of CDIs in his life. By the end of the day, I was a little over-wrought with emotion."

In the Grand Prix Freestyle, which was an individual competition in the CDIO5* Nations Cup, Werth claimed the top prize and Graves finished in third with an 82.55 percent. Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet finished in ninth place with a 75.5 percent. LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir scored a 74.425 percent and finished in 12th place.



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir

"We wanted Kasey to keep showing the continued evolution of how this horse is coming on — I am thrilled with her," Dover explained. "Olivia is another incredibly gifted rider. She is tough about wanting perfection and being determined — it shows another great talent for the future."



Adrienne Lyle and Salvino

SHOW JUMPING

CHIO Aachen showcased the Mercedes-Benz Nations Cup CSIO5* on Thursday, July 20. The United States team featured a strong list of noteworthy athletes, comprised of Beezie Madden, Laura Kraut and the top two FEI world-ranked athletes, Kent Farrington and McLain Ward. With an impressive lineup, the U.S. show jumping team was one of the favorites to win, led by Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland.

Farrington was first in the ring for the United States with his and Robin Parks's Gazelle, ultimately acquiring 8 faults with two downed rails. Madden followed in the irons aboard Abigail Wexner's Coach, repeating the 8-fault penalty. Luckily, Kraut and Old Willow Farms' 10-year-old mare, Zeremonie, rallied with a double-clear round. Ward and HH Azur, owned by Double H Farm and François Mathy, anchored the team with an additional double-clear round.



Kent Farrington and Gazelle

After the drop score, the American team entered the second round of competition with 8 faults. Improving upon the first phase of competition, the Americans demonstrated multiple careful rides that earned no additional faults for the team, as Farrington, Ward and Kraut all rode clear second rounds aboard their respective mounts. Madden and Coach had two unfortunate rails, finishing with 8 faults as the drop score in round two.

Along with five other international riders, Kraut and Ward finished the competition boasting two rounds of fault-free jumping, effectively leaving all of the rails in the cups and staying within the allotted time to help push the Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team onto the podium. With a cumulative score of only 8 faults, Team USA concluded the Mercedes-Benz Nations Cup CSIO5* tied with the contingent from Switzerland for the silver medal. The native German team completed the competition with 0 total faults, propelling them to the gold medal.

We have so much respect for Aachen, and we almost pulled it off. It's tough knowing midway through the first round that the best score you can get is 8 faults. We were fully confident that we could correct some mistakes and stay on 0 the rest of the way and let the field come back to us. The Germans were just a better team today, but not by much," said Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland. "What we saw here today was sport at the very highest level. It doesn't get any better than that. It is an honor for us to be able to compete here!"

Show jumping competition at CHIO Aachen culminated on Sunday, July 23, with the show's highlight event, the Rolex Grand Prix CSI5*, one event in the four-part Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping series.



The Main Stadium at Soers saw 40 competitors challenge designer Frank Rothenberger's demanding course over two phases, concluding with a fast-paced jump-off.

Kraut navigated Zeremonie to two clear rounds to advance to the jump-off, ultimately finishing in fourth place, the best American result. Kraut was awarded the Prize of the Federal Minister of the Interior trophy for finishing as the best-placed jumping rider of the entire show, and her equine partner, Zeremonie, was awarded the Halla Challenge Trophy as the most successful horse throughout the event.

"I was so, so proud with the way Zeremonie performed," expressed Kraut. "I've had her since she was 5 and to bring her along and have her get to that level and then perform the way she did, which was just outstanding, was amazing. I never felt like she would have a fence down the whole week. She was focused and brave and just really remarkable. It was an honor to ride her."



Beezie Madden and Coach

Kraut continued, "We actually were expecting this kind of outcome from her in Aachen this year. Nick [Skelton] and I had really decided that we were going to put our focus on trying to win the grand prix of Aachen and also jumping the double-clear in the Nations Cup. We put all of our efforts into having her ready for that. We almost did it! We just missed it in the jump-off, but we came close."



McLain Ward and HH Azur

EVENTING

Hannah Sue Burnett represented the United States during the CICO3* Nations Cup. She kicked off the weekend with 39.30 penalties following the dressage phase with Jacqueline Mars' 2002 Oldenburg mare RF Demeter. The duo was then double-clear during the show jumping phase to be ranked sixth heading into cross-country. On Sunday, Burnett and RF Demeter were fault-free over the fences, but added 3.20 penalties to their score after finishing over the optimum time. Their final score of 42.5 penalties was good enough for the seventh place award during one of the world's premier events.


"The time is difficult to make here in Aachen," said Burnett. "This was really my first time that I've tried to be fast on RF Demeter. I was only eight seconds over, which is really good. It is a really fun feeling here. Everybody cheers so much and there is so much involvement from the crowd. I love that feeling and I love this event."

The top performances during CHIO Aachen showcased the country's strength across disciplines against world-class competition and clearly established the United



Hannah Sue Burnett and RF Demeter

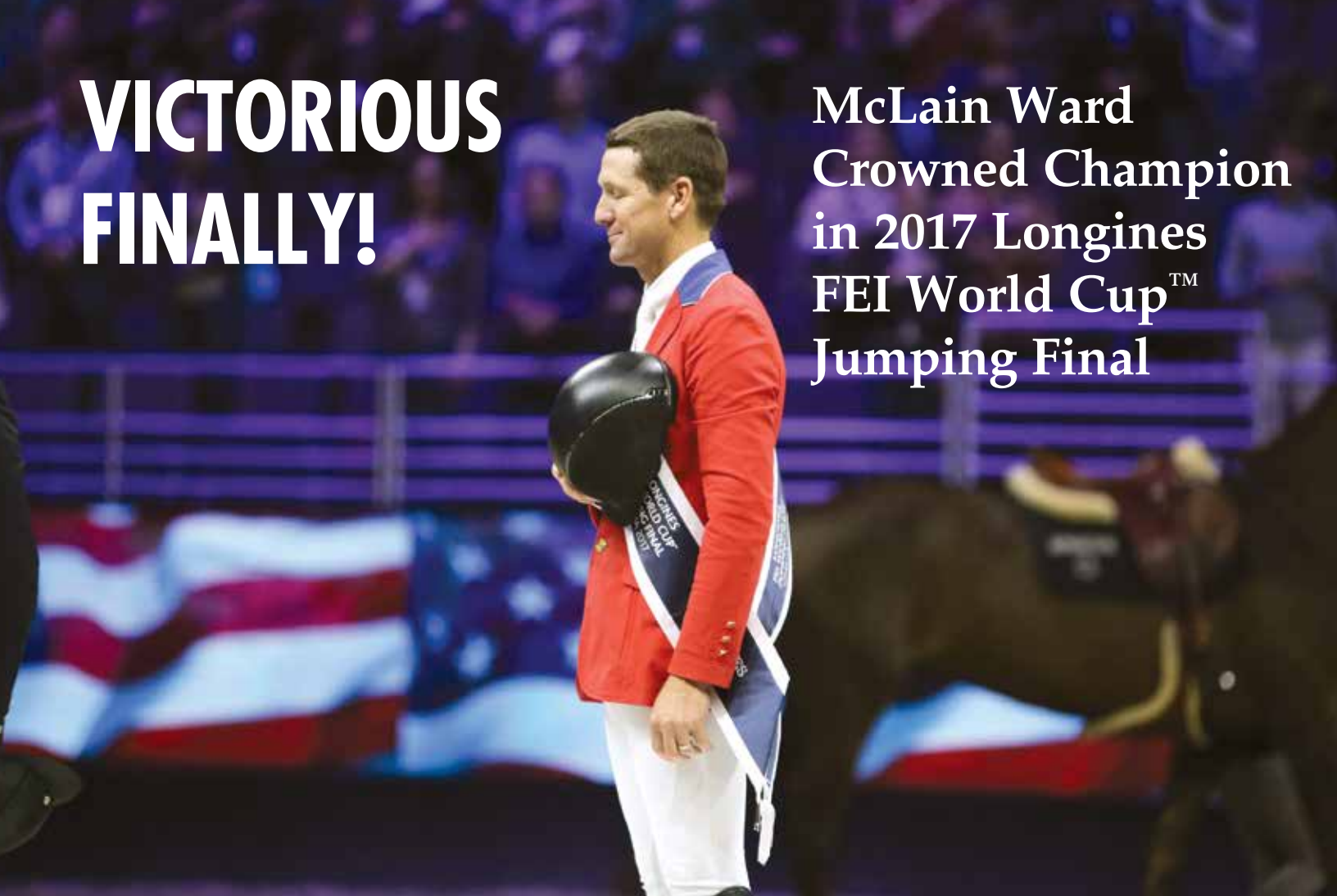
States as among the world's equestrian elite. Ridland concluded, "It's the Wimbledon of our sport, there is no question. It is one of

the most prestigious places to compete. The top riders all say, 'We bring our 'A' game here; we bring our best horses.'" 

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

VICTORIOUS FINALLY!

McLain Ward Crowned Champion in 2017 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final



When two-time Olympic and Pan American Games gold medalist McLain Ward of the United States made his way to the main arena of the CenturyLink Center for the second and final round of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final, his mind flashed back to 2009. At the Las Vegas World Cup Finals eight years ago, Ward and his iconic mount Sapphire just missed the championship title, falling short to Germany's Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum and Shutterfly. It took Ward 17 tries, but on Sunday, he and HH Azur stayed cool, calm and collected and made history by claiming their first-ever World Cup Finals on home soil, jumping the only five consecutive clear rounds throughout the entire event.

"I've been doing this a long time and have been very close so many times and one way or another messed it up," said Ward. "I'm so grateful for not only the horses I have had over the years but the people behind me. I was pretty mellow all day and I was going to ride the best I could. I just took a breath and believed in my horse and had a little bit of luck. I owe a lot of people thanks for this. At the end of the day, I love to compete. It's stressful,

it's hard and it takes something from you for sure — I'm not going to say it doesn't — but it gives you much more in return. You've got to try not to focus on certain things that didn't go your way — a rail, a situation. Days like this are worth it."

Ward and his spectacular 11-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, affectionately known as "Annie" in the barn and owned by Double H Farm and François Mathy, demonstrated flawless performances and were uncatchable all week, winning all three phases of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final.

"I was told as a young man that the moments in the trenches you remember more than the podium," said Ward. "The work is underneath. That's true if you look back; there are a lot of people who have fought this battle with you. I'm not so emotional typically in prize giving, but I think you can see it was a happy day."

"It's different than the Olympic team medals," continued Ward. "Those certainly are incredibly prized possessions, but I coat-tailed a medal in Athens with a great team. I felt the medal in Hong Kong, and the medal in Rio I contributed to a great deal. I was very proud of that but that's a

different situation. An individual championship is ranked very high. I'm not going to say higher or lower because I'm always so proud to represent my country but it's different."

The top 30 of the world's best horses and athletes qualified to compete in Sunday's grand finale after Thursday and Friday's initial two phases. Points were awarded to riders based on their finishes throughout the first two rounds, which were then converted into penalties that were carried into Sunday's final round.

Sunday's competition consisted of two rounds over two extremely difficult courses designed by Alan Wade, and the 20 best-placed combinations advanced to the second round. Throughout the afternoon, only seven were able to produce double-clear efforts over the technical tracks.

"My main concern [when designing my courses] are the horses," said Wade. "If riders want to make mistakes I don't want to see the horses get in trouble. I saw a number of horses that jumped that second round better than they jumped all week and for me that was good. The riders will be blaming themselves for the faults that they took earlier in the week that put them out

of the championship. Overall we had some excellent, top class show jumping — good horses and good riders jumping big fences.”

Finishing in second place behind Ward was Switzerland’s Romain Duguet and Twentytwo Des Biches, while Henrik Von Eckermann of Sweden and Mary Lou took home third place honors.

Knowing how it feels to come so far and be so close, Ward stayed focused throughout the entire week in Omaha and didn’t let the intense, competitive atmosphere get to him.

“I felt a little pressure,” said Ward. “I was in [Romain’s] position in Vegas a few years back when Shutterfly won and I remember I jumped two clear rounds on the last day and then Meredith [Michaels-Beerbaum] had to go. She didn’t have a great warm-up and I was thinking about that as I went in for the second round — how she kept it together. I was stressed but I have a great horse and I believed in her. She jumped her heart out.

“One thing about sports is no matter what the challenges are, you go to perform and you have to move on afterwards,” continued Ward. “I was lucky enough to have a great horse in Sapphire and I’m lucky enough to have another great one in HH

Azur. I’ve been a fighter and a digger and a grinder my whole career. I try never to give up. I try to keep working at it. My team works at it, and today’s just a culmination of a lot of people’s hard work.”

Even after finally winning one of the world’s most coveted and prestigious prizes in show jumping, Ward’s key to success is simple: believe in yourself and your horse.

“I think the only game plan I had this week was to try to do the best I could each day and hopefully be in the hunt and fight today,” Ward said. “You have to go into these championships believing you have to jump five clear rounds to win. It’s not like it was before, where you could make a mistake and come back. People are just too good. These guys don’t give you an inch and everybody is a fighter by nature at this level.

“The amazing thing is the horse,” continued Ward. “She’s number three to my wife and daughter. She felt a little tired in the last round in the schooling area. I told her before we went in, I said, ‘Annie I need a little help today. Just try to stay focused, one more round to go.’ She dug in deep and just felt phenomenal the last round in the ring.” — *Taylor Renner*



McLain Ward and HH Azur



McLain Ward and HH Azur

Laura Graves Steps onto World Cup Podium with Personal Best Score



A lineup of the world's elite dressage riders and horses vied for the championship title at the 2017 FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final in Omaha, Nebraska, March 26–April 2. Though fan favorite Laura Graves' bid to bring home the title to the United States fell just short, she earned a personal best score of 85.307 percent on her 15-year-old KWPN gelding Verdades in the Grand Prix Freestyle and claimed second place on the podium behind Germany's Isabell Werth. Earlier in the week, the pair earned a 79.8 percent in the Grand Prix.

"It's very exciting and hard to believe actually — personal best!" Graves said. "I could just feel the crowd smiling the whole time, and that is something we try to create with every freestyle. You

Laura Graves and Verdades

want people to be on the edge of their chair and wanting to applaud for you. I feel like we achieved that today and my horse really thrived on it."

As the United States' top rider heading into Omaha, Graves was impressed by Verdades' performance in such a large and bustling indoor venue, as he had not competed in such an environment since their last World Cup Finals in Las Vegas. Graves also tweaked part of their choreography by adding a piaffe fan to an extended trot on the final centerline to increase the degree of difficulty of their freestyle.

"Verdades is an extremely hot and timid horse, and to go in there as confidently as he did, I am very proud," Graves said. "He did not put a foot wrong. You have to put your blinders on and just stay focused. Ultimately, it's just me, my horse and a box full of sand, and that's the same everywhere in the world. If you can count on that, then you can pretty much stay focused and true to your training."

"By the end of my ride I was super excited! I couldn't even hear my music once we broke into that extended trot so I kind of had to guess going into that final halt," Graves laughed. "Knowing that the crowd approves, especially in your home country, is amazing. To be honest, I was a little disappointed knowing that I had come in second, but coming second to Isabell [Werth], who is number one in the world and has done this with so many horses, still feels an awful lot like winning. You don't have to have first place to have that feeling. It's my first time on the podium as an individual and I won't forget it for sure."

In addition to Graves' success, the rest of the U.S. team fared well during the dressage competition as all three riders were thrilled with their performances on home turf and qualified for the Freestyle on Saturday, which decided the champion.

Kasey Perry-Glass was the first American rider to head down centerline in the Grand Prix aboard her 14-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding, Goerklintgaards Dublet. The pair earned a 73.829 percent and finished in seventh place in the Grand Prix in addition to earning a 77.068 percent and another seventh place in the Freestyle.

"[Goerklintgaards Dublet] was a little bit spicy, but he was really with me and trying really hard as always so I'm really proud of him," Perry-Glass explained. "I didn't really know what to expect because it's his first indoor event and his first time at World Cup Finals, as well as mine, so I wasn't going into it with a lot of expectations. We wanted a positive experience, and I'm really happy that I achieved that. It's an honor to represent our country."

Fellow American Steffen Peters was granted the extra qualifying spot to compete in the World Cup Finals and he rode a clean test on Rosamunde, a 10-year-old Rheinlander mare. 'Rosie' handled the electric atmosphere well, and the duo finished in eighth place with a 72.257 percent in the Grand Prix. In the Freestyle, the duo placed ninth with a 75.879 percent.

"I'm super pleased with [Rosie]," Peters explained. "It was a great Freestyle for her — she tried really hard. For a young Grand Prix horse playing for the first time with the big boys and girls, this was awesome. There were a lot of wonderful things in the test — beautiful trot half-passes, clean changes, lovely pirouettes. She actually stood still, which is a huge luxury for us. It's a great start for her!"

"Any time you have a World Cup Finals in the United States, it's just incredible!" Peters concluded. "I don't think there's anywhere else in the world where you get a louder, more excited fan base and that was certainly the case in Omaha."

— Annan Hepner 



(Above) Laura Graves and Verdades

(Below) Steffen Peters and Rosamunde



Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet

USET FOUNDATION HOSTS

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

The 2017 The Dutta Corp U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, hosted at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey, attracted the nation's top combinations from across the country to vie for three championship titles. Riders ranging from Under 25 to Grand Prix enjoyed gathering at the historic Hamilton Farm, May 18–21, for a weekend full of competition, camaraderie and patriotism.

GRAND PRIX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

On the final day of the Festival of Champions, Olympian Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet clinched the overall Grand Prix championship title with a total score of 71.575 after earning a 73.325 percent in the Freestyle.

"I'm proud of us fighting through it and keeping our heads up and going," Perry-Glass said. "Having the support of these two [Adrienne Lyle and Olivia LaGoy-Weltz] and the other teammates was great. It's fun to compete here and I'm pretty lucky too."



Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet with Murray Kessler, Betsy Juliano, Joseph Serzan, Gary Rockwell and Denise Pace Sanders

Earning the red reserve championship cooler was Lyle aboard the 10-year-old Hanoverian stallion Salvino. The pair won Sunday's Grand Prix Freestyle with an impressive score of 76.325 percent, but it was not enough to overtake Perry-Glass' lead. It was the first time they had competed a Grand Prix Freestyle and the score was a personal best.

"I couldn't be happier with what he gave me — there's a ton of power," Lyle said. "He's such a cool, level headed horse, and I think very shortly I'm going to feel comfortable just tapping into even more potential in there and pushing him for more of what he has to offer."

Coming in third place in both the Grand Prix Freestyle and the overall championship was LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir, a 13-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding.

"I was really happy with how clean it was," LaGoy-Weltz said. "It was smooth, but I think there's a whole other echelon of brilliance in there that comes out in the awards to tap into — I just need to have the guts to do it! I



Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet (left) with Adrienne Lyle and Salvino (right)



Adrienne Lyle and Salvino

All photos by Annan Heppner/Phelps Media Group

have to hunker down and gas him up a bit more because it's there. We'll be looking at that this summer and coming out with something totally different."

All of the riders who made the top three placings in the overall Grand Prix championship, Perry-Glass, Lyle and LaGoy-Weltz, train with Debbie McDonald, and love being able to compete with each other.

"It's really important to have friends like that, especially when you're competing against them," Perry-Glass said.

"We absolutely root for each other — 100 percent!" Lyle explained. "It's all keeping it in the family. If any one of us wins, it's awesome."

The president of the ground jury, Gary Rockwell, was pleased with the high level of competition he saw while judging the national championships.

"It's always a thrill to be here [at Gladstone], and this was an exciting competition. I think everyone made their best effort and it paid off, we saw some really good rides today."



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir

INTERMEDIATE I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Adrienne Lyle and Horizon, a 10-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Betsy Juliano, danced into first place in the Intermediate I championship after earning a Freestyle score of 75.5 percent. The Freestyle score pushed her overall division percentage to 70.976.

"That was a really fun test," Lyle said. "That mare is so fun in the ring. She loves to get out there and perform. When she's on, you just kind of sit there and pilot her through it. Horizon is so sensitive and is such a sweetheart. She tries so hard. I think it was a personal best score for her and that was really fun."

Riding into second place was Jane Cleveland and Monique, her own 8-year-old Danish Warmblood mare, with a score of 73.175 percent in the Freestyle and a final score of 70.768 percent in the championship.

"My ride was so much fun," Cleveland said. "We did better today than any Freestyle we've ridden. This was the last time we were going to ride it, so we went for it and she was super. She was better today than she's been all week."

Cleveland has enjoyed her time at the historic Hamilton Farm venue and the experience the competition has offered.

"It's so special," she explained. "The barn is exquisite, and it has so much history. I got Monique out of the trailer on Monday and we walked up this big hill to the fancy barn. I looked at her and said, 'What are we doing here?' I was here five years ago, and I learned that if you get the opportunity to come here, you get here."

Rounding out the top three overall in the Intermediate I championship was Lyle on Harmony's Duval, a 9-year-old KWPN geld-



Adrienne Lyle and Horizon

ing with a total score 70.466. The pair earned a score of 71.1 percent in the Intermediate I Freestyle.

"I was also really pleased with Duval and he is an incredibly talented horse," Lyle said. "There's some balance issues we still continue to improve and he's a really powerful, big moving horse. But for him to come out to his first championships and put in clean tests, I was thrilled."



Jane Cleveland and Monique



Adrienne Lyle and Harmony's Duval

All photos by Aman Hepner/Phelps Media Group

'BRENTINA CUP' U25 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In her last year of eligibility in the Under 25 division, Kaitlin Blythe claimed a memorable victory by winning the 'Brentina Cup' Championship aboard Don Principe, an 18-year-old Hanoverian stallion owned by Maryanna Haymon. The combination earned a Grand Prix 16–25 Freestyle score of 69.3 percent, edging them into first place overall with a total of 66.769 on the final day of competition.

"I'm thrilled with my horse," Blythe said. "He loves the Freestyle — it's his favorite thing and he lights up in the arena."

Blythe rode the Freestyle that had been passed down from riders who had been paired with Don Principe previously.

"It was originally made for Courtney King-Dye when she rode him. Jennifer Baumert rode to it, as well as Michael Bragdoll — now my turn!

I cannot believe that this is real life right now," she continued. "It's surreal. I am so thankful to everyone who helped me get here — the owners of this horse, Ann Gribbons, who coached us to build a partnership in such a short amount of time, and Debbie McDonald, who helped us this week. I am so grateful, especially to my horse. He tries his heart out and truly has a heart of gold — I have so much respect for him and what he has done for the sport. It's been very special to have a partnership with him."

Claiming the reserve champion title in the 'Brentina Cup' Championship was Natalie Pai and Unlimited, a 16-year-old KWPN gelding, with a Freestyle score of 65.95 percent and a total score of 66.444.

"Unlimited was awesome today," Pai said. "He likes the Freestyle, and he gets much more active and energetic. I was really happy with him and a completely clean test. I am so thankful to be here. It's incredible. This whole weekend I cannot believe that I was able to really step it up and make every single change clean. He was so good this weekend and today he gave his heart."



Kaitlin Blythe and Don Principe

Molly Paris and Countess, a 15-year-old Danish Warmblood mare, finished in third place overall with a total of 65.992 after earning a score of 66.975 percent in the final Freestyle.

"I was really happy with our trot tour," Paris said. "She is an amazing mare and is teaching me so much. I'm really excited to see where we are going."

Paris and Countess danced to a Freestyle that included music by the alternative rock artist Saint Motel.

"Our ride was a little testing," she explained. "Countess is an awesome mare, but there were a lot of miscommunications. Our warm-ups have been great all week, but we just had missteps in the arena." — Emma Miller and Annan Hepner



The USET Foundation would like to offer special thanks to everyone involved in the success of the 2017 The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.



Molly Paris and Countess



Natalie Pai and Unlimited, Debbie McDonald, Joseph Serzan, Betsy Juliano and Denise Pace Sanders

TEAM USA TAKES THE WIN

at FEI Nations Cup CDIO5* in Rotterdam

In a tightly contested competition against seven countries, the United States dressage team won the fourth leg of the Nations Cup series at the CDIO5* in Rotterdam, Netherlands, at the end of June.

Comprised of Laura Graves, Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, Kasey Perry-Glass, Dawn White-O'Connor and led by Chef d'Équipe Robert Dover, the team finished strong. Based on the best three scores from the Grand Prix, the best two scores from the Grand Prix Special and the best score from the Grand Prix Freestyle, the U.S. team won the Nations Cup gold over the Swedish and German teams with 446.442 points.

On Thursday, the U.S. jumped to the lead in the overall standings after Graves and her 15-year-old KWPN gelding Verdades won the Grand Prix, with a 79.46 percent. Graves and Verdades represented the United States well by putting in a solid performance with expressive flying changes, balanced pirouettes and sweeping half passes. The Netherlands' Madeleine Witte-Vrees came in second aboard 10-year-old KWPN stallion Cennin, with a 75.66 percent.

Fellow American, LaGoy-Weltz, rounded out the top three with a personal best of 74.58 percent on her own Lonoir, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding. Perry-Glass earned a 71.56 percent in the Grand Prix on Diane Perry's Goerklintgaards Dublet, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding. The fourth member of the team, White-O'Connor on 15-year-old Westphalian gelding Legolas 92 owned by Four Winds Farm, was eliminated due to unevenness.

On the final day of the Nations Cup in Rotterdam, LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir finished in eighth place in the Grand Prix Special with a score of 68.078 percent, and Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet placed third with a 71.784 percent. Graves competed Verdades in the Grand Prix Freestyle and the pair won with an 80.98 percent.

"I am once again so proud of our Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team for winning a major Nations Cup here in Rotterdam," said Dover. "This is a year of building depth in our team by introducing many fresh, new combinations, who have mixed well with our fantastic veteran athletes. I am looking forward to the rest of the sea-

son and applaud all of our athletes showing in Europe. I want to thank them, their personal trainers, owners, sponsors, the best grooms, USEF, the USET Foundation,

Dr. Russillo, Andy Thomas, Tom Meyers, Hallye Griffin and especially our fabulous and beloved horses. Go Team USA!"

– Emma Miller 



Robert Dover, Kasey Perry-Glass, Laura Graves and Olivia LaGoy-Weltz



Team USA leads the victory gallop at the FEI Nations Cup CDIO5* in Rotterdam

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

LAURA KRAUT CLINCHES VICTORY

for Team USA at Sopot CSIO5*

The Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team took home the gold in the fifth leg of the FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Europe Division 2 series in Sopot, Poland, on Friday, June 9, in a thrilling competition that went down to the wire. The team consisted of Lauren Hough and Waterford, Paris Sellon and Cassandra, Chloe Reid and Codarco, Laura Kraut and Deauville S and Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland.

With 13 total teams competing, the U.S. team led after round one with 1 fault. The top eight teams, the United States, Netherlands, Portugal, Czech Republic, Hungary, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, returned to compete over Olaf Petersen Jr.'s testing track for the second round of competition.

Kraut produced a second clear round with her 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding, owned by Old Willow Farms LLC, but faults incurred by Reid, Sellon and Hough would add 12 faults to their second round score for a total of 13 faults between both rounds.

The Netherlands team, who collected 11 faults in round one, put on their game faces and fought back in round two to add just 2 faults to their total score, moving up from fifth place after round one to tie with the U.S.

In the end, it was Olympic gold medalist, Kraut, who went head-to-head with the Netherlands' Sanne Thijssen in a third jump-off round to determine the winning nation.

Thijssen aboard Con Quidam RB set the standard to beat in the jump-off at 4 faults in 38.03 seconds. Kraut and Deauville S followed and knew exactly what they had to do.

"Sanne is a great rider — always very fast," said Kraut. "Robert Ridland told me, 'You've got a fence to work with so just try to out-race her so that you will beat her even if you have a fence down!'"

Kraut did just that. Although she and Deauville S lowered the height of the second fence, the pair galloped around the tiebreaking course to finish on 4 faults in 36.29 seconds for the win.



Chloe Reid, Lauren Hough, Robert Ridland, Laura Kraut and Paris Sellon

The Netherlands took the silver medal, while Portugal finished with the bronze medal with 18 faults.

"[Olaf] did an unbelievable job," Kraut said. "The time-allowed was very tight but doable and the fences fell everywhere. It was big enough and technical enough but you couldn't have asked for a better competition."

Sopot CSIO5* served as the first of four stops on the U.S. show jumping summer CSIO5* Nations Cup European tour, which also included Nations Cups in Falsterbo, Sweden, Aachen, Germany, and Dublin, Ireland. — Taylor Renner



Laura Kraut and Deauville S

TEAM USA WINS

FEI Nations Cup™ CSIO4* Langley to Lead Series Standings



Margie Engle, Heather Caristo-Williams, Robert Ridland, Catherine Tyree and Adrienne Sternlicht

Tensions were high as five teams within the North America, Central America and Caribbean league battled to qualify for the final in the third leg of the FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping series at Thunderbird Show Park on Friday, June 2. It was the Hermès U.S. Show Jumping Team who earned the gold medal, ahead of the Canadian home team, by 1 fault in the CSIO4* Langley. The U.S. team of Heather Caristo-Williams, Catherine Tyree, Adrienne Sternlicht and Margie Goldstein-Engle finished with 13 total faults after two rounds of jumping.

Course designer Peter Holmes of Canada tested riders over 15 obstacles and a tight time-allowed of 77 seconds. The first round saw 20 starts with only three clear rounds — two of which were achieved by U.S. riders. Sternlicht rode Starlight Farm LLC's Cristalline clear over the fences, while Engle bumped up the pace to finish fault-free on Gladewinds Partners' Royce. Daniel Coyle of Ireland displayed the only other clear first round riding Susan and Ariel Grange's bay mare, Cita. The U.S. acquired only 4 faults after Tyree knocked one rail at a tight vertical aboard Mary Tyree's Bokai. Their three steady rounds made it possible to drop the starting score of 22 faults from Williams and Qui Vive des Songes Z.

With only 4 faults from the first round, the U.S. team began round two on top and maintained their lead, although Canada



Margie Engle and Royce

fought hard to catch them. Canadian riders Tiffany Foster, Christopher Surbey and Ian Millar obtained 0 penalties in the second round, leaving little room for error for Team USA. After accumulating 39 penalties in round one, Mexico's second team retired. The double combination proved to be difficult for Williams as she ended with 12 faults aboard Holly and Ralph Caristo's 11-year-old stallion. Tyree and the 11-year-old grey gelding, Bokai, had an unfortunate rail at the final fence to finish with 4 faults, while Sternlicht and Cristalline completed another fault-free round with 1 time fault. The final rider to compete for Team USA, Engle, displaced only one rail to hold the lead for the U.S. and finish with 4 faults aboard the 13-year-old stallion.

The United States finished the day with a team total of 13 faults after adding 9 faults to their score after the second round.

They narrowly edged out the Canadian team who finished on 14 faults. With the best score of the day, it was the United States standing atop the podium with Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland.

The United States finished on top of the 2017 FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping series with a total of 280 points after also finishing second at CSIO4* Ocala and CSIO4* Coapexpan. Canada followed second in the overall standings with 250 points. As a result, both teams will be heading to the FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final CSIO5* in Barcelona Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

"We knew coming here that this was going to be a free-for-all," stated Ridland. "Often it's pre-determined who is going to Barcelona when you come to the last qualifier — not the case this time. The two teams who were going to make it...it was up to them to win it today." — Barre Dukes



Adrienne Sternlicht and Christalline

All photos by Mai Photography and Cora Grimsman

U.S. SHOW JUMPING TEAM EARNS SILVER at Coapexpan Nations Cup CSIO4*

The U.S. show jumping team battled it out with Mexico until the very end to produce a strong silver medal performance at the FEI Nations Cup™ CSIO4* Coapexpan in Xalapa, Mexico, on Friday, May 5. Although the team of Quentin Judge, Peter Lutz, Alison Robitaille and Adrienne Sternlicht fell short of claiming the gold medal by 1 fault, they picked up 90 points to keep the U.S. on top of the North American standings heading into the division final at CSIO4* Langley. Mexico entered two teams, with their designated points team earning gold with 16 faults. A wide margin separated the U.S. from Canada, who took bronze with 34 faults.

While Mexico's second team and Canada struggled throughout the first round, the U.S. kept the competition close with Mexico's designated points team. Pathfinding for the U.S. was first-time Nations Cup competitor Lutz and Robin De Ponthual, Katherine Gallagher and Michael Meller's 2005 Selle Français gelding, who had a fault at the water. Judge followed second in the order with Double H Farm's HH Conrad. He and the 2005 Holsteiner stallion jumped a clear round but incurred 1 time fault. Rookie Nations Cup competitor Sternlicht and Cristalline, Starlight Farm LLC's 2008 Bavarian Warmblood mare, just missed a clear round with a rail at fence 11. Their three consistent rounds



Adrienne Sternlicht and Cristalline, Peter Lutz and Robin De Ponthual, Alison Robitaille and Ace, Quentin Judge and HH Conrad with Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland



Adrienne Sternlicht and Cristalline



Peter Lutz and Robin De Ponthual



Alison Robitaille and Ace

made it possible to drop anchor Robitaille's 8-fault round with Ace, Diana Firestone's 2005 KWPN gelding.

The U.S. trailed Mexico by 3 faults heading into the second round of competition. With little room for error, the U.S. needed fault-free rounds to stay in contention for gold. Lutz and Robin De Ponthual got off to a rocky start with 12 faults, while Judge and HH Conrad and Sternlicht and Cristalline followed, each accumulating 4 faults. Mexico's designated points team added 10 faults through the first three combinations. Although Robitaille jumped clear, the U.S. could not make up the mar-

gin, which resulted in a silver medal finish for Team USA, while Mexico took home the gold.

"For some it was their first experience in a team competition, which is always different from individual competition. I thought we came out with some valuable experience," said U.S. Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland. "Alison, a veteran rider, has been away from this level of the sport internationally for some time so she got her feet wet in the first round, then came up with a beautiful clean round in the second round so that was great to see. Overall, it was a good result." – Barre Dukes

Americans Ride to Top Finishes at Luhmühlen CCI4*

LED BY MARILYN LITTLE AND RF SCANDALOUS

Horses and riders from 14 nations gathered at the 2017 Luhmühlen CCI4*, presented by DHL, in Germany June 15–18 to vie for the top prize in the fifth leg of the FEI Classics series, comprised of only six CCI4* eventing competitions each year. The U.S. eventing team laid down a series of strong performances, with Marilyn Little and her mount RF Scandalous leading the way with an overall fourth place finish with a score of 44.80. Out of the 48 total competitors, all four American pairs impressively ranked in the top 13. Hannah Sue Burnett aboard Harbour Pilot earned the eighth place spot with 49.50 total penalties, while Will Coleman aboard Obos O'Reilly and Sharon White and her mount Cooley On Show rode to 12th and 13th place with scores of 56.10 and 58.60, respectively.

Little and the 12-year-old bay mare RF Scandalous, known as “Kitty,” impressed the judges panel on day one, riding to the third place position after the first phase of competition, only two penalties behind leader Bettina Hoy and Designer 10. Hoy, of Germany, was the 2005 Luhmühlen CCI4* champion. Burnett and Harbour Pilot demonstrated their dressage aptitude as well, garnering the 10th place position. Fellow Americans Coleman and White settled into the middle of the pack after day one, but would continue to rise through the ranks following cross-country and show jumping.



Hannah Sue Burnett and Harbour Pilot

Of the four U.S. pairs, Coleman and the Irish Sport Horse gelding, Obos O'Reilly, most efficiently navigated course designer Michael Etherington-Smith's (GBR) track, finishing a mere second inside the optimal time of 11:11.

Coleman's trip earned him the fourth place position in the cross-country phase, and propelled him from 19th to 12th in the overall standings with only the show jumping portion of competition remaining. White and Cooley On Show, who was tied with three other horses as the youngest in the field at only 10 years old, earned minimal penalties riding just a few seconds over the optimum time. Little and RF Scandalous also accumulated penalties with a slower ride over the course, dropping them to ninth in the overall rankings, but still leading their American counterparts.

“It is an interesting dynamic because although you are riding as an individual, each of us is a part of the tightly knit community at home so it feels like a team,” Little commented on the competition structure. “You pull for your friends and they pull for you. The fact that the US Equestrian staff and veterinarians were there made it feel even more cohesive.”

Though Martin Otto's (GER) course in the show jumping phase proved to be the undoing of a multitude of competitors, the four American horse-and-rider pairs rose to the challenge, all finishing with 8 faults or less. Of the 35 entrants who remained in the competition during the show jumping portion, only 11 pairs managed to stay inside the maximum time of 88 seconds, and a smaller elite group of four competitors, led by Little and RF Scandalous, rode to double clears. Little and her mare earned the best score of the phase, riding the quickest clear round with a time of 84.06 seconds — ultimately spurring the duo to a fourth place finish overall, especially impressive considering it was the mare's first CCI4*.

“I think the most special thing about Kitty is her consistency. We have been working up to the 4* level with her for a few years now so it's great to see it finally come to fruition,” Little said of her trustworthy mare, whom she won individual and team gold with at the 2015 Pan American Games. “She is an amazing horse who gives everything you ask every time you ask. She is at the top of the leaderboard again and again. It is a privilege to ride her and have such an incredible team behind us, especially her owners Jacqueline Mars, Robin Parsky and Phoebe and Michael Manders.” — Elaine Wessel



Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous

JENNIE BRANNIGAN AND U.S. TEAM CAPTURE GREAT MEADOW INTERNATIONAL CICO3* NATIONS CUP VICTORY



Lynn Symansky, Jennie Brannigan, Boyd Martin, Phillip Dutton and Joanie Morris

For the second year in a row, the United States took home top honors during the only FEI Nations Cup™ Eventing competition in North America at the Great Meadow International (GMI), presented by Adequan®. The competition stayed close until the very end, where Jennie Brannigan and her 2015 winning mount Cambalda edged out the individual win, followed by teammates Lynn Symansky on Donner in second and Phillip Dutton with I'm Sew Ready placing third.

Following Friday and Saturday's dressage and show jumping phases Canada's Jessica Phoenix and Pavarotti had the individual lead, with the team in third just six-tenths of a penalty behind Great Britain. Dutton and I'm Sew Ready were ranked second, followed by Jan Bynny and Inmidair in third. Unfortunate time penalties for Phoenix knocked her out of the top spot early in the day. Meanwhile, a fall, as well as an elimination on the British team, meant they would finish third, while Canada and the United States duked it out for the top spot in the Nations Cup.

Boyd Martin and Steady Eddie were the first pair to tackle the cross-country course for the United States, producing the only double-clear performance for Team USA. The duo finished on their dressage score of 58.3 penalties, but strong efforts by the rest of the team meant they would be the drop score.

"I always envisioned Steady Eddie making a team. Finally, I got a call up and it was followed by his worst-ever dressage score," admitted Martin. "I've been talking him up, there's been a lot of hype and then he was an absolute lemon on Friday. He came through — he was the only horse to finish on his dressage score, so I hope to take him to Burghley in a couple of weeks. We might do a little practice with the dressage before then."

Symansky was next with her veteran mount Donner, incurring just 1.2 time penalties over the cross-country track for a total score of 50.1. Her friend and teammate, Brannigan, went just one round later and was also clear over the fences, adding just 1.6 time penalties to her dressage score for a 49.8 total. The final athlete of the day was



Jennie Brannigan and Cambalda

Dutton, who was more conservative with his young mount, adding 5.6 time penalties to their score for a total of 51.6 and the third place honors.

"I grew up working for Phillip and under Boyd and I always wanted to be on a team with them, so this was very special for me," expressed Brannigan. "It's an honor to get to ride for your country. [Cambalda] has been an incredible horse in a lot of ways and wonderful to me. I really appreciate him stepping up to the plate."

The U.S. team finished with a total of 151.5 penalties, and despite the Canadian team having two clear efforts over the cross-country course it wasn't enough to catch the American athletes on their home turf. Canada's total score of 168.6 penalties would rank second as the United States stood atop the podium during the second Great Meadows International CICO3*.

"You can only be impressed with David O'Connor's vision and what Rob [Banner] and Darrin [Mollett] have accomplished," concluded Dutton. "[The event] has grown every year. The success of an event revolves around a cross-country course. The course is getting stronger and stronger each year. It's a great show. We are very fortunate to have a couple venues in this country that are willing to put on a CCI4*, and whichever one gets it will do a great job and it will be great for the sport of eventing." – *Rebecca Walton*



Lynn Symansky and Donner



Phillip Dutton and I'm Sew Ready

Jacqueline B. Mars and USET Foundation LAUNCH GILTEDGE ENDOWMENT FUND CHALLENGE

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of a transformational fundraising initiative, the Giltedge Endowment Fund Challenge, made possible through the generosity of Jacqueline B. Mars.

The goal of the initiative is to raise \$1.5 million to firmly establish the Giltedge Endowment Fund for the discipline of eventing. Mars has generously pledged \$1 million dollars, of which up to \$500,000 she will match \$1 for \$1 from gift commitments made by Dec. 31, 2017. Mars invites fellow eventing enthusiasts to help her in creating a legacy for the United States eventing high performance program by contributing to the Giltedge Endowment Fund. This endowment will create a reliable source of funding that can be drawn upon year in and year out to supplement the USET Foundation's annual funds and provide increased support for the high performance programs.

In 2012, Mars, USET Foundation honorary trustee, eventing horse owner and longtime loyal supporter of equestrian sport, generously established the Giltedge Challenge. That challenge raised over \$1.5 million in annual program support for the eventing high performance program over the last quadrennial from 2013–2016.

With deep appreciation for Mars' leadership, and the many loyal and generous supporters of the USET Foundation, the comprehensive fundraising program achieved great success. The 2017 Giltedge Endowment Fund Challenge will now provide stability

and permanence that will ensure funding for future generations. These invaluable resources will also serve as a catalyst and supplement the traditional monies raised from generous supporters each year to ensure a comprehensive, medal-winning program from the emerging and development level to the elite level, which will create a pathway to the podium for our eventing athletes well into the future.

"I was very encouraged by the success of the Giltedge Challenge," said Mars. "That initiative helped to support and sustain the United States high performance eventing program over the course of the last quadrennial. I am pleased to be able to build on the success of that effort by establishing the Giltedge Endowment Fund Challenge. I hope this challenge will inspire others to join me in creating a legacy for U.S. high performance eventing."

The USET Foundation asks you to consider a gift commitment to help grow the Giltedge Endowment Fund. Your commitment will create momentum, raise sights and signal to others the seriousness and significance of both current and deferred philanthropy to the future of our sport, while creating a lasting legacy, supporting the great tradition of United States equestrian sports now and ensuring its continued excellence in the future.

For more information about making a donation to the Giltedge Endowment Fund Challenge, please contact Jim Wolf at jwolf@uset.org or call 908-234-1251. – Taylor Renner



David O'Connor and Giltedge at Rolex 2001.

PHILLIP DUTTON AND MR. MEDICOTT

Capture 2017 Pinnacle Cup Trophy at Rolex CCI4*

Show jumping day was hot and blustery at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, but that did not prevent 24,159 fans from packing the Rolex Stadium to see the best in the world compete for \$400,000 in prize money. Double-clean rounds were few and far between, with only four coming in for Will Faudree and Pfun, Maxime Livio and Qalao Des Mer, Zara Tindall and High Kingdom and Kurt Martin on Delux Z. Phillip Dutton and Mr. Medicott earned a clear finish for the United States leaving all of the rails in the cups, but would add 1 time penalty to their score.

Ultimately, Dutton earned the fourth place spot after an impressive weekend of competition. For his finish, Dutton was awarded this year's Pinnacle Cup Trophy as the highest placed U.S. athlete. Dutton and Mr. Medicott incurred 54.6 penalties over the weekend and their efforts also earned them the Roger Haller Memorial Trophy for the Rolex/USEF CCI4* Eventing National Championship on Sunday, April 30. This year's event marks Dutton's fifth time claiming the national championship.

Dutton, 53, brought three horses to Kentucky, and all three finished in the top 10, with Fernhill Fugitive finishing eighth on 63.0 penalties and I'm Sew Ready finishing 10th on 69.1 penalties. Yet it was his top placing mount, Mr. Medicott, who brought Dutton his fifth national championship.

"Cave," as he is known in the barn, is 18 years old this year — well past the age many horses compete at this level. The Irish Sport Horse gelding has Olympic performances to his name and was bought for Dutton with those goals in mind. However, after suffering an injury and spending the last two years recovering, Mr. Medicott finally showed Dutton he was ready by earning a trip to Kentucky for the 2017 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event.

"I was quite unsure about whether I should bring him," Dutton admitted. "He's been off for two years, but there wasn't much else for him throughout the rest of the year that was suitable, and for a horse like this, this is an appropriate event. He showed so much heart — I only did one horse trial on him in two years. He's such an incredible horse and was incredible this weekend."

While the horse looked wonderful all weekend, Dutton announced he would retire Mr. Medicott from this level of competition after Rolex. However, the horse will continue to compete in the sport at a

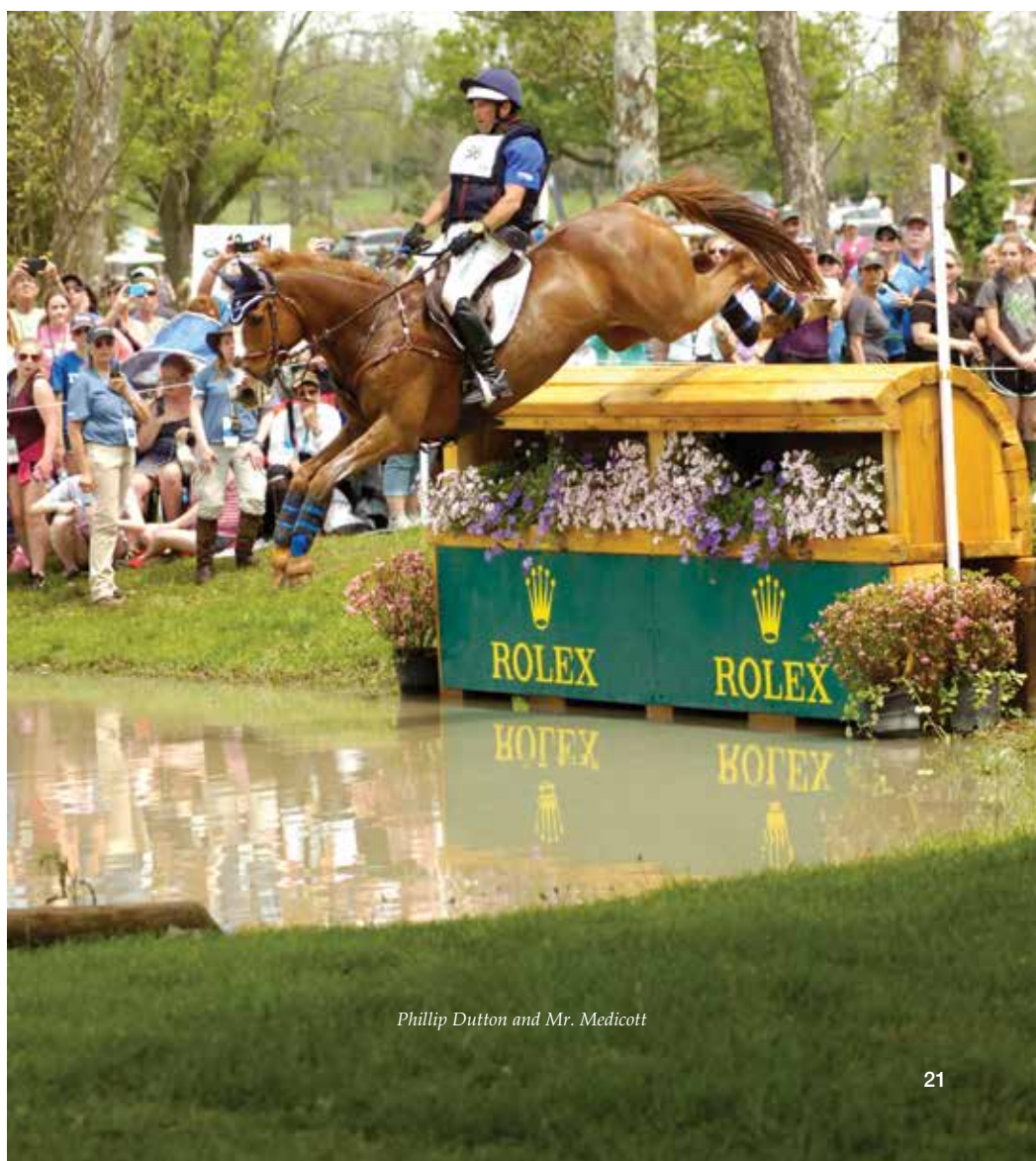


Murray Kessler, Max Corcoran, Ann Haller with Phillip Dutton and Mr. Medicott

lower level with Dutton's daughter, Olivia.

In the Dubarry of Ireland Nations Team Challenge, Team USA jumped out in front of the combined New Zealand/France/Germany team to win with a score of 179.2. The combined team finished sec-

ond with 180.3 over Team Canada in third with 231.5. Team USA included Hannah Sue Burnett aboard Under Suspicion, Boyd Martin on Cracker Jack, Dutton with Fernhill Fugitive and Lauren Kieffer riding Vermiculus. — Allyson Lagiovane



Phillip Dutton and Mr. Medicott

Caroline Martin and Mackenna Shea

🇺🇸 **REPRESENT UNITED STATES** 🇺🇸

During Karen E. Stives European Emerging Athlete Tour



Caroline Martin and Pebbly Maximus

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced in March the recipients of the 2017 Karen Stives Eventing Endowment Fund Grant: Caroline Martin and Mackenna Shea. This spring and summer, Martin and Shea participated in the Karen E. Stives European Emerging Athlete Tour, which gave these U25 athletes a chance to represent the United States on the international stage.

Established with a generous \$1 million gift from Olympic gold and silver medalist, Karen Stives, the Karen E. Stives European Emerging Athlete Tour aims to encourage up-and-coming eventers in the US Equestrian's Emerging Athlete program to step up and prepare themselves to represent the United States internationally, strengthening the pipeline of qualified riders to create future medal-winning teams.

Under the mentorship of British Olympic gold medalist Leslie Law, the two emerging athletes spent time in Great Britain furthering their education and gaining valuable competition experience. In addition to working with Law, Martin and Shea had the opportunity to visit Olympian Carl Hester's yard and a steeplechase yard.

Martin competed with Pebbly Maximus, a 14-year-old Irish



Caroline Martin and Spring Easy



Mackenna Shea and Landioso

Sport Horse gelding, as well as The Apprentice, a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding, during the 2017 Karen E. Stives European Emerging Athlete Tour. At the Houghton Hall CICO3* in May, Martin placed 15th and 17th with her two mounts and went on to earn a fifth and eighth place in June at the Bramham International CCI3*-U25.

In 2015, Martin and Pebbly Maximus completed their first CIC3* at the Red Hills International Horse Trials, and in 2016 they went on to complete The Fork CIC3*, Bromont CCI3* and the Richland Park Horse Trials CIC3*. They closed out the year with an impressive eighth place finish at the Fair Hill International CCI3*. In 2015, Martin competed in the Bramham International CCI3*-U25 with Quantum Solace, placing tenth during the valuable European experience.

"I was actually really surprised [to receive the grant]," expressed Martin. "This was an awesome opportunity. It's really great that we have the backing for under 25 riders. To be able to go overseas and compete with the world's best U25 event riders — we're really lucky that our country does this for us. It's an amazing opportunity to be able to represent this grant and Karen Stives."

Martin added, "I'm looking forward to making the jump from junior to professional and being able to go over and compete and be on my top form is definitely the next step into becoming a professional and, thanks to this grant, I think it's a great start to my professional career."

Shea is based in California with Tamra Smith, and will compete with Landioso, a 15-year-old Bavarian Warmblood gelding who she has owned for 10 years, at the upcoming Barbury International Horse Trials CIC3* and the Festival of British Eventing held at Gatcombe Park in August. The pair completed their first CCI4* during the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in 2016, and later went on to win the Event at Rebecca Farm CIC3*. Thanks to the

Karen Stives Eventing Endowment Fund Grant, Shea will have her first opportunity to compete in Europe.

"I'm honored and grateful to have been chosen to receive the Karen Stives grant," expressed Shea. "Without Karen's generosity that established this fund, a trip like this truly wouldn't be possible for my long-time partner Landioso and myself. Being a part of the Emerging Athletes program has been a huge asset to my development, and now, with the help of this generous grant, I will be able to take what I have learned abroad. Spending several weeks in Europe at different venues will be unlike anything I have ever experienced, and I hope this trip can bring me closer to my goal of one day riding on a team. I would not have even been in a position to apply for this opportunity had it not been for the team supporting me so I would like to especially thank them as well."

— Taylor Renner 



Mackenna Shea and Landioso

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

Doug Payne and Caroline Martin

RECEIVE 2017 JACQUELINE B. MARS COMPETITION AND TRAINING GRANTS

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce that this year's recipients of the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grants are Doug Payne and Caroline Martin. Payne and Martin were recognized and unanimously selected by the US Equestrian eventing selectors, due to their impressive records and future in representing the United States in international competition.

As recipients of the Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grants, Payne from Aiken, South Carolina, will travel to compete in the Blenheim CCI3* in Oxford, England, with his and Debi Crowley's gelding, Vandiver. Martin, from Riegelsville, Pennsylvania, will travel to the Netherlands for the Military Boekelo-Enschede CCI03* in October to compete her two geldings, Pebbly Maximus and The Apprentice.

Payne's show jumping and dressage have continued to improve throughout his career in addition to maintaining his success in cross-country. Payne took over the ride for Vandiver in 2015 and in 2016, the pair placed fourth in The Fork CIC3* in April and earned a third place finish in the Nutrena USEA American Eventing Championships in August.

"It's a huge honor and certainly an obligation to do our best and make the most of the opportunity," noted Payne. "It's a great opportunity against the best in Europe. The timing works really well and sets us up for 2018, which is the ultimate goal. I have to thank Jacqueline Mars and the USET Foundation for having faith in me and awarding grants like this. The experience gained is very difficult to get by yourself."

Payne and Vandiver continued to find success in 2017, earning a second place at Pine Top Advanced CIC3* in February and a second place finish in April at The Fork CIC3*. Payne also plans to compete in the Millbrook Horse Trials and the American Eventing Championships before traveling to England.

Martin has been a part of the Emerging Athlete's program since 2013, and recently received the 2017 Karen Stives Eventing Endowment Fund Grant. Martin had the opportunity to participate in the Karen E.

Stives European Emerging Athlete Tour under the tutelage of Leslie Law, furthering her education and gaining competitive experience in Great Britain. Martin finished her two horses, Pebbly Maximus and The Apprentice, in fifth and eighth place, respectively, at the Bramham International CCI3*-U25 in June.

"It's unreal to receive this grant," expressed Martin. "It's the second grant I've received this year and it's a dream come true to have this much support from my country. I've always wanted to be a professional rider. I've now switched over from the under 25 group to the young professional and it's wonderful to go overseas and represent my country. I have two remarkable horses with The Apprentice and Pebbly Maximus and I hope to improve upon my results from earlier this year."

Martin had the first 3* win of her career this year at Carolina International's CIC3* in March. At just 22 years old, Martin is one of the country's up-and-coming stars, and her return to Europe with her two geldings will be a strong stepping stone in her aim towards competing at the Kentucky CCI4* in spring 2018.

— Allyson Lagiovane 



Doug Payne and Vandiver



Caroline Martin and The Apprentice

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

DRIVING CHALLENGE

Led by Misdee and James Miller, Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown

Propels U.S. Team to International Success

In June, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced the launch of the Driving Challenge, a fundraising initiative made possible through the generosity of Misdee and James Miller, Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown.

As active drivers and loyal supporters of equestrian sport, these competitors have come together to show their support and raise awareness for the U.S. equestrian high performance driving program. The goal of the initiative is to raise \$1.2 million for the driving discipline through multi-year gift commitments of \$20,000 or more made by Dec. 31. These gift commitments will be matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$500,000. The Millers, Wilson and Brown invite fellow drivers, owners and enthusiasts to help create a legacy for the United States high performance driving program by contributing to the Driving Challenge.

The United States high performance driving program is ready to advance to the next level. To achieve this, continued efforts need to be made in identifying and preparing U.S. drivers through the developing program in addition to providing international competition opportunities at the elite level. Securing the services of world-class coaches and providing grants for European competitions are central to achieving success. In order to accomplish this and close the gap between nations currently winning international medals, an investment in the programs and the drivers must be made to establish a pathway to the podium.

The Driving Challenge will create a source of funding that can be drawn upon each year and provide increased support for the high performance programs. It will establish a meaningful base of annual support for all of the driving disciplines including singles, pairs, ponies and four-in-hand. The challenge will also create momentum and provide an incentive for others to contribute, knowing their gifts will be matched.


Ensuring U.S. drivers have the opportunity and sufficient financial resources to train and compete in international championships depends on a commitment from all of those who are passionate about the discipline of driving and want to see our U.S. driving teams achieve excellence in international championships. Today we call on you to consider our U.S. equestrian team's



Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown

path forward. Your leadership and participation in this exciting challenge will define the future of our nation's equestrian sporting tradition in driving and underscore the importance of this incredible opportunity.

For more information about making a donation to the Driving Challenge, please contact Bonnie B. Jenkins at bjenkins@uset.org or call 908-234-1251.

– Rebecca Walton 

Misdee Miller





DOGWOOD FOUNDATION

Raises the Bar for the 2018 World Equestrian Games with REINING CHALLENGE

In 2018, the Tryon International Equestrian Center in North Carolina will host the World Equestrian Games, an event that takes place once every four years and consistently serves as the most prestigious and competitive international event for reining.


Leading up to the Games, American reiners hoping for a spot on the U.S. team will participate in a stringent and competitive selection process to determine which of the best horses and riders will ultimately represent the nation on the global stage. Seasoned veterans and new talent alike will have opportunities to earn a position on the team, and those that are chosen will then shift their focus to winning gold for the United States.

Though the 2018 World Equestrian Games will be held on home soil for the United States, the costs associated with both selecting and sending a team to the competition are still substantial. The horses, the most integral piece of the sport, must be transported from various corners of the country to North Carolina, which will be an expensive endeavor. These equine athletes do not travel alone, but bring their own entourage with them as well. To ensure the safety and well-being of these athletes, a top veterinarian will accompany the animals in addition to the chef d'équipe, grooms, a farrier and, of course, the riders themselves.

Unlike other countries, the United States equestrian teams do not receive any government subsidies. The USET Foundation provides the main source of funding, made possible through individuals and foundations whose interest in and commitment to equestrian sport motivates them to make generous

charitable contributions. Garnering widespread and significant support for reining, a relatively new international sport, especially compared to the Olympic disciplines, has been a challenge, but it is imperative to broaden this base of support. The successful future of the discipline in international competition depends on the generosity of its supporters. In order to grow the sport of reining, and in turn the high performance program, leadership and generosity from each donor is vital.

To accomplish this goal and ensure a comprehensive program is in place for the preparation and participation for the 2018 World Equestrian Games, the USET Foundation established the Dogwood Foundation Reining Challenge for the World Equestrian Games through the leadership of trustee, Frank Merrill, and his family's Dogwood Foundation. The Dogwood Foundation has pledged \$60,000 as the lead gift for the challenge, provided \$120,000 can be secured in additional pledges from the reining community by Dec. 31, 2017. The goal is to raise \$180,000 to support the U.S. reining team for the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon.

The USET Foundation asks you to consider a tax-deductible gift commitment, which can be paid over a two-year period, to help support the Dogwood Foundation Reining Challenge. Your commitment will grow the discipline of reining and help to solidify its position as an international equestrian sport, while further supporting the great tradition of United States equestrian sports now and ensuring its continued excellence in the future. — Elaine Wessel 

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