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BEEZIE MADDEN LEADS TOP FINISHES

for USA Jumping at Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Gothenburg

U25 Athletes Gain Valuable Championship Experience

BY TAYLOR RAINS

The Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final is one of the most demanding championships in the sport of show jumping, requiring the top 20 athletes and horses to complete four rigorous rounds of jumping, sometimes five or six with jump-offs, over the course of four days. At the 2019 Longines FEI Jumping

World Cup™ Final, held in Gothenburg, Sweden, April 3–7, five combinations from the United States went head-to-head against the best athletes and horses in the world. In the end, defending champions Beezie Madden of Cazenovia, New York, and Breitling LS earned the highest place for the Americans in sixth place.

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WORLD CUP JUMPING

Continued from page 1

In addition to Madden and Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland, the U.S. contingent consisted of 2018 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final runner-up Devin Ryan (Long Valley, New Jersey) and Cooper, Georgina Bloomberg (New York, New York) and Chameur 137, Kelli Cruciotti (Elizabeth, Colorado) and Hadja Van Orshof and Eve Jobs (Los Altos Hills, California) and Venue D'Fees Des Hazalles.

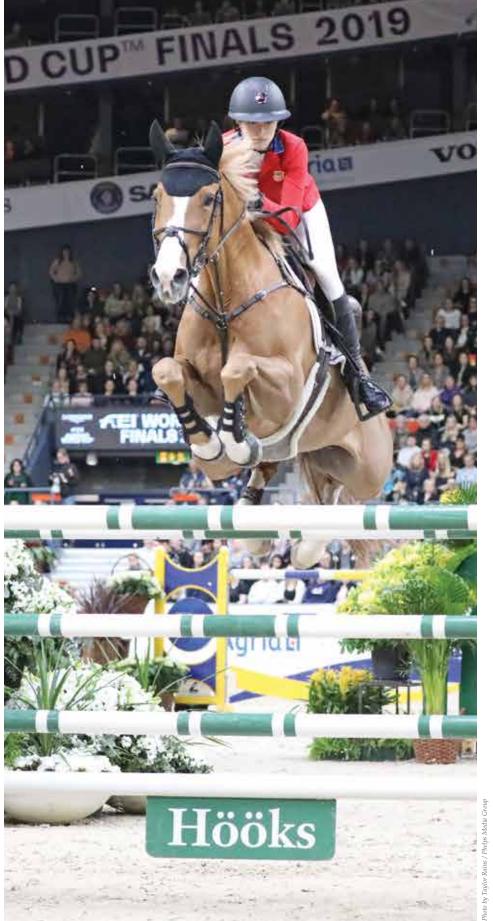
"For me, World Cup Finals was a priority this year," said Madden after her last ride. "I was qualified after winning last year so [Breitling LS] did a few indoor shows as a prep in the fall and then I planned his Wellington circuit in order to set him up for [Gothenburg]. I thought everything went well. [Breitling LS] felt good coming into the week and went well all week. We were really close to winning the first round and the second round. Other people can say that too, but I really thought we were so close to being really, really high up. We still got a decent result, even though things didn't quite go our way. I can't be disappointed really, it was so close to being brilliant, but that is the way it goes."

The competition format of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup[™] Final includes a one-round speed class on Thursday, one round with a jump-off on Friday and two full rounds back-to-back on Sunday.

At the conclusion of Friday's second round, points were awarded to athletes based on their finishes throughout the first two rounds, which were then converted into penalties that were carried into Sunday's final round.

Spain's Santiago Varela, the official course designer for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, built courses that proved to be big and technical, yielding just 32 clears of 118 rides over four rounds and one jump-off. Two-time Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final champion, Madden, guided Abigail Wexner's 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion through all three phases to finish the week on 11 penalties.

In their Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final debuts, Jobs and Venue D'Fees Des Hazalles, her 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, advanced from the 22nd position following Friday's second round to finish 15th overall with 30 penalties, while Cruciotti and Hadja Van Orshof, her 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, advanced from 18th to 16th, finishing with 35 penalties.



Eve lobs and her own Venue D'Fees Des Hazalles



Kelli Cruciotti and her own Hadja Van Orshof



Devin Ryan and his own Cooper

WORLD CUP JUMPING

Continued from page 3

"This is my first championship and my first time representing the United States, which are two big milestones in my career," said Jobs, "I'm coming here just really happy to be here and trying to learn and gain as much experience as possible. I learned that I can actually deal with the pressure and ride confidently. Jumping these big tracks indoors — I've never seen anything like this so to feel like I can do it is huge for me."

"This experience has been amazing," said Cruciotti. "The team is so, so supportive and the older riders have been really great for us to talk to and get the lay of the land. Thank you to the USET Foundation for allowing us to come here and the amazing support they have given us. We can't thank them enough because without them we wouldn't be here. The overall experience has been one I will never forget.

"It's still a little bit of a blur, but it felt great," continued Cruciotti. "I thought my horse jumped amazing. The crowd is definitely very intimidating when you come up the ramp. It's my first World Cup Finals and I really couldn't ask for anything more. There are so many things I can go home and work on to improve. There's a laundry list of things I want to try and fix and then come back next year and try again."

Returning to the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final for the second time since 2005, Bloomberg and Purple Road, LLC's 11-year-old Westphalian gelding moved up from 20th after round two to finish 17th with 41 penalties, just behind her American teammates. Ryan and his 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding remained in their 22nd position to finish with 32 penalties prior to the final round of phase three.

"I'm really happy with my horse," said Bloomberg. "He really proved himself and we've learned a lot from each other. I think for our first indoor experience we've done really well."

"The team has been working hard to get here and qualify," said Ryan. "It says something about our riders' programs and the riders that are here — they did it, they earned it. I came here with my second string horse this year to give [Eddie Blue] a little bit of a break. It was great for him to come here. A lot of the hard parts he did easy and he has such a big heart and great character about it all, he loves his job. I thought the experience was well worthwhile and I jumped at the opportunity to come here to compete as well as to support the other riders."

Switzerland captured the top two spots with Steve Guerdat earning his third career title aboard Alamo with 2 penalties, while Martin Fuchs and Clooney 51 finished second with 3 penalties and hometown favorites Peder Fredricson (SWE) and Catch Me Not S finished with 5 penalties for third place.



Georgina Bloomberg and Chameur 137, owned by Purple Road LLC





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Earn Top Ten Finishes at FEI Dressage World Cup™ Finals

he U.S. dressage contingency had many reasons to celebrate during the the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, held this year in Sweden at the 2019 Gothenburg Horse Show. All of the athletes representing the United States had stand-out performances, and the team was once again led by championship veteran Laura Graves.

Adding to her Paris and Omaha titles aboard Weihegold OLD, world No. 1 Isabell Werth again captured the gold in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final. Following suit, the top American combination, Graves and Verdades, earned runner-up honors for the third straight year.

On the opening day of competition at the Scandinavium Arena, world No. 2 combination of Graves and Verdades were fourth-last to go in the Grand Prix. Some big early scores in her test suggested the American just might oust the defending double-champion, but there was a little bobble in the extended trot and the final score of 80.109 left Werth on top.

"I was super thrilled with my horse in the Grand Prix," Graves explained following her first performance in Gothenburg. "He is known for being very sensitive to atmosphere, but he felt actually very rideable and quite relaxed. There were just a couple of greedy mistakes on my part. I am incredibly hungry to be back on top of the podium and we gave it our best!

"I know there is a real chance," Graves said referring to her goal of winning the title. "I believe in this horse. He is 17 this year and I think he is in the best form of his life. I think there is always a chance and we are going to ride like there is no other chance except to win."

Graves' fellow Americans also earned top placings in the Grand Prix. Kasey Perry-Glass finished in fourth place on Goerklintgaards Dublet with a 77.267 percent and Adrienne Lyle earned a 75.326 percent to tie for eighth place on Betsy Juliano's Salvino. All three athletes are coached by Olympian Debbie McDonald, the new U.S. dressage technical advisor.

"Our coach, Debbie, is very confident in us and we do our work at home. Dublet came out feeling fresh and ready to go so she had all the confidence in the world," Perry-Glass said. "He gives me confidence and I am learning to give him confidence. We are growing together and I just couldn't be more proud of him and how his scores keep coming up. He is starting to get really consistent so I am really proud of him."

Following her performance, Lyle was beaming with pride for Salvino, "I am thrilled with my horse. This is Salvino's first World Cup, my first World Cup and his first-ever indoor show, so this has been a lot for him to take in. He has been a little bit wide-eyed in some places but then he settled into it. I really could not have asked for more from him for his first time in this environment."



The following day of competition featured the highlight event, the Grand Prix Freestyle where the placings would determine the overall FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final champion. During her fourth FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Grand Prix Freestyle, Graves laid down a fluid test in the second half of the class as 14th in the order with Verdades. She received the first 10 on the scoreboard of the day for her half-pass left and she was thrilled with Verdades' focus and energy in the electric environment of the Scandinavium Arena. Prior to the competition, Graves worked with her team, including McDonald, to make adjustments in the choreography of her Rocky freestyle in order to receive a higher degree of difficulty score, which featured double pirouettes straight into tempi changes. However, the changes to Graves' program did not work in her favor and ended up costing her a couple of points. In the end, they were awarded an 87.179 percent from the judges, which put them in the lead for two tests, but would eventually fall short to Werth once again.

"I could not be more thrilled with my performance — from the second I went in, from start to finish," Graves said. "I had a bit of an early draw [in the class order] and I knew I had to give it everything. He is a horse that you can't push too hard, he has enough tension on his own, so I have to play that card really carefully.

"The crowd in Sweden was amazing," Graves continued. "The audience has this live scoring ticker and as riders, you think it is going pretty well but you hope that the judges are agreeing with them. To hear the crowd clapping along you think, 'Well, at least everyone is enjoying it as much as I am, and that is really special."

Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet, owned by Diane Perry, rode a very nice, rhythmic test to receive an 84.975 percent and finish the competition in fifth place.

"It has been an amazing week and all of our riders have done such a great job and we represented the U.S. really well," Perry-Glass said. "It was such a pleasure to be here. All of the fans were amazing and very welcoming and the finals were run perfectly. I felt very honored to be here."

Lyle and Salvino earned a personal best score of 81.832 percent to finish seventh in the Grand Prix Freestyle. Lyle was proud of the stallion for performing so well at not only his first World Cup Final, but his first indoor show ever.

"I had a wonderful time and it was by far the most fun venue I have ever ridden at," Lyle said. "I came in right after Patrik Kittel, hometown hero, and the crowd erupted and Salvino's ears went up but he didn't put a foot out of place. It is a really fun crowd to ride to. They are clapping at the end and everyone was getting into the performance.

"I am super thrilled with Salvino — I think this is just the start for this horse," Lyle explained. "I have tremendous belief in his talent and I think he is just going to keep getting better. This experience has exceeded my expectations."

The 2019 FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final marked the first international show for McDonald as the new U.S. technical delegate, who expressed how proud she was to see such talented and driven young women place so high at such a prestigious championship.

"We are all under 35 and that is really exciting for us as Americans to have three young women who have brought along these horses and have the drive and motivation to keep doing it with other horses for this team," Graves said. "To see all of our horses going neck-and-neck with the other great horses in the world is a really proud thing for us. I am really proud of every rider we put forward in Sweden and to be stamping our own American training on these horses."

Lyle also gave high praise to the dressage riders' achievements in Sweden and contributed their success to the training commitment of McDonald. It was extra special for the team as McDonald became the first American ever to win the World Cup Final on Brentina in 2003 in Gothenburg.



Kasey Perry-Glass and Goerklintgaards Dublet, owned by Diane Perry

"Debbie is wonderful and has been with me since the beginning," Lyle said. "I have been with her for almost 14 years now and having her voice in your ear is like being at home, it makes you comfortable. This was a huge opportunity for me. Debbie competed at the World Cup here quite famously. I have always heard of this venue and dreamed of what it would be like to be here riding on your own horse. It is such an incredible honor to be here with the other girls from the U.S., Kasey and Laura, who are amazing teammates and friends." – Annan Hepner



Adrienne Lyle and Salvino, owned by Betsy Juliano

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team

CAPTURES FEI NATIONS CUP DIO3* TEAM GOLD MEDAL

The FEI Nations Cup CDIO3* is one of the highlight events of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) each year. On the first day of team competition, riders took to the ring beginning with the small tour division with the Prix St. Georges followed by the Grand Prix for the big tour riders. Five nations battled it out, with top scores earned during both tests to start the team competition strong with The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team finishing day one in the lead for the team medals. The Nations Cup this year proved to be a great dress rehearsal for many of the combinations who are aiming to represent their countries at the 2019 Pan American Games this summer in Lima, Peru.

Team results consisted of the best three scores in the first test, Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix, and the three best scores in the second test, the Intermediate 1 and Grand Prix Special. The best total team score received the gold medal. The Nations Cup team scores are calculated by awarding a 1.5 percent bonus for each Grand Prix rider on a team, while small tour scores receive no bonus. Once all riders have received their scores and their respective additional bonus, the lowest score is dropped. If the drop score is that of a Grand Prix rider, the bonus will also be dropped with their score. Bonus points, however, do not contribute to individual final competition and are only used to calculate team rankings.

In the Prix St. Georges class, the United States' Ashley Holzer and Valentine, her 9-year-old Hanoverian mare, finished in second place individually with a 73.765 percent. The combination became a competitive team together in 2018 where they went on to win nearly every FEI class they entered.

"I am very honored to be on the American team with these amazing riders and friends," Holzer said. "I think it is amazing to have more opportunities to ride as a team. There is a team pressure that comes on no matter what! Even if it is a Nations Cup here in Wellington where you ride a lot, having the responsibility is huge when your ride not only matters to yourself, your horse and your sponsor but also to your teammates. I do think that the more you get used to riding as a team the more you feel supported by your teammates



Shelly Francis and Danilo, owned by Patricia Stempel

instead of feeling pressure from your teammates. I think that is a great thing to have."

Holzer's small tour teammate, Jennifer Baumert, scored 70.971 percent to place fourth in the class on Betsy Juliano's 14-yearold Hanoverian gelding, Handsome.

Immediately following the Prix St. Georges, the remaining competitors rode down centerline for the Grand Prix to add to their teammates' total scores. Charlotte Jorst and Kastels Nintendo earned a score of 70.609 percent for their Grand Prix performance, contributing an important score for the U.S. team and they finished the class with a second place ribbon individually. Jorst and the 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding represented the U.S. at the 2016 FEI Dressage World Cup[™] Final in Sweden.

"It is a tremendous experience to be here in Wellington because I was weak in the knees when I saw my teammates go in!" Jorst said. "You are just more nervous for them than you would ever be for yourself and I think it is such a fantastic opportunity for us. Today when Shelly was riding, I was actually piaffing, and I always laugh at other people who are piaffing! I think the camaraderie between us is great and I have really enjoyed becoming friends and getting closer to everybody."

FEI Dressage World Ranking No. 27, Shelly Francis and Danilo put in a stellar performance to help secure the United States' lead. The pair earned a score of 73.543 percent, the highest in the class. The 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding is owned by Patricia Stempel but has been ridden by Francis since 2013. Together, the pair represented the U.S. at the 2018 FEI Dressage World Cup[™] Final in Paris.

The U.S. finished the opening day of Nations Cup competition with a total score of 220.917 after the 1.5 percent bonus for the Grand Prix and Baumert's drop score, with all U.S. team riders scoring over 70 percent. When they returned on the final day of team competition in the Intermediate I and closing out with the Grand Prix Special, the U.S. held their position at the top of the leaderboard, earning the gold medal at the end of the evening with a total score of 437.693.

In the small tour Intermediate I, Holzer and Valentine scored 71.265 percent and a third place individual finish, while Baumert on Handsome earned a 70.941 percent.

"I am certainly very honored to have made the team," Baumert said. "It feels amazing to have these three wonderful ladies with me here and to have won the gold. I was really happy with my horse over the last two days — I wasn't totally thrilled with myself. On the first day, I think I put a lot of pressure on myself and was trying a little too hard so I overrode and it didn't feel easy. On the second day, I trusted him a little more, thank you Debbie [McDonald], and put him a little more together and let him do his job. I didn't nag him so much and it was a much better feeling, so I was really thrilled."

In the Grand Prix Special, Francis topped the class with a score of 71.447 percent despite a bobble in the one tempis and a rider error. Jorst followed closely behind her with a 71.064 percent aboard Kastels Nintendo. At the conclusion of the competition, Baumert's score was the drop score for the U.S. team and they stepped onto the top of the podium for the second year in a row.

The third day of competition for the CDIO3* Nations Cup concluded with indi-

vidual medals earned in the Intermediate I Freestyle and Grand Prix Freestyle. In the small tour, Baumert finished in the silver medal position with a 74.3 percent. Rounding out the podium with a bronze medal with a 73.635 percent was Holzer.

In the Grand Prix Freestyle, Francis brought the house down with her entertaining acapella freestyle and earned a personal best of 81.84 percent on Danilo for the

gold medal. Jorst stepped onto the bronze medal podium with a 75.2 percent.

"I was really excited about Danilo because he is getting more consistent," said Francis. "Even though he still has these little odd moments of a tiny little spook or his mother had a brain issue, but otherwise, he feels awesome. He feels more honest and I feel like it was really a great show. It is really fun to do a team competition."

Red, White and Blue Top CDI-U25 Nations Cup Team Podium

In the CDI-U25 Nations Cup, teams from the U.S., Canada and Spain consisted of two or three youth riders, with the top two scores counting for each team's total score. While Spain rode away with the win at the 2018 competition, riders from the United States gave consistent performances to place themselves on the top of the podium one point above the silver medal team from Canada. The U.S. riders were Lauren Asher, Natalie Pai and Kerrigan Gluch and their total score was 138.559.

22-year-old Asher and West Side, a 16-year-old KWPN gelding, were the highest scoring American pair during the team competition with a 70.471 percent, a personal best score for the combination. Asher, who is from Denver, Colorado, and West Side only made their international debut together this year.

"I'm really thrilled with my ride and to have the opportunity to be here," Asher said. "Thank you to the USET Foundation for making it possible for all of us to show, Charlotte Bredahl for being a great chef d'équipe and to my awesome teammates. To have a personal best is really just the icing on the cake today. It is always nice and fun to be on a team that has togetherness and support for each other where we only lift each other up, which is special."

Pai, who currently ranks sixth in the FEI Dressage World Youth U25 Ranking, added a score of 68.088 percent to solidify the win for the American team aboard Melanie Pai's Unlimited. Pai, 21 from Middleburg, Virginia, has had the ride on the 18-year-old KWPN gelding since 2017 and they represented the U.S. in the European Tour last year. Most recently, the combination won the U25 division of the 2019 Florida Youth International Championship.

"This is my second year doing the Nations Cup," Pai explained. "It's always super fun being able to be on a team and be a part of something. As always, thank you to USET Foundation and everyone that makes this possible and run smoothly for us."

Gluch, 22 of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, and Hampton Green Farm's Bolero CXLVIII received a 66.853 percent. Gluch also represented the U.S. in the European Tour on the 15-year-old PRE stallion in 2018.

Following the team competition, the U25 riders moved into Nations Cup competition for individual medals. Asher won double gold medals, the first of which was for her 70.051 percent performance in the Grand Prix 16–25. The following day, she continued her winning streak to claim the individual gold medal for her Grand Prix Freestyle 16–25. Looking forward to her first performance under the stadium lights, she returned to perform a freestyle with a high degree of difficulty that featured a piaffe fan at the end of the test and strong piaffe and passage work.

Asher's fun freestyle music was designed by Karen Robinson, hearing "Tenderness" by General Public during the canter tour, and "Alive and Kicking" by Simple Minds in the piaffe-passage. With such a strong performance, the pair earned a score of 74.475 percent to claim their second individual gold medal.



Kerrigan Gluch (USA), Lauren Asher (USA), and Naima Moreira Lalibert (CAN)

"I don't think it has sunk in! It's a dream come true and to have it actually become a reality is pretty crazy," Asher said. "I am really grateful to my whole team behind me. This is my first time representing the USA in the U25 Nations Cup. I think it is definitely different than the Young Riders. It is on a bigger scale and especially the freestyle here tonight under the lights is a fantastic stepping stone for the Friday night class and the senior Grand Prix level."

Her U.S. teammate Gluch and Bolero CXLVIII received a score of 71.7 percent for their freestyle designed by Marlene Whitaker that featured difficult canter choreography. Going from a canter half-pass directly into two tempis on a 20-meter circle before going straight back into a canter half-pass in the other direction helped the pair impress the judges to take home the silver medal. Gluch improved upon her score of 68.333 percent from the previous day when she received the individual bronze medal in the Grand Prix 16–25.

"I have done the U25 Nations Cup for three years. Each year we have had the support of U.S. dressage and the USET and all of the sponsors which is huge," Gluch said. "Without them we wouldn't be able to do it, wouldn't be able to have this show, travel to Europe and have the opportunities to get experience. To be on a U.S. team is a real honor, I think everyone here will agree that having the American flag on your saddle pad is something special. It is a different feeling and I try to honor it as well as I can and represent the country well."

— Annan Hepner and Emma Miller

o by Annan Hepner / Phelps Medi

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NetJets® U.S. Show Jumping Team **EARNS BRONZE MEDAL**

IN \$290,000 LONGINES FEI JUMPING NATIONS CUP™ OF THE USA CSIO5* AT PALM BEACH MASTERS SERIES

Presenting their countries, patriots from USA, Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Israel and Ireland showcased their talents in February in the \$290,000 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of the United States of America CSIO5*, the final event during the second week of the 2019 CP Palm Beach Masters Series. Competing for more than national pride and the greatest share of the prize money, contenders were also vying for valuable points towards the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final to be held in Barcelona, Spain, later this October. The NetJets® U.S. Show Jumping Team, comprised of Beezie Madden, Lucy Deslauriers, Laura Kraut and McLain Ward, concluded the day with a podium finish in third place on a total score of 12 faults.

Following the initial 24 trips of round one, Madden and Abigail Wexner's Breitling LS led the way for the American squad with the first clear ride for the team, which was followed by two lowered fences in the next rotation by Deslauriers and Lisa Deslauriers' Hester. Kraut and St. Bride's Farm's Confu tackled Alan Wade's (IRL) expansive 15-fence track with precision but unfortunately accrued 4 faults, and their counterparts, Ward and HH Azur, co-owned by Ward and Double H Farm, followed suit with another unlucky rail.

Margie Engle and Gladewinds Partners, LLC's Royce were originally selected for the team in early February. However, after feeling a little under the weather, Engle elected not to compete, opening the spot up to alternates 19-year-old Deslauriers and Hester.

"We knew Margie was feeling a little under the weather yesterday, but luckily Lucy was ready to step in and I think she did a great job," said Madden. "We all had confidence in Lucy. We felt that she was a very strong substitute for us."

Heading into the second phase of competition, Mexico held the lead on a cumulative tally of zero, while the United States and Ireland sat tied for second place with 8 faults apiece followed by Israel close behind with an additional time fault to their name for 9 faults. Riding in reverse order of the team standings, the returning challengers once again faced the same pattern of formidable nationalistic obstacles. Colombia, Canada and Israel began the rotation, with the United States and Ireland going next and Mexico tackling the track last.

First back for the USA, Madden and Breitling LS turned in a valiant effort as the trailblazers for the Americans, but clipped a rail to add 4 faults to the team total. As the competition continued,





McLain Ward and HH Azur, owned by Double H Farm and Ward

Deslauriers and Hester rallied to turn in a penalty-free effort to advance the team's position, which was matched by Kraut and Confu's equally impressive trip that left all of the fences intact. Last to ride as the team anchors, Ward and HH Azur, the 2017 World Cup Final champions, unfortunately dropped a rail to confirm the team's final score of 12 faults over the two rounds of competition.

"We all made a really big effort to bring our A team here," said Madden. "There's a fine line between how much you do with your best horses early in the year when you're also trying to save them for later — for instance, for mine, for the World Cup Final and other big things in the summer. None of our best horses have done a lot yet this season, so with this coming early in the year, I think that caught us a little bit. They all jumped well, we just didn't put enough clear rounds together. Personally, I like to give all of my horses a big break in the winter. [Breitling LS] felt so good in the first round. I was probably a little too casual in the second round. I needed to be a little more on top of it."

In the end, the four-member team from Mexico led the class from start to finish on a score of 4 faults accrued over two rounds of riding to capture the gold medal and precious points towards the year-end finale in Barcelona in October. Out of the field of 24 horse-and-athlete combinations, only three were able to finish the competition double-clear, with the American contingents navigating three clear rides out of the 16 for the day across the board.

Maintaining their round one score of 9 faults with three clear rides throughout the second phase, Daniel Bluman, Danielle Goldstein, Ilan Ferder and Ashlee Bond of Israel were awarded the silver medal,

followed by the United States in the bronze medal position with a composite score of 12 faults. Madden and Kraut performed the best of the home nation team, each dropping only one rail with their respective mounts throughout two rounds of competition.

"As always, [Alan Wade] did a great job," said Madden. "It's a fine line for the course designer too — what's difficult enough for an intense competition like this and what's too difficult. I think Alan is always pretty spot on. It was difficult to jump but it didn't feel like your horse was busting a gut in the first round and maybe didn't have enough coming back in the second round. I thought it was excellent."

With all teams beginning with no points, the event served as the kick-off to the series and the only qualifier in the United States for the year-end finale, the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final. North American challengers are offered two more chances to earn points at Nations Cup competitions in Coapexpan, Mexico, and Langley, Canada, this spring. Following the \$290,000 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of the United States of America CSIO5*, Mexico leads the North and Central America and Caribbean League with 100 points thanks to their victory, trailed by the United States′ 80 points and Canada′s 60 points.

"I think we had a good day, we just didn't have a great day," said U.S. Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland. "We are playing catch-up with Mexico going into their home territory. They are always tough at home and we have our work cut out for us. Canada is right behind us, they aren't that far back, and they have their home Nations Cup coming up as well. I think it all looks pretty equal."

- Taylor Rains and Elaine Wessel



Lucy Deslauriers and her own Hester



Laura Kraut and Confu, owned by St. Bride's Farm



UNITED STATES OUTRIDES IRELAND

in Head-to-Head Jump-Off for \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO4* Victory



Beezie Madden, Adrienne Sternlicht, Robert Ridland, Wilton Porter and McLain Ward

hirty-five horse-and-athlete combinations representing nine nations battled it out under the lights for a chance at the top prize in the \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO4* during the eighth week of the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). Finishing on an impressive total score of only 8 faults following two rounds of riding, the NetJets® U.S. Show Jumping Team was never off the leaderboard



Wilton Porter and Caletto Cabana, owned by Sleepy P Ranch LLC

thanks to a series of skilled performances from teammates McLain Ward, Wilton Porter, Adrienne Sternlicht and Beezie Madden. A rookie to Nations Cup competition, Porter proved his worth aboard Sleepy P Ranch LLC's Caletto Cabana as the only double-clear American athlete of the evening, while multi-time Olympic medalist Ward and Beechwood Stable LLC's Contagious secured the victory for the team in a head-to-head jump-off against Ireland.

"We have had two back-to-back Nations Cups, and [team selection] was pretty much based off of the rankings," said U.S. Chef d'Équipe Robert Ridland. "One of the prerequisites for selecting the two teams [for tonight at the Winter Equestrian Festival and in February for the \$290,000 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of the United States of America CSIO5* at Deeridge Farms] was that we didn't want to use the same horses. Beezie and McLain did both Nations Cups, but on different horses. We also try to give our young riders experiences they haven't had before. Wilton was double-clean in his debut, and that's a pretty good way to start things off. "Adrienne on Toulago [owned by Starlight Farms 1 LLC] is also a different combination than what she had last year at the World Equestrian Games."

For the first round of riding, course designers Steve Stephens (USA) and Nick Granat (USA) posed to pairs a 15-fence track, which included an open water obstacle and a series of fragile fences at the 1.50m and 1.60m height. Nine pairs managed to complete foot-perfect rides within the 77-second time-allowed to aid their respective teams' total tallies. At the conclusion of the first phase, the United States, Canada and Ireland, led by clear trips from Ward, Porter, Beth Underhill (CAN), Nicole Walker (CAN), Lorcan Gallagher (IRL) and Daniel Coyle (IRL), sat tied with the lowest cumulative scores of 4 faults each.



McLain Ward and Contagious owned by Beechwood Stable LLC

Based on the composite points accrued from the first round, the top six teams qualified for a slot in the second portion of the class. The United States, Canada and Ireland served as the early front-runners, while Israel and Colombia claimed the next two spots with 8 faults apiece. Mexico represented the cut-off score of 12 penalties to round out the pack of teams eligible for round two. With only two rails separating the leading teams from the troupe in sixth position, navigating successful trips was imperative to earn a place on the podium.

Returning in reverse order of the standings over the same pattern, Porter and Caletto Cabana were the third pair to ride for the home team in round two, and the first American partnership to successfully leave both courses fully intact to keep the United States team in contention for the top podium spot.

"I'm very excited, to say the least," reflected Porter after his successful evening. "I'm honored to be able to ride with three great riders who have gold medals in senior championships. That's a pretty big honor for me. I definitely felt like the rookie coming into it, but I have a great horse in Caletto Cabana, so he gave me a lot of confidence to get the job done tonight."

It remained a race between the initial top three squads, as Israel, Colombia and Mexico accumulated too many faults to improve upon their original rankings. Ireland held an edge with two penalty-free rides in the second round of the class, with Canada and the United States each having only turned in one clean trip of the first three pairs to ride. As the final athlete to take to the ring, Madden was faced with a team score of 8 faults, the same tally earned by the completed Irish team. Sitting on a tie score, Madden and Abigail Wexner's Chic Hin D Hyrencourt were able to force a jump-off with Ireland thanks to their clear trip.

Coming down to a jump-off for only the second time in the event's 18-year history, the third and final phase of riding challenged two horse-and-athlete combinations, chosen to represent each of the tied nations, to jump the abridged eight-effort pattern. Selected to ride for the Irish team, Coyle and Farona aimed to add to their streak of successful trips, but the horse's energy levels were clearly low as three rails fell to collect 12 faults in 41.80 seconds. Coming as no surprise, the consistently-clear Ward was chosen to campaign Contagious as the flagbearer for the United States, and only had to best Coyle and Farona's efforts to clinch the team victory. With no need to rush, the duo rode conservatively, ultimately tripping the timers in 43.69 seconds with no faults to capture the title for the NetJets® U.S. Show Jumping Team on home turf.



Adrienne Sternlicht and Toulago owned by Starlight Farms 1 LLC

"It is a neat team because you have two, in theory, younger riders, and Beezie and I are veterans with two younger horses — horses for the future that are both really exciting," commented Ward. "To have the opportunity to make these horses up





Beezie Madden and Chic Hin D Hyrencourt owned by Abigail Wexner

into international contenders in this atmosphere and under the lights is a great thing, and I think both of our horses really rose to the occasion. Contagious has not really gone two rounds like that in one evening before. I actually jumped at the opportunity to do the jump-off because I thought he was jumping better each round. In the end, it was not such a hard job, but I thought it was really nice and he jumped his best in the third round. I think this horse has a bright future and I'm excited for all of his owners."

Since the inauguration of the event in 2002, five nations have taken the crown: the United States, Canada, Ireland, Germany and Great Britain. With their win Saturday evening in the \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO4*, the United States brings its total number of victories to seven, with the last triumph coming in 2015. Though the team was stacked with three members who have won gold medals in international championships, Porter, as well as each of the four horses, were inexperienced with Nations Cup competition, making the win that much more sweet and indicative of what athletes and horses may be making reprises in elite competition for the United States in the future.

Although the evening's competition did not count towards points in the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ series, the United States will continue to strive for top results in eligible competitions, including at the CSIO5* Coapexpan in Mexico and the CSIO5* Langley in Canada, to earn valuable points towards qualifying for the 2019 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona, Spain, in October.

- Elaine Wessel

USET Foundation Recognizes Loyal Gold Medal Club Members

The United States Equestrian Team (USET)
Foundation was pleased to recognize the generous support of their Gold Medal Club (GMC) members at the 2019 Gold Medal Club Reception on Friday, Jan.

18. The GMC is the lifeblood of the USET Foundation, accounting for nearly 80 percent of individual contributions each year, and is comprised of members who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 or more annually. Held at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida, the Gold Medal Club Reception honored and recognized GMC members who have made the USET Foundation a priority in their charitable giving for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.

GMC members have been a vital and essential source of support to U.S. equestrian teams. For the last 10 years, the following GMC members have continued to generously support the

USET Foundation: Barker Welfare Foundation and Katrina Becker, Mr. and Mrs. James Cannavino, Michelle M. Liggett, Mr. and Mrs. David A. McArdle, Kathy Z. Putnam and Susan A. Schmidt.

Receiving the 15-year awards were Patricia Adikes-Hill, Joan and Bill Cvengros, Marsha F. Dammerman, Suzanne E. Mott Dansby, Karin W. Flint, Brendan and Wendy Furlong, Penny Howe Gallo, Wendy O'Brien, Joyce V. Phipps, Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Rizza, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie H. Wexner and Mr. James R. Wolf.

The 20-year awards were presented next to Mr. and Mrs. Mario Deslauriers, Margaret H. Duprey, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy M. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Mahler, Jr., Philip Ernst Richter and Sarah Willeman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Simpson and Anne C. Snyder.



The Farish Family



Jane Forbes Clark and Nick Skelton



Barbara Roux and Laura Kraut

For a remarkable 25 years, James and Elizabeth Bramsen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnstone, Mrs. Charles H. Jones, Karen Lloyd and Stagg and Cheryl Newman have been members of the Gold Medal Club.

Receiving the USET Foundation's 30-year awards were Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Brown, Jacqueline B. Mars, Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom, Judy Richter, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Tauber and Mr. and Mrs. Pascal F. Tone.

Accepting the awards for 35 years were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest S. Bessette, Jr., The Mosaic Foundation and Peter Heydon and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Ridland.

Lastly, the 40-year award, the most prestigious honor presented to a GMC member, was awarded to Frances B. Steinwedell.

The USET Foundation would not be able to achieve their mission to support the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing international and high performance horses and athletes in partnership with US Equestrian without the generous support of each and every member of the Gold Medal Club. The USET Foundation extends their deepest gratitude for their steadfast loyalty and exceptional generosity.

— Taylor Rains



Carlene Blunt, Frances B. Steinwedell and Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.



W. James McNerney, Jr., S. Tucker S. Johnson and William H. Weeks



Debbie McDonald, Margaret Duprey, and Betsy Juliano



(L–R) Karen Lloyd, Judy Richter, Dr. Brendan Furlong, Lisa Deslauriers, Margaret Duprey, Mario Deslauriers, Sarah Willeman, Frances B. Steinwedell, Pat and Lynn Tonne, Jim Cannivano, Lou Jacobs, Elma Garcia Cannivano, Joan Jacobs, Kathy Putnam, Marsha Dammerman, George and Chrystine Tauber, and William H. Weeks



McLain Ward, Beezie Madden, Adrienne Sternlicht, Laura Kraut, Robert Ridland and William H. Weeks



W. James McNerney, Jr., Michel Assouline, Kate Shoemaker, Rebecca Hart and Roxanne Trunnell



W. James McNerney, Jr., Misdee Wrigley Miller and William H. Weeks



Debbie McDonald, Adrienne Lyle, Kasey Perry-Glass, Laura Graves and Betsy Juliano

USET Foundation Awards 2019 Whitney Stone Cup to Dressage Icon Laura Graves

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce that dressage star Laura Graves is the recipient of the 2019 Whitney Stone Cup. The award is presented annually to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition as well as high standards of sportsmanlike conduct, while serving as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport.

Graves was awarded the Whitney Stone Cup during the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception on Friday, Jan. 18, at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida.

"It is hard to continue to express my gratitude and it is so important to me to show how sincere I really am about this," Graves said at the Gold Medal Club Reception. "Every award and every achievement is special every time, and the Whitney Stone Cup is no exception."

Graves, who was recently named the 2018 Equestrian of the Year during the 2019 US Equestrian (USEF) Annual Meeting, and her incredible partner Verdades, a 17-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, have become highly respected as one of the most talented combinations in the sport of dressage since their rise to fame in 2014. The duo was an integral part of the U.S. dressage team at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, where they placed fourth individually and helped the team earn a spot on the podium with the bronze medal.

In 2018, they elevated their presence on the international stage, winning the Grand Prix and placing second overall at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in Paris, France. Later that summer, Graves and Verdades helped their team claim second place honors at the CDIO5* in Aachen, Germany.

"I am so grateful to the USET Foundation who does so much to support our team," expressed Graves. "I really could not do this without their support. I am a unique situation in that way — I really count on them every year and it makes me so proud that I can deliver. To be recognized again is an honor. I was looking over the list of other winners of the Whitney Stone Cup, and it's such an honor now to see my name on that list twice along with so many of the greats in equestrian sport."

Most recently, Graves qualified and competed at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games[™] in Tryon, North Carolina, where the U.S. team earned the silver medal. In addition, Graves also won the individual silver medal in the Grand Prix Special, the highest individual medal earned by a U.S. dressage athlete at a world championship. Capping off an extremely impressive year, Graves was the first American to be ranked No. 1 on the FEI Dressage World Ranking list.

Graves continues to give back to the equestrian community as a leader, valued teammate, clinician and volunteer for multiple USEF committees. She is a role model for many aspiring dressage competitors and is a beloved ambassador for the sport.

"Diddy is 17 this year so we're looking to have a rather short season with him and making sure we take excellent care of him," said Graves. "Qualifying for World Cup Finals — that's [what we're aiming for]. If that happens this season in Florida, we would go to Sweden in April. A big, big goal of mine is to win the World Cup Finals. I've come in second twice now and I'm ready to stand on top of that podium. We'll see how he finishes up the year and how he comes out of 2019. He is still so fresh this year. There is a good possibility, if he is still fit and happy, that we could be taking him to [the 2020 Olympic Games in] Tokyo."



W. James McNerney, Jr., Laura Graves and Betsy Juliano

This award marks the second time in Graves' impressive career that she has been chosen to have her name carved on the Whitney Stone Cup, as she was also the recipient in 2017. Looking ahead, Graves has her sights set on achieving more success and continuing to be an ambassador for the United States and equestri-🔔 – Caroline Nickolaus an sport.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY STONE CUP

The Whitney Stone Cup is awarded in honor of the late Whitney Stone, who served as president and chairman of the board of the United States Equestrian Team from 1953 to 1973. Mr. Stone was instrumental in the creation of a civilian equestrian team when the Army retired from competitive horse sports after 1948. Previous Whitney Stone Cup winners are:

1980 - Michael Matz

1981 – James C. Wofford

1982 - Norman Dello Joio

1983 - Melanie Smith (Taylor)

1984 - Carole Grant

1985 – Joe Fargis

1986 - Conrad Homfeld

1987 - Katie Monahan Prudent

1988 - Bruce O. Davidson

1989 - Gregory A. Best

1990 - William Long

1991 - Hap Hansen 1992 - Lana DuPont Wright

1993 - Carol Lavell

1994 – J. Michael Plumb

1995 – Robert Dover

1996 - Anne Kursinski

1997 - Leslie Burr Howard 1998 - David O'Connor

1999 - Valerie Kanavy

2000 - Karen O'Connor

2001 - Tucker Johnson

2002 - Guenter Seidel

2003 - Peter Wylde 2004 - Debbie McDonald

2005 – Chris Kappler

2006 - Elizabeth (Beezie) Madden

2007 - Elizabeth (Beezie) Madden

2008 - Miranda (Randy) Caldwell

2009 - Steffen Peters

2010 - McLain Ward

2011 - Tucker S. Johnson

2012 - Christine McCrea

2013 - Rich Fellers

2014 - Elizabeth (Beezie) Madden

2015 – Chester Weber

2016 - Phillip Dutton

2017 – Laura Graves 2018 - McLain Ward

2019 - Laura Graves

USET Foundation Presents 2019 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to Rising Star Daisy Farish

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation was pleased to honor the talented young show jumping athlete Daisy Farish of Versailles, Kentucky, as the recipient of the 2019 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy. This prestigious award is presented annually to a junior/young rider in one of the Olympic disciplines who demonstrates the team's values of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

Farish was presented with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy during the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception on Friday, Jan. 18, at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida.

At just 18 years old, Farish has steadily been climbing the ranks in the jumper ring and has had notable results in the competitive U25 classes with Great White, an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding. Trained by the team at Heritage Farm based in Katonah, New York, Farish exemplifies high standards of sportsmanship as she competes regularly at some of the best horse shows in the country and beyond.

"It is surreal to be in the company of talented equestrians who have received this award before me," said Farish at the Gold Medal Club Reception. "Everyone knows that a show jumping career takes a village and there are a few I must name: my mother, father and Jodie Bailey for their endless commitment, encouragement and support and Andre Dignelli and his entire team at Heritage Farm for guiding me and my horses for the past 11 years. I want to thank the foundation for their long-standing commitment to the United States show jumping community. I am truly honored."

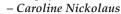
In addition to her equestrian achievements, Farish balances a rigorous academic schedule as a senior at Laurel Springs High School. The young rider has proven to be an invaluable teammate who has a strong interest in continuing to support the United States equestrian teams.

Farish experienced immense success individually and as a valued team member throughout 2018, including earning the individual gold medal at the Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) at Old Salem Farm in North Salem, New York. As a result, she was presented with the USET Foundation's coveted Maxine Beard Award as the highest placing U.S. young rider. This accomplishment earned her a spot on the U.S. team in September for the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final in Opglabbeek, Belgium, where she produced two clear rounds.

Proving her versatility in all three rings, Farish closed out 2018 with a win in the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East, held at the USET Foundation head-quarters in Gladstone, New Jersey, in October aboard Arsouille Des Etangs.

Farish has proven she is a force to be reckoned with as she continues to amass an impressive record, making her way along the U.S. show jumping athlete pathway and achieving her aspirations to represent the United States at international competitions.

Looking ahead, Farish is excited for the upcoming year and is hoping for continued success. Paired with hard work and the same values which earned her a spot on this year's Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, Farish will undoubtedly have great results in 2019.





Senior Equestrian Account Executive at Hermès of Paris Inc. James Sardelli, W. James McNerney, Jr., Daisy Farish and William H. Weeks

ABOUT THE LIONEL GUERRAND-HERMÈS TROPHY

Patrick Guerrand-Hermès established the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Memorial Award in 1983 in memory of his son, Lionel, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1981 at the age of 18. Lionel trained with the United States Equestrian Team and was talented enough to be considered an Olympic hopeful. A perpetual trophy designed by Patrick is inscribed annually with the winner's name and permanently displayed at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. Previous winners are:

1983 – Mark Leone	2002 – Clark Montgome
1984 – Jeffery Welles	2003 – Will Faudree
1985 – Holly Mitten	2004 - Kristin Schmolze
1986 – Gregory A Best	2005 – Brianne Goutal
1987 – Susanne Owen	2006 - Katie Hamilton
1988 – Christopher Kappler	2007 - Carolyn Kelly
1989 – Mollie Bliss	2008 – Hillary Dobbs
1990 - Kim Keenan	2009 – Laura Noyes
1991 – McLain Ward	2010 – Jennifer Waxmar
1992 – Abigail Lufkin	2011 – Tiana Coudray
1993 – Mark Combs	2012 – Lucy Davis
1994 – Gabriella Salick	2013 – Reed Kessler
1995 – Megan Johnstone	2014 – Katie Dinan
1996 – Jonathan Elliot	2015 – Lillie Keenan
1997 – Alison Firestone	2016 – Lucy Deslauriers
1998 – Bruce Davidson Jr.	2017 - Chloe Reid
1999 – Chad Geeter	2018 – Jennifer Gates
2000 – Elise Haas	2019 – Daisy Farish
2001 – Marilyn Little	-

S. Tucker S. Johnson Honored with R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award

In 2015, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced the creation of the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award in honor and recognition of the late Bruce Duchossois. On Friday, Jan. 18, S. Tucker S. Johnson was presented with the 2019 award during the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club Reception held at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida.

"I just want to say thank you, especially to the fellow board members I served with and the staff at the USET [Foundation]," said Johnson at the Gold

Medal Club Reception. "When I think about growing up in the shadow of Gladstone, I never thought I would get tangled up in horses in the way that I turned out to. Even more fun was getting tangled up with those of you in this room who continue to be so generous in supporting our athletes and for those of you who go out there and ride and drive and train your horses every day to make the United States look good. Thank you for letting me be a part of that."

The USET Foundation established the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee

Award in recognition of Duchossois' leadership, generosity and outstanding character. His life was celebrated in 2015 as the first recipient of the prestigious award, and the example he set lives on in others as the award is presented annually to a USET Foundation trustee who exemplifies exceptional leadership, philanthropy and character.

Johnson has been a trustee of the USET Foundation for 17 years, serving as president/CEO from 2013-2016, and remains a member of the Executive Committee. He has been a true leader, chairing the first major campaign of the USET Foundation, the \$20 million Campaign for Achieving Competitive Excellence, which exceeded its goal and established strong support for the US Equestrian (USEF) high performance programs. Johnson has also served on the Investment Committee for 15 years, chairing it for the last 14 years, and has served as the USET Foundation representative on the USEF board of directors as well as chaired the USEF Driving Committee for many years.

As an athlete, Johnson represented the United States on multiple occasions in four-in-hand combined driving at international competitions and world championships. In 2010, after an enormously successful career, Johnson was part of the silver medal team and won the individual bronze medal at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Lexington, Kentucky, marking his retirement from competition.

Johnson continues to serve as a trustee, Executive Committee member and chair of the USET Foundation's Investment Committee helping to ensure that this generation of U.S. athletes and teams have the support they need to achieve competitive excellence.

A true champion, Johnson's distinguished service through excellence in leadership, philanthropy and character has positively impacted the USET Foundation's mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future.

Since the award's inception in 2015, Johnson adds his name to a distinguished list of past recipients including Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. in 2016, Jacqueline B. Mars in 2017 and Jane Forbes Clark in 2018.



USET Foundation Awards Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant to Ryan Keefe

he United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is pleased to announce that it has awarded the 2019 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant to up-and-coming eventing rider Ryan Keefe of Sandy Spring, Maryland.

"It's a really big honor to be chosen for the [Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant] because I know that a lot of other great riders before me have received it," said Keefe. "It definitely feels good to have the support of the USET Foundation and other people behind the grant who believe in me."

in conjunction with The Event at Rebecca Farm, where they won team gold and placed fourth individually.

Most recently, Keefe was selected to the Emerging Athlete Eventing 25 program by the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Sport Committee in December 2018 and the program hosted its winter training session with USEF eventing emerging athlete coach Leslie Law in Ocala, Florida, from Jan. 14–17.

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund was established by Warrington's family in her memory with the purpose of helping



Ryan Keefe and her own Flintstar

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant is awarded through the USET Foundation Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund. Keefe, this year's winner, has demonstrated her talent at many of the nation's top CCI1* and CCI2* events. At just 18 years old and a freshman at the University of Kentucky, Keefe has piloted her top mount, Flintstar, to a number of impressive finishes, including winning the Virginia Horse Trials CCI1* in 2017 and finishing 11th overall at their first CCI2* at Fair Hill International in 2018.

Keefe credits much of her success to her veteran partner Flintstar, who she acquired in 2016. The 2000 Thoroughbred gelding was previously ridden by New Zealand's Jonelle Price up through the 4* level and contributed towards New Zealand's team bronze medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

In July 2018, the pair competed for the first time on the Area II CICOY2* squad at the Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), which took place in Kalispell, Montana,

to provide financial assistance to an eventing rider who has been identified as an athlete with great talent and ability to represent the United States in the future.

As the recipient of the grant, Keefe, who trains with her mom, Rumsey, and Sharon White of Last Frontier Eventing, will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with her training over the next year.

"The grant will help me a lot with our winter training in Ocala," said Keefe. "Since [Flintstar] is getting older, I would like to get some Advanced Level experience out of him this year. He has been such a good teacher so far for me. A big thanks again to the people behind the grant for all of their support!"

Thanks to the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant, Keefe can focus on continuing her training and preparing for competitions as she aims towards one day representing the United States on the international stage. — *Taylor Rains*

USET FOUNDATION HOLDS EXCITING EXHIBITION WITH BELOVED BUDWEISER CLYDESDALES

The Budweiser Clydesdales stepped out in all their considerable glory at the USET Foundation headquarters just before Christmas, an appropriate curtain raiser for the festive season.

The Clydesdales were making their first appearance in the arena that has hosted so many famous equines in a variety of disciplines over the decades. The demonstration, which benefited the foundation and A Home for Every Horse charity, was presented by Sergeantsville Grain & Feed and Purina Animal Nutrition.

The excitement of having an opportunity to see the famous eight-horse team in person drew more than 600 enthusiastic spectators to Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey, for a demonstration on how the horses are hitched up followed by an exhibition of their exacting maneuvers. The beautifully turned out giants, their coats gleaming with the luster of polished mahogany, left their audience awestruck.

"It was so exciting to have the Budweiser Clydesdales here in Gladstone, especially during the holiday season," said USET Foundation executive director Bonnie Jenkins. "Hamilton Farm is so rich in history and tradition for our United States equestrian teams, and the Budweiser hitch embodies that same American spirit and greatness.

"It was also wonderful to see so many members of the community come out and enjoy an afternoon sipping on hot chocolate and seeing some of the most awesome equines show off their quiet strength and athleticism pulling the iconic Budweiser beer wagon," continued Jenkins. "It made us all go home feeling just a bit merrier."

The horses were led from the vans in which they traveled, walking through the rotunda of the foundation's stable, with the noise of their hooves echoing as they headed out to the ring. Everything about them



was impressive, causing many in the crowd to gasp with unabashed delight as they first caught a glimpse of the Clydesdales.

Sharri Reinhard, who lives in nearby Peapack, New Jersey, was thrilled to have the chance to be just feet from the horses, while marveling at their size and majesty.

"When you see them on TV, it's completely different than seeing them in person, with that power and strength," Reinhard observed. "It's sort of like when you see the Grand Canyon in photos and then you go for the first time and you say, 'Oh my, the photos just don't do it justice.' The attention to detail, the care these horses get and the professionalism of the whole operation is really cool."

It takes seven handlers about five hours to get the horses ready for every performance, including washing, grooming — with special attention to combing the feathers on the horses' legs — and braiding. Just preparing the beautifully polished harnesses and shining its brass for every event takes two handlers four hours.

Reinhard was interested in watching the horses cut across the ring behind the stables in a precision move, amazed at the coordination it takes to get them to do that. The hitch also moved perpendicular to the wall of the ring as the horses strode sideways. The docking technique is the same that was used for delivering cases of beer to bars, as the team would do a week later in Hoboken, New Jersey, to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the end of Prohibition.



"When you hear the driver talking to the horses, you realize they're not just beautiful and strong, they're smart," said Reinhard. "He's talking to them and they're listening and working as a team. It's just gorgeous and right in my backyard! It's such an opportunity they gave us to see them, that was so nice."

While it was Reinhard's first time being close to the Clydesdales, Susan Data-Samtak of Bedminster, New Jersey, noted, "I've seen them a few times over the years, and even rode in the Pegasus Parade in Louisville, Kentucky, with them — and about 1,000 other horses!

"The Budweiser Clydesdales are always perfectly turned out and well-behaved," continued Data-Samtak. "I enjoyed seeing them being harnessed and put to the wagon. I am awed by the ability of the driver in handling four pairs of huge horses with 40 pounds of reins in his hands. The skill needed to back and swing all eight horses in the docking sequence is incredible."

Dave Thomas, the manager of the East Coast Budweiser team who also drove the horses, had not visited the foundation previously but was very impressed.

"The barn and the facility are absolutely beautiful and firstclass but there were a few challenges," Thomas said with a smile. "The arena wasn't necessarily set up to get a big team of eight Clydesdales in and out, but we worked through it."

The way they did it was by hitching the Clydesdales in the ring, a process that took more than half an hour. This gave spectators a chance to see what it takes to get the horses attached to the 8,000-pound bright red Studebaker wagon, which was decked out with a wreath for the occasion. Also on hand was Mary, the adorable Dalmatian mascot, wearing her own brass breastplate. She kept an eye on everything from her perch atop the wagon.



Anheuser-Busch has five locations for its horses around the country. Each team will travel about 10 months of the year, but they all get two months off "to be a horse," as Thomas put it. The horses have to be quite fit to do their job, which involves pulling the wagon three to four days a week on average.

Regarding what the Clydesdales do when they finally go into retirement, Thomas quipped, "Our horses have a great '401-hay' program," noting they are placed with a family to relax for the rest of their days.

"If you're a horse, you definitely want to be a Budweiser Clydesdale," Thomas said. — Nancy Jaffer





Honor Your Horse

with the USET Foundation Stall Naming Program

Can't figure out what to buy that special someone for their birthday? How about naming a stall with a beautiful permanent bronze plaque in honor of their favorite horse at the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's historic Hamilton Farm stable.

It doesn't have to be a horse that was on a U.S. team or one who set hoof on the foundation's grounds in Gladstone, New Jersey. Mounts who simply make their owners happy or take them on trail rides are candidates for the honor if the person who loves them wants to make sure they're remembered in a big way.

Naming a stall after a favorite horse is available for a tax-deductible charitable gift of \$100,000 for the top floor of the building and \$50,000 for the lower floor, payable over a multi-year period. Out of the 27 upper-level stalls, 13 remain available.

While the donation pays tribute to a single horse, it also goes towards the foundation's important mission of supporting the U.S. equestrian teams, which involves funding the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite and developing horses and athletes for international competition, in partnership with US Equestrian (USEF).

Among the horses celebrated with plaques are eventing Olympic medalists Giltedge and Prince Panache, Olympic double-gold medal show jumper Touch of Class and FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final winner Brentina, who also led the way to medals at the Olympics, World Equestrian Games and captured both team and individual gold medals at the 1999 Pan American Games for the USA.

The stall naming program is not new, but the foundation wanted to highlight it as part of the organization's current fundraising campaign, which led to a small ceremony in November 2018 for the addition of the Weeks family's retired grand prix show jumper, Madison, to the ranks of special horses who have had stalls named in their honor.

The Weeks brought the 22-year-old mare down from Connecticut to munch hay in the stall that bears her name, enjoy



Madison on the way to her stall in the USET Foundation stable with Kent Farrington, Alexa Weeks Pessoa, and her parents, Olivia and Bill Weeks.



Kent Farrington gives Madison a carrot as she looks out from "her" stall.

some carrots and reunite with Kent Farrington, the rider who took her to grand prix fame.

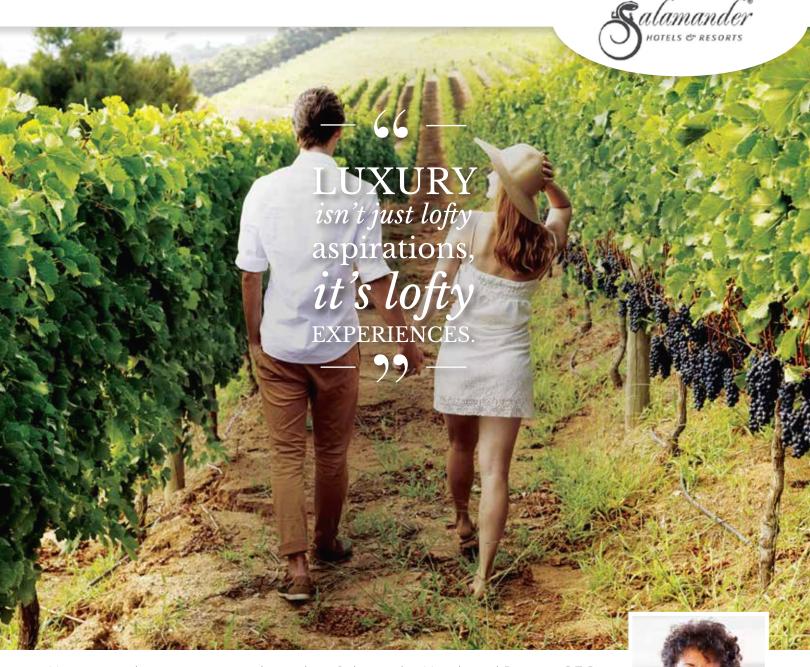
Olivia Weeks and her husband, Bill, who is also vice president of the foundation's board of trustees, feel a connection with the stable from which the U.S. fielded so many medal-winning teams.

"It's a real honor for [Madison], but I think it is also a great thing to raise money for the USET Foundation," said Olivia. "It means a lot to us as a family because of the history of the building and the sport. Now she has a little piece of that history."

Farrington remembers the mare as "a trier and a real fighter in the ring." Their many triumphs included claiming the grand prix at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair and topping the President's Cup at the Washington International Horse Show, where he also was leading jumper rider during his debut in the professional ranks there. He ended 2005 by winning the American Grand Prix Association (AGA) Trainer of the Year title, while Madison was honored with the AGA Horse of the Year award.

To have stall named in honor of the special horse in your life contact the USET Foundation today to learn more.

- Nancy Jaffer



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