



FARRINGTON WINS AACHEN GRAND PRIX

USA Back On Winner's Wall

BY BARRE DUKES



Kent Farrington and Gazelle, owned by Robin Parsky and Farrington

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

It had been more than a decade since “USA” was marked onto the coveted winner’s wall at the prestigious CHIO World Equestrian Festival in Aachen, Germany, but 2019 would be the year for change with the help of Kent Farrington and his winning ride aboard the mare he owns with Robin Parsky, Gazelle. After a 12-year hiatus for American athletes in the winner’s circle of the

demanding Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen, Farrington wrote his name into the history books and raised the flag for his home country of the United States once again.

“Aachen is the biggest grand prix in our sport. I think it’s the one that every rider in the world dreams of winning so to actually win it is a surreal moment. Most riders coming up the ranks in the

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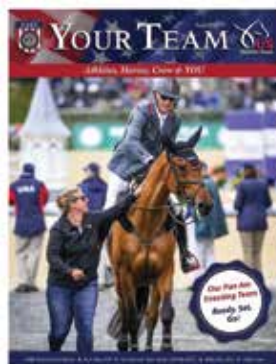
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AACHEN GRAND PRIX

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sport have always watched that class. To go to Aachen and compete is one step and then to go there and be able to win – that's a dream. I was riding in that ring all week, looking at the winner's wall and imagining my name on there," said Farrington of his long-awaited victory.

"We're happy for our team, happy for the country and happy that we were able to raise the American flag one more time in Aachen," said Gazelle's co-owner and USET Foundation Trustee, Parsky. "To me that's the biggest honor that can ever happen. When I can stand in that ring and watch them raise the American flag, it is a tear-jerking moment."

Formatted as a two-round grand prix, seven combinations finished double-clear, forcing a jump-off round to determine this year's €1,000,000 Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen CSIO5* winner. The United States and Germany had the highest odds for victory with both countries possessing two athletes in the third round. McLain Ward entered third into the ring for the final round with his 2017 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final-winning mount, HH Azur, but an 8-fault finish would place American hopes solely onto Farrington.

The 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, Gazelle, is no stranger to the pressure and rose to the occasion, piloted by Farrington to the first triple-clear finish. The pair's clear round time of 43.98 seconds would overtake the top spot as the final two rides remained from the German contenders. Reigning World Champions, Simone Blum and DSP Alice, finished with one rail down, while Daniel Deusser, the last to go, matched Farrington as the only athlete to produce three fault-free rounds.

Electing in anticipation not to watch the events unfold, Farrington waited in the schooling arena for the sound of the crowd's reaction to determine his fate. The home crowd cheered in excitement for Deusser's clear finish, so Farrington instead looked to those directly around him, including his fellow American team members, to determine if his time would hold atop the leaderboard. By just under fourth-tenths of a second, Farrington and Gazelle were triumphant to win the €1,000,000 Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen CSIO5*, receiving their first congratulatory wishes from none other than fellow American competitor, Ward.

Dating back to 1927, the grand prix, considered the most difficult in the sport, had only been won by an American six times, with Farrington's victory marking



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Kent Farrington and Gazelle, owned by Robin Parsky and Farrington



Photo courtesy of Rolex

Kent Farrington and Gazelle, owned by Robin Parsky and Farrington

the seventh. The last two wins for the United States were captured by women with Beezie Madden as the most recent American winner in 2007 aboard Authentic, followed by Anne Kursinski and Starman's victory in 1991.

"I supported Anne Kursinski at the time that she won the Aachen Grand Prix and I remember her elation about that and how important it was. I've been to the Aachen Grand Prix on probably ten occasions starting in 1986 for the world championships, so I understand the importance of Aachen and I realize that every top rider would like to win Aachen," said Parsky.

"It takes a lot of stamina and quality from the horse to want to clear the jumps at that height for that many rounds," Farrington noted of the challenging pinnacle event. "I think Aachen of all venues is probably the most demanding in the world because it's massive size and massive atmosphere at the same time."

The CHIO Aachen holds prestige as the largest and best-attended equestrian event in the world. The rich history in Aachen is evident around the showgrounds at the Aachener Soers as it pays tribute to the famous horses and athletes that have competed and won over the years. The venue features a "Walk of Fame" with horseshoes belonging to some of the past winners in show jumping, dressage and eventing. It also boasts a wall with the winners of all previous events where many riders dream of one day placing their own name, just as Farrington once did.

"I think the thrill of it all was that this was a really, really good year for Aachen with so many good horses and good riders," said Parsky. "There was never a time in my 20 years of experience at

Aachen that I have seen as many good horses up against each other in the two rounds. It's really just a testament to how many good horses and riders exist in this world today."

To win the grand prix of Aachen is a big dream for many, but maybe more so for Farrington. The Grand Prix of Aachen is one of the four major tournaments that make up the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping – a journey which Farrington set out on after winning the Rolex Grand Prix of CHI Geneva in December 2017. Just one month ahead of the next major event at 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands, Farrington suffered a serious leg injury that required months of recovery.

"My biggest goal after the injury was just to come back better than when I left. It gave me time to refocus and think and put my energy into the areas of my career that I really wanted to focus on," reflected Farrington.

"There's only so much pressure you can put on yourself and I think at a certain point you can only want to win so badly and I'm always super hungry to compete – that's just my mentality. I think if anything my injury made me really just step back and appreciate how great my horses are, how great my team is, and all of the support that I have in order to be able to allow me to be in a position to try and chase those dreams. I think that's maybe a better perspective with the same amount of ambition for success."

Parsky supported Farrington in the wake of his injury as the pair adjusted and created a new plan for Gazelle to return to competition in the latter part of 2018. The devoted co-owner Parsky acknowledged the mare led them both on the journey of

recovery and was confident that Gazelle was ready after she returned in top form with Farrington to win the in €100,000 Loro Piana Small Grand Prix CSI5* at CSIO Rome Piazza di Siena in May.

"I think that it was a really special moment for us and it's the ultimate combination of the rider, the owners and the horse all coming together to support each other," reflected Parsky of their win in Aachen. "We actually did it and I still am pinching myself. All of the stars aligned but it was a lot that did this win. It was a lot of work, a lot of talent and a lot of willingness on Gazelle's part, as well as a lot of talent on Kent's part. I'm just a big time supporter, that's how I view myself. I am the one that will always be there for them. I will always be at the ring and I will always be supportive."

"Robin Parsky is a really enthusiastic owner and I think that's great for the sport and the more people that find enjoyment and are passionate about supporting the sport, the better it is for all of us as athletes and competitors because this is a very expensive sport and we need supporters to do it at a high level. I think it's great that she champions that cause of really being a passionate horse owner," said Farrington.

Parsky is never one to miss Gazelle's competition and made sure to be there on her special day as the team aimed for this feature event in Aachen.

"Kent and I have always had a lot of respect for this horse that she showed us from the beginning. She is extremely talented and ambitious. We gave her this opportunity to show everybody what she can do and she did," said Parsky.

As a member of countless U.S. Show Jumping teams, Farrington stressed the importance of support. "One of the great strengths that we have being from the United States is that we have great support from the USET Foundation and we have great support from individuals that love supporting American show jumping," Farrington remarked. "We're all really fortunate in being from the U.S. and having that kind of backing behind us. I think that shows in our results – not only in the sport day in and day out but also in the major championships. We have a very good record at all of the major championships around the world and that's a testament to how much support we have from the USET Foundation, from the team and from all of the individuals that support U.S. show jumping."

"I am a very strong supporter because I believe that the USET Foundation provides the wherewithal for our riders to represent the team and the country up

against some of the best countries," said Parsky. "You need encouragement because this can be an up and down sport but when representing your country you want try harder and you come together as a group."

The support of the USET Foundation was present as the NetJets® U.S. Show Jumping Team jumped to the gold medal at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games™ (WEG) in Tryon, North Carolina, where the team earned one of the coveted qualification slots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Due to his injury, Farrington did not feel it was in his best interest for his short-listed mount Gazelle to perform and withdrew himself from the U.S. WEG short list. Now, driven with momentum after his recovery, he sets his eyes on the future and the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"My short term goal is to try to be in top form for Spruce Meadows with that being a part of the Rolex Majors and being in contention for the Rolex Grand Slam – that's my immediate horizon," said Farrington. "Beyond that I'm looking forward to try and have some horses that could be contenders for Tokyo."

Farrington concluded, "I am a proud representative of the United States when



Kent Farrington and Robin Parsky

Photo by Phelps Media Group

I am riding for the team. Even when I'm competing internationally and I'm not riding for the team, it's always an honor to represent the United States. I think we have a history of great riders from our country and a bunch of great riders now and I'm hoping to carry on that same tradition."

As for 2019, "K. Farrington" will remain a piece of history in the walls of Aachen as the world's top ten-ranked rider joins a world-class list of international athletes with an astounding grand prix win for the United States. 🇺🇸



Kent Farrington and Gazelle,
owned by Robin Parsky and Farrington

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

PAN AM GAMES



Tammie Smith, Doug Payne, Lynn Symansky and Boyd Martin

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

U.S. EVENTING TEAM VICTORIOUS

The Lima 2019 Pan American Games proved to be very successful for the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team, which was comprised of Boyd Martin, Lynn Symansky, Doug Payne and Tammie Smith. After the third and final phase of competition in the show jumping ring, and four double clear efforts, the team ended on a total score of 91.2 to earn the coveted gold medal. The team, a close-knit group of successful eventers from across the United States, not only returned home with gold medals in hand, but also a ticket for the United States to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games next summer.

"This is a group that knows each other already. We all get along really well, and it does make the pressured environment easier when you have a group of people that supports each other when things don't always go according to plan," Symansky noted of the team. "It's pretty special to not have everything go one-hundred percent for everyone yesterday and to come back out and do four clean rounds. It's a nice feeling to wrap everything up with."

After two days of intense competition for the U.S. team in the dressage ring and out on the cross country field, the four athletes and their mounts were ready to enter the ring to tackle Guilherme Jorge (BRA) technical track on the third day. Intended to test their mental and physical endurance on the final day of competition, Smith

and her mount, Maui Baum, were the first combination from the United States to try their hand on course. Smith and the 13-year-old German Sport Horse gelding owned by Alex Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn, and Erick Markell produced a textbook clear round to start the day off strong for her team.

"He felt ready to go again. He really ate up the atmosphere and couldn't have been better. I'm really proud of him," said Smith after an issue on cross country the previous day. "That's what makes this sport beautiful. I'm really grateful that my teammates performed great. My horse is wonderful, and we were both a little caught out there yesterday and that won't be a mistake we have again."

While Smith's clear round set the bar high for her teammates to deliver clear results, the pressure of the day could not shake the experienced U.S. team. Martin commented on the high stakes of the competition. "This is a big relief. We all worked very, very hard. There was a lot of pressure coming here, and it's nice to pull off a good performance. We came here and were under the gun a bit, and we all stepped out and tried our hardest—we have great horses and good riders."

Next to go for the U.S. was Payne aboard the 8-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, Starr Witness. Owned by Payne, Laurie McRee, and Catherine Winter, the mare carried Payne to yet



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Tammie Smith and Maui Baum, owned by Alex Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn, and Erick Markell



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Doug Payne and Starr Witness, owned by Laurie McRee, Catherine Winter and Payne

another clear round to put the U.S. Team in an even stronger position heading into the conclusion of the competition.

Led by chef d'équipe Erik Duvander, the U.S. Eventing Team continued to be unshakable as the day continued. Despite other countries' attempts to work their way to the top, the Americans continued to produce clear rounds. Symansky and RF Cool Play, an 11-year-old German Sporthorse owned by The Donner Syndicate, were up next for the team and exceeded expectations with yet another clear round.

As the show jumping competition neared the end, the momentum continued to build with Martin as the anchor for the team. Paired with the talented Tsetserleg, an 11-year-old Trakhener gelding owned by Christine Turner, Martin felt prepared to deliver a clear result for his teammates.



Photo courtesy FEI

Boyd Martin and Tsetserleg, owned by Christine Turner

Proving consistent during the earlier phases of competition, Martin continued with the theme to cross the timers fault-free and seal the gold medal for the team.

The whole team was quick to thank all of their supporters for not only contrib-

uting to their gold medal finish, but also qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "For a championship like this, you show up with a vast amount of support from U.S. Equestrian, the USET Foundation, the owners, and all of the support staff," Payne noted of their support systems. "We are really the top that's visible, but we wouldn't be here without their help, and of course the horses. They put forward a great effort and we'll forever be appreciative."

While the team competition proved to be extremely successful for the United States, the athletes also dominated the podium in the individual portion of the Lima 2019 Pan American Games. Martin walked away with not one, but two gold medals on his neck as he captured the individual championship with Tsetserleg as well. Finishing in the silver podium spot was Symansky and RF Cool Play. Payne and Starr Witness finished just outside of the podium in fourth place.

Martin commented on the successful experience for the U.S. Eventing Team, "I think it was a brilliant competition. It was everything you dream of in a championship. I think the crowd had an exciting contest to the very finish, and this was much harder of a competition than I expected."

Up next, the U.S. Eventing Team will



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Lynn Symansky and RF Cool Play, owned by The Donner Syndicate

continue to work towards improving and training for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Duvander concluded, "I've seen how much work these riders have put into this; the preparation and how much it means to them, and then be able to execute. I couldn't wish for a better ending than four clear rounds, and that's a really strong performance. If we can keep building on what we did here and keep that momentum it will get us closer and closer. It's about using every day we have before Tokyo to keep improving in the same manner that we've been working now."

– Callie Clement



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Tamie Smith, Doug Payne, Lynn Symansky, and Boyd Martin



FUTURE OF U.S. DRESSAGE LOOKS BRIGHT

Developing Partnerships Shine at Pan American Games

Hosted in Lima, Peru, the 2019 Pan American Games proved to be the perfect stepping stone for three developing horse-and-athlete partnerships who were honored to represent the United States in the dressage competition. The U.S. Dressage Team had already earned their qualifying spot for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games from their silver medal performance at the FEI World Equestrian Games last year. Without the pressure to qualify for Tokyo, chef d'équipe Debbie McDonald saw the Pan American Games as an ideal stepping stone for Led by McDonald, the team consisted of only tour combinations, Nora Batchelder on Faro SQF, Jennifer Baumert on Handsome and Sarah Lockman on First Apple.

With a total of eight teams and 11 individuals competing at the Equestrian Club La Militar La Molina, the U.S. kicked off the opening day of team competition with an early lead. Batchelder and Faro SQF, an 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Batchelder and Andrea Whitcomb, were the first combination to head down centerline for the U.S. in the Prix St. Georges and they earned a 71.441 percent. Faro SQF, bred by Jill Peterson, was also the only American-bred mount on the team and his nomination for the team was inspirational for other U.S. dressage breeders.

"Faro was really good in there and I'm proud of him," said Batchelder. "He tried really hard, and I thought overall his canter work was really strong and the trot was accurate. It's really exciting



Nora Batchelder, Sarah Lockman, Jennifer Baumert



Nora Batchelder on Faro SQF, owned by Andrea Whitcomb and Batchelder

that Faro is U.S. bred. He was bred 20 minutes down the road from where I live now. It's fun and it feels like he's a real homebred. He's American all the way."

Contributing to the team average, Baumert rode Betsy Juliano's 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding Handsome to a score of 72.441 percent. Baumert has competed with the talented gelding for three years and representing the stars and stripes at the Pan American Games has been a lifelong goal of Baumert.

"I was really happy how Handsome handled the environment. He really lit up when we got in there and got all big," Baumert explained. "For the most part, I was super happy with the performance. He has such a personality. He's the happiest horse I've ever known, and I love him so much."

In tight competition with Canada, Sarah Lockman knew she had to give it her all and she rode First Apple, a 9-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion owned by Gerry Ibanez, to a personal best score of 76.088 percent to individually top the class and secure the first day's lead for the U.S. in the medal race.

"I'm so proud to be here, to represent my country, and to pull off a personal best when it really counts the most for my team. We had a job to do and we did it," Lockman said. "He came out feeling super and was 100 percent with me."

On the second day of competition, which determined the team medal results, the U.S. Dressage Team rode away with the team silver medal, while Canada earned gold and Brazil rounded out the podium in bronze. Competing in the Intermediate I, Batchelder scored 71.529 percent and Baumert 70.382 percent from the judging panel. Lockman and First Apple picked up their second high score of the week with a 75.912 percent, topping the class individually.

"Representing the U.S. is a feeling like no other," Lockman commented. "It's such a great experience for us since our sport, for the most part, is an individual sport, so it's very cool to be on a team. We root for each other as professionals all the time, but it really brought a different element here to this event."

McDonald, in her first major international championship in her new role with the U.S. Dressage Team, was ecstatic with each of the American athletes' performances and dedication in Lima.

"I'm really proud of the team and their performances over the last two days. It shows the passion they have for their horses and how hard they've worked to get here. There is a lot to look forward to when you look at the direction of this program and I believe the future is very bright. The more international and championship exposure we can give our athletes, the better we become as a team," said McDonald. "Overall, I think everyone handled the environment to the best of their ability, and they have each benefitted so greatly as a group and individually from this experience. This has been a tremendous week for our team, and I'm looking forward to the progress we make from here."

Due to their strong performances in the team competition, all three of the pairs qualified for the individual competition with their Intermediate I Freestyles. Scoring another career-best, Baumert and Handsome earned the individual bronze medal with a 75.755 percent. After their electronic dance music freestyle, Lockman was crowned the gold medal individual champion after another personal best score of 78.89 percent.

"I am so proud of my horse and myself," Lockman explained following her test. "I put a lot of pressure on myself and I couldn't have asked for more. I'm over the moon excited. It's a complete dream come true."

"I'm a small-town girl, and I'm so fortunate to have had so many people believe in me from the beginning," she continued. "I really think hard work pays off, and I have worked so hard to be here. I have something to say to all of the little girls out there who tell someone that they want to go to the Olympics one day, it is possible."

– Annan Hepner



Jennifer Baumert and Handsome, owned by Betsy Juliano



Sarah Lockman and First Apple, owned by Gerry Ibanez

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Eve Jobs and her own Venue d'Fees des Hazalles

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

RISING STARS HELP U.S. SHOW JUMPING BRING HOME BRONZE

In August, the U.S. Show Jumping Team traveled to Lima, Peru for the 2019 Pan American Games where they secured the team bronze medal for the country over two days of world-class competition. The team was anchored by veteran Olympian Beezie Madden, who garnered the individual bronze medal after besting a four-horse jump-off on the final day.

In addition to Madden, the team included Alex Granato, 21-year-old Eve Jobs and 20-year-old Lucy Deslauriers, who were all making their championship debut. The team started strong with clear rounds produced by all four team members during the faults-converted speed leg on the opening day of competition,

giving them the early lead headed into the next day's Nations Cup.

On the second day of competition, Madden with Abigail Wexner's 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion Breitling LS and Jobs with her own 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare Venue d'Fees des Hazalles each completed the first round over the technical track with no faults added, but 8 faults from Deslauriers and a 16-fault drop-score from Granato meant the team would need to fight for a podium spot during the second round.

Granato returned with a strong performance aboard Page Tredennick's 11-year-old Mecklenburg gelding Carlchen W, having just one rail down and 1 time fault for a 5 fault total. Deslauriers then returned on Lisa Deslauriers' 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding Hester and cleared the course for no additional faults. The team was looking strong, but 8 faults from Jobs and Madden made their total score from three rounds 23.09 faults, finishing just behind Mexico for the team bronze medal.

"We came here for a medal, that's what you always do in a championship, and we went away with a medal," said Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "We were a little bit disappointed because we were in the fight for the gold until the end, and then the silver slipped away. What I'm most proud of is that all four of the riders were an essential part yesterday, putting us where we were, and today as well. Everybody participated in a group effort, and I'm very proud of that."

"We were in a favorable position coming in, having already qualified for the Olympic Games, but we sent a team that we knew would be competitive for the gold medal," said Ridland. "It was important to have them be able to ride side-by-side with Beezie



(L-R) Beezie Maden, Alex Granato, Eve Jobs and Lucy Deslauriers

Photo by FEI



Beezie Madden and Breitling LS, owned by Abigail Wexner

and all her experience and have alternate Richard Spooner as part of the team and be absolutely instrumental all week long. To be able to have three riders that have never been in a championship before come away with a medal, that's what it's all about."

"Carlchen W felt a lot more level-headed the second round," said Granato after his second ride. "I would have liked to have started with that this morning, but it gave me something to dig in and fight for to have a better round. That is the end of our game this week, so I feel like we're going out on a really confident and strong note."

Looking ahead, Madden, Jobs and Deslauriers all qualified for the individual final, where once again a technical track challenged horses and athletes for a place on the podium. During the Individual Final, all scores were reset to zero as athletes prepared to jump two more rounds. Madden and Deslauriers each started the day with 4-fault efforts, but Jobs was clear over the first round as they prepared to jump again.

Deslauriers finished her first championship with another solid performance, adding 4 more faults to her score to place in the top 10 individually with her veteran partner Hester.

"I'm lucky to come out of my first championship experience in the top 10," said Deslauriers. "I was really lucky to be alongside Beezie as a teammate and a leader and have her show us the ropes. Getting to compete with my dad (Mario Deslauriers, who rode for Canada) also at a championship was a lot of fun."

Jobs added 4 faults to her original score, while Madden went clear during the second round, and with four athletes finishing on a 4 fault total for the day there was a jump-off for the bronze medal. Madden was the first to return with Breitling LS and showcased why she has been the anchor for so many championship teams. The duo raced over the track without error, breaking the beam

in 42.47 seconds to set an unbeatable pace.

Nicole Walker (CAN), Eugenio Garza Perez (MEX) and Jobs tried to best Madden, but Walker had one rail down and Jobs had two rails down to finish fourth and fifth, respectively, while Perez retired after a refusal.

"It's an honor to represent my country," said Jobs after her first major championship. "We had a great team partnership, and we bonded really well. It's my first time at a team championship and that comes with pressure in itself. Getting to jump here and jump for my country with my teammates, I've learned so much by going through this process."

Madden secured the individual bronze medal and a spot on the podium for the United States, marking her 13th championship medal.

"It's huge," said Madden after receiving her medal. "It's always great for your team when you come through with something you had as a goal for the year. Our staff works really hard to help me and to make that happen for me, my husband




Lucy Deslauriers and her own Hester

John, and our owner Abigail Wexner. It's always our goal to represent our country and try to win medals. It's not an easy task, so when it comes out the way you wanted, it's always a great feeling."

Madden concluded, "I think it was a really fun week. It was a fun group and a good team atmosphere. It was a great week for them to not only gain experience, but they did really well too."

Looking forward to 2020, the U.S. Show Jumping team will turn its attention to prepare for the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, where they hope to once again bring home medals for their country, thanks to the support of the USET Foundation.

 - Rebecca Walton



Alex Granato and Carlchen W, owned by Page Tredennick

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

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AREA VIII & AREA III/VII EVENTING GOLD

Rising to the occasion in the CCIJ2-L (Junior) division was Area VIII, who concluded the week on top of the podium while the Area III/VII claimed team gold for the CCIY3*-S (Young Rider) division.*



Photo Shannon Brinkman

CCIJ3*-S Team Silver medalists: (left to right) Areas IV & VIII combined team: Emma Fettig, Heather Jane Morris, Greta Schwickert, and Cosby Green
CCIJ3*-S Team Gold medalists: (left to right) Areas III & VII combined team: William Kidwell, Ivie Cullen-Dean, Sophie Click, and Grace Smith
CCIJ3*-S Team Bronze medalists: (left to right) Areas I & II combined team: Katie Lichten, Madeline Lichten, Sami Crandell, and Megan Loughnane

On July 24 the excitement of the Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), presented by Gotham North, for eventing began when some of the nations most talented athletes, age 12-21, gathered at Rebecca Farm in Kalispell, Montana, in hopes of claiming individual and team medals in the USEA North American Youth Eventing Championships presented by Montana Equestrian Events. After hosting sanctioned eventing competition for 30 years, Rebecca Farm welcomed riders from across the nation to compete in the premier championship for youth eventing athletes in North America. Dressage competition kicked off the week-long event and Area I/II took an early lead in the CCIY3*-S division with a combined score of 91.2. Twin sisters Madeline (Maddie) Lichten

and Katie Lichten, Megan Loughnane and Sami Crandell made up the winning team who was ahead of the second place team by nearly 4 points.

Individually, one young rider's hard work and perseverance was rewarded when he scored a 28 during his dressage test. William Kidwell of Area III/VII and Michelle Donlick's KWPN gelding Tremolo earned the individual win out of a field of 13 competitors, describing his test by saying, "Tremolo felt consistent throughout the test. He is a very self-aware horse; he always thinks ahead. He is kind of shy, but bold at the same time. He held his own out there; it was a fantastic ride for me."

The Area VI team got a strong start in the Junior division, leading by more than 11 points at the conclusion of competition in the dressage ring. Contributing to the 76.2 team



Photo Shannon Brinkman

William Kidwell and Tremolo, owned by Michelle Donlick

total was Charlotte Babbitt, Meg Pellegrini, Taylor McFall and Savannah Gwin. Babbitt also led the 48 horse-and-rider division individually with her Dutch Warmblood 2 A.M. after scoring an impressive 24 for her test.

Young riders continued their fight for team and individual medals as they moved into cross-country competition. Top efforts produced by all riders made for limited movement in the rankings, leaving Kidwell at the top of the individual leaderboard with a score of 28 and Area I/II at the top of the team leaderboard with a team score of 94.4 in the Young Rider division.

Not budging from her early lead in the Junior division, Babbitt and 2 A.M. produced a double-clear cross-country round to maintain her lead by just under a point. Shaking the rankings up a bit, Area VIII's team was able to steal the lead in the Junior team event from Area VI. Elizabeth Henry, Cierra Daratony, Grace Elliot and Tate Northrop rode to the game-changing score of 90.2 for their team's total.

Laying it all on the line for the final show jumping rounds, riders and their mounts were expected to perform one last time under pressure. In the Junior division Babbitt continued her winning ways to maintain her three -day lead with a clear show jumping round and claim the individual gold medal.

"I just thought he was going to be a good boy if I went in and rode well. I feel like I did and of course 2 A.M. came up to the task," shared Babbitt. Kidwell also rode to gold in the Young Rider division after spectacular performances showing consistency in all three arenas.

In the team competition, Area VIII emerged from Junior competition victorious with a total score of 90.6. Meanwhile, the Young Rider podium was topped by Area III/VII who earned a total team score of 107.3, leaving Area IV/VIII to claim silver and Area I/II to take home the bronze.

"What a special opportunity it is — being on a team is not like competing individually. It's a bunch of us working towards the same goal and it was a very special experience," concluded Area VIII's Smith. 🐾 — *Georgie Hammond*



Photo Shannon Brinkman

CCIJ2*-L Area VIII Team Gold medalists:
(left to right) Cierra Daratony, Tate Northrop, Gracie Elliott, and Elizabeth Henry



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Hosting some of the continent's most talented up-and-coming athletes, the 2019 Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), presented by Gotham North, took place at Old Salem Farm from July 30 – Aug. 4. As an official sponsor of the prestigious event, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation was a pivotal supporter of the championships, which represent a vital step of the pathway for athletes who aspire to represent the United States in future international competition. Thanks to an incredible showing by the talented athletes from the home nation, the United States concluded the event with a multitude of individual and team accolades.

The NAYC is the premier equestrian competition in North America for children, juniors and young riders ranging from ages 12 - 21. Athletes from Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United States represented their respective zone to vie for team and individual FEI medals.

GOCHMAN SISTERS LEAD U.S. TO SHOW JUMPING PODIUM



Sophie Gochman and Carola BH, owned by Gochman Sport Horses LLC

"We are proud to have the privilege to help support this country's developing and senior athletes, and are grateful to the wonderful individuals, just like those competing at the NAYC, who are passionate about the sport and make the USET Foundation an important part of their charitable giving each year," said Bonnie Jenkins, executive director of the USET Foundation.

In one of the most exciting divisions of the NAYC week, 16-year-old Sophie Gochman, who hails from New York City, N.Y., came into the last of five rounds in the Young Riders competition sitting in second place behind Canada's Sam Walker. Aboard Gochman Sport Horses LLC's Carola BH, Gochman managed to eclipse Walker with a clear round after the Canadian picked up 8 faults in his final round. Finishing on the best score of the original start list of 24 contenders, Gochman earned the gold-medal spot on the podium winning the Individual Young Rider Championship.

"This week was a bit of nail-biter for me because it was so close between me and Sam Walker, but Carola BH is the best horse in the world, and she kept getting better and better. It was great for it to all come together. To win at NAYC and get to do that victory gallop is such an honor," commented Gochman.

Also nabbing a place on the podium for the American contingent, 20-year-old Natalie Dean of Palo Alto, Calif., rode Don's Diamant, the stallion she co-owns with Marigold Sporthorses LLC, to the individual bronze medal.

The Gochman family had double the reasons to celebrate, as Sophie's sister, Mimi Gochman, took home the gold medal in the junior division. Following multiple rounds of competition, 14-year-old Mimi,



Mimi Gochman and Street Hassle BH, owned by Gochman Sport Horses LLC



Zone 2 Team Silver medalists: (left to right) Chef d'equipe Ralph Caristo, Ella Bikoff, Siena Lipson, Hunter Champey, Dakota Champey, Zone 4/10 Team Gold medalists: (left to right) Sahana Ganesan, Chapin Cheska, William MacLean, Mia Albello, Zone 4 Chef d'Equipe Kim Land, and Zone 10 Chef d'Equipe Michael Endicott

from New York City, N.Y., laid down back-to-back fault-free performances in the individual final aboard Gochman Sport Horse LLC's Street Hassle BH to capture the top of the podium in the USHJA North American Junior Show Jumping Individual Championship. Even more impressively, Mimi was the only Junior competitor to jump clean over all five rounds at NAYC during her first appearance at the event.

"I'm so honored to be here and to have won gold. It's an amazing experience," said Mimi. "My goal was to stay consistent throughout the week and have nice clear rounds. It feels great to have five clear rounds. My horse jumped his heart out for me. My goal is to do NAYC again next year and hopefully be as consistent and successful in the Young Rider division."

Mimi's older sister added to her sentiment, saying, "It was a great week for the Gochman family! I think we are both really grateful for our parents, who supported us, our trainer Ken Berkley, everyone at Baxter Hill Farm, and Zone 2 Chef d'Equipe Ralph Caristo. I don't think many sister pairs have won gold medals at NAYC, so it's pretty cool that we got to do that."

Virginia Bonnie, the 15-year-old from Upperville, Va., navigated Kimberly Prince's Corneel to individual third place overall to claim the junior individual bronze medal during her NAYC debut.

In the USHJA North American Children's Show Jumping Individual Championship, U.S. competitor 14-year-old Ella Bikoff, of New York City, N.Y., rode Bikoff Equestrian LLC's Basimodo to a 5-fault total to earn individual bronze, adding to the American's overall medal count.

Across the three age-based sections, team competition was nearly swept by U.S. squads. In the Young Riders division, Zone 10 claimed the silver medal and Zone 2 earned the bronze. American Junior teams garnered second position out of the eight starting teams, while Zone 5 riders finished the week with bronze medals in tow. Children's teams were led by Zone 4/10, who were awarded the gold medal, followed by Zone 2 in second place overall.

Each year, the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Developing Rider Award is awarded at the NAYC. In 2019, Sophie was honored with the distinction, adding the prestigious award to the young rider's growing list of achievements. Gochman earned the award after finishing NAYC as the highest-placing United States Young Rider in the Individual Show Jumping Final.

"It's such an honor to receive the Maxine Beard Award. It means a lot to me to have the support of the USET Foundation because it's so important to invest in young riders as they're the future of the sport," commented Gochman.

Following the conclusion of show jumping competition, the top U.S. athletes were selected to compete in the 2019 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final in Opglabbeek, Belgium, in September 2019. Gochman will be venturing to Europe alongside bronze medalist Natalie Dean. As the winner of the immense honor, Gochman also received a trip to a senior FEI Nations Cup Show Jumping competition, which will offer her insight into a major international competition, including the chance to observe operations as well as strategize with U.S. team riders and the chef d'equipe.

The athletes attending the NAYC represent the future generation of equestrian sports for the United States. The USET Foundation's mission is to support the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's senior and developing international and high performance horses and athletes in partnership with US Equestrian (USEF). Thus, supporting an event such as the NAYC is a perfect match for the USET Foundation.

– Elaine Wessel



Anne Kursinski presents the Maxine Beard Award to Sophie Gochman

U.S. YOUTH DRESSAGE RIDERS TAKE HOME TOP HONORS

Riders from the United States and Canada battled it out for the NAYC titles with Region 4 claiming the Junior gold medal and Region 1 topping the Young Rider podium.



All photos by Meg McGuire

USDF North American Junior Rider Dressage Team Championship (left to right)
Region 2 Silver medalists: Maggie Tift, Katie Teehan, Missy McGinn, Annelise Klepper.
Region 4 Gold medalists: Hannah Thiher, Maggie Elsbernd, Averi Allen, Nicolas Beck
Region 9 Bronze medalists: Sydney Lipar, Skye Simpson, Emma Claire Stephens, Gage Miles

The Adequan® FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), presented by Gotham North, were held at the Old Salem Farm in North Salem, New York, at the end of July, seeing the best North American youth dressage athletes gather together at the historic site. First to compete in the week were the junior riders, beginning with the team test for the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) North American Junior Dressage Team Championship. Following the opening day of competition, Region 4 claimed the gold medal with quality performances by Hannah Thiher, Nicholas Beck, Averi Allen and Maggie Elsbernd.

Just behind Region 4 was Region 2 with a combined score of 202.63 to receive the silver medal. The U.S. Region 9 team earned the bronze medal with a combined score of 199.63.

In the USDF North American Young Rider Dressage Team Championship, Region 1 took home the gold medal thanks to top performances from athletes Kayla Kadlubek, Megan Peterson, Hannah Irons and Anna Weniger. The team's total score of 205.70 pushed them just ahead of the Quebec/Ontario team, whose total score was 205.67. The Region 3 team secured a bronze medal podium finish with a total score of 205.08.



Annelise Klepper and Happy Texas Moonlight, owned by Shannon Klepper

Individually, 14-year-old Annelise Klepper dominated aboard Happy Texas Moonlight, clinching both the Junior Rider Individual Championship gold medal with a score of 71.441% and the Junior Freestyle Championship gold medal with a 73.25%. Although she had only been partnered with the 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding since December, Klepper developed a strong bond with him that carried her to top placings in that brief period of time and it was her first time competing at NAYC.

"I have never scored a 71 in a CDI, so I felt like my horse was really with me today," Klepper said. "I was able to think about every movement to perform a good, fluid test. I was really happy with it. This is unreal, it hasn't set in yet."

U.S. riders swept the podium in the Junior Rider Individual Championship with 16-year-old Dennessy Rogers of Thousand Oaks, California, riding Chanel to the silver medal with a 70.206% and Isabelle Braden of Decatur, Georgia, riding Dali de la Ferme Rose to the bronze with a 70.147%. In the Junior Freestyle Championship, Jori Dupell, a 17-year-old from Wilsonville, Oregon, earned the silver medal with Fiderprinz following a performance that earned them a 71.625%, while Rogers and Chanel earned the bronze with a 71.25%.

Callie Jones returned to defend her title from the previous year in the Young Rider Individual Championship riding Don Philippo, her own 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding. Posting a score of 72.64%, 21-year-old Jones from Henderson, Kentucky, impressed the judges once again to take home her second consecutive gold medal for her performance. Jones also rode Don Philippo to the Freestyle bronze medal at the 2018 NAYC and Young Rider team silver with Region 2 in 2017.

"It's really special," Jones explained. "My horse was so focused and really gave me his all. In the trot work, he was up in the carriage and really expressive. He was just with me the entire time, so I'm really happy. We clicked last year, but we just keep growing as a team. He's so special."

Vanessa Creech-Terauds of Canada earned the individual silver medal, while Kadlubek of Region 1 took the bronze with a score of 70.35%. As participants in the Discover Dressage™ USEF/USDF Emerging Athlete Program, Jones and Kadlubek were excited to continue their success in the international arena and add the medals to their resumes. Earlier this summer the pair rode on a Nations Cup team together, finishing fourth at the Future Champions Hagen CDIO-Y in Germany in June after showing at the Compiègne CDIY individually in France



Region 1 Young Rider Team Gold medalists: (left to right) Hannah Irons, Megan Peterson, Kayla Kadlubek, Anna Weniger
Region 3 Young Rider Team Bronze medalists: (left to right) Nicole Scarpino, Marline Syribeys, Alessandra Ferrucci, Melanie Doughty

"The experience in Europe is unbelievably positive and effective," said U.S. Dressage Youth Coach George Williams. "They came back stronger and more confident riders. This is the second year Callie has competed in the Young Rider Tour, and it was a very good trip for her. She came back to the NAYC and performed better. I see this as a huge confidence builder. For Kayla, the European Young Rider Tour was her first exposure to European competition. It's an eye opener, but again, it built her confidence. It is so good for them to compete against their peers from other countries and be in another environment. It also drives home the point for them that they are representing the United States, and they return with a larger sense of pride."

In the Young Rider Freestyle Championship, Jones and Don Philippo captured the gold medal once again with a stellar and consistent performance, giving them a score of 74.71%. The freestyle, which Jones worked on producing with Cynthia Thomas, made a lasting impression to round out her Young Rider career.

"It's truly just a bittersweet moment because I'm aging out and that's the last time I'm going to do that freestyle," Jones said. "I'm just really happy and so proud of my horse because he gave me his all this week."

Kadlubek and Perfect Step secured the silver medal, dancing to a score of 73.505% with a freestyle she designed herself. "I was extremely happy with my test," Kadlubek said. "I went in there with the mindset of, 'I'm just going to have fun and go for it.' This freestyle means so much to me. I made it myself and it's from 'The Greatest Showman.' The lyrics mean so much to me. I love riding it. He was just on fire today. I couldn't be happier with him."



– Emma Miller



Callie Jones and her own Don Philippo



Ariel Gald Earns Jacqueline B. Mars International Competition Grant

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation is thrilled to announce Ariel Gald as the recipient of the 2019 Jacqueline B. Mars International Grant, and Ellie MacPhail O'Neal as the recipient of the Jacqueline B. Mars National Grant. These distinguished eventing athletes boast impressive records and demonstrates high-performance potential to represent the United States in future international competitions, making them the ideal recipients of the annual grants that provides training and competition resources for athletes and their horses.

Gald of Vass, North Carolina, has had a standout year with Anne Eldridge's 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Leamore Master Plan, proving herself as a consistent upper-level competitor. In Kentucky this spring at the Land Rover Kentucky CCI5*-L, the pair competed in their first 5* event, earning 12th out of a competitive field. Her current participation in the Developmental Potential group sets her up for the FEI 2022 World Equestrian Games.

With the opportunity to travel overseas Gald is looking forward to maximizing her time in the United Kingdom. Her plans to compete in the Millstreet CCI4*-S this month are part of the goal of preparing for the prestigious Burghley CCI5* set to take place at Burghley House in September.

"It is an immense honor to receive the Jacqueline B. Mars International Grant," said Gald. "I've dreamed of competing in



Photos by Shannon Brinkman

Ariel Gald and Leamore Master Plan, owned by Anne Eldridge

Europe and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity from the USET Foundation and Jacqueline Mars to make this goal a reality. It means a lot to have their support and faith in me and my horse. This trip will help us gain valuable international experience as

we build towards representing the USA in the future. Grants such as this are crucial for Americans to compete abroad and I'm very thankful for this exciting and educational opportunity."

– Georgie Hammond

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