



HONORING EXEMPLARS OF U.S. EQUESTRIAN SPORT

On March 5, 2022, at a special ceremony during the \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO4, presented by Premier Equestrian in Wellington, Florida, at the 2022 Winter Equestrian Festival, three prestigious United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation awards were presented to long-standing ambassadors of equestrian sport. Laura Kraut, Mimi Gochman, and William "Bill" Weeks and Elizabeth "Beth" Johnson were recipients of the 2022 Whitney Stone Cup, Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, and the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award, respectively.*



Laura Kraut was presented with the Whitney Stone Cup by USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO, W. James McNerney.

Photo by Jump Media

Whitney Stone Cup

LAURA KRAUT

The Whitney Stone Cup is awarded annually by the USET Foundation to an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and whose standard for sportsmanlike conduct and contributions as an ambassador for the sport and for the USET Foundation exemplify the Team's highest ideals and traditions.

"The Whitney Stone Cup is something that I've known about forever," commented Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida. "I have watched some of the people that I most admire in our sport win it, so to be that person and to be given this award is humbling. I've never thought of myself as being the person receiving the awards, so it's really gratifying.

"There are so many people I would like to thank," continued Kraut. "US Equestrian's Director of Sport Will Connell, U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins, and all of the people making sure that we have the support we need. I would like to thank the veterinarians and physios who allow us as riders to be able to concentrate on our job. I think they need to know that they are very much appreciated, and without all of them, I don't think the United States would have the success that it does."

Notably, in 2021, Kraut represented the United States on several Nations Cup teams, as well as at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, where Kraut and Baloutinue, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by St. Bride's Farm, helped the U.S. earn its second consecutive Olympic team silver medal. After a successful summer, Kraut and her Olympic mount were selected to be the anchor combination of the NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team at the Mercedes Benz Nations Cup CSIO5* in Aachen, Germany. The pair's efforts helped the U.S. earn the victory for the first time since 2005.

In addition to focusing on her own goals, Kraut is dedicated to working with and mentoring younger generations of riders in an effort to help them successfully represent the U.S. on the greatest international stages.

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Dear Friends,

Springtime is often synonymous with growth and new beginnings. As we enter this new season and set our sights on several major championship events, I feel our sport is also embarking on an exciting new chapter thanks to the accomplishments of up-and-coming talent across disciplines. This gives me a sense of great optimism. The USET Foundation, as the philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF), has the sole mission of providing the necessary resources to make U.S. equestrian competitive excellence possible, now and in the future. While our organization supports the country's elite athletes, to ensure excellence going forward, we must also continue to have a concerted focus on our developing athletes and horses.

In a previous newsletter, USEF Director of Sport Will Connell commented on the importance of building and maintaining a robust pipeline of talent. High performance pathway programs such as the USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series and the USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic offer our nation's top jumping and dressage young riders an educational opportunity to learn from the best of the best in the sport. Similarly, the Under 25 divisions help prepare athletes for international team experiences.

Anna Buffini, who recently made her FEI Dressage World Cup Finals debut in Leipzig, Germany, is highlighted in this issue as an exemplary young athlete that has made the most of opportunities presented to her as she progressed up the high performance pathway from Young Riders and through the Under 25 ranks.

Earlier this year, we had the honor of presenting three prestigious awards to consummate ambassadors of our sport. Olympic show jumping athlete Laura Kraut was named the recipient of the Whitney Stone Cup. In addition to Laura's personal accomplishments, she is dedicated to working with and mentoring younger generations of riders in an effort to help them successfully represent the U.S. on the greatest international stages. Laura has long led by example and served as a role model for the next wave of young talent. This type of leadership in our sport is critical as we look ahead to major events such as the FEI World Championships and Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At the same event, Mimi Gochman, a young jumping athlete and high performance pathway participant, was awarded with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, while Bill Weeks and Beth Johnson received the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award.

In this issue we also recognize combined driving national champions along with Will Coleman and Chin Tonic on receiving this year's Connaught Grant, and our dressage and jumping teams that contested the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3* and the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ CSIO4*, respectively, in Wellington, Florida. We also welcomed two new individuals, Ann Thompson and Jennifer Gates, to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees, and showcased the grit and talent of our U.S. para dressage athletes at a private advance screening of the new documentary ParaGold, which follows the journey of four of our nation's para dressage riders.

Finally, this issue highlights the success of our latest "Raising the Bar" Campaign, which raised \$42.3 million as of December 30, 2021, exceeding the \$40 million goal by \$2.3 million. Funds from this campaign were critical to our Team's achievements at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and they are also integral in creating the pathway programs that help identify and develop up-and-coming equestrian athletes into world-class competitors. Notably, this campaign helped create a solid foundation that our athletes can build upon as we look to World Championships this year as well as the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, and the return of a home Games in Los Angeles, California, in 2028.

With pinnacle events such as these on the horizon, we must continue to generate the support our rising stars and elite athletes need to achieve podium finishes on the greatest international stages around the world. With our sights set on the road ahead, I want to personally thank you for your continued generosity and for believing in your country's athletes and horses. I can confidently say that your support makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



The United States Equestrian Team Foundation (USET) is a philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF). The USET Foundation funds U.S. teams and programs through charitable gifts and donations and makes grants to USEF annually.

"I have absolutely loved being a part of U.S. equestrian teams, and I'm passionate about inspiring young riders to do it as well," said Kraut. "It's important for me that the U.S. stays at the forefront of the sport worldwide. It's been a lot of fun to be a part of a rider's first-time experience on a team. For example, this year in Aachen, to ride on the team with essentially all young riders, and to be there with them for that experience, was as much fun as the first time that I went."

Going forward, Kraut hopes to continue to develop young horses, compete at the highest level of the sport, and be a candidate for championship and Nations Cup team events.

The Whitney Stone Cup, which was presented to the Team by the Officers and Directors of the USET Foundation, is given in honor of the late Whitney Stone who served as President and Chairman of the Board of the USET, and who was instrumental in the creation of a civilian team when the Army retired from competitive horse sports after 1948.

Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy

MIMI GOCHMAN

Each year, the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy is awarded to a Junior/Young Rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies the Team's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship. Gochman, of New York, New York, who earned the gold medal in the \$25,000 Young Rider Individual Final at the 2021 Gotham North FEI North American Youth Jumping Championships (NAYC) presented by USHJA in Traverse City, Michigan, joins an elite group of riders that have successfully represented the U.S. on an international level.

"I'm super honored to have been given this award and to be among all those amazing and talented riders that have won it in the past," stated the 17-year-old. "It was amazing to see who else has won this award and to see what they have gone on to do. It made me feel very hopeful for the future."

"I think being chosen for this award reflects what my parents and my trainers have instilled in me," continued Gochman. "I've always been told horsemanship comes first. Yes, it's fun to win, and it's fun to be successful, but it is most important that you're polite, kind, and care about the horses. I'm honored that [my focus on horsemanship has] been acknowledged, and I'm thrilled to be selected."

Gochman represented the U.S. on several Young Rider teams in 2021, and consistently produced fault-free efforts. In addition to winning the Young Rider Individual Final at NAYC aboard Celina BH, a 12-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Gochman Sport Horses LLC, Gochman also helped Zone 2 earn a team silver medal at the same competition. Following those victories, Gochman and Celina BH competed on the FEI Jumping Nations Cup CSIOY team in Kronenberg, the Netherlands. The pair produced consistent clean rounds to help the team earn a sixth-place finish and then continued on to win the Ashford Farm Grand Prix CSIOY at the same competition.

Gochman notes that her international experiences as a Young Rider progressing through the high performance pathway have been invaluable. "I've been very lucky to be put on some of the Young Rider teams and also have the opportunity to watch from the sidelines as they compete," shared Gochman. "I've been able to talk to riders like Brian Moggre about what his pathway was like, and I've also had the chance to watch and learn from other people who are doing what I aspire to do."

"I'm very thankful [to the USET Foundation for this award and to my team] for everything that has come my way," concluded Gochman. "I would never be here without Ken Berkley, Scott Stewart, my parents, Stacia Madden, and the whole team at Baxter Hill including Amanda Derbyshire, Amanda Mecca, Ghita Ziani, Kate Bacon, and all of the grooms."

The Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Award was established in 1983 by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès in memory of his son, Lionel, an Olympic hopeful trained by U.S. Eventing Coach, Jack LeGoff, who was tragically



Mimi Gochman was presented with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy by USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO, W. James McNerney.

killed in an automobile accident at the age of 18. A perpetual trophy designed by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès is inscribed annually with the winner's name and permanently displayed at the USET Foundation's headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.

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R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award

BILL WEEKS AND BETH JOHNSON

The R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award was created in 2015 and pays homage to the late Mr. Duchossois' leadership, generosity, and outstanding character. Each year, the award is presented to a USET Foundation trustee who exemplifies exceptional leadership, philanthropy, and character.

"Bill and Beth have been integral members of the Board of Trustees since they joined," stated W. James McNerney, Chairman, President, and CEO, of the USET Foundation. "In addition to serving on the USET Foundation Executive Committee, they served as co-chairs of the steering committee for the 'Raising the Bar' Campaign that exceeded its goal by \$2.3 million. Beyond that, they have consistently demonstrated active participation and a commitment to supporting developing athlete and high performance programs for equestrian sport in the United States. They are the heart and soul of this Board."

BILL WEEKS

For Weeks, who has been a member of the USET Board of Trustees since 2009 and became Vice President of the Board in 2017, it was the involvement of his wife and three daughters in show jumping and the equestrian community more broadly that prompted his interest in supporting the U.S. equestrian teams.

"My family was very immersed in the sport and I felt that my daughters benefitted a lot from the experience, and I wanted to give back," shared Weeks. "One of the things that really motivated me was the magnificent grand prix horse Madison ridden by Kent Farrington [that my family owned]. Madison and Kent qualified for the 2006 FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and [it was at that competition that] she won the KL Grand Prix. I am patriotic to begin with, but standing [in the awards ceremony] listening to our country's national anthem because [our] horse had won was what motivated me to support the U.S. equestrian teams and USET Foundation."

"I knew Bruce Duchossois, and I saw his commitment to the USET Foundation," continued Weeks. "He was a real example of someone you could count on and was very committed to the Foundation, so for me, it's humbling and a real honor to receive this award."

BETH JOHNSON

Johnson joined the Board of Trustees in 2013 and most recently served as a co-chair of the steering committee for the "Raising the Bar" Campaign. She was also hugely instrumental in the success of two Olympic and Paralympic benefits—the "Rockin' Rio" Gala, which she generously hosted at her farm, and the "Take Me To Tokyo" Gala, which ultimately raised \$1.5 million for the Campaign. An amateur equestrian competitor, Johnson is a proprietor of Louisburg Farm, in Wellington, Florida, which owns all levels of show jumping horses including those that have represented the U.S. internationally at Nations Cup competitions and at FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals.

Having horses that represented the country on the largest international stages, Johnson understands the scope of the resources and support that is required for U.S. teams to achieve and maintain excellence at the highest levels.

"The impact of an organization such as the USET Foundation is vital to sustaining our presence in the sport that is close to my heart," stated Johnson. "It has been my honor to be involved with the USET Foundation and to help ensure that the organization continues to flourish and be a critical resource for many years to come."


Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the USET Foundation, said: "Members on the USET Foundation Board of Trustees are essential to ensuring that our organization is achieving its mission of providing necessary resources to make U.S. equestrian competitive excellence possible,



Bill Weeks and Beth Johnson receive the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award from USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO, W. James McNerney.

Photo by Jump Media

now and in the future. Bill and Beth epitomize the role of a trustee, and I'm extremely grateful for their unwavering commitment over the years."

In addition to these special awards presented on March 5, the USET Foundation also recognized and honored the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games teams with a special presentation in the ring preceding the Nations Cup, with many of the riders, owners, grooms, and US Equestrian staff in attendance. – Kara Pinato Scro 

Will Coleman and Chin Tonic

2022 CONNAUGHT GRANT RECIPIENTS

In December 2021, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named Olympic eventer Will Coleman of Gordonsville, Virginia, and his mount, Chin Tonic, a nine-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Hyperion Stud, LLC, the recipients of the 2022 Connaught Grant. With other mounts, Coleman has represented the U.S. at the 2012 London Olympic Games, the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina, and most recently, made history as the first American to win the prestigious CCI04*-S at CHIO Aachen in September 2021.

Each year, the USET Foundation administers up to \$25,000 to a CCI1* or CCI2* horse in the United States that is seen as a potential candidate to represent the U.S. eventing team on an international level. The grant was established by Caroline Moran in memory of her dear friend, the late R. Bruce Duchossois, who was passionate about and dedicated to encouraging the development of eventing horses in the United States, and is named after the famous eventing horse Connaught, who was owned by Duchossois and ridden by Phillip Dutton.

As the recipient of the Connaught Grant, Coleman, who is an athlete on US Equestrian's Eventing High Performance 2021 Pre-Elite Training List with other top mounts, will be able to use the funds to support further competition and training with Chin Tonic with the aim of riding for the United States on the international stage.

"Obviously winning the Connaught Grant is a tremendous honor, primarily because of who it represents and the horse it represents," said Coleman. "Bruce Duchossois was such a generous person and an incredibly supportive horse owner for Phillip Dutton for so many years. He was the backbone for Phillip as well as for horse shows and equestrian endeavors around the country. He supported the community in such a humble way, and I always had a tremendous amount of respect for him. I genuinely enjoyed the times I got to be around him, so I'm very honored for this horse to be recognized."

For Coleman, grants have allowed him to gain international experience over the years, and he's grateful for the support from Caroline Moran and the USET Foundation that is offered to up-and-coming eventing talent. "The grants are a huge benefit to horses and riders," he explained. "If you're lucky enough to get one, they're a bonus and something that emboldens you to do the country and do the U.S. team proud. My team and I are all very, very appreciative of the grants."

Thanks to the Connaught Grant, Coleman and Chin Tonic can continue their training with the goal of representing the United States in future international competitions. – *Kara Pinato Scro*



Will Coleman and Chin Tonic

Photo by Shannon Brackman

RAISING THE BAR Campaign Goal Exceeded

The Campaign for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced that its “Raising the Bar” Campaign raised \$42.3 million, exceeding the \$40 million goal by \$2.3 million as of December 30, 2021. The Campaign, which began raising money privately in 2017 before a public launch in January 2020, was designed to support a robust pathway for developing, emerging, and elite athletes that will one day represent the United States in international competition. The money generated by the “Raising the Bar” Campaign helped fund programs leading up to the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and will continue to help fund programs in 2022.

“As the philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF), it is the mission of the USET Foundation to ensure that our equestrian athletes have the resources needed to be competitive on the greatest international stages,” said W. James McNerney, Jr., Chairman, President, and CEO, of the USET Foundation. “In addition to providing support for our elite athletes, it’s also necessary to have programs that foster growth and development of emerging human and horse athletes in order to maintain competitive excellence and ensure our rightful place atop the podium for years to come.”

THE FUTURE OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT IN THE U.S.

Funding for high performance is used to create the pathway programs that help identify up-and-coming equestrian athletes in the international disciplines, provides training opportunities, and supports them through their development into world-class competitors.

Pathway development programs across disciplines realized significant growth since the initial investment from the USET Foundation’s “Raising the Bar” Campaign. For example, USEF’s High Performance Dressage Development Program, in particular, witnessed a large increase in the number and quality of horse-and-rider combinations with the talent to represent the nation on the world’s largest stages, the number of athletes interested in the program, and the number of touchpoints the program offers to athletes as they progress through the pipeline. Grants to USEF from the USET Foundation helped facilitate all of these advancements.

In jumping, Campaign funds supported development programs that helped junior and young riders gain invaluable international team experience early in their careers. In particular, the U.S. Junior Jumping Team secured the gold medal at the 2022 FEI Jumping Nations Cup CSIOJ competition in Kronenberg, the Netherlands, while rising star Mimi Gochman, who competed on the sixth-placed U.S. Young Rider Jumping Team, won the Ashford Farm Grand Prix CSIOY at the competition.

REACHING THE PODIUM IN TOKYO

Funds from the Campaign also help offset the additional budget required for our teams to compete at the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which ultimately became the most expensive Games in equestrian sport’s history due to changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because the pre-export quarantine (PEQ)—which is required of all athletes, horses, coaches, and support teams—was changed from Gladstone, New Jersey, to Aachen, Germany, there was a need for a significantly greater amount of funding than was initially budgeted.

Funds were also leveraged to support teams of athletes that did not compete at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Nations Cup competitions at CHIO Aachen, for example, gave international team experience to many dressage, eventing, and jumping athletes that had just begun to represent the U.S. on the international stage.

The historic outings—with jumping taking home team gold, eventing earning team silver and Will Coleman taking first individually, and dressage landing a respectable fourth place—also demonstrated the efficacy of the development programs with many riders on those teams having gone through the high performance pathway.

THE CAMPAIGN IN ACTION

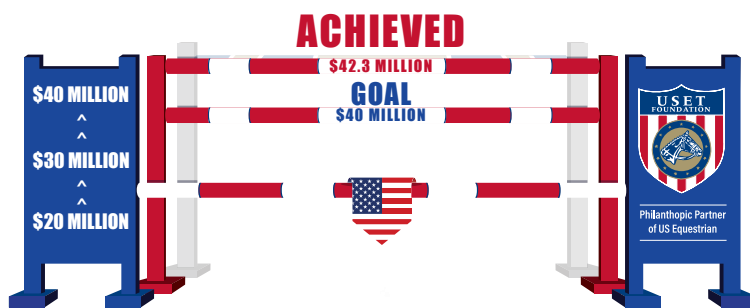
“As a sport, we have an ambitious agenda that requires hard work and significant funding,” continued McNerney. “Thanks to our generous donors, the success of the ‘Raising the Bar’ Campaign has helped us not only close the gap in funds needed for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, but also helped create a solid foundation that our athletes can build upon as we look to World Championships this year as well as the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, and the return of a home Games in Los Angeles in 2028.”

Throughout 2022, the USET Foundation will give a \$3 million grant to USEF for high performance programs and ancillary sport programs, such as safety in eventing and the development of licensed officials. In 2021, the USET Foundation directed \$4 million to USEF, the largest grant ever given. Of the \$42.3 million raised in the “Raising the Bar” Campaign, 71% goes to high performance programs, 23% to the USET Foundation Endowment, and 6% as planned gifts.

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins stated, “The goals of cultivating greatness in high performance pathway programs and investing in the future through the USET Foundation Endowment were reached through the support of founding contributors as well as another 12,460 donors to the Campaign. While the global pandemic could have been a barrier to achieving these goals, the incredible fortitude and generosity of those who support the U.S. equestrian teams triumphed.”

A special thanks is also extended to the “Raising the Bar” Campaign’s Honorary Chairs, W. James McNerney, Jacqueline Mars, and Abigail Wexner, as well as the Campaign’s Steering Committee including co-chairs Beth Johnson and Bill Weeks, and members Alex Boone, Gloria Callen, Lisa Deslauriers, Elizabeth Fath, Elizabeth “Betsy” Juliano, Misdee Wrigley Miller, Philip Richter, and Diane Thomas.

As the U.S. equestrian teams continue in the quadrennial leading up to the sport’s greatest international competitions including the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games on home soil, the USET Foundation remains dedicated and focused on providing support to our teams, achieving the goals of podium finishes, and providing a path to the top for aspiring athletes. — Kara Pinato Scro



SUPPORTING PARA DRESSAGE

At this USET Foundation Benefit hosted by Margaret Duprey and Cherry Knoll Farm, Becky Reno, and Annie Peavy, attendees were the first to watch the new film from director Ron Davis which documents the inspiring journey of four U.S. para dressage athletes, David Botana, Sydney Collier, Rebecca Hart, and Roxanne Trunnell, as they aim to make the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Team.



USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins and 'ParaGold' director Ron Davis



U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline and the youngest classified para equestrian Grade IV rider Genevieve Rohner



Grade I Paralympian Hope Hand and Grade II para dressage athlete Veronica Gogan



Roxanne Trunnell, individual Paralympic gold medalist and team bronze Paralympic medalist with Karin Flint, the owner of Trunnell's Paralympic mount, Dolton



Event sponsor and Grade IV para dressage athlete Annie Peavy, Katie Robicheaux, and Olivia English

Private Advance Screening of ParaGold

A documentary from the director of
"Harry & Snowman" and "Life in the Doghouse"

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

A USET Foundation Benefit for the
U.S. Para Dressage Team



'ParaGold' director Ron Davis with two of the film's subjects, Grade I athlete and 2016 Paralympian Sydney Collier and Grade I athlete and two-time Paralympian Roxanne Trunnell



Grade II Paralympian Beatrice de Lavalette, Lexi Rohner, and Grade V para dressage rider Alex Henry

2022 Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic

TAKEAWAYS

Every year, the country's top up-and-coming young dressage riders are invited to learn from the professionals at the Robert Dover USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week. The 2022 clinic took place January 6-9, 2022, at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. The week began with an introductory lecture on dressage theory from Dover and continued with instruction from clinicians Allison Brock, Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, and George Williams, as well as recent team silver medalists at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, Adrienne Lyle and Sabine Schut-Kery.

The purpose of the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic Week is to identify and develop the next generation of U.S. dressage team talent. Automatic invitations to the clinic are sent to the winners of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals, the top six overall winners from the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, the Horsecare Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship, and the champion and reserve champion from the USEF Children Dressage and Pony Rider Dressage National Championships. The remaining clinic spaces are open to wildcard applicants.

Athletes selected for the 2022 USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic are listed below in alphabetical order:

Kasey Denny (Williston, FL)
Maren Elise Fouché-Hanson (Colfax, GA)
Kat Fuqua (Atlanta, GA)
Tessa Geven (Cataula, GA)
Daphne Glenn (Gig Harbor, WA)
McKayla Hohmann (Georgetown, MA)
Tillie Jones (Lincoln, NE)
Lexie Kment (Palmyra, NE)
Kylee Kment (Palmyra, NE)
Olivia Martz (Gig Harbor, WA)

Julia McDonald (Byron Center, MI)
Allison Nemeth (Flemington, NJ)
Genevieve Oliver (Coatesville, PA)
Devon Pomeroy (Wind Gap, PA)
Suzannah Rogers (Nesmith, SC)
Trinity Schatzel (Eagle, ID)
Bianca Schmidt (Excelsior, MN)
Leah Tenney (Yarmouth, ME)
Virginia Woodcock (Atlanta, GA)
Miki Yang (Los Altos Hills, CA)

IT BEGINS WITH A BREATH

"How do we create an active driving seat? Take a deep breath," said Dover. "What does that do? As you breathe in, energy through the oxygen coming into your lungs goes up into your chest, bringing your shoulders back. It's through that deep breath that you empower your body to act."

FIND THE RHYTHM

Dover discussed the importance of the half-halt in creating balance and rhythm and elaborated on the three aids needed for an effective half-halt—driving, bending, and opposition. "This moment of the breath in, close legs, close fist, becomes the doorway through which we make every change of bend, of balance, of gait, of pace, and of movement: The half-halt," said Dover. "If they're out of balance, we ride a half-halt to bring them back to a perfect state of balance and attention."

Clinician George Williams gave one rider another warm-up exercise to improve a horse's rhythm that included posting the trot on a circle, then sitting for three steps, then five steps, and continually increased the number of steps until the rider was sitting for a stretch of 11 strides.

"When we sit the trot for three steps or five steps or seven steps and so on, first, it gives you a feeling of how the horse is moving under you, that you can really distinguish the strides or the steps of the horse," Williams explained. "And second, I'm looking for the effect that [the horse] doesn't change his tempo or his way of going, that he truly accepts the rider's seat."



Clinician Sabine Schut-Kery helped a rider work through their horse's tension in a new situation.

FOCUS ON RIDEABILITY WITH A TENSE HORSE

"When you have a horse that's a little bit ahead of you, I try to ride exercises where there is leg required, but in a more calming and natural way," explained Schut-Kery. "So, shoulder-ins, leg-yields. Shoulder-in already has bend so that should help make him more supple. When he relaxes, you can start riding from the calf a little more."

WHEN YOUR CUES AREN'T WORKING, TAKE A STEP BACK


Schut-Kery also had tips for horses that aren't responding to the rider's cues. "Make sure when you ask [the horse] things that you really pay attention to if they're answering," she said. "Dressage riders—it's our nature to control everything. Sometimes it helps to break it down and say, 'Wait a minute. I have been repeating this 20 times.'"

If you are repeatedly asking your horse for something and not getting the correct response, Schut-Kery said it's sometimes okay to stop and walk so you can re-approach the problem with a fresh mind.

FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL AID

"Sometimes you need to zero in on the leg or the aid that [the horse is] behind and just try to get [them] in front of that aid," said Williams to a rider whose horse was not responsive to right lead canter cues. "I don't want it to take all of the aids to canter. They should be able to canter from your inside leg, or a little bit from your seat, or a little bit from your outside leg, but any one of them individually in a way that you don't always have to have all the aids so strong."

ALWAYS PRAISE YOUR HORSE

"For a horse, doing all of these amazing things that they do for us, there's not a huge pot of gold at the end of that rainbow for them," reminded Dover. "I watch it and I think, it's beautiful. It's also a little weird that we're prancing around and making them do this stuff. If they were different, they would just buck us off and come back around and stomp us into the ground. But they're such wonderful, beautiful animals that they do this stuff for us. We have to remember that with each half-halt, with each correction, the reward should be twice what the correction was." — *Adapted from US Equestrian press release* 



George Williams instructs Virginia Woodcock.

Photo by Taylor Pence Photography

2022 Jumping Horsemastership Training Series

— KEY LEARNINGS —

Three of the country's top jumping athletes, Lauren Hough, Laura Kraut, and Anne Kursinski, took center stage to instruct 12 young accomplished show jumpers at the 2022 USEF Horsemastership Training Series that took place in Wellington, Florida, January 6-9, 2022. The USEF Horsemastership Training Series helps identify upcoming riders as potential future U.S. jumping team athletes as well as provides them with an all-encompassing educational experience to promote their development.

Riders were selected from the U.S. Jumping Pathway Programs and

included winners of the 2021 Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals East/West and 2021 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships, the top two U.S. athletes from the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, and several wild card athletes. Kursinski, who is also the Assistant Chef d'Equipe and Development Technical Advisor for the U.S. Jumping Program, worked with athletes on the flat, while Hough provided instruction over gymnastic exercises, and Kraut guided participants as they rode a two-round, Nations Cup-style course.

Athletes selected for the 2022 USEF Horsemastership Training Series are listed below in alphabetical order:

Virginia Bonnie (Upperville, VA)
Sofia Cady (Austin, TX)
Mimi Gochman (New York, NY)
Elena Haas (Oakland, CA)
Hannah Hoch (Whitefish Bay, WI)
Natalie Jayne (Elgin, IL)

Caroline Mawhinney (Woodside, CA)
Carlee McCutcheon (Aubrey, TX)
Baylee McKeever (Brewster, NY)
Genevieve Munson (Rogers, AR)
Catalina Peralta (Geneva, FL)
Skylar Wireman (Bonsall, CA)

CREATE CONNECTION

Kursinski began with the fundamentals of building back-to-front connection by using lateral exercises to improve the horse's self-carriage and become a more capable athlete over fences. "My basic position is a little light contact with the mouth, asking the horse to be a little round and accept the bit starting out, back to front," explained Kursinski. "The reason for that is the horse's energy is in his hind legs for jumping and everything you do."

RIDING IS A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR HORSE

Kursinski explained that being in tune with your horse's responses allows you to react quickly, and ultimately results in being able to guide your horse with subtle cues. "What's fun about riding is the feeling; it's not just black and white," said Kursinski. "When I'm riding, I'm carrying on a conversation with my horse by increasing and decreasing my aids. That's how they know what you want and what you don't want." She added that being aware of what the rider's body is doing will also help riders understand and effectively guide the horse's body.



Anne Kursinski speaking to the group during her flatwork demo at the 2022 USEF Horsemastership Training session.

BE ADAPTABLE

Hough expressed the importance of being flexible in your plan for an exercise or schooling ride. "A lot of times, our distances aren't perfect," Hough said. "Reacting to what happens is what makes a real rider. The best riders in the world don't see every distance perfectly; they react to what happens and they fight to get it done."

RIGID RIDERS MAKE RIGID HORSES

Maintaining a soft, fluid connection with the horse comes from starting every half-halt with the leg. Hough noted, "You want to feel like you've got a weight in the top of your head, and you just relax down into the horse and wrap your legs around them. Don't ever let [your position] be one stiff, rigid thing, because that's exactly how your horse is going to feel."

DON'T OVERDO YOUR WARMUP

Kraut discussed the importance of walking in between schooling fences. By asking the horse to move forward off their leg, back up, or do lateral work such as shoulder-in or haunches-in, the rider has an opportunity to get the horse's attention. "You want to jump as few fences as possible to feel like [you and your horse are] prepared to go in the ring," said Kraut.




Hannah Hoch receives feedback from Laura Kraut.

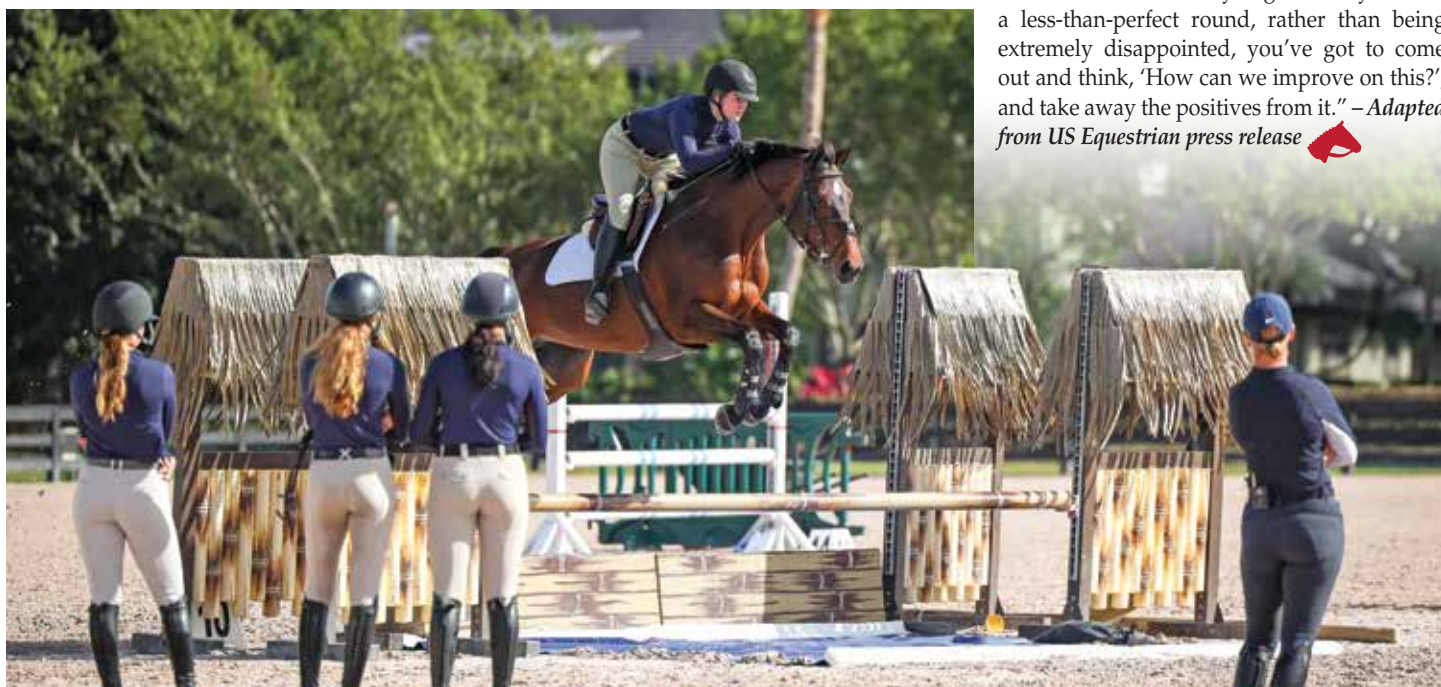
Photo by Taylor Pence Photography

THINK AHEAD ON COURSE

"[In your mind], try to be five or six strides ahead of the horse, planning, organizing," said Kraut. "Once you've got the jump nailed in, even if you're four strides away, you're thinking about the next one. You're relying on your feeling at the jump, but your mind is ahead of you."

ENJOY THE LEARNING PROCESS

"The thing you've got to take away from this is, you've got to enjoy the process," shared Kraut. "You've got to want to be a part of what your horses are doing and how they're feeling and their mental wellbeing. You've got to accept that they make mistakes, just like you make mistakes, and you've got to be willing to learn with them. When you go in and you have a less-than-perfect round, rather than being extremely disappointed, you've got to come out and think, 'How can we improve on this?', and take away the positives from it." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Virginia Bonnie rides under the direction of Lauren Hough.

Photo by Taylor Pence Photography

YOUNG U.S. JUMPING STARS HAVE PODIUM FINISH IN FEI JUMPING NATIONS CUP WELLINGTON CSIO4*

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team finished third out of 11 nations in the \$150,000 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*, presented by Premier Equestrian, held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, Florida, on March 5, 2022. After two rounds of competition, the team finished with a final score of 12 faults. Ireland took the top spot with five faults while the Canadian team, which

also finished with 12 faults, clinched second place thanks to faster times from their top three athletes.

This competition marked the first team event of the season and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland selected some of the nation's young rising stars to represent the U.S.

THE TEAM FEATURED THE FOLLOWING COMBINATIONS:

Natalie Dean, Palo Alto, California, and Chance Ste Hermelle, a 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses LLC
Lillie Keenan, New York, New York, and Argan de Beliard, a 12-year-old Selle Français gelding, owned by Chansonette Farm LLC
Tanner Korotkin, Wellington, Florida, and Volo's Diamond, an 11-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Sandalwood Farms
Spencer Smith, Wellington, Florida, and Quibelle, a 13-year-old Hanoverian mare owned by Gotham Enterprizes LLC

"I can't remember a Nations Cup in recent history where a team has made it to the podium with everyone at or under the age of 25, and especially against some really good teams with athletes that have championship experience," said Ridland. "This is a big deal, and we never catch anyone asleep here in this class—everyone comes to win. This is what we've tried to do in the last few years, really have a team for the future that competes here.

"It's a formula that works and it's a great way for riders early in their career to be tested under fire," continued Ridland. "Everyone contributed tonight. We wouldn't have been in the second round if it wasn't for Tanner's first round, and it's clean rounds that win you Nations Cups and put you on the podium."

Smith and Quibelle led the team, finishing their first tour of Steve Stephens' (USA) and Nick Granat's (USA) course on nine faults. Next in was Dean and Chance Ste Hermelle who also ticked two rails for eight faults.

Korotkin, in his first appearance on a senior team for the U.S. Jumping program, secured a necessary clear round aboard Volo's Diamond. Their effort kept the team in the hunt for qualification for the second round.

Keenan, the veteran of the team this week, entered the ring as the anchor combination with Argan de Beliard. Despite the pressure, they produced the second consecutive clear round for the team to advance to the second round on a total of eight faults.

Kicking off the second round under the lights, Smith guided Quibelle to a four-fault score. Dean and Chance Ste Hermelle followed and improved upon their first-round score to notch a clear effort. The pressure then fell to Keenan once again, after an unexpected elimination of Korotkin and Volo's Diamond in their second tour of the track.

Keenan and Argan de Beliard handled the pressure with ease and finished the evening as the only team combination to jump double clear.

"I've jumped quite a few Nations Cup competitions, and this is the first time I've ever been the oldest on the team," noted Keenan. "I think for me, it's so much fun to be on a young team because I've always been on the younger end, and we're all so motivated and hungry to do well, and proud to ride for the team and represent our country," said Keenan. "We're genuinely really close friends and it's an awesome experience to get to compete together and have similar goals." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Tanner Korotkin, Spencer Smith, Lillie Keenan, Natalie Dean, and Robert Ridland

U.S. U25 DRESSAGE TEAM TAKES SECOND PLACE AT FEI NATIONS CUP WELLINGTON CDIQU25

On March 17, 2022, the U.S. U25 Dressage Team took second place in the FEI Intermediate II Test during the FEI Dressage Nations Cup Wellington CDIQU25 competition presented by Diamante Farms in Wellington, Florida, with a final team score of 129.50. Canada claimed the top spot with a score of 133.323. The U.S. team was led by Chef d'Equipe Charlotte Bredahl and included Quinn Iverson aboard Beckham 19, Nicole Scarpino and Lambada 224, and Kaylee Christensen and Chateau 28. All three combinations were making their U.S. team debut, gaining valuable experience for the future.

Bredahl explained the importance of providing team opportunities for riders progressing up the high performance pathway. "The team did really well given that we faced some adversity with the heat and first-time team jitters, which is why these experiences are so important for our up-and-coming athletes," Bredahl detailed. "These combinations have such potential and are always looking to improve, which is exactly what we're looking for from them."

Iverson of Wellington, Florida, and Beckham 19, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Bille Davidson, are a relatively new combination, contesting only their second international competition together this week. They were the highest-scoring pair on the team with an overall percentage of 65.824%, earning impressive marks in their trot tour.

"I'm very proud of my horse," said Iverson. "We're still quite a new partnership, and for him to just go out and still be as honest as he was in this weather, I was very happy with him and very proud of him. I'm very

excited for the future and really glad to have these great teammates."

Aboard Lambada 224, Nicole Scarpino of Gainesville, Florida, rode a solid test to earn 63.676%. Scarpino has brought the 15-year-old Hanoverian mare she owns with her mother Jennifer Scarpino through the levels, first competing together at the junior level before moving into the young rider ranks and now U25 classes.

"I've had my mare since the junior division and we've come up the levels together, so we're still both a bit green at this level," Scarpino explained. "I'm super happy with how much energy she brought to the test even with the weather. We also had some miscommunication in our one-tempis, but I'm very happy with her and how she handled the atmosphere, and I'm grateful to be here with these great teammates."

Kaylee Christensen of Holland, Michigan, and Chateau 28, a 14-year-old Holsteiner gelding she owns with Kate Christensen, overcame adversity in their test when the gelding accidentally slipped his tongue over the bit. Christensen was able to complete the test, but their mark reflected the mishap. "I've had my horse since 2018 and we've come up from Young Riders all the way to the U25," shared Christensen. "Unfortunately, my horse got his tongue over the bit and sometimes there's nothing you can do, but I'm still really, really proud of him. He tried his heart out in this difficult weather, which is tough for him. I'm grateful to be here and be a part of this team with these amazing teammates." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Chef d'Equipe Charlotte Bredahl, Kaylee Christensen, Nicole Scarpino, and Quinn Iverson

Photo by US Equestrian



COMBINED DRIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT 2022 LIVE OAK

Four US Equestrian (USEF) Combined Driving national champions were crowned at the conclusion of the 2022 Live Oak International CAI, which ran March 3-6, 2022, in Ocala, Florida. The cones phase was the highlight event on Sunday, March 6, and the competition did not disappoint with several excellent performances.

FEI ADVANCED SINGLE PONY

Jennifer Keeler of Paris, Kentucky, held on to the lead she'd earned during Saturday's marathon phase, driving Zeppo, her 11-year-old Hackney gelding, to the fastest cones round in the FEI Advanced Single Pony division. Even with three faults, the pair was able to comfortably hold off the competition to earn the National Champion title.

Keeler says that Zeppo's heart is much bigger than his diminutive size—he stands only 13 hands tall.

"Live Oak International is an incredible course," said Keeler upon receiving the championship honors. "I think it's the toughest course in the country and it is certainly is a challenge for a 13-hand Hackney. [Zeppo] gave everything he had, and thankfully, it was enough. The course design was terrific; it was challenging, but there were options [to make] things more open or as tight as you wanted. It really was an incredible day, and I thank Live Oak International for that one-of-a-kind experience that we have here on marathon day."

The pair had a successful run up to the National Championship, winning two preparation events earlier in the season.

"We felt confident this weekend, but it was an incredible field of competitors," concluded Keeler. "I'm just honored to be back here at Live Oak International and competing with such a great group."



Photo by Leslie Potter / US Equestrian

Jennifer Keeler and Zeppo

FEI ADVANCED PAIR PONY

Katie Whaley of Paris, Kentucky, completed an uncontested FEI Advanced Pair Pony division, enjoying a successful outing with her own Tanner, a 16-year-old Welsh Pony cross gelding; Gail Riley's 10-year-old Welsh Pony gelding, Clanfair Sunglow; and a relatively new addition to her team, her seven-year-old Welsh Pony gelding, Timmy.

"This was Timmy's third show in his life," explained Whaley. "To go FEI and for him to do the dressage and the cones with this atmosphere, I was so thrilled with him. My other young pony, Topper, went all the way through [the course], and he's great. I had one of my veterans [Tanner] in for the marathon, and I have another veteran at home that I'm just wrapping in bubble wrap for next year's FEI World Championships. I was thrilled. I didn't know what was going to happen, but I'm really excited about this."

Whaley enjoyed tackling the challenge of the Live Oak International marathon course as preparation for the season ahead.

"I like the variety of obstacles here—there's some open, some technical, some endurance," continued Whaley, adding that she's grown to love the gulch—a unique obstacle that includes crossing a steep bridge and navigating gates in the hollow below. "It used to scare the life out of me, but now it's one of my favorites. The obstacles are world class, so they prepare us if we want to [compete in] Europe."



Photo by Leslie Potter / US Equestrian

Katie Whaley with Clanfair Sunglow and Timmy

FEI ADVANCED FOUR-IN-HAND PONY

Mary Phelps of Micanopy, Florida, and her team of pinto ponies were the only entry in their division, but they turned in a national championship-worthy effort throughout the week and were a crowd-pleasing favorite. This year marked Phelps' first time competing a four-in-hand at the Live Oak International venue, having previously competed with a pony pair.

"Taking my first four-in-hand over the Live Oak International course was a bit daunting," said Phelps. "But when I walked it, I saw that I had enough options that I could drive safely and use it as a good confidence-builder for not just my ponies, but myself. I was really relieved to see that there were options for me to do things safely yet step it up at the same time. The course designer, Gabor Finca, is brilliant. He does an amazing, wonderful job."

FEI ADVANCED PAIR HORSE

Jacob Arnold of Goshen, Kentucky, was the wire-to-wire leader in the FEI Advanced Pair Horse division with Steve Wilson's seven-year-old Dutch Warmblood geldings: Kenji V, Kian, and Kenzo. He capped off the strong performance with a double-clear cones round on Sunday.



Mary Phelps with Bussy Malony, Al Capony, Tony Da Pony, and Kimba

"For the dressage, I used [Kenzo], who had literally done one test before this, and he honestly performed better than the other, more experienced horse," said Arnold. "My marathon and cones pair had only done one event together before in that combination. To run three seven-year-olds at an FEI show and get these results, I was really pleased."

"The obstacles, especially the way they

were flagged, felt world-class," continued Arnold. "It's a very good startup going into the European season. I was really happy with my pair. I made two small mistakes myself, but that's part of the game. The obstacles really gave me a good feeling. There were enough options so you could do something technical or something long. Overall, I was really pleased."

—Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Jacob Arnold with Kenji V and Kian

Photo by Leslie Potter / US Equestrian

Photo by Leslie Potter / US Equestrian

Anna Buffini's Journey to the Top

PATHWAY PROGRAMS

Anna Buffini of San Diego, California, has quickly become a household name on the high performance dressage scene in the United States and beyond. As a young rider in 2014, she earned team gold at the Adequan® FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships in Lexington, Kentucky, and won the Young Rider title at that year's U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. In 2016, she was champion and reserve champion in the US Equestrian [USEF] Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship in Wayne, Illinois, with Sundayboy and Wilton II, respectively.

Most recently, in March 2022, the 27-year-old posted a personal best score of 79.265% in the FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle, presented by Sapphire Stables at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida, to secure a spot as one of only 18 qualifiers for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Finals that ran April 6-10, 2022, in Leipzig, Germany, aboard FRH Davinia la Douce, her own 15-year-old Hanoverian mare.

Talented in her own right, she credits her trainer and the USEF High Performance pathway programs—such as Young Riders and the U25 division—for augmenting her experiences as she pursued her goals of representing the U.S. on a global stage.

"I was actually quite late to the party with the Junior and Young Rider divisions," explained Buffini, "which is why the pathway programs were so helpful. I am very grateful to already be training under [U.S. dressage Olympian and bronze medalist] Guenter Seidel. Being part of pathway programs allowed me to train with Debbie McDonald and Charlotte Bredahl [in the U25 division] and had a huge impact on my season."

In particular, Buffini says the opportunity to work with USEF's Dressage Development Coach, Charlotte Bredahl, gave her a leg up as a younger competitor.

"During my U25 years with Sundayboy, I got to work with [Bredahl]," said Buffini. "I'm very grateful for the support and knowledge she shared with me along the way. She provided so much knowledge and foresight that a 20-year-old might not have considered or known on their own."

Buffini elaborates on the U25 program, noting that the ability to compete in the division offers a solid foundation for an athlete looking to enter the grand prix ranks. "The U25 is a huge stepping stone into the grand prix," she shared. "I'm able to go to [the 2022 FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final] with only

a handful of grand prix rides under my belt because the Intermediate 2 test from the U25 division is so important in preparing you for the grand prix."

While the pathway programs have given her vital experiences that have supported and bolstered her journey to the international ranks, Buffini credits Seidel for her excellence in the pathway programs and competing among the best of the best as a young professional.

"Guenter [Seidel] is the reason I have any success in the sport," she shared. "One of the biggest takeaways from his training is the patience and determination required to develop your horse and [to get to] where you'd like to go. He also has the most beautiful riding position in the world, and every day I try to look more and more like him. The greatest advice he gives me is to always put the horse first no matter what and to never train emotionally."

While her FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final mount FRH Davinia la Douce will still be tapped for major competitions, Buffini is also focused on expanding her string and is especially excited about a newer mount, Fiontini, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare she acquired in late 2021.

"Fiontini and I are taking our time getting into the show ring, but she is an absolute dream come true to ride," shared Buffini. "Building a good string of horses really starts with your goals and what your most immedi-



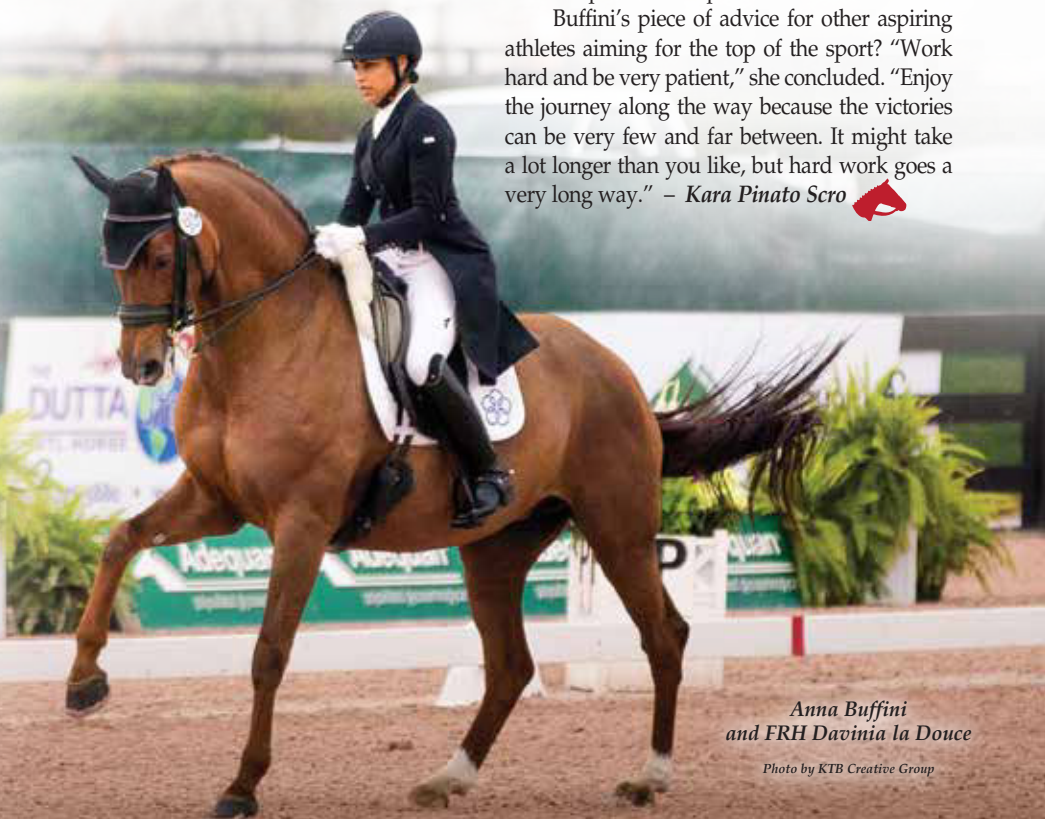
Anna Buffini and FRH Davinia la Douce

Photo by KTB Creative Group

ate needs are, and then adding little by little. [As a dressage athlete,] young horses are so important so that you can have a steady pipeline of horses coming along for yourself."

As Buffini looks ahead, she is squarely focused on consistent and continual improvement with her eye toward representing the country on U.S. equestrian teams in international competition. "My long-term goal is always to try to be the best rider I can be, and hopefully that means I'm able to make teams that compete in Europe!" she said.

Buffini's piece of advice for other aspiring athletes aiming for the top of the sport? "Work hard and be very patient," she concluded. "Enjoy the journey along the way because the victories can be very few and far between. It might take a lot longer than you like, but hard work goes a very long way." — Kara Pinato Scro



Anna Buffini
and FRH Davinia la Douce

Photo by KTB Creative Group

DUTTA CORP. U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM TAKES SECOND IN FEI DRESSAGE NATIONS CUP™ USA CDIO3*

On March 18, 2022, in Wellington, Florida, the Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team took second place in the Stillpoint Farm FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3* on a final team score of 432.265. The team was narrowly topped by the German team, which finished on a score of 433.337. The Canadian team took third place on a final score of 409.091. The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team, which consisted of Bianca Berktold, Katie Duerrhammer, Susie Dutta, and Ben Ebeling, was led by Chef d'Equipe George Williams in its first outing of the 2022 season. Large tour participants earned a 1.5 percent addition to their final scores in alignment with the CDIO3* Nations Cup format.

Ebeling of Moorpark, California, and Indeed, a 14-year-old Danish Warmblood mare owned by Vantage Equestrian, took the win in FEI Grand Prix Special on the second day of competition, receiving a 73.649 percent from the judging panel. The day prior, the pair earned a 71.326 percent in the FEI Grand Prix to help keep them neck-and-neck with the Germans.

Ebeling, who participated in US Equestrian (USEF) pathway programs and earned team gold as a young rider at the Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships in 2017, commented on the supportive team dynamic. "One thing that I always find with the USA teams is that there is so much team spirit," said Ebeling. "There are team dinners, and we're all laughing and having so much fun. A team like this gives a lot of really good experience."

Of his mount Indeed, who is a newer ride for him this season, he continued, "She is so much fun. I love riding Indeed. I think it's so much

about my riding, but more about my coaching, from Christoph Koschel, and my dad, Jan Ebeling, who did a fantastic job training this horse. I'm just lucky that I get to ride her. She's got a lot of power in there. You could really see it and I really felt it."

In their first senior team appearance, Berktold of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Imperial, her own nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, impressed in their debut, earning a 72.676 percent in the FEI Intermediate I on the second day of competition, after receiving a 72.441 percent in the FEI Prix St. Georges taking first place in the class on the initial day.

Aboard Kylee Lourie's Quartett, a 15-year-old Brandenburg gelding, Duerrhammer of Greenwood Village, Colorado, received a 70.521 percent in the FEI Grand Prix Special on the final day of competition. The day prior, the pair closed out the competition with a 71.652 percent in the FEI Grand Prix to keep the team in reach of the top two podium positions.

Rounding out the team of four was Susie Dutta of Wellington, Florida, and Tim Dutta's Don Design DC, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding.

In addition to their team second-place finish, Ebeling, Duerrhammer, and Berktold earned top individual placings to cap off their performances that week. Ebeling was first place in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3* earning a personal best of 78.410 percent, with Duerrhammer finishing just behind them in second on a 75.090 percent. Berktold also earned a career-high score with a 76.430 percent in the FEI Intermediate Freestyle CDIO3*. — Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Chef d'Equipe George Williams, Bianca Berktold, Ben Ebeling, Katie Duerrhammer, and Susie Dutta

Photo by US Equestrian

Remembering **HELEN GROVES**

A highly accomplished horsewoman and Honorary Life Trustee of the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation, Helen Kleberg Groves passed away in her San Antonio, Texas, home on May 6, 2022, leaving behind a legacy and a multitude of contributions to the equine community.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, October 20, 1927, Groves was the only child of Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen Campbell Kleberg. Helen was raised on her parents' historic King Ranch in Texas where she developed a love for ranching, the land, the horses, the livestock, and the people of King Ranch. Early in life, she became a skilled rider who went on to raise and campaign many elite cutting horses. Later, she became known as the "First Lady of Cutting," and was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1998.

Helen had a remarkable appreciation for horses, and she influenced equestrian sport as a breeder and an owner in a variety of disciplines. King Ranch had a reputation for producing top Thoroughbred racehorses including the 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault, and Middleground, the 1950 winner of the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. Helen's father passed down his love of Thoroughbreds and the sport of racing to his daughter, and beginning in the 1960s, Helen became involved in breeding Thoroughbred racehorses. Her passion for Thoroughbreds translated to the track where a multitude of horses she bred went on to become champions. In particular, she bred multiple-stakes winner Saidam, who won or placed in seven stakes races in the 1960s. In addition, in partnership with daughter Helen Alexander as well as David Aykroyd, in the 1980s, Helen bred the brilliant Thoroughbred mare Althea whose offspring became stakes winners and stakes producers.

Helen became involved in show jumping in the 1970s owning the horses That's Life and Wicamico County for rider Jimmy Paxson. Later, her daughter Dorothy "D.D." Alexander Matz began competing as a top international show jumping athlete. A Pan American Games gold medalist, D.D. married Olympic show jumping team silver medalist Michael Matz




Photo courtesy of Helen Groves' family

and the pair competed at the highest levels of the sport. In support of their riding endeavors and of the USET more broadly, Helen owned show jumping mounts, including Nyala and Bon Retour for Michael.

Helen, who saw the evolution of the sport over the years, was appointed to the USET Board of Trustees in 1987 and in 1992 became

an Honorary Life Trustee.

Both Helen's first husband, Dr. John Deaver Alexander, and her second husband, Lloyd J. Groves, preceded her in death. She is survived by six children: Helen Alexander, Emory A. Hamilton, John D. Alexander, Carolina A. Forgason, Henrietta Alexander, and Dorothy Matz. 

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