



Celebrating 20 Years

The USET Foundation has awarded grants
in the amount of \$55,834,000
to USEF High Performance Programs and
Direct Athlete Support over the past 20 years.



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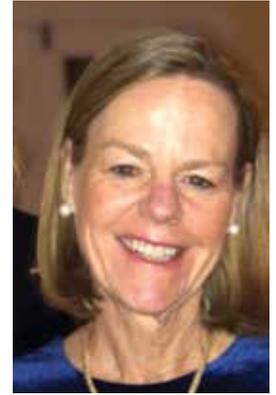
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Dear Friends,

This year marked 20 years of the USET Foundation. U.S. equestrian sport's achievements throughout the past two decades have been incredible. Since our inception in 2003, the USET Foundation has awarded grants in the amount of \$55,834,000 to US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Programs and direct athlete support. This funding has been critical to the development and success of U.S. athletes at every stage in the high performance pathway. It helped ensure we had the training and competition experience necessary to maintain excellence at the highest levels. Case in point, during the past 20 years, U.S. equestrian teams and athletes brought home a total of 119 medals including 39 gold medals, 37 silver medals, and 43 bronze medals from major championship events including Olympic and Paralympic Games, World Championships, and Pan American Games.



None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors and community, and for that, I express my sincere gratitude to you.

Now, with the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, just months away, we are doubling down on our efforts to ensure our athletes remain in peak condition. I'm thrilled that all disciplines have secured their qualification for the Games. The U.S. jumping team punched their ticket to Paris by earning gold at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, in October 2023, demonstrating fortitude and perseverance that I know will carry into next summer. Our dressage and eventing teams also had banner weeks at Santiago 2023, earning team gold and silver, respectively. Additionally, our athletes earned several individual medals. In eventing, Caroline Pamukcu clinched gold, in dressage, Anna Marek was awarded the bronze medal, and in jumping, Kent Farrington landed the silver medal while McLain Ward brought home the bronze medal.

To celebrate our successes and support our teams headed to the Games, we will be hosting two benefit events. "Victory in Versailles," presented by Lugano Diamonds, will be held on Friday, January, 19, 2023, in Wellington, Florida, and "Equestrians in Paris" will be held on March 21, 2023, in Del Mar, California. Event and ticket information for "Victory in Versailles" is available at USET.org. Details related to "Equestrians in Paris" will be announced soon.

While we're focused on the upcoming Games, this newsletter also applauds U.S. equestrian accomplishments across various levels and disciplines. Notably, we had five athletes finish in the top 10 of the CCI5*-L at Maryland 5 Star, presented by Brown Advisory, in Elkton, Maryland, in October, while Caroline Pamukcu won the USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship at the same competition. Up-and-coming jumping riders rose to the occasion at the Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals with Camilla Jerng claiming the win in the west coast event in San Juan Capistrano, California, and Luke Jensen earning the east coast title at our headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. At Galway Downs in Temecula, California, Liz Halliday was awarded the Gladstone Challenge Trophy for her win in the USEF CCI4*-L Eventing National Championship.

We also highlight the dressage, driving, endurance, eventing, and jumping athletes that represented the U.S. at Nations Cup events and international championships and showcase U.S. athletes at competitions including the North American Youth Championship and USEF Dressage Festival of Champions. Finally, we remember and honor the life of Peggy Thomas. Her devotion to the U.S. dressage community as a horse owner and supporter of the next generation of top athletes will be carried on through all those she impacted.

As 2023 comes to a close, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and generosity. I am humbled knowing we share in the passion for helping our aspiring and elite athletes achieve greatness on the world stage and I look forward to a spectacular Olympic and Paralympic year. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

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.

Santiago 2023

U.S. Athletes Land Individual Pan American Medals

In addition to U.S. dressage, eventing, and jumping teams having banner weeks at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, U.S. athletes in each discipline took home individual Pan American medals. In dressage, Anna Marek earned bronze, Caroline Pamukcu topped the eventing field with gold, and in jumping, Kent Farrington and McLain Ward earned silver and bronze, respectively.



Anna Marek and Fire Fly



Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake



Kent Farrington and Landon



McLain Ward and Contagious



Santiago2023

First Pan American Games Gold Goes to U.S. Dressage Team

The U.S. dressage team rose to the occasion to secure team gold at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, finishing on a team total of 450.670 after strong performances from all combinations. Brazil finished with a silver medal on 443.343, while Canada captured bronze with 431.937.

“The team spirit was unbelievable,” said Chef d’Equipe George Williams. “I really feel like the team camaraderie helped carry them to this result.”

Christian Simonson of Ventura, California and Son of a Lady, a 12-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Christina Morgan and Cliff Simonson, led off in the order as the only Small Tour combination on the team. The pair were poised and accurate, impressing the judges and earning a personal best in the Intermediate I with a score of 74.971%.

“‘Sonny’ and I have really good communication with one another. It’s the epitome of the best feeling,” said Simonson. “The team atmosphere has been incredible. We have so much synergy, and [our team is made up of] an amazing group of riders.”

The first combination for the U.S. in the Large Tour rotation was Anna Marek of Dunnellon, Florida, and Fire Fly. They opened with the Grand Prix Special for the team. Marek and Fire Fly, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Janet Smile, earned a 73.489%.

“I’m thrilled with our test,” said Marek. “I was really proud that when we made a big bobble, we both recovered from it like it was nothing. Fire Fly is a really sensitive horse and that’s why I love him.”

A few small miscommunications kept Codi Harrison and her own Katholt’s Bossco from scoring to their potential, but the pair recovered well



Photo by Shannon Brikman

Sarah Tubman, Codi Harrison, Anna Marek, and Christian Simonson

to earn a 71.957%. Katholt’s Bossco, a 16-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding, is a special horse for Harrison as she brought him through the levels from a young horse all the way to Grand Prix.

“[Katholt’s Bossco] felt so ‘on,’” commented Harrison. “The first part of the trot tour felt like it was some of the best work we’ve ever had. He really grew into the atmosphere, and it’s amazing to be able to say that he



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Codi Harrison and Katholt's Bossco



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Sarah Tubman and First Apple

was my Young Rider horse. I feel so lucky that I have a horse who let me teach him the ropes, and I learned from him. Together we fulfilled a dream by making a U.S. team."

As the final combination in for Team USA with medals on the line, Tubman and First Apple, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion owned by Summit Farms, produced another spectacular test, earning a 76.872% to help push the team to the top of the podium.

"We're just so fortunate to have each other as a team," said Tubman of the other athletes. "This is a very young team to represent the U.S. and we really brought it."



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Anna Marek and Fire Fly

The U.S. dressage team closed out their week of competition at Santiago 2023 with all three Large Tour combinations finishing inside of the top 10 of the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle to conclude dressage competition. Marek and Fire Fly earned the individual bronze medal with an 81.305%, while Tubman and First Apple took fourth place overall with a 81.155%, and Harrison and Katholt's Bossco finished in sixth with

a new personal best score of 79.230%.

Marek and Fire Fly wowed as the last combination of the class down the centerline. "This is a massive personal best for me," said Marek. "I came into this championship not expecting a whole lot in terms of an individual medal. With the Freestyle there was a little bit less pressure, and I just went for it." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Photo by Allen MacMillan/MacMillan Photography

Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady

Santiago2023

U.S. Eventing Shines in Silver at Santiago 2023 Pan American Games

The U.S. eventing team made their week at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, count by taking home the team silver medal on a final combined total of 115.7. Canada finished just a tenth of a point ahead on 115.6 for gold. Brazil finished with team bronze on 127.1.

Though the team went into the final day of team competition sitting in the top spot, a difficult day in the show jumping phase kept the U.S. team from clinching the gold medal.

“It’s good that we are all disappointed with silver because it means we want to be better. At the same time, we are genuinely happy for our friends, the Canadians, and glad to see both them and Brazil punch their tickets to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris,” said Chef d’Equipe Bobby Costello. “As a team, we’re going to have to go away from this, analyze ourselves, and find a way to come back stronger.”

During the cross-country phase, each combination put in a solid performance to add minimal total points to the team’s overall score. Sydney Elliott of Benton, Louisiana, and QC Diamantaire, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Carol Stephens, were foot perfect in their trip and managed to maintain their dressage score of 33.3.

In her championship debut, Sharon White of Summit Point, West Virginia, and her own Claus 63, an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding, came home with just 2.4 time penalties for a total of 30.6 heading into the jumping phase.

Piloting the youngest horse on the team, Pamukcu of Riegelsville, Pennsylvania, and HSH Blake, an eight-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Pamukcu, Sherrie Martin, and Mollie Hoff, showed the strength of their growing partnership and crossed the finish timers in 7 minutes



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Sydney Elliott, Sharon White, Caroline Pamukcu, and Liz Halliday

and 53 seconds, the same as Elliott and QC Diamantaire, to stay on their dressage score and take over the lead individually.

Liz Halliday of Ocala, Florida, and Miks Master C, an 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Deborah Palmer and Ocala Horse Properties LLC, finished just over the time allowed, adding four time penalties to their score for a total of 28.8.

Despite too many rails falling in the show jumping phase to hold onto

their gold medal position, the experience provided a strong developmental opportunity for the team, while also giving the U.S. eventing program an opportunity to evaluate how they can continue to strengthen all three phases.

Stepping up to the challenge in each of the phases, Pamukcu and HSH Blake embraced the pressure and secured individual gold in their championship debut for the U.S., completing the event on a final score of 30.8. Marcio Carvalho Jorge of Brazil finished with



Liz Halliday and Miks Master C



Sharon White and Claus 63



Sydney Elliott and QC Diamantaire

individual silver, and Lindsey Traisnel of Canada took bronze.

“I’m just so grateful for this opportunity,” said Pamukcu. “I came here to deliver a good result for the team and that was my focus. These teammates really took me under their wing this week, and I think that we have a great pipeline in our country both with riders

and horses, and that’s really exciting. I feel like this medal is a testament to that.”

“We’re absolutely thrilled for Caroline, her owners, and her support group,” concluded Costello. “She was incredible. We’re very proud of her and it’s so well deserved.” – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾



Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake

Santiago 2023

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

U.S. Jumping Team Secures Gold and Olympic Qualification

The U.S. Jumping Team completed its mission at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, and earned their long-awaited qualification for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, by securing team gold with a final team total of 12.37. Canada finished with team silver on 17.62, and Brazil in third on 20.32.

“I think there’s a huge sense of relief with the team’s finish,” said Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland. “We really brought this down to the wire in terms of qualification and the team produced, especially with three clears in the first round and four in the second. I don’t think people have talked about how competitive the Pan American Games has become. It’s very stiff competition. For us, this gold is just the icing on top because our priority was to secure our qualification, so now the team can enjoy this moment, but we have to immediately start shifting our focus and planning for Paris.”

After a difficult start during the initial phases of competition, the U.S. sat in fifth place heading into the final day of team competition.

With team veterans McLain Ward of Brewster, New York, and Contagious, a 14-year-old Zweibrücker gelding owned by Beechwood Stables LLC, first in the team order, the pair were quick to set the tone, delivering a first-round clear.

Karl Cook of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Caracole de la Roque, an 11-year-old Selle Français mare owned by Signe Ostby, rode the first half of the course well before three rails fell in the final line and added 12 faults to their total. Farrington of Wellington, Florida, and Landon, a 10-year-old



Photo by Shannon Britkman

McLain Ward, Karl Cook, Kent Farrington, and Laura Kraut

Zangersheide gelding owned by Haito McNerney, were cool and calm as the third pair in the rotation, improving on their ride from the previous day to jump clear and inside the time.

Aboard St. Bride Farm’s Dorado 212, Laura Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Landon, a 10-year-old

again, showing the talent and consistency of the 10-year-old Oldenburg gelding. The duo’s clear round kept the U.S. on its team total of 12.37 heading into the second round, just behind Brazil on 12.35.

Ward and Contagious showed the strength of their partnership and pro-



Kent Farrington and Landon



Laura Kraut and Dorado 212



McLain Ward and Contagious

duced a second clear round. As the drop score from the first round, Cook proved that he could push the team to further security with an efficient clear round.

Farrington and Landon tallied a third straight clear round for the team to ultimately secure the team's Paris 2024 berth.

With the pressure of Olympic qualification finally removed, Kraut and Dorado 212 turned their sights to the team's overall standings, with the gold medal within reach. The pair had a perfect round once again.

"I was so relieved when the three before me went clear. I almost enjoyed riding the last round," smiled Kraut.

All three individual combinations that continued on to the individual final finished in the top four to conclude equestrian competition at the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games. Kent Farrington and Landon earned the silver medal, McLain Ward and Contagious finished with the bronze medal, and Laura Kraut and Dorado 212 were just off the podium in fourth place. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque

PERRIGO U.S. PARA DRESSAGE TEAM

Tops Podium at Tryon

The Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team was victorious in the CPEDI3* at Tryon Fall Dressage 3 held October 27-29, 2023, at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. The team of Beatrice de Lavalette of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Sixth Sense; Rebecca Hart of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Floratina; Kate Shoemaker of Wellington, Florida, and Colijn; and Roxanne Trunnell of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Fortunato H2O all earned scores above 70% across two rounds of team competition to win over the Canadian team.

All four riders were part of last year's bronze-medal-winning team from the 2022 FEI World Para Dressage Championships in Herning, Denmark.

Hart and Floratina, a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare owned by Chloe Gasiorowski, posted the highest score in the team competition, earning a 74.778% and a win in the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test Grade III. In addition to their success in the team competition, the pair earned a personal-best score of 79.723% in the FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Grade III. "Flora" is a relatively new partner for Hart, having made their debut together in June at the CPEDI3* in Stadl-Paura, Austria.

Trunnell and Fortunato H2O, Lehua Custer's seven-year-old Oldenburg stallion, turned in consistent scores of 73.472% in the Para Grand Prix A and 73.125% in the Para Grand Prix B in the Grade I division, winning both classes. Trunnell and "Tuna" have been competing together since early 2022.

Shoemaker and Colijn, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Fiona Howard, won both the FEI Para Grand Prix A and B Tests for the Grade IV division with scores of 73.380% and 72.973%, respectively. Tryon was the pair's second competition together after they made their debut in the CPEDI at Stadl-Paura, Austria, in June.

De Lavalette and Sixth Sense, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Elizabeth and Nicolas de Lavalette, won both the FEI Para Grand Prix Tests A and B for Grade II, scoring 71.724% and 72.667%, respectively. "Sensei" was de Lavalette's mount at the 2022 FEI Para Dressage World Championships, and the two have had a successful partnership since they began competing together in early 2022.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by Sharon Packer

Roxanne Trunnell, Kate Shoemaker, Beatrice de Lavalette, and Rebecca Hart, with U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline

JAMES ALLISTON & LIZ HALLIDAY

Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant Recipients

In September, the 2023 Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant was awarded to three eventing combinations, James Alliston with Nemesis and Karma and Liz Halliday with Cooley Moonshine.

The national grant is awarded by the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation through the generosity of USET Foundation Honorary Trustee Jacqueline B. Mars and supports recipients in their preparation for and participation at a competition that is more than 1,500 miles from their home bases.

The grant is designed to assist athlete-and-horse combinations' progression to the Pre-Elite or Elite Program by providing training and competition resources for athletes who have never competed on an Olympic or FEI World Championship eventing senior team.

Alliston of San Ramon, California, received the grant for Nemesis, Alliston Equestrian's nine-year-old Canadian Warmblood gelding, to compete at the 2023 Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian™ CCI5*-L (LRK3DE) in April. It was the horse's first CCI5*-L completion and the pair finished in 20th place.

Halliday of Lexington, Kentucky, received the grant for Cooley Moonshine to compete at The Event at Rebecca Farm CCI4*-L in July 2023 where they finished in ninth place. Since finishing second in the seven-year-old division at the 2019 FEI WBFSH Eventing World Breeding Championship, Halliday and Cooley Moonshine have earned several top-10 results as The Monster Partnership's 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding has moved up the levels.

Alliston also received a grant for Karma, which the USET Foundation approved for an international trip when Alliston's fall plans changed after being named to the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team for the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Netherlands CCI04*-NC-L. After Alliston and Alliston Equestrian and



James Alliston and Karma



Liz Halliday and Cooley Moonshine

Ric Plummer's nine-year-old Oldenburg mare won the CCI4*-L at The Event at Rebecca Farm in July, they traveled to The Netherlands in October to compete on the Nations Cup team. Alliston and Karma finished in 14th-place individ-

ually and helped the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team secure fourth place overall, just two points away from a podium finish. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Photo by Alison Green for Shannon Brinkman Photo

CAMILLA JERNG WINS

2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping TALENT SEARCH FINALS – WEST

The 2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West concluded on September 24, 2023, after three days of competition at the Blenheim International Jumping Festival. Camilla Jerng of Woodside, California, rode her own Nopik van de Munte, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, to victory.

The USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Program, which has a final on each coast, is an important stepping stone for younger riders eager to progress up the high performance show jumping pathway with the aim of representing the United States in international team competition in the future. As philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF), the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation supports numerous pathway programs including Talent Search Finals.

With the goal of helping riders develop and hone skills needed to become an effective jumper rider, Talent Search Finals comprises four phases: flatwork, in which riders are evaluated on the rail in groups of seven or eight; gymnastics, with a course that requires quick turns and lengthening and shortening of the horse's stride while maintaining rhythm and balance; show jumping over a grand prix-style course that includes a liverpool and water jump; and a ride-off where the top four competitors complete a course with their own horse, then switch mounts to ride the same course on each of the other three top horses.

After Phase I, the flat phase, Jerng sat in fifth place but slid to eighth after Phase II, the gymnastics phase. With a solid jumping round in Phase III, she moved into the lead and continued onto Phase IV with a clean slate for the final four rotation where she was joined by Paige Walkenbach, Zadie Stack, and Sabine Close.

Riding in front of judges Linda Hough and Lauren Hough, Jerng was declared the winner with a final score of 304. She received the Denali Perpetual Trophy, while her trainer, Susie Schroer, received the Leading Trainer Award.

"It was really unexpected to be honest, especially after sitting in eighth place for the third phase, but we worked our way up and tried to keep it going from there," said Jerng. "Nopik van de Munte was a little inexperienced at the gymnastics, but I thought he was really good about adapting to everything. The ride-off was really fun, especially getting to ride horses that I have watched go around so many times at shows."

Close, of San Carlos, California, showcased her solid riding skills with Off to Neverland, her own eight-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding, to set herself up well for Phase IV, and she earned the reserve champion title with a score of 301. Walkenbach of Paradise Valley, Arizona, finished third with a score of 300 with Cavaljo, Spyglass Hill's 16-year-old Warmblood gelding.

Stack, of Santa Cruz, California, was fourth in the Finals scoring 287.5. In addition to finishing in the top four, Stack



Photo by US Equestrian/Deyn Trethevey

Camilla Jerng and Nopik van de Munte

and her mount Cetello earned additional honors. Stack took home the Hollow Brook Wealth Management Sportsmanship Award for her positive attitude and support of her fellow competitors. Cetello, Ella Dyson's 2007 Holsteiner gelding, received the Gulliver Trophy as the best horse selected by the judges following Phase IV — his second consecutive year winning the award. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by US Equestrian/Deyn Trethevey

Camilla Jerng and Nopik van de Munte

LUKE JENSEN VICTORIOUS

at 2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East

The 2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East were held at the USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey, from October 6-8. Luke Jensen of Denton, Texas, rose to the top of a competitive field for the win after four phases of competition.

Jensen rode Morgan Wilsberg's seven-year-old Oldenburg mare Calina M. The combination sat in second place after the flat phase and dropped to third after the gymnastics phase. After a smooth jumping round in Phase III, the pair took over the lead. In the fourth and final phase, thanks to strong scores from judges Anne Kursinski and Ronnie Beard, Jensen came out on top to earn the French Leave Trophy. Jensen's trainer, Missy Clark, earned the Leading Trainer Award.

with pressure, which is very important because this sport is very mental. It's very special to be successful here and it's something I'll never forget."

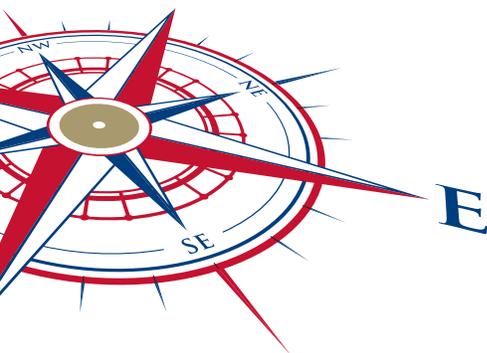
Reserve champion of the 2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East went to Carlee McCutcheon of Aubrey, Texas, who rode Chacco Star, a 15-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Kennedy McCaulley. Joe Craver of Shelby, North Carolina, earned third after piloting his own 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding Franco — who won the "Grappa" Trophy after being named Best Horse, while Amira Kettaneh of Hollis, New Hampshire, and her own 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare Gossip SA took home fourth.

The Hollow Brook Wealth Management Sportsmanship Award went to Callista Smith. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Luke Jensen and Calina M

Photo by US Equestrian/Avery Wallace



"The horse swap," noted Jensen, "is the most difficult part of the week. To ride a horse for two minutes and then prepare to jump a course is always tricky, but that challenge makes it my favorite part. Additionally, I love coming to this facility. I have a great affinity for the sport's history, and I enjoy watching and learning from what people have done before me. [Competing at] such a historic venue is very special.

"To be at the top among your peers and to compete in a high-pressure situation is a great way to prepare yourself for future situations," continued Jensen. "[Competing as a junior rider in the equitation finals] gives you the tools you need to begin dealing



Luke Jensen and Calina M

Photo by US Equestrian/Avery Wallace



CAROLINE PAMUKCU AND HSH CONNOR

USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Champions at Maryland 5 Star



Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Connor

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

Just one week before her extraordinary individual win and team silver aboard HSH Blake at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, Caroline Pamukcu was making headlines with HSH Connor as they topped the leaderboard from start to finish to earn the USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship title at the 2023 Maryland 5 Star in Elkton, Maryland.

Pamukcu of Riegelsville, Pennsylvania, was undoubtedly the busiest rider at this year's Maryland 5 Star, with three rides in the CCI3*-L and another five horses competing in the Young Event Horse divisions. Yet, it was her results with HSH Connor, a seven-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Pamukcu, Sherrie Martin, and Luann McElduff, that showed nothing but a laser focus on the CCI3*-L USEF National Championship. The pair was foot-perfect, going double clear in both the cross-country and jumping phases to finish on their winning dressage score of 25.4.

While Pamukcu is no stranger to wins on big stages — this was her 11th victory in FEI competition this year — this win was special.

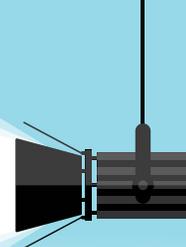
“I was emotional because I’ve had the horse since he was a four-year-old, and I have this big community behind me,” said Pamukcu. “He was sourced by my business partner Kelly Hutchinson and her family is here cheering me on. It was emotional for me to remember his first jump schools [and his progress] all the way to this moment. We were so close to winning the Young Horse World Championship last year, so for him to win the USEF National Championship in the three-star is amazing!”

Maryland 5 Star marked HSH Connor’s last competition before he enjoys a winter vacation ahead of his 2024 season.

“HSH Connor is going out in the field with his buddies for two months to get furry, fat, and have a good time,” Pamukcu concluded. — Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

OWNER SPOTLIGHT

Christa B. Schmidt



A member of the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees, Christa B. Schmidt has been involved with horses throughout her life. As a young girl, she had the opportunity to witness her family's horses represent the United States at the Olympic Games, World Championships, and the Pan American Games.

These experiences instilled a love of horses and equestrian sport in her and led her to become an owner for developing and elite U.S. eventing athletes.

Schmidt was the owner of five horses entered in the 2023 Maryland 5 Star event for U.S. riders Hannah Sue Hollberg, Sophie Middlebrook, and eventing Olympian Lauren Nicholson. Notably, Hollberg rode Capitol H I M to fourth place in the CCI5*-L division at the competition.

Schmidt takes great pride in her ownership of U.S. equestrian team horses and understands the important role ownership plays in helping the country sustain competitive excellence at the highest levels. Read on to learn about Schmidt's experience and perspective as an owner.

Q *What is your hope for the horses you own?*

I always hope my horses are going to be top five-star athletes, but I am very realistic and want the best for them. If they aren't suitable for that level of competition, my goal is to find them a good job. The most important aspect of horse ownership is horsemanship and the love of the horse. I feel very fortunate that I have amazing riders who share the same mindset. As much as we want to succeed at the top level, we want to make sure that the horse is happy and healthy.

Q *What is the most rewarding or special part about owning horses for U.S. athletes?*

The most rewarding part of having horses represent the U.S. is the camaraderie and being around like-minded people. When you are spectating at the Olympic Games and World Championships, the passion and excitement [is palpable], especially when you hear the national anthem. There is so much pride for U.S. horses and riders.

It's not an easy sport. We're dealing with animals. So, when you do succeed, it's incredibly rewarding. One day can be the highest of highs and the next day can be very low. In the end, it's about coming together and supporting the U.S. It's been wonderful growing up in the sport. I feel very fortunate to be involved since I was a young girl, and I hope I can carry on my family's legacy of having horses that make the United States proud.

Q *Why support more than one U.S. athlete?*

I truly believe in supporting multiple people. It's important to bring along the next generation of athletes, and I'm happy to be around those who are willing to go on the ride with me.

Q *Why support the USET Foundation?*

I feel very honored to be a member of the USET Foundation's Board of Trustees. I am also a member of US Equestrian's Eventing Owners Task Force. It's very important to support all of these organizations. They all work together to help athletes who are so deserving of it. Being part of the USET Foundation is a way to support the United States. It may not be my turn to have a horse in [an international competition or championship] but I am okay with that. I want what's best for the United States and want to help make sure equestrian sport is successful.

– By Kara Pinato Scro and US Equestrian 



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Christa B. Schmidt is a strong believer in supporting up-and-coming U.S. athletes such as Sophie Middlebrook, pictured here with Schmidt's Prontissimo competing in the CCI3*-L at Maryland 5 Star.

U.S. RIDERS RISE TO THE OCCASION

MARS Maryland 5 Star CCI5-L at Fair Hill Presented by Brown Advisory*

OCTOBER 19-22, 2023 — ELKTON, MARYLAND



Hannah Sue Hollberg and Christa B. Schmidt's Capitol H I M were the highest placed U.S. combination finishing fourth.



Bruce O. Davidson, Jr. and his own Sorocaima finished in ninth place.

In her first five-star appearance, Mia Farley and David O'Connor's Phelps placed an impressive fifth.





↑ Doug Payne and Quantum Leap, owned by Elizabeth Callahan, Doug Payne, and Jessica Payne, placed eighth.



→ Lillian Heard Wood and LCC Barnaby, owned by Linda Courtney Cadam and Wood, rounded out the top 10 finishers.



U.S. Dressage

AUGUST 20-27, 2023 — WAYNE, ILLINOIS



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Miki Yang and Grey C Carrus took home the Horseware Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship.

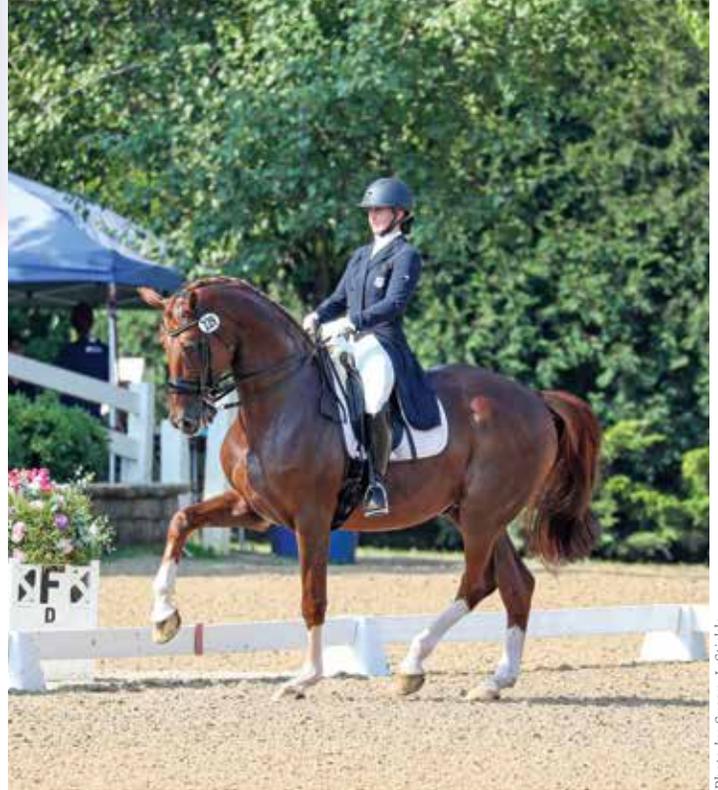


Photo by Susan J. Strickle

Codi Harrison and Katholt's Bossco came out on top in the Neue Schule/USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady captured top honors in the USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship.

Festival of Champions



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Quinn Iverson and Beckham 19 won the prestigious Adequan®/USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship for the second consecutive year.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Cynthia Screnci and Sir Chipoli won the USEF Para Dressage National Championship.



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Maryn Geck and Herr Karlson took the win in the USEF Children Dressage National Championship.



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Allison Berger and Delacure were victorious in the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship.

Young Dressage Stars Rise to the Challenge 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships

AUGUST 8-13, 2023 — TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



Region 3's Kat Fuqua and her own Dreamgirl; Mary Claire Piller and Emily Brollier's Caterina; Acacia Tsamoutales and Micah Deligdish's Santos; Celsiana William and her own Prima Ballerina took home gold in the Young Rider division.



By placing first in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test, Emily Hewitt and Tammy Pearson's Fidens became the first-ever winners of the inaugural Under 25 individual gold medal.



Sienna Rowe and Jason Rowe's Lightfire Just Do It won the FEI Junior Individual Championship.



Region 6/4's Olivia Martz and Brook Martz's Ronvair; Daphne Glenn and her own Romanesque; Norah Wright and her own Baccos Do Retiro; and Lexie Kment and Laureen Van Norman's Montagny von der Heide won the Junior Team Final to top the podium.



Madison Sumner and Briar, owned by Sumner and Wayne Sumner, struck gold in the FEI Junior Freestyle Championship.



Mary Claire Piller and Emily Brollier's Caterina earned their third gold medal during the 2023 NAYC by winning the FEI Young Rider Freestyle Championship.

All photos by KTB Creative Group

Up-and-Coming Jumping Athletes Shine

AUGUST 8-13, 2023 — TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



Photo by US Equestrian/Matt Thirer

Baylee McKeever and her own Formidable won the FEI Young Rider Jumping Individual Championship.

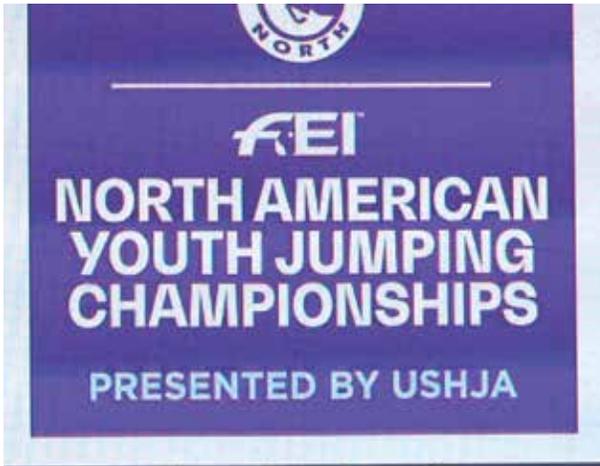


Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Hailey Guidry and Honor Hill Farm LLC's Ezmeralda EH Z won the FEI Children's Jumping Individual Championship.

Zone 7's Sofia Cady and Twist Studio LLC's ZG Bella; Hallie Grimes and Can We Keep It? LLC's Malissa de Muze; Luke Jensen and North Run's Bigstar; and Stella Wasserman and her own Eldorado Wp Z took home the silver medal in the Young Rider Team Final.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Carlee McCutcheon and Old Oak Farm and McLain Ward's Coco Mercedes topped the FEI Junior Jumping Individual Championship.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Lauren Frandson and her own Golda won the FEI Pre-Juniors Jumping Individual Championship.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Zone 4's Alexa Curry and GA Stables LLC's Ciemusic Z; Taylor Finkle and her own Sheldon; Laila Murad and Leadon Ridge Farm LLC's Alfonsine Mancchiaise; and Hailey Guidry and Honor Hill Farm LLC's Ezmeralda EH Z and won the Children's Team Final.



Photo by US Equestrian/Matt Turer

Zone 7's Laurel Walker and her own Armani; Ava Myers and Myers Family Investments, LLC's Chico P; Tessa Downey and Serena Marron's Isabelle; and Carlee McCutcheon and Old Oak Farm and McLain Ward's Coco Mercedes were victorious in the Junior Team Final.

PATHWAY TO THE PODIUM

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE USET FOUNDATION

USET Foundation Celebrates the Pathway at NAYC *FEI North American Youth Championships*

AUGUST 10, 2023 — TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

USET Foundation Trustees Shelby Bonnie, Kristi Mitchem, and Signe Ostby hosted a celebratory reception during the FEI Jumping Young Rider Individual Qualifier. In addition to cheering on the riders competing in the class, attendees heard from US Equestrian (USEF) Dressage Youth Coach and High Performance Pathway Development Advisor George Williams, Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Show Jumping Development Program Anne Kursinski, and USEF Managing Director of U.S. Show Jumping Lizzy Chesson, all of whom explained the Pathway Program opportunities available to developing dressage and jumping athletes.



Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Show Jumping Development Program Anne Kursinski shed light on how Pathway Programs support athlete development.



Kat Fuqua, a rising star in both dressage and jumping, and her mother Shereen Fuqua cheered on the U.S. jumping athletes.



USEF Dressage Youth Coach and High Performance Pathway Development Advisor George Williams spoke to attendees about Pathway Programs.



(L-R) Dressage athletes Norah Wright, Lexie Kment, Daphne Glenn, and Olivia Martz showed their support.

Liz Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker

GLADSTONE CHALLENGE TROPHY WINNERS

AND USEF CCI4*-L EVENTING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Liz Halliday of Lexington, Kentucky, is no stranger to the podium on some of the greatest international stages. Yet, November 5, 2023, marked a first for Halliday when she received the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's 2023 Gladstone Challenge Trophy for her win in the 2023 USEF National CCI4*-L at the Eventing Championships at Galway Downs in Temecula, California.

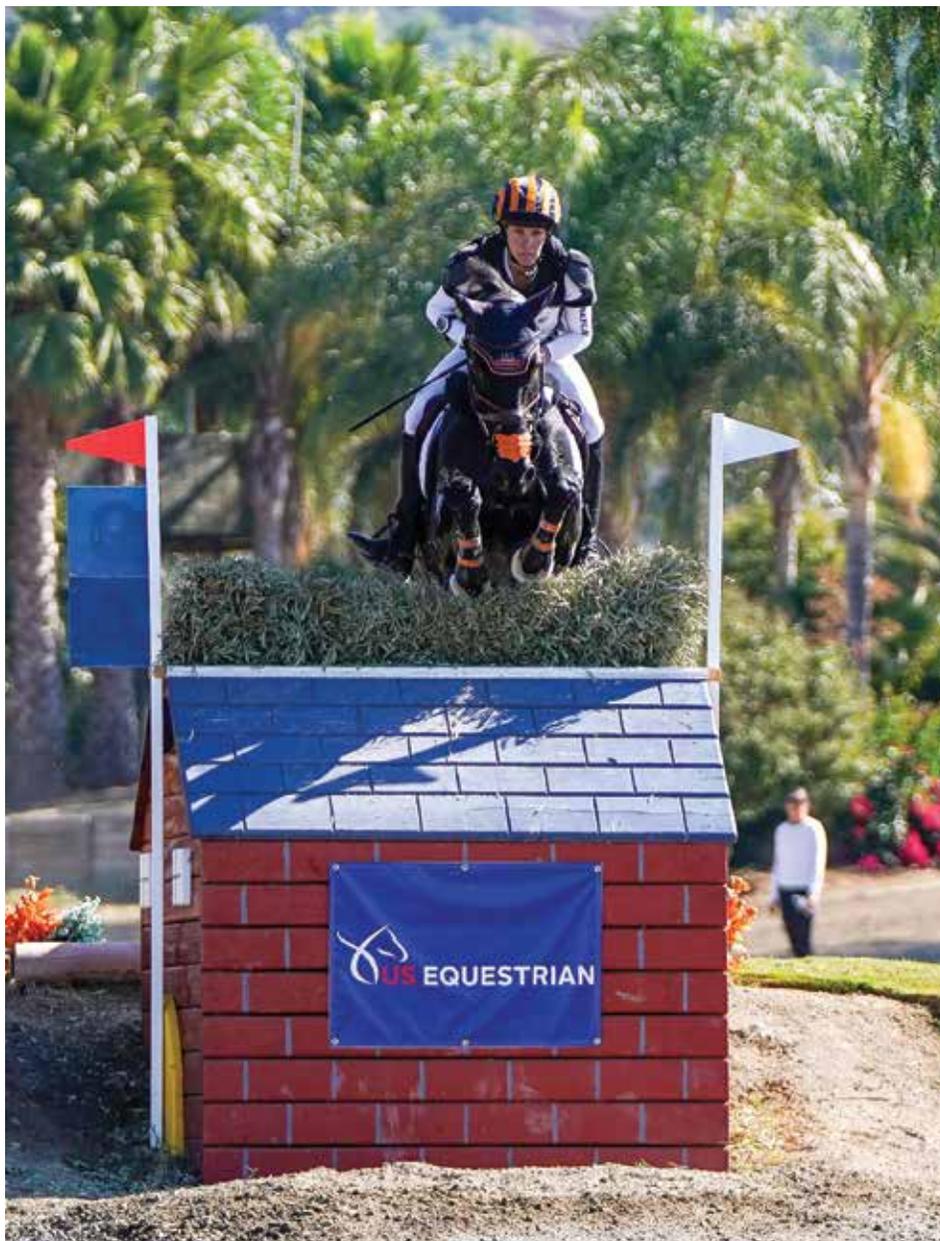
The Gladstone Challenge Trophy was established in 1963 and is awarded to the winner of the fall four-star long national championship event. The trophy is inscribed annually with the winner's name and permanently displayed at the USET Foundation's headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.

Halliday and her mount Cooley Nutcracker, an 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by The Nutcracker Syndicate and Renee Lane, held the top spot on the CCI4*-L through all three phases of competition.

On the first day, Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker earned a solid dressage score of 29.9. In the cross-country phase, the pair added 9.6 time penalties to their total. The combination sat comfortably on the top of the leaderboard on a score of 39.5 heading into the show jumping phase. The pair proved their talent by turning in a double-clear show jumping round to secure the national championship, The Gladstone Challenge Trophy, and the Guy V Henry Trophy.

"I'm thrilled to have won the championship and the USET Foundation's Gladstone Challenge Trophy," said Halliday. "It was a really great moment for my owners because they were all there. It was also amazing for this young horse. It's his second four-star-long win this year and he was wonderful the whole weekend. It was nice that I didn't have to push him through cross country. He finished the event fresh and full of himself, which is what you look for in a horse for the future."

With her season done for the year, Halliday is looking ahead to 2024 and grateful to her support team to whom



Liz Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker

she credits much of her success.

"Next year is a very big and important year with hopes of [being in line for] the Olympics," she shared. "I have the most amazing group of owners. They're also my best friends just as much as supporters. I've always wanted it to be this way, I wanted us to be on this journey together. We ride the highs and lows together. My mom and my entire family are also big supporters. I just appreciate how everyone

has my back on the good days and the bad days. It really makes it all possible.

"I also want to acknowledge my team at home," Halliday continued. "We've had horses at five locations in just two and a half weeks and they've been amazing and have taken it in stride with smiles on their faces. They're such a big part of [what we do]. The team behind you helps make the success happen." – By Kara Scro and US Equestrian 

Photo by US Equestrian/Avery Wallace

COMPETITION



Photo by Krisztina Horvath



TRACY BOWMAN

Tracy Bowman and Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars defended their 2021 world champion title at the 2023 FEI Para Driving World Championship for Singles held in Exloo, The Netherlands. Bowman and her own 14-year-old Welsh Pony gelding earned the individual gold medal after sitting at the top of the leaderboard across all three phases of competition.



Photo by Krisztina Horvath



JUMPING NATIONS CUP FINAL

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team earned fifth place overall in the 2023 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final in Barcelona, Spain. McLain Ward and Beechwood Stables LLC's Callas, Karl Cook and Signe Otsby's Kalinka van't Zorgvliet, Devin Ryan and LL Show Jumpers LLC's Eddie Blue, and Laura Kraut and St. Bride's Farm's Dorado 212 finished on nine faults.



Photo by Libby Law

HIGHLIGHTS



Photo by Les Garennes



BEN EBELING

As part of the 2023 U.S. Dressage European U25 Tour Ben Ebeling and Status Royal OLD competed abroad. In Grote-Brogel, Belgium, Ebeling and the 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Ann Romney won the CDIU25 Intermediate II test and placed second in the CDIU25 Grand Prix 16-25 test. In Crozet, France, the pair swept the CDIU25 classes winning the CDIU25 Intermediate II test, the CDIU25 Grand Prix 16-25 test, and the CDIU25 Grand Prix Freestyle.



BOYD MARTIN

Boyd Martin and Fedarman B, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by the Annie Goodwin Syndicate, had a solid eighth-place finish in the Les 5 Étoiles de Pau CCI5*-L in Pau, France. Martin moved Fedarman B up to the CCI5*-L level earlier this year and the gelding gained valuable experience by competing at Pau.



Photo by Libby Law



Photo courtesy of Lauren Hough

Photo by Claire Sapet



AVERY BETZ-CONWAY

U.S. endurance athlete Avery Betz-Conway and RAS Istanbul, an 11-year-old Arabian gelding owned by Estanar S. A., completed the 2023 FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Riders and Juniors in Castelsagrat, France. The combination finished in 18th place out of a field of 70 starters and 37 finishers. The pair completed the 120-kilometer ride in a time of 9:39:27.

NETHERLANDS CCIO4*-NC-L

With Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law at the helm, the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team of James Alliston and Karma (right) owned by Alliston Equestrian and Ric Plummer; Jennie Brannigan and Connory owned by Nina Gardner, Timothy Gardner, and Brannigan; Phillip Dutton and Denim owned by Caroline Moran, Ann Lapides, Neil Sites, and Ann Jones; and Cassie Sanger and her own Fernhill Zoro finished in fourth place at the 2023 FEI Eventing Nations Cup Netherlands CCIO4*-NC-L, held at the Military Boekelo-Enschede.



Photo by Libby Law



Photo by Libby Law

The competition at Boekelo marked Sanger's (left) second appearance competing for the U.S. in a Nations Cup competition. Earlier this year, Sanger, at just 19 years old, and Fernhill Zoro were one of four combinations to receive the USET Foundation's Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant. Funds from this grant enabled the pair to travel to and compete in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Poland CCIO4*-NC-S as part of the Strzegom Horse Trials in Poland in June where the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team earned second place.

U.S. JUNIOR JUMPING TEAM

At the 2023 FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final at Sentower Park in Belgium, Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski led U.S. Junior Jumping Team of Laurel Walker and her own Armani; Stephanie Garrett and Postage Stamp Farm, LLC's Darius de Kezeg Z; Tessa Downey and Isabelle owned by Horse Orchard LLC; and Carlee McCutcheon and Purple Rein Investment's Coco Mercedes, to an impressive third-place podium finish.



Photo by US Equestrian/Matt Turner

HIGHLIGHTS

ERIN NICHOLS

Erin Nichols and Elian Royale also participated in the 2023 U.S. Dressage European U25 Tour where they placed third in the CDIU25 Grand Prix Freestyle CSI/CDI Twente in Geesteren, Netherlands. Nichols and the 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Premiere Sport Horses improved on their performances at CDI Kronenberg in The Netherlands where they won every CDIU25 class including the CDIU25 Intermediate II test, the CDIU25 Grand Prix test, and the CDIU25 Grand Prix Freestyle.



Photo by DigiShots



Photo by Mackenzie Clark



Photo by Mackenzie Clark

VEJER DE LA FRONTERA CSIO3*

Led by Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski, the team of Zayna Rizvi and Exquise du Pachis owned by Optimus Agro NV; Caitlyn Connors and Falcon de Hus Z owned by Caitlyn Connors LLC; Hannah Selleck and Descanso Farm's Cloud 39 (pictured above); and Jacob Pope and Highway FBH owned by The Highway Group captured third place out of 15 teams in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Vejer de la Frontera CSIO3* in Vejer de la Frontera, Spain.

MIMI GOCHMAN

Receives 2023 Longines FEI Rising Star Award

On November 21, 2023, at the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Awards Gala presented by Longines at the Colegio de la Vizcainas in Mexico City, Mexico, up-and-coming U.S. show jumping athlete Mimi Gochman received the 2023 Longines FEI Rising Star Award. Each year, the award recognizes a young athlete between the ages of 14 and 21 who demonstrates outstanding equestrian sporting talent.

In her young career, the 19-year-old sensation from New York, New York, has already made her mark on the international stage with three senior FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ team appearances. During the 2023 season, Gochman placed fourth in the FEI Jumping U25 Rankings and earned several top three placings in CSI five-star level competitions. In addition to her equestrian endeavors, the Rising Star is also currently pursuing her undergraduate degree at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Longines International Sponsorship and Event Manager Michael Vuilleumier presented Gochman with the Longines



USEF Director of FEI Sport Hallye Griffin, Mimi Gochman, and USEF President Tom O'Mara

Photo by FEI/Liz Gregg

FEI Rising Star Award and an elegant timepiece from the FEI's Top Partner.

"Winning the Longines FEI Rising Star Award is an extreme honor and I'm super grateful to be here," Gochman said. "Riding means everything to me; I've been doing it my entire life. I've always had a connection to horses. I think they're incredible animals, and I'm lucky enough to spend my time with them. This sport has taught me a lot of valuable life lessons, and I hope to continue it as long as I can."

Horses are very intelligent and when you make that relationship with them, a deep relationship, they work extremely hard to win with you."

This is not the first time Gochman has been recognized for her talent. In 2022, Gochman was honored with the USET Foundation's prestigious Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy. 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.

- Adapted from FEI press release 

2023 COMPETITION PARTNERS

The USET Foundation thanks its competition partners for their support of our mission and our U.S. equestrian teams and athletes.



Dressage at Devon
September 26 - October 1, 2023
501 (c)(3) non-profit organization



IN MEMORIAM

Peggy Thomas

Peggy Thomas was a major contributor to the U.S. dressage community as a horse owner and supporter of the next generation of top athletes. Along with her husband Parry, Thomas helped U.S. athletes achieve top results on the world and national stages.

Thomas passed away on September 3, 2023, at the age of 97. She was born August 23, 1926, in Preston, Idaho, and lived most of her life in Las Vegas, Nevada and Sun Valley, Idaho. Thomas graduated from the University of Utah in 1947 and married Parry shortly thereafter. Following Parry's successful career as a banker who helped develop the casino industry in Las Vegas, the couple focused on raising horses at their River Grove Farm in Hailey, Idaho. Thomas had a passion for horses, riding up until her mid-80s.

Thomas and her husband owned two memorable U.S. dressage horses: Brentina and Wizard. With Debbie McDonald in the irons, Brentina collected 1999 Pan American Games team and individual gold medals, the 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games team silver medal, a 2003 FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final win, a 2004 Olympic Games team bronze medal, and the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games team bronze medal as well as an appearance at the 2008 Olympic Games.

With Wizard, Adrienne Lyle earned top results nationally and internationally and was able to compete in her first Olympic Games in 2012.

In addition to their support of U.S. dressage as horse owners, Thomas and her husband also gave back to the sport with the Young Adult Brentina Cup program beginning in 2006. Named after their legendary mare, the program assists U.S. Young Riders, ages 16 to 25, in making the transition to senior Grand Prix competition. Several past winners of the USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage

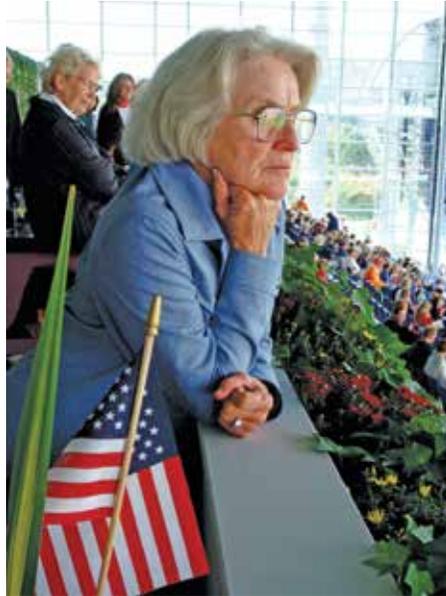


Photo by Elna Garcia

Peggy Thomas watches Debbie McDonald and Brentina at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.

National Championship have gone on to represent the U.S. in international championships, including Lyle, Anna Buffini, Codi Harrison, and Emily Miles.

Thomas is survived by her children, Peter Thomas (wife Nancy Thomas), Roger Thomas (husband Arthur Libera), Steven Thomas (wife Karen Thomas), Tom Thomas (wife Leslie Thomas), and Jane Thomas Sturdivant (husband Peter Sturdivant) as well as 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Her contributions to U.S. dressage were great and her presence will be sorely missed. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by Morley Jaffa

Legendary dressage horse Brentina was honored during her official retirement ceremony at the 2009 Rolex FEI World Cup™ Finals in Las Vegas. (L-R) Debbie McDonald, Bob McDonald, Peggy Thomas, Jane Thomas, and Parry Thomas



Philanthropic Partner of US Equestrian

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