



# USET Foundation NEWS

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER OF US EQUESTRIAN



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*Kent Farrington with Toulayna, Laura Kraut with Bisquetta, McLain Ward with Imperial HBF, Lillie Keenan with Argan de Beliard and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland with CHIO Aachen Presentation Committee*

*All photos by Shannon Brinkman Photo*

## U.S. JUMPING TEAM TRIUMPHS

in CHIO Aachen's Mercedes-Benz Jumping Nations Cup CSIO5\*

*The U.S. Jumping Team of Kent Farrington, Lillie Keenan, Laura Kraut, and McLain Ward delivered a tremendous performance in the Mercedes-Benz Jumping Nations Cup CSIO5\* during the World Equestrian Festival at the prestigious CHIO Aachen venue in Aachen, Germany, to land atop the podium. After two competitive rounds on July 3, 2025, the team finished with a total of four faults. Belgium finished second with eight faults and Great Britain took third with 10 faults.*

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Dear Friends,

The summer months were filled with excitement as U.S. equestrian teams and athletes traversed the globe, landing podium finishes and claiming medals along the way. While 2025 is not an Olympic, Paralympic, or World Championship year for the Olympic and Paralympic equestrian disciplines, it is a critical period for developing athletes and horses that will be contenders for the 2026 FEI World Championships in Aachen, Germany, and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

As the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF), the USET Foundation plays an important role in providing financial resources that help make the USEF High Performance Pathway Programs possible. These pathway programs, which are designed to support and develop athletes with the goal of achieving podium placings at the international championship level, provide training, education, and international competition opportunities as well as provide resources for travel, horse and athlete care, and more.

What stands out to me the most as I reflect on the summer is the breadth and depth of rising equestrian talent in our country. For up-and-coming dressage, jumping, and eventing riders beginning their journeys along the pathway, the FEI Dressage and Jumping North American Youth Championships (NAYC), as well as the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships, provide vital team championship-style experiences. Stellar performances from these young athletes at these events have given us a glimpse into the future of U.S. equestrian sport and it looks very bright.

It's been equally rewarding to watch our developing athletes at the three-, four- and five-star levels. Case in point, the Defender U.S. Eventing Team earned silver medals in two competitions that were part of the USEF Eventing European Development Tour — the CCI04\*-NC-S at both Bicton and Arville. In the latter, Lauren Nicholson not only helped the U.S. team to second place, but she also finished in first place individually out of a field of 103 starting entries. At the Longines Luhmühlen Horse Trials, rising star Cosby Green rode her two mounts to fourth and eighth place in the CCI5\*-L. Similarly, the U.S. Jumping Team took top honors in the CSIO3\* Traverse City and the CSIO3\* Caledon with Caledon team rider Marilyn Little going on to win the Grand Prix of Caledon later that week.

U.S. athletes at the senior team level, many of whom leveraged USEF pathway opportunities to rise to the top of the sport, garnered top finishes as individuals and as part of a U.S. team at the four- and five-star levels. The U.S. Jumping Team took home the gold medal at the prestigious CHIO Aachen — where Laura Kraut took second in the Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen CSIO5\* — as well as a win in the Nations Cup of Rome CSIO5\*. Laura and Bisquetta also topped the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland. Notably, they were the only pair to jump clear, ultimately besting 40 of some of the world's best horse-and-rider combinations. Additionally, the Defender U.S. Eventing Team had a podium finish at CHIO Aachen capturing the silver medal.

I'm very proud of all that U.S. equestrian athletes and teams have accomplished in 2025 thus far, and I want to recognize that this success wouldn't be possible without your generosity. At the USET Foundation, we are driven by the belief that, with your partnership, we can support talented and committed athletes, ensure horses are well prepared and thriving, and achieve medal-winning performances on the world stage. I am deeply grateful that you share this vision with us and remain dedicated to advancing the dreams of our athletes and horses. Together, we will continue to build for the future and ensure that sustained competitive excellence for the United States is always within reach.

Sincerely,

Bonnie B. Jenkins  
Executive Director



Photo by William Hauser

*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.*



Philanthropic Partner of US Equestrian

# *Save the Dates* **“AACHEN”**

World Championship benefit events for the  
United States Equestrian Teams

**Friday, January 16, 2026**

ROasis Riding Oasis  
*Wellington, Florida*



**Friday, January 30, 2026**

Desert International Horse Park  
*Thermal, California*







*Laura Kraut and Bisquetta*

## CHIO AACHEN

*continued from page 1*

“Aachen is the mecca of show jumping,” said Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland. “It’s one of the greatest shows in the world. This team was really amazing, and this is what we came here to do. It doesn’t get any better than this. There’s truly nothing like winning as a team in Aachen and I’m extremely proud of each of our combinations and their performances.”

Keenan, of New York, New York, and her veteran partner, Argan de Beliard, an 11-year-old Selle Français gelding (Mylord Carthago HN x Ahorn) owned by Chansonette Farm and cared for by Cory Tual, were spectacular, producing the only double-clear effort for the team and finishing as just one of five combinations in the entire class to jump clear in both rounds.

In their Nations Cup debut for the U.S. Jumping Team, Farrington, of Wellington, Florida, and Toulayna, an 11-year-old Zangersheide mare (Toulon x Parco) owned by Kent Farrington LLC & Rabbit Root Stables, LLC, and cared for by Denise Moriarty, notched an impressive clear in round one and added a single unlucky rail in round two.



*Lillie Keenan and Argan de Beliard*





“For me, it is hallowed ground here; it is the pinnacle of the sport,” said Ward. “The atmosphere and the spectators are unparalleled. It is always an honor to win here. I have been on two winning Nations Cup teams at CHIO Aachen, then we had quite a drought, so it is lovely to be in this position here.”

McLain Ward and Imperial HBF

Kraut, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, who anchored the U.S. Jumping Team that captured top honors in the class in 2021, piloted Bisquetta, an 11-year-old Zangersheide mare (Bisquet Balou C x Takashi van Berkenbroek) owned by Cherry Knoll Farm, Inc., and cared for by Margo Thomas, in the electric atmosphere under the lights in the main stadium. The duo jumped two bold and efficient rounds for the team, adding just four faults in the first round, and jumping a tidy, quick clear in round two to help keep the team at the top of the leaderboard.

McLain Ward, of Brewster, New York, and Imperial HBF, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Glasgow vh Merelsnest x Original VDL) owned by Michael Smith and cared for by Virginie Casterman, served as the anchors for the team. After adding four faults in their first tour of the course designed by Frank Rothenberger (GER), the pair delivered a beautifully executed clear round to secure the team’s victory in front of a sold-out crowd.



Kent Farrington and Toulayna





*Laura Kraut and Emeraldo 4*

## LAURA KRAUT AND BALOUTINUE TAKE SECOND IN ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF AACHEN CSIO5\*

Laura Kraut and Baloutinue delivered a standout performance in the Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen CSIO5\* closing out a week of elite international competition on a high note for the U.S. Jumping program. The pair finished in second place after jumping three faultless rounds on the final day of competition in Aachen, Germany. Martin Fuchs (SUI) and Leonie Jei took the win, while Steve Guerdat (SUI) and Dynamix de Belheme finished in third.

Kraut and Baloutinue, a 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Balou du Rouet x Landor S) owned by St. Bride's Farm, and cared for by Margo Thomas, jumped in top form across all three rounds. The pair delivered fault-free efforts in round one and round two to qualify for the jump-off, where they produced another fast clear to secure second place, crossing through the finish in 52.41 seconds.

"I am very pleased with second place," said Kraut. "For me, when there were eleven of the fastest riders in the

world, I thought this might not go well. As the last rider to go, I knew the golden double before the last was the jump to clear quickly. It was very difficult, and most people were quick until they got there. Instead of taking the risk, I stuck to my original plan, and I am pleased with Baloutinue, and where we finished today. It's been a great week for the United States and feel like we're ending the week on a high note."

In the top ten, Kraut was joined by Keenan and Fasther, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Vigo D'Arsoilles x Farmer) owned by Chansonette Farm, and cared for by Cory Tual, who also qualified through to the jump-off after two faultless rounds. Keenan and Fasther ultimately finished in sixth place after dropping a single rail in the jump-off to mark Keenan's third top-ten finish of the week. She also was awarded the Aachen Style Award, presented to the week's most stylish jumping rider.



*Kent Farrington and Myla*

All photos © Shannon Brinkman Photo



## INDIVIDUAL JUMPING PODIUM PLACINGS AT CHIO AACHEN

In additional individual jumping competition at CHIO Aachen, U.S. athletes garnered several podium placings. Notably, Farrington and Myla, a 10-year-old Holsteiner mare (Crunch 3 x Quadros) owned by Haity McNerney, topped the Turkish Airlines-Prize of Europe.

Kraut and Emerald 4, a nine-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Emerald x Narcos II) owned by Stars and Stripes won the Prize of StädteRegion Aachen in memory of Landrat Hermann-Josef Pütz.

Ward and High Star Hero, a 12-year-old Belgian Sporthorse gelding (Zazu x Darco) owned by Michael and Wendy Smith placed third in the Allianz-Prize.

To cap off an incredible week, Keenan and Chagrin d'Amour an eight-year-old stallion (Candy de Nantuel x Stakkato) owned by Chansonette Farm, won the Sparkassen-Youngsters-Cup.

– Adapted from  
US Equestrian press  
releases 🇺🇸



Lillie Keenan and Chagrin d'Amour



# DEFENDER U.S. EVENTING TEAM SHINES IN SILVER IN UBS-CUP CCIO4\*-S AT AACHEN



*William Coleman and Off The Record, Phillip Dutton with Possante, Caroline Pamukcu with HSH Blake, and Boyd Martin with Commando 3*

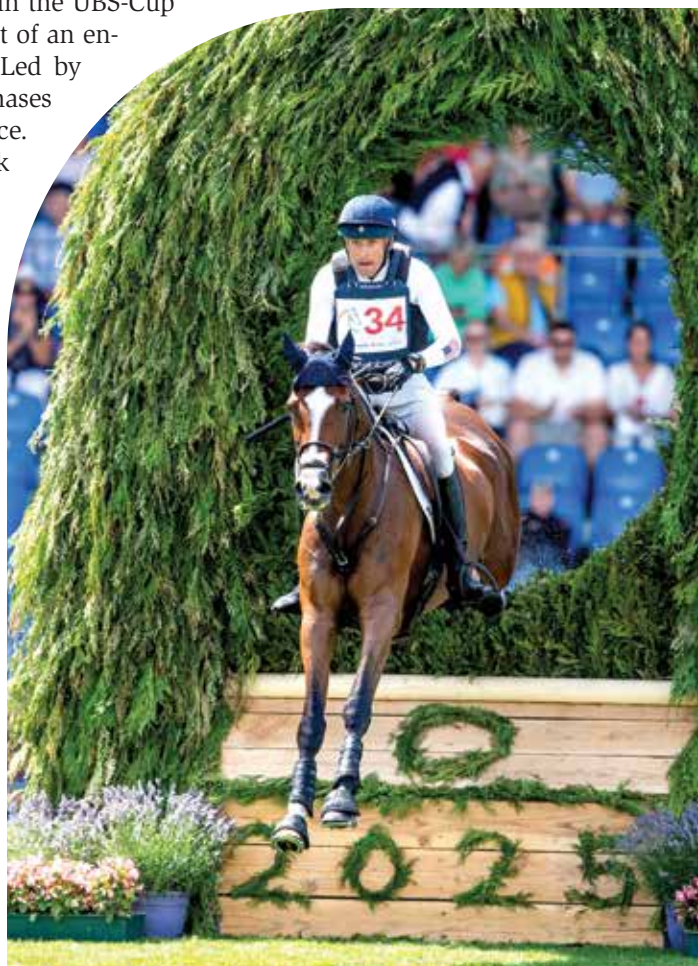
The Defender U.S. Eventing Team earned a podium finish in the UBS-Cup CCIO4-S\* following a decisive cross-country phase in front of an energetic crowd at the historic grounds of CHIO Aachen. Led by Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law, the team's efforts across all three phases helped propel the team to a final score of 117.2 to take second place. New Zealand finished in first on 108.5, while Great Britain took third on a 134.1.

"I think it's everything we could have hoped for," said Law. "We had team training camp before we came here, at Boyd Martin's farm, and then in Belgium when we arrived. There was a great atmosphere, and it's been an absolute pleasure to work with these athletes and their horses. Every aspect of their professionalism is 100% and we couldn't ask for a better team -- between the grooms and staff -- to look after the horses. We're very happy with the result and know there's more potential as we work toward the 2026 World Championships in Aachen."

The competition began with dressage and jumping phases and concluded with cross country on the final day of competition.

Caroline Pamukcu, Springtown, Pennsylvania, and HSH Blake, a 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (Tolan R. x Kanan) owned by Mollie Hoff, Sherrie Martin, Caroline Pamukcu, and Deniz Pamukcu and cared for by Chloe Teahan, produced a strong dressage test to earn 32.6 penalties. In the jumping phase, the pair added eight faults for a total of 40.6.

Phillip Dutton, West Grove, Pennsylvania, and Possante, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Namelus R x Wendelien) owned by the Possante Group and cared for by Erin Deyo, produced a dressage score of 34.2 penalties. The duo added four jumping faults in the second phase to sit on 38.20, with the final phase yet to come.



*Boyd Martin and Commando 3*





*William Coleman and Off The Record*



*Phillip Dutton and Possante*

The 2021 UBS-Cup CCI04\*-S winners, William Coleman, Ocala, Florida, and Off The Record, a 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (VDL Arkansas x Drumagoland Bay) owned by Off The Record Syndicate and cared for by Erin Jarboe, earned 35.6 penalties in the dressage phase and produced a clear jumping effort in the second phase.

Boyd Martin, Cochranville, Pennsylvania, and Commando 3, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Connor x R-Adelgunde) owned by Yankee Creek Ranch and cared for by Stephanie Simpson, finished the dressage phase with a score of 33.8 penalties and produced another clear jumping round in phase two.

The Defender U.S. Eventing Team sat in fourth place heading into the cross-country phase on the final day of competition.

The cross-country course, designed by Giuseppe Della Chiesa (ITA), who will also design the course for next year's 2026 FEI Eventing World Championships, featured 35 jumping efforts with an optimum time of 6:30. The course challenged combinations with its technical accuracy and bold and traditional questions over a variety of terrain, which was more open than years past.

Pamukcu and HSH Blake navigated the cross-country course confidently and tallied 18 time penalties to finish with a final score of 58.6. Dutton and Possante jumped clear around the course and added only 5.6 time penalties for a three-phase score of 43.8. Coleman and Off The Record finished just over the optimum time of six minutes and 30 seconds to accrue 0.8 in time penalties and a final score of 36.4, which earned them fourth place individually. Martin and Commando 3 crossed the finish in 6:43, adding 3.2 time penalties to their original dressage score, solidifying the team's podium placing and notching fifth place individually.

Competing individually, Dutton and Denim, a 10-year-old



*Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake*

Hanoverian gelding (Dinken x Celia II), owned by Caroline Moran and cared for by Erin Deyo, took to the course fourth in the day's lineup for the U.S. The pair produced a clear jumping effort and finished in 6:57, adding 8.8 in time to their dressage score of 35.9 to close out their weekend on a final score of 44.8.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press releases





# AACHEN 2025



*Chester Weber with Julius V, Kadora, Nico, First Edition and Desparido*

## CHIO AACHEN CAIO4\*-H4

Chester Weber, Ocala, Florida, began his week at CHIO Aachen with a second-place finish in the dressage phase on a score of 32.73 test with his team of First Edition, Julius V, Kadora, and Nico Teusje C. Later, Weber completed the “Top Score” competition and finished the course in 229.54 seconds collecting 1590.00 points after navigating the four-in-hand hitch, including Desparido, First Edition, Kadora, and Nico Teusje C.

Weber wrapped up competition with a careful drive in the cones phase, featuring his four-in-hand hitch of Desparido, First Edition, Julius V, and Nico Teusje C. The team crossed the finish line in 185.88 seconds with three faults, adding 9.44 penalties to his overall score.

Weber and his team ended the week on a total of 190.59 penalties, for an eighth overall finish in the international four-in-hand competition. ■



## CHIO AACHEN CVIO4\*

In the Individual Female competition, Kimberly Palmer, Half Moon Bay, California, finished sixth overall with San Felice Z, a 15-year-old Zangershiede gelding (Stakkato's Highlight x Lady's First), owned by RVV Equus E.V., and lunged by Christina Ender (GER). They finished on a final score of 8.012.

Tessa Divita, Portola Valley, California, placed eighth overall with a final score of 7.689 aboard Glenn, her own 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Zambuka x Odysee), and lunged by Lasse Kristensen (DEN).

Ana Schult, Longmont, Colorado, and Qualimero OLD, her own 16-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Quarterback x Dynamik), lunged by Loïc Devedu (FRA), finished 18th overall on a final score of 7.373, while Emma Milito, Brighton, Colorado, vaulted with Limit 62, a 14-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Larimar 7 x Warina D) owned and lunged by Anke Granow (GER), to place 19th with a score of 7.238. Caroline Morse,

*(left) Kimberly Palmer and San Felice Z*





*Tessa Divita with Glenn*

Los Gatos, California, vaulted with Soel'rings Million Voices, a 12-year-old gelding (Mangold N x Caroline) owned and lunged by Pauline Riedl (GER), and finished with a score of 7.115.

In the Individual Male division, Daniel Janes, Stanwood, Washington, vaulted on Caretes Auhoern, a 16-year-



*Daniel Janes and Caretes Auhoern*

old Holsteiner gelding (Caretino 2 x Seres), owned and lunged by Jana Leib (GER). They finished sixth with a final score of 7.937.

Jace Brooks, Eagle Mountain, Utah, competed with Iggy, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Son de Niro x Colivia), owned by RV Equus E.V., and lunged by Christine Ender (GER). They placed ninth with a score of 7.315 ■.

## CHIO AACHEN CDIO5\*

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team finished ninth in the FEI Grand Prix CDIO5\* in the Dressage Nations Cup at CHIO Aachen on a final team total of 206.436. Ben Ebeling, Wellington, Florida, and Kasey Perry-Glass, Wellington, Florida, both moved forward to the FEI Grand Prix Special CDIO5\* where Perry-Glass and Diane Perry's Heartbeat W.P., a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Charmeur x Olympic Ferro), were

awarded a 71.362%, while Ebeling and Bellena, Ann Romney's a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare (Belissimo x Welser), earned a 70.362%.

In the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO5\* Ebeling and Bellena received a 73.695% from the judging panel, while Perry-Glass and Heartbeat W.P. earned a score of 75.310%.

Additionally, in the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI4\*, Marcus Orlob, Loxahatchee, Florida, and Jane, Alice Tarjan's 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare (Desperado x Metall), earned a final score of 72.489% and a fourth-place finish in the competitive class. – Adapted from US Equestrian press releases



*Benjamin Ebeling and Bellena*



*Kasey Perry-Glass and Heartbeat W.P.*

All photos by Shannon Brinkman



# U.S. Jumping Team Tops Podium in FEI Jumping Nations Cup Traverse City CSIO3\*



*Jacob Pope, Mimi Gochman, Mia Bagnato, Charlotte Jacobs, and Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski*



**O**n July 24, the U.S. Jumping Team finished with a win in the \$75,000 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Traverse City CSIO3\* during the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival at Flintfields Horse Park in Williamsburg, Michigan, topping the podium with a final team total of four faults, after a nail-biting jump-off with Ireland. Canada rounded out the top three podium positions finishing on eight faults.

"I'm thankful we had this Nations Cup added to the calendar along with Caledon in Canada," the U.S. Jumping Development Program Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski said of the three-star jumping competitions. "These competitions are a great opportunity for our athletes to gain experience and not feel the pressure of stepping directly into a CSIO5\* – it allows them to build confidence that can carry them into the next level. Overall, there are a lot of excellent takeaways and really valuable experience gained for each of these combinations."

The U.S. Jumping Team had three combinations jump clear in the first round with Mimi Gochman of Palm Beach, Florida, leading the way as the first combination on course aboard Celina BH. Jacob Pope of Columbia, Maryland, and

*(left) Mimi Gochman and Celina BH*





*Jacob Pope and Highway FBH*



*Charlotte Jacobs and Korbach van de Renger*

Highway FBH, produced the team's second clear, followed by Charlotte Jacobs and Korbach van de Renger jumping a faultless round as the anchor combination.

In their debut for the team, Mia Bagnato of Fishkill, New York, and Ballyoskill Big Bucks, jumped a solid four-fault effort in round one, with the team moving forward to the second round on zero faults.

To start round two, Gochman and Celina BH, a 15-year-old Holsteiner mare (Constakko x Carthago Z) owned by Gochman Sport Horses LLC, and cared for by Gustavo Hernandez, braved strong rain to produce a very impressive second-clear effort of the day. Pope and Highway HBF, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Plot Blue x Cornet Obolensky) owned by Sherri Crawford and Jacob Pope, and cared for by Javier Jimenez, added four in the second round.

Bagnato and Ballyoskill Big Bucks, a 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (Royal Concorde x Lux ZZ) owned by Elan Farm, and cared for by Susie Bagnato, finished their second round with eight faults, while Charlotte Jacobs of East Aurora, New York, and Korbach van de Renger, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Colestus x Concorde) owned by North Star, and cared for by Denisa Kiss, produced a needed clear round for the team to ensure a jump-off.

In a head-to-head race against the clock, Gochman and Celina BH finished one second ahead of Ireland's Simon McCarthy and Gotcha to secure the team's victory, crossing through the timers in 38.85 seconds in the jump-off. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*Mia Bagnato and Ballyoskill Big Bucks*





# INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANTS AWARDED TO NAYC ATHLETES

*In July, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation announced that several promising young jumping athletes have been selected as the first recipients of the newly established USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant, made possible thanks to Dr. Jennifer Gates Nassar, Nayel Nassar, and their team at Evergate Stables.*

**A**mong the jumping athletes who have received the grant thus far are Honor Coulter, Haley Honegger, Taylor Kamataris, and Khloe Kerins. These riders were selected to represent their respective U.S. zones in individual and team competition at the FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) which took place July 29 through August 3, 2025, at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival in Traverse City, MI. Funding provided by the USET Foundation's Performance Pathway Jumping Grant Program helped offset costs associated with equine transportation, entry fees, athlete accommodations, and related expenses for this year's NAYC.

"For many jumping athletes who aspire to represent the U.S. on the world stage, NAYC serves as the first international team or FEI-sanctioned competition," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "Athletes selected to compete at NAYC have truly earned the opportunity to compete there. The Performance Pathway Jumping Grant Program was created to help alleviate financial barriers for talented young athletes who have demonstrated skill and dedication to the sport. We're thrilled to be able to support the journeys of up-and-coming jumping riders including Taylor, Honor, and Haley."



*Haley Honegger (14), from Elizabeth, CO, competing in the Pre-Junior division on Alexia Honegger's Wilde Hilde*

*Photo by Andrew Ryback*

**“**Being awarded the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant means so much to me,” said Honegger, who will be making her third appearance at NAYC. “Wilde Hilde and I have been together since December 2020, and she has overcome a diagnosis of the muscle disorder myofibrillar myopathy (MFM).

“Wilde Hilde is a 14-year-old Holsteiner from Switzerland and is very kind and loving in the stables, but once she’s in the show ring, she is a spicy firecracker,” she added. “We have not only competed in grands prix but have also herded cows, done cross country, and swum in the ocean. I hope to become a better horseman and someday represent the U.S. in international competitions.”



**“**NAYC has been a goal of mine since I started competing in the jumpers, and I am so excited to be participating this year,” said Coulter. “Clark and I have only been together for six months and have developed great consistency. My jumper goals are to continue representing Zone 9 at NAYC throughout my junior career and, eventually, to become a competitive grand prix rider.”

“I am so grateful to the USET Foundation for the Performance Pathway Jumping Grant,” she added. “Qualifying for NAYC is just the beginning. Being awarded this grant allows me the opportunity to compete there and gain this experience, which will help me achieve my goals. My sincerest gratitude goes to the USET Foundation and the selection committee for their generosity.”

**“**I’m incredibly honored to receive the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Grant and to compete in my first FEI event at NAYC,” said Kamataris. “This opportunity marks a major step toward my goal of representing the U.S. in international competition at the highest levels. I’m competing with Las Vegas, a 17-year-old gelding who still gives everything he has when he is in the ring.”

“To prepare, I’ve participated in the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program for two consecutive years and have earned championships at venues like World Equestrian Center (WEC) and Upperville,” she added. “I come from a military family and found my passion for horses while moving around the country during my parents’ overseas deployments. I’m so grateful to the USET Foundation and its donors for helping make this dream possible, and to my longtime trainer Terri Young.”



Honor Coulter (14), Sun Valley, ID, competing in the Children’s division on Kenilworth Sport Horses LLC’s Clark

Photo by Kristin Lee Photography



Taylor Kamataris (15), from Leesburg, VA, competing in the Pre-Junior division on her own Las Vegas

Photo by Anne Gittins Photography

Ultimately, Coulter was awarded a team silver medal with Zone 9/10 in the Children’s division. She and her horse Clark were clear in the second round of the team competition to help them secure the podium spot.

Riding as an individual for Zone 3, Taylor Kamataris and her own Las Vegas qualified for the final, while Haley Honegger rode Wilde Hilde, owned by Alexia Honegger, and contributed to her Zone 8 team.







### Young Rider Team Final

Zone 10's Talise Baker-Matsuoka and her own Levisto Junior A Z; Emmeline Adamick and Proper 12, LLC's Andy'sboy Bretoniere; Ariana Marnell and Alison Firestone's Jikke-Cara; and Sylar Wireman and Wireman Investment Group's Barclino B, took home the gold medal in the Young Rider Team Final.

Silver went to Zone 2's James Leone and Mark Leone's Galliano LW; Alexa Elle Lignelli and her own Xo Zadora; Clara Propp and her own Mistral van de Vogelzang; Mia Bagnato and her own Cordiamo.

Bronze went to Zone 4's Mia Albelo riding Husain Horse Sales' Carriado; Olivia Sweetnam and Sweet Oak Farms' Epic; and Lawson Whitaker and her own Conlugo PS.

*Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian*



“I’m just so grateful I got to compete in this amazing competition, and I’m extra thankful for how my horse truly excelled,” shared Khloe Kerins, recipient of the USET Foundation’s Performance Pathway Jumping Grant. She became a double gold medalist in the Children’s Team and Individual Finals in her NAYC debut riding Darragh Kerins’ Small Change. “It feels like a dream come true!”

*Photo by Gary L. Howe TCHS*





*Philippa Ammann and Temple Equestrian's Zarina de Vidau won the FEI Junior Individual.*



*Skylar Wireman rode Wireman Investment Group's Barclino B to the gold medal in the FEI Young Rider Individual Championship after also taking home the gold medal as part of Zone 10 in the Young Rider Team Final. As the highest ranked Young Rider at NAYC, Wireman earned the USET Foundation's Maxine Beard Trophy.*



*Agatha Lignelli swept the Pre-Junior division after winning the Individual Final aboard Alexa Elle Lignelli's Xo Kiara and helping Zone 2 win the gold medal in the Pre-Junior Team Final earlier in the week.*



*Zone 2's Rylie True and Esperanza Imports' Quick Bob; Cecilia Chatterjee and Victor Depaolo's Cartouche vd Cumel; Agatha Lignelli and Alexa Elle Lignelli's Xo Kiara; and Kaitlyn Linck and Freestyling Farms' FF Happy Hour 21 topped the podium in the Pre-Junior Team Final.*



*Zone 4's Jesus Rigu and Gianni Gabrielli's Excel; Lola Bacardi and her own Top New Tina; Ryan Haselden and her own Hector du Gue; and Khloe Kerins and Darragh Kerins' Small Change claimed the gold medal in the Children's Team Final.*



*Zone 4's JJ Torano with Kadley Farms and North Run's Lyon 50; Sophia Ayers and her own Conthinder; Gabriella Curry and Ga Stables' Esto de Viscourt; and Lily Epstein and her own Zjechov were victorious in the Junior Team Final.*





### *Young Rider Team Final*

*The Region 4 team of Ella Fruchterman and her own Holts Le'Mans; Lexie Kment and Jami Kment's Gatino van Hof Olympia; and Averi Allen and Jonni Allen's Silhouette took home gold in the Young Rider division.*

*Silver went to Region 3's Virginia Woodcock and her own Mollegardens Sans-Souci; Phoebe Keliher and Claudine and Fitz Kundrun's Cheraton; and Allison Berger and her and Marianne Berger's Summersby.*

*Bronze went to Region 6's Ella Insko and her own Falcon; Olivia Martz and her own Rihanna Ymas; and Trinity Schatzel and her own Hercules.*



*Lexie Kment and Jami Kment's Gatino Van Hof Olympia became double gold medalists at NAYC 2025 after taking top honors in the FEI NAYC Young Rider Individual Championship and the FEI Young Rider Freestyle.*







Region 2's Vee Dravilas and her own Rococo; Madelynn Williams and Jennifer Kaiser's FHF Cahlua; and Grace Christianson and her own FHF Roulee topped the podium in the first-ever Children's Team competition at NAYC with a combined score of 217.626.



Region 3's Eila Fisk and Gina Fisk's Quaresma; Lark Heckman and her own Franzissimo; Alexis Troutman and her own Mondo 'L'; and Lauren Polk and Donauwelle P owned by Dawn Haynie won the Junior Team Final to top the podium.



Eila Fisk and Gina Fisk's Quaresma took home the gold medal in the FEI Junior Freestyle Championship.



Ella O'Neil and Jonni Allen's Superman won the FEI Junior Individual Championship.



Grace Christianson and her own FHF Roulee earned an 81.116% to win the FEI Children's Individual Championship.



Alicia Berger and her own Aqua Marin earned a personal-best score of 67.820% and the gold medal in the U25 Grand Prix 16-25 Test.



# U.S. JUMPING TEAM VICTORIOUS IN NATIONS CUP OF ROME CSIO5\*

## *Up-And-Coming Horses Shine*



Lillie Keenan and Kick On

Photo by Morgan Froment

The U.S. Jumping Team of Laura Kraut, Lillie Keenan, McLain Ward, and Karl Cook bested nine other nations to top the podium in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup of Rome CSIO5\* hosted at the Piazza di Siena in the heart of Italy's capital city. The team finished on a two-round total of four faults, notching their first victory as a team at the event since 2009, and marking their sixth win in program history at the venue. France finished in second place on eight total faults, with the home nation of Italy finishing in third on a final total of 20 faults.

"We sent a strong team here, but three of the four of the riders had never ridden their horses in a five-star Nations Cup before. Karl was the only one of the four who had jumped a Nations Cup with this particular horse at this level," said Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "The two double clears from Lillie and McLain were needed, and we were ready for a jump-off, but it was McLain sealing the deal with the double clear that really made the day even more special. This is such an iconic show and venue, going all the way back to the 1960 Olympics, so winning a historic Nations Cup is something that jumps it up to a different level. There's so much tradition and you can feel it."

Kraut, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Bisquetta were the first combination out for the team in their debut Nations Cup of the European season. The pair was quick, adding just four faults to their score after jumping the track designed by Uliano Vezzani (ITA).

Next, Keenan of New York, New York, and Kick On, delivered a clear effort in their debut together in team competition for the U.S. Jumping Team.

"This is the first time Kick On has ever jumped a Nations Cup and this was another big ask of him for his team debut to be a five-star Nations Cup, but just like every other time I've asked, he just continues to rise to these occasions," said Keenan. "My plan was to give him a strong experience and not really get in his way, and I think we managed to do that. He's one of those horses that you can tell just really, absolutely loves his job and gets it."

"It's been some time since I've jumped a Nations Cup other than with my horse Argan [de Beliard]," continued Keenan. "You [need to] be confident in building a string of horses for the future, while taking the time to learn from these opportunities. It felt like a real family and team win today rid-





*Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque*



All photos by Morgan Froment

*Laura Kraut and Bisquetta*

ing alongside with my coach McLain, who also jumped a double clear in his first Nations Cup with Imperial HBF. It's special when you find success and the people supporting you are a part of that success in their way, too."

Cook, of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Caracole de la Roque, the winners of last year's Rolex Grand Prix in Rome, notched a quick finish in 69.05 seconds. A single rail at the A element of the final double combination fell from the cups to add four to their first-round score.

Aboard the newest mount in his string, the impressive Imperial HBF, Ward of Brewster, New York, solidified their role as anchor for the team, producing a needed clear round to keep the team in top contention after round one.

With just four faults and holding the top spot on the leaderboard, pressure mounted to keep the team's grasp on the win. Kraut and Bisquetta, an 11-year-old Zangersheide mare (Bisquet Balou C x Takashi van Berkenbroek) owned by Cherry Knoll Farm and cared for by Margo Thomas, were efficient again, just dropping the plank at fence nine to finish with four faults for the team's first score of round two.


Keenan and Kick On, an 11-year-old European Sport Horse stallion (Warrior x Caretino Glory) owned by Chansonette Farm LLC and cared for by

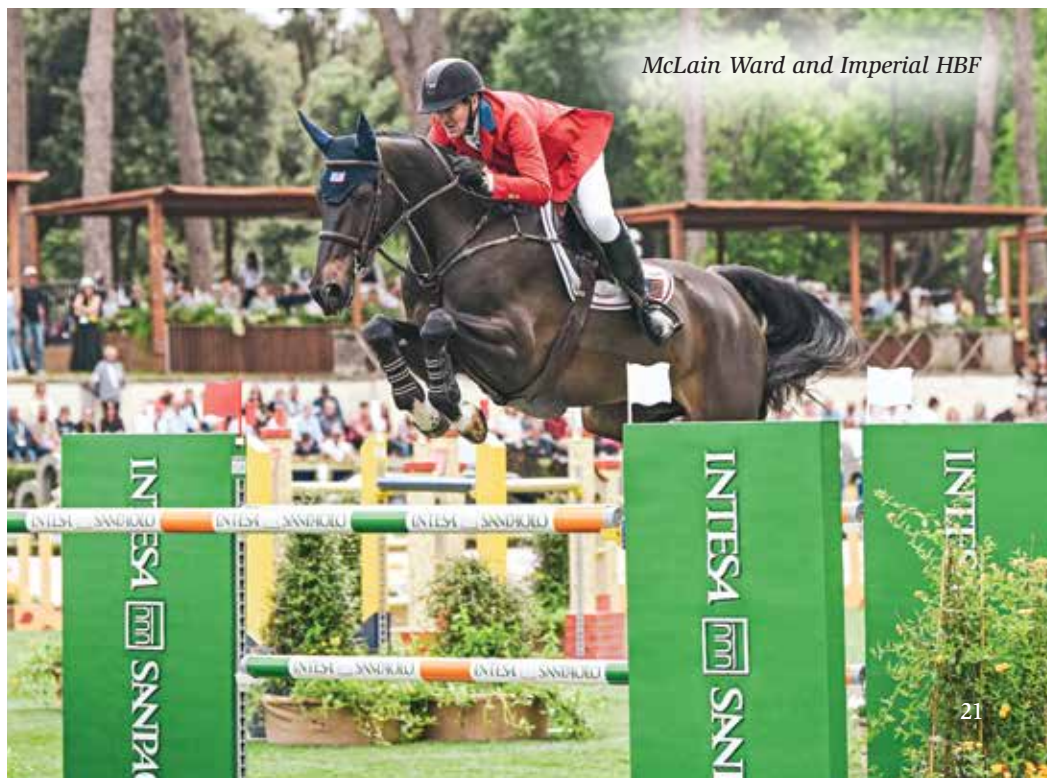
Cory Tual, proved the potential of their growing partnership, producing a second clear round for the team.

In their return in the second round, Cook and Caracole de la Roque, an 11-year-old Selle Français mare (Zandor x Kannan) owned by Signe Ostby and cared for by Tessa Falangas, secured the team's second zero-fault score to keep them in contention at the top of the podium.

With France's final combination of Kevin Staut and Visconti du Telman,

adding eight faults to their score, a clear from Ward and Imperial HBF, a 12-year-old KWPN gelding (Glasgow v/h Merelsnest x Original VDL) owned by Michael Smith and cared for by Virginie Casterman, would ultimately secure the team's victory. The pair delivered an exceptional clear round inside the time to keep the U.S. on a total of just four faults, to mark the first team win of their budding partnership together.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



*McLain Ward and Imperial HBF*



# DEFENDER U.S. EVENTING TEAM

## Takes Second in FEI Eventing Nations Cup Bicton CCIO4\*-NC-S

The Defender U.S. Eventing Team secured a well-earned podium finish in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup CCIO4\*-S in Bicton, Great Britain. The team completed the event on a team total of 132.9, with Jenny Caras and Sommersby finishing as the highest placed U.S. combination individually in 10th on a 39.4. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Karyn Shuter and Team Leader Gemma Stobbs. Great Britain finished on top of the leaderboard on a final total of 87.8, while New Zealand took third.

"The team gained valuable experience from this weekend and produced some very respectable results for the first competition of the tour," said Karyn Shuter, U.S. Eventing Team High Performance Advisor and Chef d'Equipe for the European Development Tour. "Bramham and Luhmühlen [will provide additional] opportunities for them to continue developing their skills and build a more comprehensive understanding of what it takes to be competitive amongst the best."

In the dressage phase, Olivia Dutton of West Grove, Pennsylvania, and Sea of Clouds, a 14-year-old Thoroughbred (Malibu Moon x Jolie's Halo) gelding, owned by the Sea of Clouds Partnership, and cared for by Emma Ya-



*Jenny Caras, Cosby Green, Mia Farley, Olivia Dutton and Chef d'Equipe Karyn Shuter*

nek, finished as the only combination to score a sub-30 mark, earning a 29.7.

Jenny Caras of Buckhead, Georgia, and Sommersby, a 13-year-old Holsteiner (Sargeant Pepper x d'Mademoiselle) gelding, owned by Jenny Caras and Jerry Hollis, and cared for by Emma Ford,

who competed as a part of the tour in 2024, used their experience to earn a 30.2, while Cosby Green of Lexington, Kentucky, and Highly Suspicious, a 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse (Russel II x Unknown) gelding, owned by Clay and Edie Green, and cared for by Tilly Conder, finished their first phase with a score of 31.3. Mia Farley of Ocala, Florida, and Invictus, a nine-year-old Holsteiner/Thoroughbred (Diarado x Sunset Paradise) gelding, owned by Karen O'Conner, and cared for by herself, would move forward on a starting score of 34.6.

In the short-format order of phases, the team next looked to the show jumping phase, with a challenging track set by Krissy Spiller (GBR). Both Green and Caras kept the rails in tack and crossed through the finishing within the time allowed, adding nothing to their dressage scores. Farley and Invictus added just a single rail and .4-time faults. Dutton and Sea of Clouds added twelve faults, gaining valuable experience together in their first team appearance for the U.S.



*Olivia Dutton and Sea of Clouds*





*Mia Farley and Invictus*

Dutton and Sea of Clouds were the pathfinders on the picturesque cross-country course designed by Helen West (GBR). A stop at the airy drop into the water complex at 10A added 20 jumping penalties and 20.4 in time to their score to finish on a three-phase total of 82.1. Green, who has been based in the U.K. for the past two years with Tim and Jonelle Price, were the second out for the team, utilizing the valuable information brought back to the team after Dutton's round. Green produced a fast and accurate trip with

Highly Suspicious, adding just 10 time faults to their original dressage score of 31.3 and finishing on 41.3 for 13th overall.

Building on her recent success in the CCI4\*-S in Lexington, Kentucky, in April, Farley crossed through the finish in six minutes and 40 seconds for 13.2 added time penalties. The pair took 19th overall individually. Caras and her long-time partner Sommersby added just 9.2 in time to their impressive cross-country round to finish the weekend on a final score of 39.4.



*Jenny Caras and Sommersby*

Earlier in the week, Alexander O'Neal of Reddick, Florida, and Redtail Penumbra, who were originally selected to compete on the team, withdrew after the dressage phase as the result of an untimely foot abscess.

Molly Duda of Menlo Park, California, and Disco Traveler, who are also a part of the European Development Tour, competed as individuals and took 22nd overall in their preparation for the Luhmühlen CCI5\*-L.

The Tour offers two tracks for the selected combinations depending on their goals and competition plans. Tour participants competed in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Bicton CCI04\*-NC-S (GBR) at Bicton's May International Horse Trials that ran May 22-25. Additionally, the athletes had a choice of competing in the CCI4\*-S or CCI4\*-L (GBR) at the Defender Bramham International Horse Trials (GBR) that ran June 4-8 or the CCI4\*-S or CCI5\*-L at the Longines Luhmühlen Horse Trials (GER) that ran June 11-15.

The Tour is supported in part by the Dutta Corporation, whose expertise and dedication to safe equine travel make it possible for athletes and their horses to travel abroad and represent the United States, and in part by the USET Foundation, the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian, which provides funding for USEF High Performance Pathway Programs such as USEF Eventing's European Development Tour. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*Cosby Green and Highly Suspicious*





# U.S. JUMPING TEAM TAKES SECOND IN AGRIA JUMPING NATIONS CUP FALSTERBO CSIO5\*



*Spencer Smith and Keeneland*

**T**he U.S. Jumping Team placed second in the Agria Jumping Nations Cup Falsterbo CSIO5\*, finishing just behind the host nation of Sweden. The team finished on a two-round total of eight faults, with Sweden taking the win on four faults, and Ireland earning third place on eight faults, but with a slower time than the U.S. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and Team Leader Lizzy Chesson.

"Karl [Cook] and Spencer [Smith] were brilliant today, both finishing with two clear rounds for the team," said Ridland. "They rode pretty much perfect rounds, and their horses jumped super well. We're able to provide a lot of opportunities this year and we're on a roll right now. We always aim for

the podium and have been very consistent recently."

Spencer Smith of Wellington, Florida, aboard Keeneland, a 12-year-old Zangersheide gelding (Carmena Z x Azura Fomia), owned by Ashland Farms, and cared for by Cheyenne Djunaide, and Karl Cook of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Caracole de la Roque both produced clear efforts in both rounds for the team, marking two of the six double clears in the class. Cook and Caracole de la Roque, a 13-year-old Selle Français mare (Zandor Z x Pocahontas d'Amaury) owned by Signe Ostby, and cared for by Tessa Falanga, also notched the fastest clear round of the class, crossing through the timers in 70.44 seconds in the first round.





*Carly Anthony and Heavenly W*

*Photo by L. D Photographys*



*McLain Ward and High Star Hero*

*Photo by PHOTOGRAPHER - Picturebank.eu*



*Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque*

*Photo by L. D Photographys*



*Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque*

*Photo by L. D Photographys*

McLain Ward of Brewster, New York, and High Star Hero, a 12-year-old Belgian Sport Horse gelding (Zazu x Darco) owned by Michael Smith, and cared for by Virginie Casterman, served as anchors for the team, finishing with four faults in the first and second rounds. Carly Anthony of Wellington, Florida, and Heavenly W, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Calvaro F.C. x Quidam de Revel) owned by Portfolio Horses LLC, and cared for by Sanne Nordvall, added four faults in round one and eight faults in the second round.

## **KARL COOK TOPS CSIO5\* ROLEX GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY AGRIA**

Cook and Caracole de la Roque kept the momentum going on the final day of the Falsterbo Horse Show in the CSIO5\* Rolex Grand Prix presented by Agria, taking top honors after jumping two clear rounds and a fast second-round time of 43.28, well under the time allowed of 57 seconds. Sanne Thijssen of the Netherlands and Con Quidam RB finished in second after two faultless rounds and a second-round time of 43.74. Steve Guerdat of Switzerland and Dynamix de Belheme finished in third place after two clear rounds and a second-round time of 44.20.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release





# U.S. Jumping Team Wins

## FEI Jumping Nations Cup Caledon CSIO3\*

In mid July, the U.S. Jumping Team finished an excellent week of competition in at the Caledon Equestrian Park, in Caledon, ON, Canada, earning a victory in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Caledon CSIO3\* and securing an individual win in the \$90,000 Grand Prix of Caledon CSIO3\* with Marilyn Little and La Contessa stealing the show. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski and Team Leader Erin Keating throughout the week.

"We had a very memorable week in Caledon and our CSIO3\* athletes came together to create a remarkable team atmosphere," said Kursinski. "They were focused under pressure and rode like pros. In the Nations Cup, both the Canadian and Irish teams had strong experienced riders. Our team fought for it after the first round and were just unbeatable. The team camaraderie with the riders, grooms, and trainers back at the stable and up at the ring was awesome and very genuine."



Team Leader Erin Keating, Ally Worthington, Marilyn Little, Elena Haas, Sloane Coles, Tanner Korotkin, and Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski

The team started strong right off the bat, jumping to a win in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Caledon CSIO3\* on Thursday, July 17, finishing with a two-round team total of just one fault. Canada finished in second place, with Ireland taking third.

Both Sloane Coles of The Plains, Virginia, and Ninja JW van de Moerhoeve, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare (Elvis Ter Putte x Kashmir van Schuttershof) owned by The Ninja Group, and cared for by Stephanie Koerner, and Marilyn Little of West Palm Beach, Florida, aboard La Contessa, produced two fault-free rounds for the team, marking a successful start for both horses in their Nations Cup debuts.

Elena Haas of Oakland, California, and Claude, a 13-year-old Westphalian gelding (Captain Jack 44 x Cefalo) owned by Elena Haas and cared for by Rachel Mikoff, added just a single time fault in the first round and jumped a beautiful, quick clear in round two.

Alexandra Worthington of Wellington, Florida, and De L'Oiseliere, a 12-year-old Selle Français gelding (Kapitol d'Argonne x Oberon du Moulin) owned by Turn a Blind Eye LLC, and cared for by Kate McKeown, finished a strong second round, adding just a single rail to successfully mark their first occasion representing the United States in team competition.

"I'm so thankful to have an impressive CSIO3\* Nations Cup like Caledon for our team here in North America," added Kursinski. "It is extremely valuable to help develop our younger athletes and horses to jump the format of two-round team competitions. The experience of feeling the pressure and excitement of representing your country in international competition is a necessary building block looking towards the future, and these CSIO3\* competitions are critical in preparing for senior CSIO5\* and championship teams as we look ahead."



Alexandra Worthington and De L'Oiseliere





*Marilyn Little and La Contessa*



*Marilyn Little wins the Grand Prix of Caledon.*

In the Grand Prix on Saturday evening, Marilyn Little and La Contessa, a 10-year-old Mecklenberg mare (License x Cornet's Prinz) owned by Marilyn Little LLC, and cared for by Raven Alfieri, impressed again, with the pair notching a fast clear in the first round to secure their spot in the jump-off. The duo finished with the quickest round across the fast track in round two, stopping the timers in 47.05 seconds to earn their second podium-topping performance of the week for the red, white, and blue.

Tanner Korotkin of Wellington, Florida, and Kinmar Quality Hero, a 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (Obos Quality x Moujik de Sohan) owned by Sandalwood Farms, and cared for by Hadden Frost, who jumped as the fifth combination selected to the team, earned fifth place in the class, while Worthington and De L'Oiselier finished in sixth. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*Elena Haas and Claude*



*Sloane Coles and Ninja JW van de Moerhoeve*





# Champions Crowned

at USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships



## CCIJ1\* National Championship

(l-r) Emily Griffith, Eleanor McClain, Olivia Pratt, and Charlotte Schaefer

The Area V team of Emily Griffith and her own eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding Mister Chin; Eleanor McClain and her and Stacy McClain's 11-year-old Thoroughbred cross mare Calla Lily; Olivia Pratt and her own 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Ardeo San Diego; and Charlotte Schaefer and her own 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare Tinraher Diamond, claimed victory in the CCIJ1\* National Championship with a total score of 106.3.



## CCIIYJ2\*-S National Championship

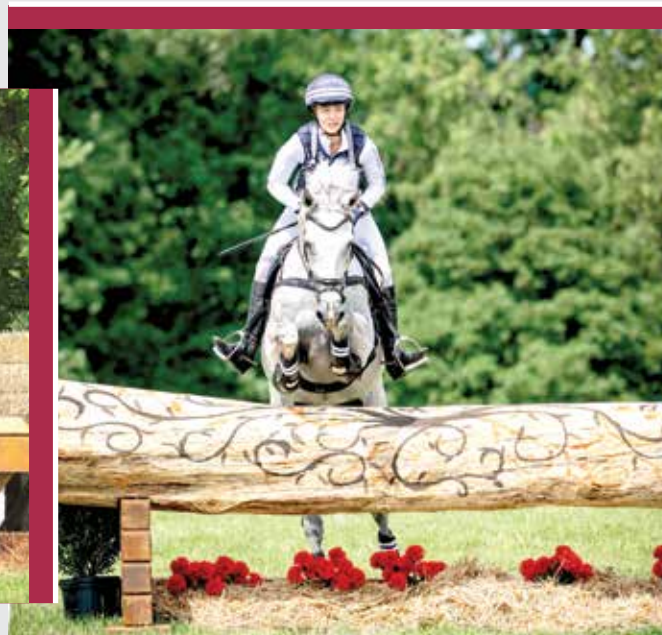
(l-r) Ella Hubert, Katelyn Smith, Juliana Cassa, and Samuel Moreland

The Area III team of Ella Hubert and her own eight-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Ardeo Dance Monkey; Katelyn Smith and her own eight-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding HSH Henry; Juliana Cassa and her own 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding Cheranimo; and Samuel Moreland and Matthew Moreland's 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Sir Pollux Z, won the CCIYJ2\*-S National Championship with a score of 138.9.

(right) Charlotte Schaefer and Tinraher Diamond, her own 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare, secured the individual gold medal in the CCIJ1\* with a final score of 28.9.



(left) Kate Bell and FE Velvet Black, her own eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding, captured the individual title in the CCIYJ2\*-S with a final score of 33.4.



Maya Clarkson and Maks Mojo C, her own 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding, won the individual title in the CCIU253\*-S with a final score of 36.8.

All photos by Erin Gilmore Photography



# Cosby Green Shines in Luhmühlen CCI5\*-L

Two U.S. eventing athletes competed as individuals at the 2025 Longines Luhmühlen Horse Trials in Luhmühlen, Germany, as part of the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing European Development Tour, which is supported by the USET Foundation's Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant.

Cosby Green, a member of the USEF Eventing Development 25 Pathway Program for 2025, had an impressive run in the Longines Luhmühlen CCI5\*-L with two horses in the top ten.

Green, of Lexington, Kentucky, finished fourth with Edie and Clay Green's Highly Suspicious, a 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by Russel. They finished on a score of 35 and were one of only four pairs to make the time on cross country.

Green also guided Heather Morris' Jos UFO De Quidam to eighth place in the horse's five-star debut. Green and the 17-year-old Argentine Warmblood gelding by Lobby Des Fortes finished on a score of 44.2.

As a member of the USEF Eventing Development Program for 2025, Mia Farley, of San Juan Capistrano, California, also gained critical international competition experience by riding in the CCI4\*-S with Karen O'Connor's Invictus, a nine-year-old Holsteiner Thoroughbred gelding (Diarado x Unbridled Jet).



*Cosby Green and Highly Suspicious*

*Cosby Green and Jos UFO de Quidam*

*Mia Farley and Invictus*



# THE ROLE

## USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships Play in Talent Development for the Future

The 2025 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships (EYRC), which took place June 27-29, 2025, in Adamstown, Maryland, is one of the many development opportunities offered through the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Pathway Programs.

USEF's Pathway Programs, which exist across the high performance disciplines and are supported by the USET Foundation, are designed to identify and develop promising up-and-coming athletes and horses to build toward future success at the highest levels of the sport. From their first team competition experience, which for many is at the Eventing Young Rider Championships, to ultimately competing at the international championship level, the pathway is designed to prepare athletes to one day represent the United States successfully on the world stage.

### *A Development Perspective*

Jenny Caras, who is a member of the 2025 USEF Eventing Development Program with her and Jerry Hollis' Sommersby, has been a part of the Eventing Pathway Programs for more than six years. Her journey began as a Young Rider, first competing at the 2010 North American Junior & Young Rider Championships CH-J1\* (now the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships) and winning individual bronze and team gold at the NAYRC CH-2\* in 2013. Her strong performances as a developing athlete earned her several grants including the USET Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant in 2016 and the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant that same year, among others, enabling her to gain the necessary competition and USEF Pathway Program experience to support her journey to the top levels.



*Jenny Caras and Sommersby*





Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Audrey Ogan and Always Cooley

The EYRC is the first time most athletes will experience the high-pressure nature of a championship level competition. Caras explained it was at this championship that she first learned to manage riding under pressure and working with teammates.

“We had a team training camp before the championships, which helped get us on the same page mentally and physically,” Caras said. “It was the first time we had been in that type of high pressure atmosphere, and it was important for me to get used to that feeling early on in my career, knowing that as I moved up the levels with the goal of representing the U.S. at team events in the future, I would lean on that learning a lot.”

In 2024, Caras was selected to represent the United States at the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Millstreet CCIO4\*-S and again at the 2025 FEI Eventing Nations Cup Bicton CCIO4\*-NC-S. There, she and her mount, Sommersby, were the highest placed U.S. combination, contributing to the team’s second place finish overall.

Caras credits the USEF Pathway Programs for shaping her growth and success in national and international competitions. “The Pathway Programs have really encouraged me to work with a variety of coaches,” she shared. “Kyle Carter was my area coach during the Young Riders Championships. I then had the chance to train under David O’Connor, and now with Leslie Law. Each has brought something unique to the table, and I’ve taken something valuable from every session – lessons I still carry with me today.”

## Eventing Young Rider Athletes

One rising athlete who made a strong impression last year at the 2024 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships is Audrey Ogan. A young rider from Fall Creek, Oregon, Ogan won individual gold in the CCIYJ2\*-S aboard her own 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare, Always Cooley.

Like many other athletes, the championships were Ogan’s first time competing at a team event.

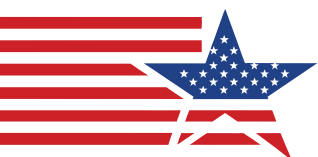
“The camaraderie at the championships was incredible,” shared Ogan. “It was my first time riding as part of a team and getting to represent more than just myself and my horse made the experience even more meaningful. The support from everyone involved was amazing, it really gave us a feel for what team competitions are all about.”

The championships offer experiences beyond competition including in-depth course walks with course designers, dressage workshops, and community-building events such as games and dinners. Volunteer hours were added to the requirements for competition at the championship beginning in 2024 giving athletes a look at what goes into organizing a major event. Ogan traveled to the championships early last year and volunteered her time during set up and preparation.

“Volunteering ended up being one of my favorite parts of the experience,” Ogan said. “You really get to see how much work goes on behind-the-scenes. Setting up the dressage ring and getting the cross-country jumps gave me a new appreciation for the people that make these events possible.” – Adapted from article by Isabelle Whiteside / US Equestrian







# AVERY BETZ-CONWAY

## *Secures Individual Bronze*

### at 2025 FEI Endurance Pan American Championships

The U.S. Endurance Team successfully finished three horse-and-athlete combinations through the 120km ride at the 2025 FEI Endurance Pan American Championship hosted at Haras Albar, in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. The U.S. Endurance Team was led by Team Chef d'Equipe Lisanne Dorion and supported by Team Veterinarian Dr. Olivia Rudolphi, and Team Leader Nicole Zerbe.

"Across varying terrain and excellent conditions, the U.S. athletes performed in line with expectations," said Lisanne Dorion, USA Endurance Chef d'Equipe.

Avery Betz-Conway of Kingsland, Georgia, finished as the highest-placed U.S. combination individually, taking bronze in the Young Rider Championships with her mount Zendaya Rach, a 10-year-old Arabian mare owned by Rach Stud Agropecuaria. The pair earned the first medal for U.S. Endurance at a Pan American or World Championship since 2011.

The 120km championship trail consisted of four loops, ranging from 20km to 36.5km, featuring undulating terrain across the Brazilian country, designed to challenge both the endurance, stamina, and horsemanship of the competing horse-and-athlete combinations. At the conclusion of each loop, the horses were inspected and checked by the official competition veterinarians to ensure peak physical condition before returning to the rest of the trail.

"Zendaya Rach knew her job all day long and performed like a true professional," said Betz-Conway. "We have been training together for the last two months, and she gave me 200% every step of the way. I'm so grateful for her and the huge support system we had around us. I couldn't have done it without them."

Heather Davis of The Plains, Virginia, and HM Kaiser Tesla, a nine-year-old Anglo-Arabian gelding owned by Haras Paso Manzanero, finished inside the top ten individually in the Senior Championship, taking ninth place overall, marking their first top-ten finish at the championship level. Thomas Rajala of Hillsborough, North Carolina and Valente Heb, a 16 year-old Arabian gelding owned by Fernando De Mello Matos Haaland, finished eleventh overall.

- Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Photo by Nicole Zerbe/US Equestrian

Ansley Conway, Avery Betz-Conway,  
Dr. Christy Betz, and Ashton Conway



Avery Betz-Conway and Zendaya Rach

Photo by Marina Pedrosa





## LAURA KRAUT AND BISQUETTA BRILLIANT IN ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND

In stunning fashion, Laura Kraut and Cherry Knoll Farms' Bisquetta, an 11-year-old Zangersheide mare (Bisquet Balou C x Takashi Van Berkenbroek), topped a field of 40 combinations. Notably, Kraut and Bisquetta were the only pair to jump clear around Alan Wade's (IRE) track in a fast time of 73.97 seconds, well under the time allowed of 77 seconds in the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland at the 2025 Dublin Horse Show in Dublin, Ireland. [Read more](#)




Laura Kraut with the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland trophy.



Bisquetta with groom Margo Thomas





## U.S. VAULTING SCORES TOP TEN FINISHES AT 2025 FEI VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR JUNIORS AND YOUNG VAULTERS

The U.S. Vaulting Team traveled to Stadl Paura, Austria, to compete at the 2025 FEI World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters across five divisions. Over five days of top international competition, 19 U.S. vaulters entered the ring under the leadership of Chef d'Equipe Emma Garrod, Assistant Chef d'Equipe Lisa Zielenske, and Team Leader Michelle McQueen.

In the Individual Junior Female division, Emi Yang, Los Altos Hills, California, delivered a standout first round performance in her compulsory test, earning seventh place with a score of 7.845. She built on her momentum in her freestyle test to finish sixth overall with an 8.159 aboard Havhojs Bello Nero, a 16-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding (Gerling x Pennsylvania), owned by DanJo Consult AB and lunged by Johnny Fiskbaek. Tarah Taylor, Visalia, California, and Hannah Wildermuth, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, both demonstrated growth in their international experience, notching their strongest performances in the compulsory tests.

In the Young Vaulter Female division, the U.S. was represented by Kylynn Ghafouri, Murrieta, California; Lilly Belinski, Las Vegas, Nevada; and Naomi

Morgenthaler, Menlo Park, California. In the compulsory test, Ghafouri vaulted aboard San Felice Z, a 15-year-old Zangersheide gelding (Stakkato's Highlight x Lady's First), owned by RVV Equus e.V. lunged by Christina Ender. She followed her strong first round routine with a clean freestyle test in round two, securing her sixth position overall with an 8.195. Both Morgenthaler and Belinski produced solid performances and gained valuable championship exposure to continue building for the future.

In the Pas de Deux division, two U.S. pairs delivered dynamic performances showcasing both their musicality and skills. Matilda and Danica Rinard, Fort Lupton, Colorado, brought energy and flair to their routines set to Footloose, earning strong scores in both rounds. Vaulting on Lightning Jack 12, a 16-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Landos x Havanna VII) owned and lunged by Thordis Thormahlen, the duo finished fifth overall with a final score of 7.268.

Miriam Griffiths, Elk Ridge, Utah, and Mikell Stoddard, Eagle Mountain, Utah, performed to Alice in Wonderland. The duo vaulted on Dorian, a 22-year-old Baden-Württemberg gelding (Denaro x Pagen) owned and lunged by Claudia Petersohn, and finished in sixth place with a 7.232.



*Emi Yang with Havhojs Bello Nero*



The Individual Junior Male division, the U.S. was represented by Joshua Kinsey, Benton, Pennsylvania; Larry Markgard, Half Moon Bay, California; and Ross Walker, Saratoga Springs, Utah. Walker led the way, earning a top ten finish aboard Forte 4, a 9-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Fuerstenball Old x Lea Lou) owned by Christina Hubert and lunged by Benita Julia Golze.

The highlight of the championship for the U.S. was the Junior Squad performance by the Oak Hills Squad of Salem, Utah. The squad included Clancee Christianson, Salem, Utah; Everlie Durfey, Salem, Utah; Devyn Glover, Orem, Utah; Gracie Griffiths, Elk Ridge, Utah; Lizzie Martineau, Saratoga Springs, Utah; Mikell Stoddard; Amber Terry, Spanish Fork, Utah; and Ross Walker. They delivered a polished first round routine, scoring a 7.172, and returned in round two and improved their overall standing to earn an 8.134 from the judging panel. Their combined score of 7.653 placed them fifth overall in the competition.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

*All photos by Daniel Kaiser/Kaiser Impressions*



*Tarah Taylor with Goldjunge*



*Amber Terry, Gracie Griffiths, and Clancee Christensen with Drillan*



*Lilly Belinski with True Temper*



# DEFENDER U.S. EVENTING TEAM EARNS SILVER

*and Lauren Nicholson Tops the Podium Individually  
in Arville CCIO4\*-NC-S*



*Lauren Nicholson and Larcot Z*

The Defender U.S. Eventing Team finished a successful outing at the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Arville CCIO4\*-NC-S in Arville, Belgium, taking team silver on a total of 112.7, while Lauren Nicholson and Larcot Z topped the class of 103 starting entries, finishing on a 31.7 and marking the pair's second victory at the CCI4\* level together.

"There was a lot of excellent work that went into this result and the whole week went very well for our team," said Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law. "We had four very strong performances and finished the weekend on the podium, which is our intention every time we compete as a team. Lauren rode with great style throughout the week, and it was a truly well-deserved individual win for her and her entire team. It's also important to note we had three combinations who have come through the USEF Eventing Development Program, not only contributing major results as part of Nations Cup teams

but also taking away valuable experiences as they continue to grow as athletes in top sport."

In dressage, Nicholson, The Plains, Virginia, and Larcot Z scored 28.5. Cosby Green, Lexington, Kentucky, and Clever Louis earned a 31.2, while Caroline Pamukcu, Springfield, Pennsylvania, and She's The One received a 31.8. Cassie Sanger, Wilmington, Delaware, and Redfield Fyre received a 36.9.

On cross country, Sanger and Redfield Fyre, her own 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Canabis Z AKZ x Guidam) cared for by Meigs Rutherford, produced a quick and confident round, with 4.4-time penalties added to their score. Nicholson and Larcot Z, a 12-year-old Zangersheide gelding (L'Arc de Triomphe x Socrate de Chivre) owned by Jacqueline B. Mars, and cared for by Sally Robertson, crossed the finish in just over seven minutes, adding 3.2 in time.



Pamukcu guided She's The One, a 10-year-old Anglo European mare (Jaguar Mail x Condios) owned by Andy Hoff, Mollie Hoff, Sherrie Martin, and Caroline Pamukcu, and cared for by Chloe Teahan, stopped the timers just one second over the optimum time of 6:53 for an additional .4 penalties. Green and Clever Louis, a 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Cyrkon x Cor de la Bryere) owned by Chedington Estate, and cared for by Sara Bech Strom, were the anchor combination and delivered with the only round clear inside the time for the team to move the U.S. to the top of the leaderboard ahead of the jumping phase.

Three U.S. combinations moved forward to contest the jumping phase for the team. Nicholson and Larcot Z ultimately moved up the leaderboard to capture the individual win after jumping a clear round. Green and Clever Louis also notched a top ten finish, taking ninth overall on a final score of 36.4. Pamukcu and She's The One finished on a 44.6 for nineteenth overall. Arville marks the third consecutive silver medal finish for the Defender U.S. Eventing Team so far in 2025.

"I love being on teams," said Nicholson. "It's probably one of the most enjoyable things for me competing – the team environment and atmosphere. You're so focused on the team result that the personal result kind of snuck up on me."

"I'm thrilled for Mrs. Mars and the team behind Larcot Z," she continued. "There's a lot of belief in this horse and I'm excited to see what's in store for the future."

Germany finished atop the competition on a final team score of 104.1, with Australia finishing behind the U.S. for the bronze medal on a 131.0.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



*Caroline Pamukcu and She's The One*



*Cassie Sanger and Redfield Fyre*



*Cosby Green and Clever Louis*

All photos by Libby Law



# COMPETITION



Photo by Mackenzie Clark

*Lillie Keenan and Argan de Beliard*

## GRAND PRIX OF ROTTERDAM CSI5\*

Karl Cook and Signe Otsby's Caracole de la Roque took home the top prize in the €308,600 Huawei Grand Prix of Rotterdam CSI5\* in June. After jumping an initial clear round, Cook was the second athlete to return to the ring for the jump off and stopped the timers in 37.17 seconds to make him the first American rider since Lucy Davis in 2015 to win the class. "Being allowed to ride such a horse is inspiring," said Cook of the 13-year-old Selle Français mare. "She has so much confidence in herself, and she knows exactly what she is doing in the course. She wants it as much as I do, if not more."

Photo by Arnd Brunkhorst



*Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque 2025 Rotterdam*

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS™ ROTTERDAM

In June, the U.S. Jumping Team finished fifth in the third leg of the Longines League of Nations™ at CHIO Rotterdam in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The team was comprised of Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque; Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by The Carissimo Group; Laura Kraut and the 11-year-old Zangersheide mare Bisquetta owned by Cherry Knoll Farm; and Alessandra Volpi and Gypsy Love, an 11-year-old Silesian Warmblood mare owned by Cedar Fox Farm.

*(left) Alessandra Volpi and Gypsy Love*



Photo by Arnd Brunkhorst



# HIGHLIGHTS

## HAGEN CDI3\*

In June, Kevin Kohmann and Duenensee captured two wins at the Hagen CDI3\* in Hagen, Germany, first winning the CDI3\* Grand Prix with a score of 71.370% and then the Grand Prix Special with a score of 69.170%. The outing marked the first double victory in Europe for Kohmann and the 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Diamante Farms.

Six additional U.S. dressage athletes landed in the top 10 in the Grand Prix: Kasey Perry-Glass and Diane Perry's Heartbeat W.P., a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, earned second with a 69.456%; Ben Ebeling and Bellena, a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare owned by Ann Romney, took third place with a 68.739%; and Marcus Orlob and Jane, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Alice Tarjan, was fourth with a 68.261%; Devon Kane and Vamos, a 13-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Diamante Farms, placed sixth with a 67.196%; Erin Nicols and Elian Royale, a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Premiere Sport Horses, placed seventh with a 65.848%; while Susie Dutta and Don Design DC, a 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Flying D Equine Company, placed ninth with a 64.957%.

In the Grand Prix Special, Perry-Glass and Heartbeat W.P. placed second with a 68.681% while Jennifer Williams and Joppe K, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Joppe Partners, LLC, rounded out the top three with a 68.021%.



Photo by Foto Rüchel

Kevin Kohmann and Duenensee

## COVALLIERO DRESSAGE DAYS CPEDI3\*



Photo by Foto Rüchel

Kate Shoemaker and Vianne

The U.S. Para Dressage Team started their European competition season in June with a podium finish at The Covalliero Dressage Days CPEDI3\* hosted in Hagen, Germany. The team consisted of Fiona Howard and her Paris Paralympic partner Diamond Dunes, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Dressage Family LLC and Hof Kasselmann; Cynthia Screnci and her own For Memory 4, an eight-year-old Hanoverian gelding; and Kate Shoemaker aboard her Paris Paralympic partner Vianne, her own nine-year-old Hanoverian mare.

"Both Fiona and Kate have maintained their top form, proving they can sustain high percentages in the Grand Prix A and B, in the very competitive environment of Hagen," said U.S. Para Dressage Team Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline. "Cynthia delivered remarkably well in her first European international with the relatively young horse For Memory 4. The icing on the cake was when Kate scored a personal best score of 81.725% in the freestyle with Vianne. Needless to say, they all went home feeling good about the week."



# COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

## LANGLEY CSIO4\*

The U.S. Jumping Team finished fourth in the 2025 Jumping Nations Cup Langley CSIO4\*, hosted at Thunderbird Show Park, in British Columbia, Canada, in early June. The team included Shawn Casady and Garfield, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Ann Russo; Elisa Broz and Consult Picobello Z, a 10-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Hidalgo, LLC; Bliss Heers and Quality Star Z, a 12-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Bridgeside Farms, LLC; and McKayla Langmeier and Mimosa vd Rollebeek, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Rafferty Farm, LLC. Notably, Broz made her senior team debut count as she and Consult Picobello Z were one of only two combinations to jump double clear in the Nations Cup competition.



Photo by Kimberly Gaudry

Elisa Broz and Consult Picabello Z

## MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL

Caroline Pamukcu won the Maryland International CCI4\*-S in June with She's The One, an Anglo European mare, owned by Mollie Hoff and Sherrie Martin, on a score of 45.2.

"I'm super pleased with the day," Pamukcu said. "I've been working hard with my coaches. I've been training with Samantha St. Jacques in dressage, and then my long-time friend, coach, and mentor Anne Kursinski in show jumping."



Photo by Mackenzie Clark

McLain Ward and Callas

## DUBLIN CSIO5\*

The U.S. Jumping Team finished fourth in the 2025 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Dublin CSIO5\* for the Aga Khan Trophy hosted at the Dublin Horse Show, a Rolex Series event, in Dublin, Ireland. The team of McLain Ward and Beechwood Stables LLC's Callas, a 17-year-old Holsteiner mare; Alex Matz and 5 Star Partners' Ikigai, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion; Laura Kraut and St. Bride's Farms' Tres Bien Z, a 10-year-old Zangersheide gelding; and Aaron Vale and Debbie Smith and Donald Steward's Styles, a nine-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, finished with a team total of eight faults after two rounds.



Photo by Kira Topeka for Erin Gilmore Photography

Caroline Pamukcu and She's The One



# Belinda Baudin

**B**elinda Nairn-Wertmann lost her hard fought and brave battle against cancer on June 12, 2025. She would have turned 70 the next day. Born on June 13, 1955, in Wellington, New Zealand, Belinda Nairn emigrated to the United States as a young child and ultimately attended Prescott High School in Arizona.

Belinda married Larry Baudin, a U.S. dressage team veterinarian, and they lived in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Belinda's career-making horses were Alegria and Christopher. With Alegria she was the team reserve for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. She competed the horse through 1987.

Christopher brought her life-time glory as a member of the U.S. Dressage Team for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea. She rode alongside Robert Dover (Federlicht), Lendon Gray (Later On), and Jessica Ranshousen (Orpheus) on the team. Belinda and Christopher finished 33rd in the Grand Prix with 1248 points. The U.S. team finished sixth.

Belinda became Belinda Nairn-Wertman after meeting her husband Bill Wertman at Bear Creek Camp on a horse packing trip in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 1990.

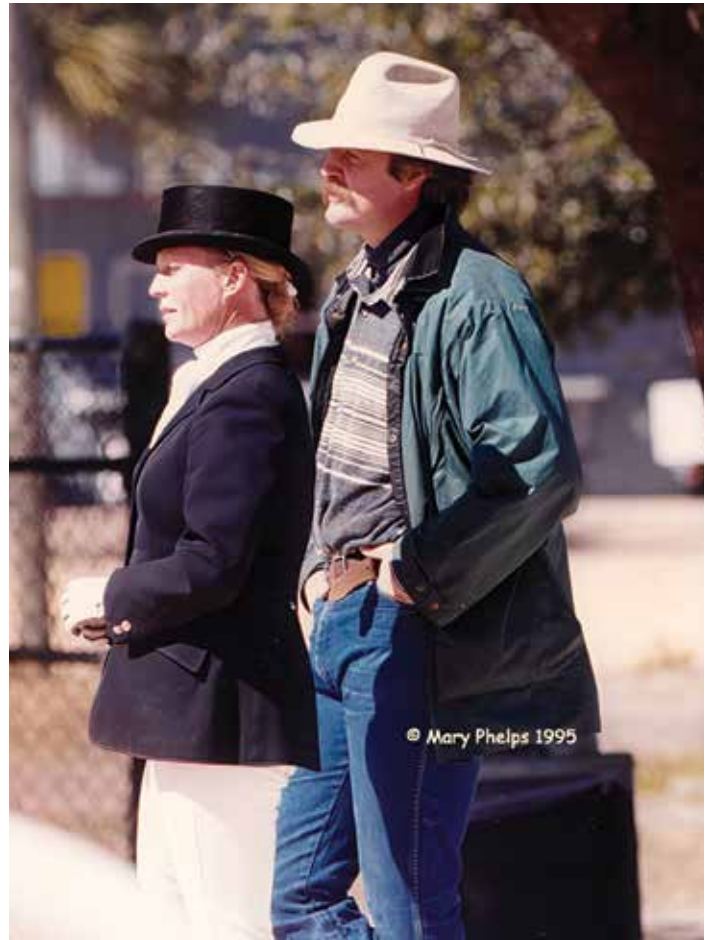
Belinda and Bill ran INSPO, an initiative dedicated to importing Dutch Warmbloods and Andalusians for dressage, hunter/jumper, and breeding purposes. They were based in Kirkwood, Pennsylvania, at the time.

She competed extensively in the 1990s on Grand Prix horses such as Zodiac with whom she won the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival; Corall; Disney; Cidor; Calimero; Boy Oh Boy; and Kirby. She also rode Lynnette Wadsworth's Wietze G in Intermediate II.

Belinda was based in Pennsylvania and, for several years, collaborated as a rider and trainer with Mary Alice Malone at Iron Spring Farm in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. She helped train the Dutch Warmblood stallion Roemer to Grand Prix level.

In 2003, Belinda began competing Iron Spring Farm horses that she had scouted in The Netherlands. She began by showing the Friesian named Goffert up to Grand Prix level in 2003 to 2004, in addition to Sir Sinclair who she took from the six-year-old classes to Small Tour between 2004 and 2008. They were 12th at the U.S. developing PSG Horse Championship in 2008. She showed UB40 as a five-year-old in 2006. In 2007, she competed the youngster Watch Me in his first classes at Training Level. Ultimately, Iron Spring Farm's stallion Florianus was her last competition horse. She showed him at Grand Prix level in 2009, including at the CDI Raleigh in May 2009. Her last competition was at Dressage at Lexington in October 2009, scoring 73% in the Grand Prix Kur.

Bill and Belinda moved from Pennsylvania to Williston, Florida, and remained surrounded by horses, running a sales business, and importing horses from Holland. After importing horses for 42 years, her last shopping trip to Holland was in June 2024



*Belinda and Bill Wertman*

Belinda mentored several riders throughout her career, including U.S. team rider Anna Marek, as well as Catherine Gallegos, Dorie Addy-Crow, and Guatemalan Pan American rider Alex Dominguez-Mulholland. She also sourced multiple horses for Lauren Sprieser. In 2017, Belinda worked out of Peter and Diane Halpin's yard, and as of 2019, she was based at GoldMark Farm, where she coached Brian Hafner. At the start of 2025, Belinda relocated to Persaud Legacy Farm in Reddick, Florida.

Belinda and Bill had started their own breeding in 2007, but phased out of it in 2021, then selling their last broodmares. Their most successful breeding products were the 2010-born Dutch Warmblood mare Fienna who went on to become a Devon Breed Show Grand Championship finalist in 2021, and Nadine Schwartzman's William.

"Belinda was a phenomenal cook, a brilliant road warrior, a team rider, a wedding planner, a photographer, and a terrific friend, with an infectious laugh and always a twinkle in her eye," Sprieser wrote in tribute to Belinda's passing.

© Astrid Appels / Eurodressage.com





# Mary Anne McPhail

## USET FOUNDATION HONORARY LIFE TRUSTEE

**U**SET Foundation Honorary Life Trustee Mary Anne McPhail of Palm Beach, Florida, and Orchard Lake, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home on July 29, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She is survived by her devoted husband of sixty-eight years, Walter Scully McPhail; her children, James Hamilton McPhail and Melinda Mary McPhail and her husband, Mark William Hartman; and four grandchildren, Mark William Hartman Jr., Kyle Stephen Hartman, Kalli Elisabeth Hartman, and Melinda Mary Hartman. She was also blessed with two great-grandchildren, Benjamin James Cooke and Josephine Joy Cooke. Mary Anne was preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Elisabeth Anne McPhail.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Mary Anne was the cherished and only child of Mary J Cassell Chenault and John Willard Chenault. The family moved to Michigan when Mary Anne was young. She spent the majority of her adult life in Michigan, where she raised her family and built much of her equestrian legacy. In later years, she split her time between Michigan and Palm Beach, Florida, before making Florida her permanent home.

Mary Anne developed a love for horses at a young age. Her uncle owned a Thoroughbred farm she visited often, and at age nine, her father gave her first horse. That simple gesture marked the beginning of a lifelong passion — one that grew into a remarkable career and legacy within the equestrian world.

Mary Anne dedicated much of her life to the sport of dressage. As a rider and trainer, she brought many of her own horses to the Grand Prix level. As an owner and co-owner, she supported several elite equine athletes, including Walzertakt, who competed at the World Equestrian Games in Stockholm; Llectron, who earned a bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics; and Lonoir, who represented the U.S. in Nations Cup competitions in Aachen and Rotterdam.

Mary Anne also became a USEF “S” Judge and officiated USEF dressage competitions at all levels. Her reputa-

tion for fairness, insight, and dedication made her a respected figure in the judging community.

In 1997, Mary Anne furthered her commitment to the sport by establishing the Mary Anne McPhail Dressage Chair in Equine Sports Medicine at Michigan State University. This visionary initiative supports ongoing research focused on enhancing the performance and soundness of sport horses — particularly elite dressage horses — and ensures that these findings are shared with those who care for and train them.



Photo by Mary Phelps

In 2024, recognizing a critical need for greater consistency in dressage judging across all levels, Mary Anne and Walter founded the Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Judges’ Education Fund through The Dressage Foundation. This fund provides educational opportunities for judges and Dressage enthusiasts alike, helping thousands gain a deeper understanding of the sport and how judging decisions are made.

Mary Anne received The Dressage Foundation’s Judith Noone Volunteer Award in part because of her 20-year commitment to the Violet Hopkins Fund Committee. This award honors an individual “who has been an excellent ambassador for the organization as a volunteer, and who also shows long-time dedication to the advancement of the sport.”

Beyond her contributions to eques-

trian sport, Mary Anne also had a spirit of adventure. On July 8, 1983, she earned her helicopter pilot’s license and became a proud member of the Whirly-Girls, an international organization of female helicopter pilots. She held membership #409.


To those who knew her best, Mary Anne — known lovingly as Nanny — was the heart of the family: warm, generous, and always ready with a full body laugh. She was a loving grandmother and a proud “grand Nanny,” with a feisty spirit that made her unforgettable. She spoke her mind, lived fearlessly, and always bounced back — whether from a fall off a horse or one of life’s many tumbles. “No” was never an option.

Her smile was contagious, her laugh filled every room, and every photo came with a familiar: “Let me take my glasses off!” She never said no to chocolate, loved a good joke (“I know what to make for dinner... reservations!”), and lived by the motto: “Eat dessert first — you never know what might happen.”

Her love of animals, especially dogs and horses, was matched only by her deep care for people. Mary Anne remembered the little things people told her, picked up every conversation where it left off, and made everyone feel seen and loved. She cherished the time with her family at the lake house and created a home that radiated welcome, warmth, and joy.

Whether cheering from the sidelines as her granddaughter rode horses, hosting family dinners at the lake, or enjoying barbecue ribs with her grandkids, Mary Anne lived with joy, pride, and boundless affection. Her nurturing spirit touched everyone and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

In her memory, the family requests that donations be made to the Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Judge Education Fund at The Dressage Foundation.

Her legacy lives on — elegant, determined, and full of grace — in the family she loved, the lives she touched, the sport she elevated, and the future generations she continues to inspire. 



# MARY ALICE D. MALONE

Mary Alice D. Malone, a trailblazer in American sport horse breeding and a lifelong equestrian, passed away peacefully at home on June 16, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on February 3, 1950, Mary Alice's passion for horses began in her childhood. As a young rider, she participated in the Bridlewild Pony Club in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, where her deep bond with horses took root and grew into a lifetime of dedication, innovation, and excellence in the equestrian world. In recognition of her extraordinary influence, Mary Alice was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the KWPN-NA in 2025, a fitting tribute to the lasting impact she made on the sport horse community.

In the early 1970s, she operated a successful boarding and training facility in Arizona, where she trained horses, coached young riders, and helped grow the equestrian community by founding the Tucson Dressage Club and the Saguaro Pony Club. Even in these formative years, Mary Alice demonstrated her commitment to education and sport.

In 1976, Mary Alice returned to Pennsylvania and founded Iron Spring Farm in Coatesville. With vision and determination, she began importing European warmbloods at a time when they were still largely unknown in the United States. Through her efforts, American breeders and riders gained access to the world's top sport horse bloodlines. Her pioneering work helped raise the standard for American sport horses and transformed the landscape of North American breeding.

Mary Alice was instrumental in importing some of the most influential Dutch Warmblood stallions of the era, including Roemer, Winston, Sebastiaan, Consul, and Contango. Roemer, who excelled at both Grand Prix jumping and dressage, became one of the most recognized stallions in the country. To honor Roemer's influence, Mary Alice established The Roemer Foundation to support educational initiatives in dressage across the United States.

She was also a pioneer in introducing Friesians to competitive dressage. At a time when the breed was rarely seen in FEI competition, Mary Alice became one of the first to import Approved KFPS Friesian stallions specifically for high-performance sport. In 2001, Mary Alice imported the charismatic Goffert 369, competing him successfully through Fourth Level before turning the reins over to her trainer and friend Belinda Nairn-Wertman, who developed and showed Goffert 369 to success at Grand Prix. Mary Alice also competed the Approved KFPS stallions Heinse 354, Erik 351, and Ulbert 390 at the FEI levels, helping to elevate the Friesian's profile in international sport and earning admiration for her vision and horsemanship.

Mary Alice's insight as a breeder was matched by her skill in the saddle. With Rampal, she earned a place on the U.S. Olympic shortlist and helped elevate the reputation of American-bred horses on the international stage. Another cornerstone of her legacy, Contango, achieved 33 Grand Prix wins and multiple championships. Over the course of her career, Mary Alice had over 87 Grand Prix victories, including top honors at the Royal Dressage Festival and the USET Festival of



Photo by Susan Sexton

Mary Alice D. Malone and Rampal

Champions. She earned her Bronze, Silver and Gold medals with the USDF. The offspring of her stallions have competed and went on to win the FEI World Cup Dressage Final, compete in the Olympics and Paralympics, earn medals in World Driving Championships, and achieve success at International venues such as Aachen, Hickstead, and Spruce Meadows.

Equally committed to mare quality, Mary Alice built a foundation of excellence with mares who earned numerous titles and awards. Her breeding program produced standout mares like Andorra ISF and Persimmon ISF, both successful in competition and breeding.

Over nearly five decades, Iron Spring Farm bred more than 300 sport horses, many of whom became USDF Horse of the Year recipients, national champions, and international competitors. Among them was Judgement ISF, one of the most accomplished American-bred show jumpers in history, who won the \$1,000,000 CN International Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows and represented the U.S. on 10 Nations' Cup teams and at the World Championships with U.S. Olympic jumping athlete Beezie Madden.

Mary Alice also was one of the founding members of the Dressage at Devon Breed Show, helping to establish it as one of the most prestigious and influential dressage breed shows in North America. Her advocacy for breed quality and her leadership in the early years of the show left an enduring mark on generations of breeders and horse lovers alike.

Mary Alice Malone will be remembered not only for her unmatched contributions to equestrian sport, but for her lifelong commitment to excellence, innovation, and the horses she so deeply loved. Mary Alice was also a strong advocate of preserving open space and agricultural land. She is survived by her daughters, Mary Alice Malone, Jr. (George) and Catherine (Drew), their husbands, and her beloved grandchildren, who brought her immense joy and pride. Mary Alice is also survived by her brothers John (Gundel) and Bennett (Jacquie) and their children and grandchildren. Her family was her greatest treasure, and her love for them was unwavering.







## USET Foundation News

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