



## Tucker Johnson

### World-Class Driver Chairs *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*

BY MARY HILTON

With five consecutive World Championship competitions to his credit as a Four-in-Hand driver, Tucker Johnson is one of America's most talented and accomplished international equestrian athletes. He acquired his first pair of driving horses in 1986 when he was 22 years old and, remarkably, with only one year of competition under his belt, qualified to represent the United States in the Pairs at the 1987 World Championships in Riesenbeck, Germany. His trajectory to the top of international driving led to a Team Gold Medal at the 1991 World Pairs Championship in Zwettl, Austria. An international Four-in-Hand driver since 1997, Johnson has represented the U.S. at every World Championship from 1998 through 2006, always distinguishing himself as the top American finisher. Johnson was a member of the Four-in-Hand squad that earned the Team Silver Medal at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. For his expertise in the final phase of the sport, Johnson has earned the moniker 'King of Cones'.

As a successful athlete in the 1990s, Johnson was asked to be on the USEF Driving Committee and his involvement with horse sport governance has evolved from there, increasing in responsibilities over the years. Currently, Johnson is a member of the USEF Foundation Board of Trustees and serves on the Executive and Finance Committees, as well as the Investment Committee, and he is Chairman of the \$20 million *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*. He is on the USEF Board of Directors, serves on the Finance Committee, and is Chairman of the International High Performance Driving Committee.

Johnson is also a generous donor to U.S. horse sports. With his family, in 2004 Johnson provided a leadership gift of one million dollars to the Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence. "It's important with these sports, since we're not paid for by the government, to realize that these sports are 'international representation by donation' – by the goodwill of people who are interested in our sport, as I am and my family is," Johnson noted. "We

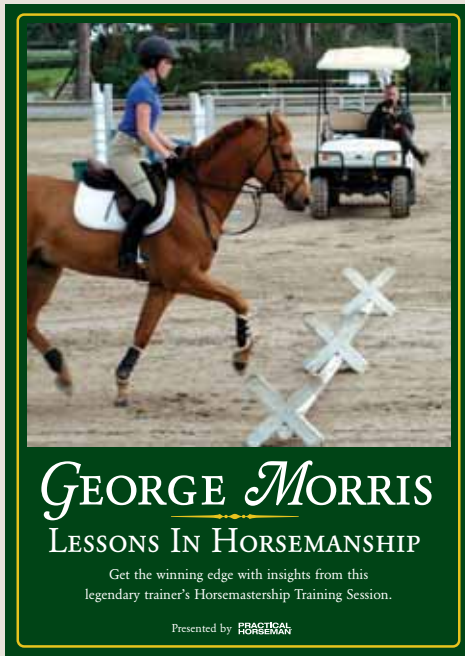
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Tucker Johnson driving the Four-in-Hand Marathon at the 1998 World Equestrian Games in Rome, Italy.

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Dear Friends,

This issue profiles an athlete, trustee and true leader in our sport – Tucker Johnson. Tucker has been a champion for high performance athletes of all disciplines in the board room, on the field of play and in his philanthropy. We are fortunate to have someone who is so committed to the mission!

The Pan American Games proved to be an amazing gathering of Gold! Our Dressage Team of Chris Hickey, Lauren Sammis and Katherine Poulin-Neff dominated both the Team and Individual competitions. The Eventing Team of Karen O'Connor, Phillip Dutton, Gina Miles and Stephen Bradley made a

clean sweep of all the Eventing Medals, showing the strength in our Eventing ranks as we head into an Olympic year. The Show Jumping Team persevered to bring home a Team Bronze Medal. It was rewarding to see two newcomers to "team competition," Cara Raether and Laura Chapot, both log in clear rounds, and Lauren Hough continue to help the U.S win medals in championship competition. Every athlete came home with a medal!

The United States was well represented at the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championships in Dorthealyst, Denmark, this summer, with the highlight of Miranda Cadwell capturing the Individual Gold in the Pairs. The U.S. won the Team Bronze thanks to the skillful driving of Suzy Stafford, Rochelle Temple, Miranda Cadwell, Tracey Morgan, Laurie Astegiano and Allison Stroud.

Later in the summer, the U.S. sent three Pairs to the FEI World Pairs Driving Championships for Horses. The Team finished 7th out of 17 nations that fielded teams. At these Championships we saw an extraordinary display of sportsmanship when Larry Poulin and his owner, Natasha Grigg, lent their spare horse to fellow teammate Keady Cadwell who had one of her horses pull up lame the week prior to the Championships. Now this is Team spirit!

The Samsung Show Jumping Super League again proved to be a long and arduous journey. It had its highs and lows but in the end our show jumping teams prevailed with a strong 4th place finish overall. The show jumping international high performance schedule has become so long and competitive, it has brought to the forefront the importance of developing more depth in numbers, talent and international team experience in our show jumping squads. We must be able to compete throughout the season and always be competitive. One of the efforts is the Developing/Young Rider Show Jumping Program. We must do what we can to make sure that this becomes a permanent part of the High Performance program. This can only be accomplished through individuals who recognize the critical nature of giving our Young Riders international experiences riding on a Nations' Cup Team earlier in their careers. Our fundraising efforts for this program are part of the Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence and I encourage people to get behind this most worthwhile program.

As another year of international championship competition winds down, we reflect on our performances and what we did well and what we need to do better. At the Foundation, we must do the same. As we enter the final year of our \$20 million *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*, we must work harder than ever to achieve our goal – our athletes and U.S. Equestrian Teams are counting on us. Our challenge at the Foundation is the same as for our athletes: how do we sustain our performances now while at the same time prepare for the future? Your continued support and commitment of gifts pledged over time help forecast the amount of funding that will be available for programs, which in turn helps our coaches and athletes plan their competition and training programs too. In 2008, an Olympic year, we will be looking to our athletes to pull out all the stops in Hong Kong, and we also ask you, our committed and loyal supporters, to consider increasing your support and showing your confidence in our United States Equestrian Teams.

With Best Regards,

Bonnie B. Jenkins  
Executive Director



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# TUCKER JOHNSON

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care quite a bit about international equestrian competition. I felt it was important to give of my time and to give of our money to make sure that other people experience equestrian sport as I've been fortunate enough to be able to do."

Johnson's experience includes accumulating a myriad of national victories and titles over the past two decades. In the U.S., he began competing with Four-in-Hand teams in the early 1990s and won his first National Championship in 1993. He went on to claim the Four-in-Hand National Championship four consecutive years (1997-2000). Internationally, during his career as a Pairs driver, in addition to his Team Gold at Zwettl, Johnson won the prestigious Pairs Division at the 1990 Royal Windsor Horse Show in England. As an international Four-in-Hand driver, Johnson was a member of the U.S. team at the 1998 World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Rome when they placed fifth and he placed fifth individually. At the 2000 World Driving Championships in Wolfsburg, Germany, the Americans finished sixth and Johnson finished seventh individually. The U.S. won Team Silver at the 2002 WEG in Jerez and Johnson finished fourth individually.



Photo Courtesy of the USET Foundation

Johnson, with James Fairclough navigating, drives the Marathon at the 1992 Royal Windsor Horse Show in Windsor, England.

At the 2004 World Driving Championships in Kecskemet, Hungary, the U.S. placed 11th and Johnson claimed fifth individually. Most recently, at the 2006 WEG in Aachen, Germany, the U.S. placed eighth and Johnson finished 14th individually.

Johnson, 43, started out in horse sports

as a rider, participating in foxhunting, hunters, jumpers and polo. Born in Durham, North Carolina, Johnson's early riding experiences occurred in New Jersey at his family's Cedar Lane Farm, a renowned cattle breeding and dairy operation estab-



Peter Lennelijn / PMG Pictures

Tucker Johnson driving the Cones/Obstacles at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.

lished by his grandparents 66 years ago (the farm now also features a stable converted from a dairy barn and hosted the 2006 USEF CAI-B Oldwick driving competition along with a benefit party for the USET Foundation). Johnson's grandparents rode and his mother fox-hunted and competed National Show Horses in her youth, but of his five siblings (four sisters and a brother), only Johnson and his sister Jazz, a successful amateur/owner hunter rider, pursued competitive horse sports.

As a teenager, Johnson went directly into working with horses after graduating high school. He discovered his talent for driving almost by serendipity when he was looking to economize by using horses for multi-discipline sport. "Sometimes these things settle on you as opposed to you settling on them," Johnson notes about driving. "I started out with the concept that this would be an economical choice because you could use the same horses for carriage driving as you could for foxhunting. I would be able to do driving in the spring and summer and foxhunt in the fall. But when I started getting really competitive about my driving, that was no longer practical. I wouldn't risk hunting a horse on a Saturday and competing the following weekend with a team."

He learned the rudiments of driving when he acquired his first pair in 1986. "I bought some horses from a fellow in Virginia and he showed me how to drive.

Then I took my horses home and figured a lot of it out on my own," Johnson recounts. "When they'd go really poorly I'd go back down there and get pointed in the right direction and go home again. To some degree, that was self-taught. I also had different people around who would help me in a clinic type environment." While continuing as a world-class driver, in his mid-twenties, Johnson decided to further his academic education and enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey. He completed the coursework within three years and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1992.

Johnson had been competing on the international scene for eight years when Sem Groenewoud, a World Champion Four-in-Hand driver from The Netherlands, came to work for his family and managed the stable at Cedar Lane for eight years.

"He helped me with my competition program and did some competing himself," Johnson noted. "He had a lot of international experience. I'd had some success but I hadn't had the classical training that he'd had, so he was quite an asset. It was a big help having someone like that who was organized, patient and disciplined."

Currently, Johnson and his frequent teammate Chester Weber work with Michael Freund of Frankfurt, Germany. "He's a coach and consultant for both of our driving programs," Johnson explains. "He comes over every other month during the winter unless we're in Europe and then, of course, we train with him there. He keeps our programs going. He talks to our stable managers, knows our horses - really keeps that whole thing running."

Johnson resides full-time in Hobe Sound, FL, with his wife of 14 years, Charlotte, and their three children - Sam, age 12; Fred, nine; and Emma, six. All of them participate in horse sports. "I still like riding and foxhunting," Johnson notes. "I foxhunt with the Essex Fox Hounds in New Jersey, which foxhunts the country around the USET Foundation." His wife grew up foxhunting in Leicestershire and foxhunted in Essex when the Johnsons lived there. "She has a nice hunter now and we go out trail riding together," Johnson says. "Sam and Fred have a pair of Shetland ponies that they ride and drive and they did some Western trail riding out in Montana on the

ranch this summer – they liked that. My daughter Emma has a little hunter show pony named Sundae Supreme that she rides around wanting people to look at her – it’s really funny.”

In addition to pleasure riding, Johnson enjoys two other hobbies – bird hunting with pointers and flying. Johnson is licensed to pilot jet aircraft and rotocraft. “With horse sports you’re always going to a spot that’s inconvenient to get to by commercial air transportation, so I picked up flying in my early twenties,” he explains. “This past year I learned how to fly a helicopter. I work a few days a week every other week for my family in New Jersey in their family office and help them run their farm, so in traveling back and forth I found it a great asset to know how to fly an aircraft.”

As a competitor, Johnson has two very specific goals for the coming years. He wants to win his first Individual Gold Medal at the World Championships and he wants to win at the World Equestrian Festival CHIO in Aachen, Germany, where over the years he has placed fourth through second, but never first. Currently, he has a group of 10 horses developing that he hopes will be his dream team. “I’ve got five horses in Germany and five here in America. I want to meld that team together and see if I can actually win an individual medal for myself,” Johnson shares. “That would be a great thing for me.”

The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ will be Johnson’s cap to a tremendous career as a driver. “I’d like to get my act together and end on a high note as opposed to drifting along in the top 10 without really making it happen,” he states. “After that, I’ll do horses for pleasure. Driving has given me more than 20 years in the sport. I’ll still be involved from a sport governance standpoint and from a fundraising and supporting standpoint.”

Johnson is well aware of the funding and support needs of his discipline and points out, “When drivers are selected to go to the World Championship, they are going to get about 40 to 50% of what it actually costs to fly themselves, their horses, equipment and grooms over there to the competition. The Foundation pro-

vides funding for international competition in grants to the Federation (USEF). Driving has always been very expensive because you have to bring more than one horse and you have the carriages, which take up a lot more room on a plane than a saddle. In the ‘90s there was a period of time where the Pairs sport got fully funded, but on the 20-year average, I would say 40 to 50% of the actual cost of getting to and from the competition has been covered. That’s tough, because if you get selected, you’ve got some fundraising to do on your own and that’s hard because a lot of people who are good drivers wouldn’t necessarily be good fundraisers. The Olympic disciplines receive some support from the U.S. Olympic Committee – and again that’s private donation money, not government money, but the non-Olympic disciplines like endurance, vaulting, reining, and driving don’t receive that same funding.”

As a lead donor for the \$20 million *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*, which is aimed at funding programs for High Performance disciplines heading into the 2008 Olympic Games and the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™, Johnson explained the benefits of the Campaign saying, “If you want to see international success for the United States in equestrian sport you’ve got to be willing to say, ‘Yes, I’m going to help you through the next Olympics and World Equestrian Games – I’ll give you this amount this year, this amount the next year, and this amount the following year’. Then we can make pro-



Photo Courtesy of the USEF Foundation

Johnson at the 2002 CAIO Breda in The Netherlands helped the U.S. driving team to a second place finish in the Nations’ Cup.

pony disciplines, we had Suzy Stafford winning Individual Gold two years ago and in the competition cycle this summer we had Randy Cadwell win an Individual Gold Medal with the Pony Pairs. That’s a big deal. That’s something the United States hasn’t done before.”

Johnson describes the USEF Foundation as his “second family.” He encourages others to become involved with the Foundation as he has, especially people with a daughter or a son competing. “It provides people with an opportunity to be part of something bigger than their own experience and to enhance and broaden their experience,” he explains. “I would advise anyone at a horse show watching their kid ride to join the Foundation to help fund these teams going over to represent the U.S. That puts someone who’s new to the horse sport into that family feeling of being part of it – to know who’s doing what and to interact with people on the Board and at the Foundation, all of whom have tons of experience at being owners or riders. The Foundation is a great



Photo Peter Llewellyn / PMAC Pictures

Johnson driving the Marathon at the 2006 World Equestrian Games, Aachen, Germany.

grams happen. We’re already seeing some of the results of that with the success our teams are having. In driving, in the new

resource of horse sport, horse knowledge, and great companionship. Involvement has a lot to offer.” ■

# PONIES

## U.S. Wins Team Bronze and Individual Gold in Pairs At FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championship



### Miranda Cadwell Captures Individual Gold in Pairs



BY MARY HILTON

Among the 16 countries competing, the U.S. was one of only nine nations that fielded a full team for the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championship, held July 18-22 in Dorthealyst, Denmark. A full team includes six drivers and their ponies in three divisions – two Singles, two Pairs, and two Four-in-Hands.

Representing the U.S. were Suzy Stafford and Rochelle Temple, Singles; Miranda Cadwell and Tracey Morgan, Pairs; and Laurie Astegiano and Allison Stroud, Four-in-Hand. Chester Weber served as Chef d'Equipe.

Competing against nearly 200 ponies from three continents, the U.S. drivers delivered world-class performances and won the Team Bronze Medal. Individually, Miranda Cadwell claimed the Gold Medal in the Pairs.

"The drivers have expressed their thanks to the USET Foundation. The Foundation's financial assistance is the cornerstone of this team's success," noted Wendy Wares, USEF Director of Driving Programs.

### USA Wins Team Bronze

Drivers and their ponies in each division competed in three phases – Dressage, Marathon, and Cones – and the final results for the team medals were based on the overall combined penalty points totaled by the full teams. Eighteen ponies comprised the U.S. team, as each driver was allowed one spare pony for the Pairs and one for the Four-in-Hand. U.S. drivers in each division used two different carriages in competition – one especially for the intricacies of Dressage and Cones and another suitable for Marathon.

Each day, the phase being contested kicked off with the Singles going first, followed by the Pairs, and wrapping up with the Four-in-Hands.



Photo by Linnda Gallo

Suzy Stafford and Welsh Cob Cefn Oak Park Bouncer placed fourth in Singles Dressage.

On opening day, the U.S. team had an excellent start in Dressage and finished in first place. Next, in the Marathon, the U.S. drivers' performances ran the gamut from finishing first to one elimination, and brought the team to a third place standing going into the final phase. On the final day, in the Cones, the U.S. drivers performed admirably earning second place. The U.S. finished with an overall score of 416.08 penalty points to capture the Team Bronze Medal. The Netherlands earned Silver with 401.17 and Germany took Gold with 400.24.

### **Singles – Suzy Stafford and Rochelle Temple**

Representing the U.S. in the 29-entries of the Singles competition were Suzy Stafford, 29, of Bear, DE, and Rochelle Temple, 49, of Powhatan, VA.

Individually, Stafford finished ninth overall driving Cefn Oak Park Bouncer, an 11-year-old bay Welsh cob gelding owned by Sybil and Wayne Humphrey. Stafford placed fourth in Dressage, 18th in Marathon, and 10th in Cones, concluding the event with 142.85 points.



Photo by Linda Gallo

Shelly Temple drove her Morgan LR Ami B-Line to second place in Singles Dressage.



Photo by Meghan Benge

Randy Cadwell drove her Welsh palominos to first place in Pairs Marathon.

Temple finished 10th overall individually driving her own LR Ami B-Line, a nine-year-old chestnut Morgan gelding. Temple placed second in Dressage, 19th in Marathon, and 21st in Cones, for a total of 145.44 points.

### **Pairs – Miranda Cadwell and Tracey Morgan**

In the 24-entry Pairs division, Miranda ("Randy") Cadwell, 37, of Southern Pines, NC, and Tracey Morgan, 50, of Beallsville, MD represented the U.S.

Cadwell finished first overall for the Individual Gold Medal, adding that to her Team Bronze. Cadwell's ponies for the event were her own two 17-year-old Welsh B palomino geldings, Topaz and Toby; and Rambo, a 10-year-old gray German gelding. Cadwell was seventh in Dressage, first in the Marathon, and fifth in Cones for a total of 129.42 points.

Morgan was eliminated in the Marathon and did not place in the event, despite a great start in Dressage where she earned second place and an outstanding job in the Cones where she finished ninth. Morgan brought three bay Dartmoor mares – Lizwell Gambling Queen, 11, owned by Susan Deuterma; and her own eight-year-old Farnley Coquette and nine-year-old Singletree Tabitha Twitchit.

### **Four-in-Hand Allison Stroud and Laurie Astegiano**

The U. S. drivers competing in the field of 19 entries in the Four-in-Hand division were Allison ("Lisa") Stroud, 53, of West Grove, PA, and Laurie

Astegiano, 48, of Roussac, France.

Stroud finished fourth overall. She drove her own Connemara gray geldings in the event: Benjamin, 14; Kilkerrin Edward, 10; Cong Donal, 11; Mosby, 10; and Sir Patrick, eight. Stroud was fourth in Dressage, seventh in the Marathon, and second in the Cones, finishing the competition with 151.49 points.

Astegiano placed seventh overall. Astegiano drove her own Welsh ponies: Templedruid Kronos, 15, C stallion; Liezelhof Dave, 14, C gelding; Templedruid Monsoon, 13, C gelding; Templedruid St. Jerneborg, 10, B gelding; and Dernane, 16, B gelding. Astegiano was eighth in Dressage, eighth in Marathon and 12th in Cones, completing the championship with a score of 165.56.



Photo by Linda Gallo

Lisa Stroud drove her Connemaras to second place in Four-in-Hand Cones.



Photo by Linda Gallo

Laurie Astegiano and her Welsh ponies placed 12th in Four-in-Hand Cones.

"This is the third FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championship for which the United States has fielded a team," noted Director Wares. "With each successive championship, we are sending stronger teams, and receiving better results. I am very proud of our drivers, their support crews and of course, the ponies!" ■

# U.S. Team Notches 7th in FEI World Pairs Driving Championship for Horses

BY MARY HILTON

Fifty-eight of the world's best Pairs drivers gathered in Warka, Poland, on August 29-September 2 for the 2007 FEI World Pairs Driving Championship for Horses. Seventeen nations fielded teams, including the U.S. Representing the United States at this CH-M-A2 International Combined Driving Event were Keady Cadwell, Elizabeth ("Lisa") Singer, and Larry Poulin.

The drivers at Warka vied for both team and individual titles, competing in three phases – Driven Dressage, Marathon, and Obstacle-Cones at the topnotch equestrian facility Farma Sielanka. Drivers were each allowed one spare horse, and the U.S. team shipped 10 horses to Poland, along with six carriages designed for the specialties of the combined driving competition.

Unfortunately, one of Cadwell's horses came up lame during the week prior to the competition. Team member Poulin conferred with Natasha Grigg (owner of Poulin's horses) and offered his fourth horse to Cadwell for use at the World Championship. "This was an act of true sportsmanship and a clear example of being 'Team Players,'" said Wendy Wares, USEF Director of Driving Programs.



Lisa Singer in Marathon driving LR-Ami Bengali and Avalon Avant Garde. Singer scored a 96.14, placing her 20th in the Marathon.

Photo by Paige DD Singer

Starting off with Driven Dressage, the U.S. team finished eighth with 104.70 penalty points. In the Marathon, with nearly 5,000 spectators looking on, the U.S. landed in 12th place with 205.80 penalty points. Then, in an exciting Obstacle-Cones, the U.S. finished the phase spectacularly in second place with only 11.89 penalty points. The U.S. Pairs Team finished in seventh place overall with a total score of 322.39 penalty points.

Germany took the Team Gold Medal with 274.27; Hungary earned Silver with 278.49; and the Netherlands captured Bronze with 280.14.

Individually, competing against the strong international field of 58 competitors, Singer was the highest placed American, finishing 23rd with an overall score of 164.80 penalty points. Singer, 60, of Chadds Ford, PA, brought three Morgan geldings, all owned by Anne Thorington – Count On Me, aged 12; Avalon Avant Garde, 20; and LR Ami Bengali, 11. Singer was 49th in Dressage, 20th in Marathon, and fifth in Obstacle-Cones.

Poulin finished 33rd with 172.46 penalty points. Poulin, 58, of Petersham, MA, traveled with four geldings all owned by Mrs. Natasha Grigg

– Camden, a 13-year-old Holsteiner; Cody, a 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood; Wiley (the horse loaned to Cadwell), a seven-year-old Hanoverian; and Rivage, a nine-year-old Oldenburg. Poulin was 16th in Dressage, 44th in Marathon, and 22nd in Obstacle-Cones.

Cadwell ended in 35th place with 173.48 penalty points. Cadwell, 41, of Southern Pines, NC, brought two of her own horses – Hercules, a 16-year-old Gelderland gelding and Uniek, a 16-year-old KWPN gelding. Cadwell placed 12th in Dressage, 48th in Marathon, and 19th in Obstacle-Cones driving her Hercules and Natasha Grigg's Wiley.

The individual medals were split by mere fractions. The Gold Medal winner of the 2007 FEI World Pairs Driving Championship for Horses was Vilmos Lazar of Hungary who finished with 142.12 penalty points, claiming the championship



Larry Poulin driving Cody and Rivage scored a 52.99, placing him 16th in Dressage.

Photo by Paige DD Singer

title for the third time. Sebastian Warneck of Germany claimed Silver with 142.53, and Karoly Hodi of Hungary earned Bronze with 142.91.

"While our Pair Team did not come home with any medals, the camaraderie and sportsmanship displayed by this team shown through brightly," pointed out Director Wares. "These athletes gave their all to make their supporters at the USET Foundation proud." ■



Keady Cadwell in Obstacles driving Uniek and Wiley. Cadwell notched 8.89 penalties, placing her 19th in the Cones.

Photo by Paige DD Singer



# Platinum Performance USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals 2007

BY NANCY JAFFER

A pair of persistent young riders took top honors in the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East and West, demonstrating the qualities that are vital for those hoping to represent America in international competition.

The four-phase Search, open to competitors 21 and under, was developed in 1982 to find riders with the potential to ride on U.S. teams.



Nikko Ritter, winner of the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East with Sally Ike, USEF managing director of show jumping; Bonnie Jenkins, USET Foundation executive director; and Lauren Everett, Platinum Performance director of equine partnerships.

If the West Coast finals winner, 20-year-old Natalie Rae Medlock, makes a U.S. squad and has to ride under the adverse weather conditions so common in Europe, she will have been well-prepared by her Talent Search victory September 22. Coached by Hap Hansen and Leslie Steele, she rode in torrential rain that took out the electricity at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank, CA, where she was judged by U.S. Coach George Morris and veteran international competitor Jeffrey Welles. Things were so bad that the last days of a show that ran with the finals had to be cancelled, but the Talent Search competitors persevered. Medlock, who rode in her first grand prix during the summer, was aboard Hansen's horse, Y2K. He won the Best Horse of the finals award for the Gulliver Trophy. Second went to Tina DiLandri, with Allison LaJoie third and Michelle Morris fourth. All the ribbon winners are from California.

In the East Coast finals two weeks later at the historic U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, the sun shone on Nikko Ritter. The 19-year-

old Floridian won the Search on his fifth try. He was aboard Clover Count, an Irish-bred gelding he first rode when he was 11 years old, just starting to make his mark in the show world. Clover, now 20, demonstrated his experience in the tests set by the judges – show jumpers Jimmy Torano and McLain Ward.

In contrast to California, the weather was perfect at Gladstone, the training center for several generations of horsemen and women who rode for the U.S. in championships here and abroad. With 82 starters, the East Coast finals had twice the number of competitors as the West Coast, and was one of the best-attended editions of the competition in its history.

The routes laid out for gymnastics, which followed the flat phase, and the two courses facing competitors the next day were not tricky, but emphasized basic skills and finesse. The judges were impressed with how well the riders did, especially Ritter, Addison Phillips, Jessica Springsteen, and Kimberly McCormack, who made it to the "Final Four" climax of the competition and finished in that order. Each jumped a course on their own mounts, then switched to the horses of their competitors to demonstrate how well they could "read" a new horse and handle a challenge.

"The last four were so good," said Ward. Torano used the word "fantastic" to describe their performances.

"None of them made major errors – the differences were minute little things. It basically came down to details," said Ward.

How close were they? In the second round, the riders were tied on 176 points each. Ritter pulled ahead in the two final rounds, but he had only a four-point edge over Phillips – a two-time finals runner-up – when the total scores were tallied.

Winning the competition at such a special venue was a long-time goal of Ritter's, who plans to be a professional rider.

"This was always my favorite final. I always wanted to win this," said Ritter, who is taking some time off from school to concentrate on his sport and hopes to compete in grand prix. "I think this one shows you are able to ride. You have to do the gymnastics, you have to do the flat, you get on other people's horses and just do it."

Ritter is coached by his mother, Wendy Peralta, along with Stacia and Frank Madden of Beacon Hill Show Stables. His mother noted how much Ritter had ben-



Natalie Rae Medlock and Y2K, winner of the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals West with (l-r) Bobby Drennan; Sally Ike, USEF managing director of show jumping sport programs; Nick Hansness, 2006 Talent Search Finals West winner; Lauren Everett, Platinum Performance director of equine partnerships; and co-trainers Leslie Steele and Hap Hansen.

efited from a summer in Germany working with trainer Holger Hetzel, which both improved his flatwork and sharpened his focus about what it takes to make a career out of riding.

The Best Horse designation of the East Coast finals for the Grappa trophy went to Deneuve, Springsteen's mount.



Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East winner Nikko Ritter on Clover Count.

Special mention also should be made of 11-year-old Michael Hughes, perhaps the youngest child ever to compete in the finals, since he rides as age 10 under USEF rules. The son of professional horseman Eamonn Hughes, Michael is coached by Missy Clark, who believes he is a prodigy and is amazed at his ability and poise. "He's my hero," Clark said.

After a slow start in the flat phase, Hughes moved up the ranks on his horse, Show Time, finishing with a score of 80.5 in the final round. That put him 45th overall, giving him the determination to return and try to get his name engraved on the trophy someday. ■

# Team USA Sparkles With Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals at 2007 Pan American Games

BY DIANA DE ROSA

*"We made this trip to win and we are going to do just that,"* predicted dressage rider Lauren Sammis. She was referring to the U.S. dressage team, but in fact those words rang true for the U.S. eventers and show jumpers as well. The three U.S. teams won a total of eight medals at the XV Pan American Games, held July 14-30 at the Deodoro Military Base and National Equestrian Center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Pan Am history. Canada earned the Silver (67.250%) and Brazil claimed the Bronze (64.933%).

"Now the gloves come off," quipped a determined Hickey of Colora, MD. Once the Gold Medal was secured and the riders were competing for individual awards, each rider was on his own for the two remaining competitions – the Intermediaire I and the Intermediaire Freestyle. It was

of Newbury, OH, was 6th (67.675%) on her mother's 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross gelding.

"Considering that all of these riders are competing in a large international event for the first time, each and every one did a fantastic job," praised U.S. Dressage Chef d'Equipe Klaus Balkenhol. "I am thrilled that these riders were able to get the Gold Medal. I also want to thank everyone – the grooms and the others who worked together – that's really important."

## Team Gold Plus Individual Gold and Silver for Dressage Team



Gold Medal Dressage Team (l-r) Christopher Hickey, Katherine Poulin-Neff, and Lauren Sammis.

Sammis of South Orange, NJ, rode Sagacious HF, owned by Al and Judy Guden and their Hyperion Farm, to top the field of 26 riders competing in the Prix St. Georges – the first test for dressage riders and the Team Medals. Sammis's score combined with those of her two teammates, Christopher Hickey aboard Regent and Katherine Poulin-Neff riding Brilliant Too, earned the Team Gold Medal (68.633%). The U.S. alternate, Susan Dutta and Pik L owned by Anne Whitten and her Horses Unlimited, also received a medal – a first in

Hickey's ride in the Freestyle that clinched the victory for him and Regent, a nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Brenna Kucinski. Hickey and Regent earned a combined score from the two tests of 70.725% to win the Individual Gold Medal.

The Individual Silver Medal went to Sammis (69.925%) on the eight-year-old Dutchbred gelding Sagacious HF. The Bronze went to Yvonne Losos de Muniz of the Dominican Republic aboard her Bernstein Las Maris (69.500%). Poulin-Neff

## Clean Medal Sweep for Eventers – Team Gold and Individual Gold, Silver, and Bronze

"When we got out into the arena I didn't hear anything – it's the great zone you get into when you compete. He gets into that competitive zone as well and he doesn't see, or feel or hear anything other than what is going on between him and me. That's a really awesome feeling," shared two-time Olympic medalist Karen O'Connor of The Plains, VA, after she and her pony, the remarkable Theodore O'Connor, won the Individual Gold Medal for Eventing (52.70). "Teddy" is a 14.1-hand, 12-year-old Thoroughbred/Shetland/Arabian cross gelding owned by The Theodore O'Connor Syndicate, LLC.

The Individual Silver Medal went to teammate Phillip Dutton of West Grove, PA, riding Truluck (53.80), a 10-year-old Thoroughbred gelding owned by Ann Jones and Shannon Stimson. The former Australian who is now an American citizen was riding for his new country for the first time. "It was not an easy decision to change nationalities," admitted Dutton, a two-time Team Gold Medalist for Australia. "America has been so good to me and my family. Everybody's been incredibly encouraging, that sort of makes it much better."

The Individual Bronze Medal went to Gina Miles of Creston, CA, aboard McKinlaigh (56.30), a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Miles with Thomas Schulz and Laura Coats. The duo placed 11th overall. "I went into the competition with what I felt was a good chance



Photo by Diana De Rosa

Eventing Individual Gold Medalist Karen O'Connor aboard Theodore O'Connor on the cross-country course.

for an individual medal," noted Miles. "I was disappointed my first day and made up my mind to stay on that score." Gina did just that and then added no further penalties with a clean cross-country trip and clear show jumping round.

Darren Chiacchia of Springville, NY, placed 4th overall aboard Better I Do It (66.20), a 14-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Adrienne Iorio. Stephen Bradley was 13th riding From (80.90), a 14-year-old Russian Thoroughbred gelding owned by Stephen and Charlotte Harris. Mara Dean voluntarily withdrew Nicki Henley, a 12-year-old Irish Thoroughbred gelding owned by Willow Bend Farm, LLC, after some concerns on the cross-country course.

The team of Bradley, Dutton, Miles, and O'Connor won the Team Gold Medal with a score of 162.80 over Canada's 211.10. Brazil took home the Bronze (235.60).



Photo by Diana De Rosa

Dressage Individual Gold Medalist Christopher Hickey and Regent in the Musical Freestyle.

### Show Jumping Fights Hard and Finishes with Team Bronze Medal

All the top guns were out in the Pan American show jumping competition. Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States all fielded teams with some of their best riders and every team was out to win. After the first competition, Team USA stood fourth. Laura Chapot of Neshanic Station, NJ, riding Little Big Man and Lauren Hough of Wellington, FL, riding Casadora both put down clear rounds. Todd Minikus of Loxahatchee, FL, aboard Pavarotti had a refusal on course and Cara Raether riding Ublesco dropped two rails for eight faults.

In the end the U.S. riders rallied and moved up a slot to win Team Bronze (27.20). Brazil claimed the Team Gold (9.67) and Canada the Team Silver (14.72).

Team USA's Bronze was an impressive feat based on the odds they were up against. Behind-the-scenes, Little Big Man was fighting for his life from an impaction. It took almost three days to straighten out the problem. Then, Pavarotti flipped at the water jump after a misstep in the first of the two team rounds.

"My horse was jumping well, then he took one stride and stood on his head," recounted Minikus. Pavarotti, a 10-year-old KWPN Dutch Warmblood gelding, is owned by Todd Minikus, Ltd.

"Todd had a fluky thing happen to him in the first round. It was a freak thing and maybe his score didn't count, but he was for sure clear on this team," commented Chapot.

Raether of North Palm Beach, FL, had one clean round and one four-fault round aboard the 10-year-old Belgium Warmblood stallion owned by Trelawny Farm, LLC. Chapot had two four-fault rounds. Hough had one clear and one five-fault round on her 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Laura Davies Mateo and Meredith Mateo.

Individual medals were decided on the final Sunday of the Pan Am Games. Chapot did not compete as she and the veterinarian decided her 13-year-old KWPN Dutch Warmblood

gelding needed to rest for the Monday travel day. Hough aboard Casadora downed three rails for 12 faults in the first two rounds. Since she was too far off to medal, Hough opted not to go into the final round. Only Raether faced off against some of the top veterans in the world. When the final rail fell, Raether had moved up from her 28th spot after the first round to the 8th position.



Photo by Diana De Rosa

Gold Medal Eventing Team (l-r) Phillip Dutton, Gina Miles, Karen O'Connor, and Stephen Bradley.



Photo by Diana De Rosa

Bronze Medal Show Jumping Team (l-r) Todd Minikus, Laura Chapot, Cara Raether, and Lauren Hough.

Canada's Jill Henselwood won the Individual Gold on Special Ed (4). Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa and Rufus claimed the Individual Silver (5.74) and Canada's Eric Lamaze on Hickstead took the Individual Bronze (6.43).

The best thing about these Pan American Games was that every single member of Team USA came home with at least one Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal and that's thanks to good riding, the financial support of the USET Foundation, and the behind-the-scenes efforts of an outstanding support staff! ■

# U.S. Show Jumpers Finish Fourth In 2007 Samsung Super League with FEI

BY KENNETH KRAUS

In the eight-event series, with eight nations fielding the strongest show jumping teams in the world, the United States ended the 2007 Samsung Super League with FEI in fourth place overall. At the all-important double-point tour finale, held on September 16 at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain, the U.S. finished with a strong fourth place tie, boosting them from fifth to fourth place overall and ensuring that the Americans remain in the Super League for the 2008 tour. Annually, the last-placed team in the Samsung Super League series is eliminated from the next season's tour, a fate the American show jumpers had to fight hard to avoid all summer. While the U.S. won the Samsung Super League Championship in 2005 and placed second in 2006, the team spent the 2007 tour predominately at the bottom, managing a nail-biter comeback in the final three events.



Photo by Ken Bradtack-HorseSport USA

Richard Spooner aboard Cristallo in Samsung Super League Round 4, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

## Rock Bottom in Rotterdam

After the first three Samsung Super League rounds, the U.S. was unexpectedly on the ropes. In Round 1 at La Baule, France, on May 11, the U.S. finished seventh; in Round 2 at Rome, Italy, on May 25, the U.S. placed eighth; in Round 3 at St. Gallen, Switzerland, on June 1, the U.S. placed third, resulting in the Americans landing in seventh place overall heading into the halfway point – Round 4 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on June 22.

Despite being one slot away from last place, hopes were high coming into Rotterdam as the U.S. fielded one of its most powerful teams – Margie Engle on Hidden Creek's Quervo Gold, Bezie Madden on Authentic, Richard Spooner with Cristallo, and McLain Ward on Sapphire.

However, those high hopes were quickly dashed. In the first round, Madden and Spooner each had four faults, but uncharacteristically, Ward logged 16 and Engle accumulated 25. In round two, Madden

had four faults, Ward notched five, Spooner had eight, and Engle accumulated 21. After two rounds, the U.S. team had racked up a whopping 42 faults and finished in last place – the worst outing in Super League history for America. The team dropped to last place in the overall standings.

Engle noted that her mount "felt good for the first four jumps or so until he hit a jump and sort of gave up. I've never had a round like that. He didn't feel like himself."

Chef d'Equipe George Morris described Rotterdam as the "biggest disappointment and shock of my entire jumping career."

## Aachen Abyss for U.S.A.

Round 5 of the Samsung Super League was held in Aachen, Germany, on July 5, with 40,000 cheering fans keyed in on the nighttime action under lights. The U.S. fielded the same team of riders and horses that competed in Rotterdam – Engle on Hidden Creek's Quervo Gold, Madden



Photo by Ken Bradtack-HorseSport USA

Beezie Madden and Authentic in Samsung Super League Round 5, Aachen, Germany.

with Authentic, Spooner and Cristallo, and Ward on Sapphire.

In the first round, the U.S. team gave every indication of finally pulling out of its series-long slump. Madden went clear, and Ward, Engle and Spooner had four faults apiece. The U.S. entered the second round tied for third, but in quick order the rise from the cellar dissipated. Spooner pulled two rails and had a single time fault for a total of nine. Engle had 16 faults. Both Ward and Madden had four. The U.S. ended with a total of 25 faults for sixth place. The U.S. remained in last place overall in the series.

With only three more competitions remaining, and the nation finishing at the bottom of the Samsung Super League earmarked for elimination from the 2008 tour, these were truly dire straits for the U.S. team.

## Hickstead Highpoint - U.S. Team Wins!

With Chef d'Equipe Morris coaching his squad at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it was Melanie Smith Taylor who served as coach and led the charge for Round 6 in Hickstead, Great Britain, on July 27. And charge they did!

Riding for the U.S. was Molly Ashe-Cawley on Cocu, Laura Kraut with Anthem, Bezie Madden on Judgement, and Christine McCrea with Vegas. All four U.S. riders had only one knockdown apiece in the first round. In round two, McCrea had one knockdown, but all her teammates went clear. The U.S. finished with 12 faults and won Hickstead.

The U.S.A.'s victory at Hickstead bumped the team up to sixth place in the overall Samsung Super League standings.

Elated by the strong U.S. finish, Kraut paid homage to the absent Chef d'Equipe Morris, saying, "We won this for him. Believe me, we've been driving him crazy up to this point, but at last we got it right! We needed to redeem ourselves today."

"The girls came back really fighting for the win – they wanted it badly," Smith Taylor said. "The final rider of the Brits had to be clear to win, and it was Michael Whitaker, who had been the only clear of the first round! Our hearts were in our stomachs as he started his trip, but he had a rail about halfway through the course and we couldn't believe we had won it! We had not only won the Nations' Cup but had beaten the Brits on their home turf in a dramatic final. It was a fabulous competition."

Smith Taylor noted, "This one was for George and all the people who have worked so hard to get us to this point."

### Dublin Delightful Despite Downpour – U.S. Second, Moves Up Again!

For Round 7, held in Dublin, Ireland, on August 10, the United States fielded the same "all-girl" squad from Aachen, with a change of one horse, comprised of Molly Ashe-Cawley with Vicomte D, Laura Kraut on Anthem, Beezie Madden with Judgement, and Christine McCrea on Vegas. Almost 20,000 spectators filled the stands.



Photo by Ken Braddick-HorseSport USA

Molly Ashe-Cawley with Vicomte D in Samsung Super League Round 7, Dublin, Ireland.

In the first round, McCrea went clear, Kraut and Madden each had four faults, and Ashe-Cawley incurred eight, putting the U.S. in a tie for third place with The Netherlands, while Germany led with four faults and Ireland was second with five faults.

The American show jumpers rallied in the second round despite the onset of



Photo by Georgina Bloomberg for HorseSport USA

U.S.A. wins Round 6, Hickstead, Great Britain (l-r) Christine McCrea, Beezie Madden, Laura Kraut, and Molly Ashe-Cawley. In front, Melanie Smith Taylor, chef d'equipe.

rain that poured down heavier toward the end of the competition. Ashe-Cawley and Madden both went clear, McCrea had a knockdown and a time fault for five, and Kraut logged eight. The U.S. placed second with 13 faults.

Out of the basement and on the rise, the number two finish at Dublin moved the U.S. up another notch to fifth place overall in the Samsung Super League standings.

"We're a good team together. I'm very excited about what we have done," said Kraut. "We can't breathe easy, but we can breathe."

McCrea beamed, "It was fantastic. It felt great."

### Solid in Spain – U.S. Secures Standing in 2008 Samsung Super League

On September 16, "Super Sunday" in Barcelona, Spain, the final event in the 2007 Samsung Super League was held with 10,000 spectators packing the stands. Points were doubled at the finale, and standings could shoot up or tailspin down. One team would end up eliminated from the 2008 tour.

Representing the United States was Laura Kraut on Anthem, Beezie Madden on Judgement, Christine McCrea on Vegas, and Todd Minikus aboard Olinda.

In the first round, Madden went clear and each of her teammates notched just four faults each. In the second round, Madden, McCrea, and Minikus each had four faults and Kraut accumulated eight. The U.S. finished in a tie for fourth place with France with 20 faults.

That result was sufficient to boost the U.S. up to a fourth place finish in the overall standings, while France overall ended in eighth place and was eliminated from the 2008 tour.

In the overall standings, Germany won the 2007 Samsung Super League with FEI, earning 67.75 points. The Netherlands placed second with 37.50. Switzerland was third with 34.75. The U.S. claimed fourth with 33.50.

"This is very important for the United States," said Chef d'Equipe Morris. "I'm thrilled with the outcome. The Olympic trials and preparation for next year hinges our on being able to compete at the Super League shows in 2008. It's vital that the U.S. continues competing in the Super League, so I'm happy with the way the season ended."

Assistant Chef d'Equipe Smith Taylor, said, "Our riders rode beautifully for the most part. I still maintain that it doesn't matter what horses you have or don't have, it boils down to being able to ride a clear round when it matters the most. It is you against the course, not the other riders. Clear rounds win. We have to remember that four faults just places you – and that is mediocre. We need to strive for clear rounds, and winning, always!"



Photo by Ken Braddick-HorseSport USA

Samsung Super League Round 8, Barcelona, Italy (l-r) Todd Minikus on Olinda, Christine McCrea aboard Vegas, and Beezie Madden with Judgement.

Smith Taylor added, "I believe all of the riders felt a sense of relief at being able to stay in the Super League, but they were obviously not satisfied with the final result, and that is a good thing. We have to want it more. We need to figure out how to make it happen when it matters most. I think we are making headway in that direction. I liked what I saw here – the team spirit and the desire to be back at the top once more. I believe we can do it, and we will!" ■

# USET Foundation Fundraisers

BY MARY HILTON

## Practical Horseman Contributes Through DVD Sales

**P**ractical Horseman released *George Morris Lessons In Horsemanship* on October 15, 2007, and has earmarked \$2 from the sale of each DVD to be donated to the USET Foundation. The Equine Network (formerly PRIMEDIA Equine Network) hopes to contribute \$5,000 to the Foundation within six months of the DVD's release.

"We believe very strongly in the role of the USET Foundation and the importance of supporting the USEF High Performance programs," said Susan Harding, Equine Network Vice President, Group Publishing Director. "The involvement of so many people in the clinic that support those programs made the Foundation a very logical recipient for our contribution. The DVD seemed to be a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for the Foundation."

The Equine Network publishes EQUUS, Horse & Rider, Dressage Today, and Arabian Horse World, as well as Practical Horseman, and also operates EquiSearch.com, the Internet partner for these award-winning equestrian publi-



George H. Morris instructing at the 2007 "Horsemastership Training Session" in Wellington, FL.

cations, and Equine.com. Sales of the DVD will be promoted through advertisements in the magazines and on the websites. It will be distributed through Horsebooksetc.com, to tack shops, and shows across the country such as Equine Affaire. "There are a lot of people helping get the DVD out there," Harding noted. "Bates Saddlery and Purina have been wonderful in getting the word out and being supportive. Frank, John, and Beezie Madden are also helping with sales."

The 75-minute DVD was recorded January 2007 in Wellington, FL, during Morris's five-day "Horsemastership Training Session," featuring eight of the nation's top young equitation riders. Morris and a crew of 15 professional mentors, including Margie Engle and Beezie Madden, worked with the riders.

The Equine Network and Practical Horseman were among the session sponsors. The DVD is being released as a Practical Horseman presentation because of the magazine's longstanding relationship with Morris and its appeal to hunter/jumper riders. "George does a monthly column for us in *Practical Horseman* and has done so for many, many years," Harding said. "Although primarily a hunter/jumper DVD, it has broader appeal – anyone who is a horse person should look at this because it really is about lessons that are fundamental to any discipline." Included with the DVD is a bonus pamphlet, which gives additional advice from the professionals involved in the clinic on grooming, equine health, nutrition and course design. ■

## Upperville Horse Show and Jean Clagett Donate Raffle Proceeds

**V**irginia's Upperville Colt & Horse Show annually hosts a Kick-Off party that benefits the USET Foundation, and this year the show presented an additional fundraiser – the raffle of Jean Clagett's maquette (small model) of a life-size sculpture of eventer Bruce Davidson riding Eagle Lion. The original sculpture was unveiled this summer at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Raffle tickets were available during the entire week of the show, June 4-10. The drawing was held during the course change for Sunday's Grand Prix jump-off. Thomas Ackerly of Gainesville, VA, had the winning ticket and received the maquette in a presentation at the show. All raffle proceeds were donated to the USET Foundation.

"Holding the raffle for the USET Foundation goes along with what Upperville is trying to do – and that's promote horse sports," said Tommy Lee Jones, show manager. "Our aim is to do the things that we can do for the horse community."



Jean Clagett's life-size sculpture of Bruce Davidson and Eagle Lion at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Upperville management provided Clagett with a booth for her studio, Atelier West, in Vendor Row, where she displayed the maquette and several exquisite sculptures. Clagett contributed her maquette, created a poster to promote the raffle, and sold raffle tickets at her booth. "Working together you can make things happen," said Clagett. "Artists' talent is very valid and they can use that to benefit others. Working together is a win-win

situation and everybody benefits."

The maquette, a 12" x 22" x 20" bronze, is one of only five in existence. The life-size sculpture was a gift to the Kentucky Horse Park from Davidson supporters, and Clagett created four maquettes as gifts to donors who contributed \$25,000 towards the original bronze. The fifth casting was provided to the Upperville Horse Show raffle to benefit the USET Foundation.

Clagett is an internationally acclaimed artist based in Upperville. "My specialty is doing specific horses and riders, not just generic," Clagett explains. "Other than pouring the metal, I do all the work all the way through so all the little details that are specific to a horse and rider stay from start to finish." Clagett has created pieces depicting hunting, driving, polo, and steeplechase as well as legendary show jumping team horses and riders, including Gem Twist, which was sold at a Denim and Diamonds benefit for the U.S. Equestrian Team. ■

For details, visit [www.atelierwest.com](http://www.atelierwest.com)

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