

Goetzmann Gains A New Perspective

A gap year allows her to go behind the scenes of top sport.

Story And Photos By **Tori Repole**

The 2018 Washington International Horse Show was the quintessential photo-op to capture horses alongside finely suited civilians. But more unusual than show horses in the nation's capital was the sight of Madison Goetzmann leading the 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion Breitling LS from the Capital One Arena in Washington, District of Columbia, to his stall on the blocked-off Paper Mill Court.

Breitling (Quintero ASK—Armonia La Silla, Acord II), Beezie Madden's winning ride at the 2018 Longines FEI World Cup Jumping Final in Paris, isn't a horse you'd see handed off to just anyone.

"That was my first time grooming at a show," said Goetzmann, Skaneateles, New York. "John and Beezie [Madden] obviously pitched in; it wasn't only me, but I tacked Breitling up, and I walked him to the ring. I helped Beezie on him. I helped her warm up, so I felt very included in the whole process."

Beezie and Breitling won the \$135,000 Longines FEI Washington World Cup qualifier on Oct. 27, and Goetzmann was honored with the Groom's Award.

"It was a completely different feeling being on the ground and watching a horse that you brushed go in," she

I'm really getting every perspective behind the scenes."

—Madison Goetzmann

said. "It was a really special feeling. I don't really know how to describe it."

Goetzmann's opportunity with the Maddens resulted from a conversation she had with them at the end of 2017. With one year left in her ASPCA Maclay Final-winning junior career, Goetzmann had already set her sights on life beyond the equitation.

She was looking to bigger events, like the Longines Masters of New York in Uniondale, New York, where she and the 12-year-old Westphalian

gelding Prestigious (Con Cento—Iduna VI, Corofino) won the Masters Two Equo App Grand Prix, April 25-28. They won at the event in 2018 as well.

Even though Goetzmann, 20, knows what it takes to measure up in the big leagues, as she prepared for her final year as a junior, there were elements of the sport that she wanted to spend some time exploring—a gap year's worth.

"I told [the Maddens that] I was very hungry to learn, ambitious to learn about anything in this horse world, from management to riding skills," said Goetzmann, who has spent the past year working under them. "In this world, it's not like you can read something in a book and learn. You just have to be there; you have to experience

Madison Goetzmann and Prestigious won the Masters Two Equo App Grand Prix, held at the Longines Masters of New York.





Nayel Nassar and Lucifer V topped the \$400,000 Longines Grand Prix of New York.

everything, and [John] gave me the opportunity to learn under their wing and be there 24/7. That was kind of his way of just being like, ‘This is the best way to learn.’ ”

A STUDENT OF THE SPORT

Goetzmann, born in Syracuse, New York, sat on her first horse at a barn near her grandparents’ home in Skaneateles. What began as pony camp with cousins grew into a lifelong interest, and at the age of 9, when her family moved to Westport, Connecticut, she began riding at the Fairfield County Hunt Club. In 2011, she started training with the Dignelli family at the Katonah, New York-based Heritage Farm.

“I was at Heritage for four years,” said Goetzmann. “Things were pretty hands-off there for me, especially because I lived four hours away, so I just came on the weekends and got on and went to shows.”

\$400,000 LONGINES GRAND PRIX OF NEW YORK Uniondale, N.Y.—April 28			
HORSE/RIDER/NATION	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Lucifer V/Nayel Nassar/EGY	0-0	38.59	\$132,000
2. Une De L'Othain/Harrie Smolders/NED	0-0	39.46	80,000
3. H&M Cue Channa 42/Olivier Philippaerts/BEL	0-0	40.93	60,000
4. Ladriano Z/Daniel Bluman/ISR	0-0	41.95	40,000
5. Dino/Brian Courrane/IRL	0-0	45.88	24,000
6. Breitling LS/Beezie Madden/USA	0-4	39.58	18,000
7. Cassini Z/Darragh Kenny/IRL	4-0	40.72	12,000
8. Cortney Cox/Pius Schwizer/SUI	4-0	41.93	10,000
9. Caspar's Lasino/Devin Ryan/USA	4-0	43.73	8,000
10. Dsarie/Beat Mändli/SUI	4-0	43.97	8,000
11. Rebeca LS/Edward Levy/FRA	4-4	40.86	4,000
12. Creedance/Kent Farrington/USA	4-8	42.26	4,000

▶Also competed: 13. Bull Run's Almighty/K. VanderVeen/USA, 4; 14. Pumped Up Kicks/J. Gates/USA, 5; 15. DM Jacquotte/W. Vermeir/BEL, 5; 16. With Wings/K. Polle/JPN, 5; 17. Trix Trax/P. Cordon/ESP, 5; 18. Bardolina 2/M. Deslauriers/CAN, 7; 19. Icarus/P. Clemens/BEL, 8; 20. Suma's Zorro/S. El Dahan/EGY, 8; 21T. Viva Colombia/B. Goutal-Marteau/USA, 8; 21T. Tradition De La Roque/M. Ward/USA, 8; 23. Skyhorse/L. Keenan/USA, 9; 24. Country Boy/A. Kocher/USA, 9; 25. Roulette BH/A. Derbyshire/GBR, 9; 26. Chalou/E. Gaudiano/ITA, 12; 27. Fellini S/E. Ballard/CAN, 15; 28. El Pacho/A. Michan/ISR, 21; Toulago/A. Sternlicht/USA, E.

When her family relocated to upstate New York, Goetzmann’s cousin Lydia Ulrich put her in contact with the Maddens.

“I’m biased, but [the Maddens] just do everything right, and I think their program is the best program out there,” said Goetzmann. “Everything is so organized, and I think John and Beezie are the most ethical people when it comes to horses. They let horses be animals. They let them roam the field in the cold, and I think that their idea of just letting the horses be animals is different than a lot of other barns. I think people have more of the idea that they’re show animals, which yes, they are, but you still have to keep in mind that they are field animals. So, I think they just have a good balance of the two.”

On an average day at the Maddens’ farm in Cazenovia, New York, Goetzmann gets to the barn before dawn to fill water buckets and sweep the aisles. At 7 a.m. the team goes over the day’s schedule.

“I usually start getting my horse ready at 7:30 a.m., and we’ll start riding at 8 a.m.,” she said. “[We] ride throughout the day, and then everybody is usually done riding by 1 p.m. That leaves us an hour to do a project,

whether it's setting jumps in the field or weed whacking or raking the driveway, just little projects like that. And then it's 2 or 2:30 p.m., and then you water and feed again, and then the day is over at 3 p.m."

Goetzmann has ridden several of Beezie's horses, including Chic Hin D Hyrencourt, Coach, Garant, Jiva and Breitling, the latter being her favorite to ride. In addition to working on Madden Mountain, Goetzmann also travels to shows with the team.

"I go in with the grooms, and I leave with the grooms, so I'm really getting every perspective behind the scenes because I get to learn and work with the horses so much," she said. "At the same time, I get to learn under John and Beezie and go up to the ring and watch what they do in the schooling area and watch how they communicate—I really just get to study Beezie 24/7."

Goetzmann will start her next chapter at the University of Richmond (Virginia) this fall—but not without first experiencing a sense of nostalgia.

"I've just gained so much respect for all of the grooms and all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes on," she said. "I'm very excited for college, but I also am so happy with what I'm doing now and how much I'm learning. It's hard for me to say that I will be slowing down a little bit so I can get adjusted the first semester of college. Obviously, I'll still keep riding, but I won't be grooming for anyone, that's for sure, during indoors. I just plan to take it step by step; it kind of depends on how I end up liking college. I don't know what will happen in the future, but for sure when I graduate from college, I'll be hands-on 24/7 in the sport. That I know for sure." 🐾

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