



for HISTORIC WIN Tamie Smith and Mai Baum

*at 2023 Land
Rover Kentucky
Three-Day Event
Presented by
MARS Equestrian™*

Tamie Smith and Mai Baum were at the top of the leaderboard heading into the final day of competition at the 2023 Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian™ held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, on April 30. The pair remained calm under pressure and maintained their composure to produce a clear show jumping round to secure the win in impressive fashion. Smith and Mai Baum ended a 15-year drought by being the first U.S. combination to win at the event since 2008. In addition to the overall title, the duo won the Land Rover/USEF CCI5*-L Eventing National Championship presented by MARS Equestrian™ and the Roger Haller Trophy as the top U.S. combination.

Smith of Murrieta, California, and Mai Baum, owned by Alexandra Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn, and Eric Markell, kicked off the competition earning a score of 24.2 for their dressage test to sit third after the first phase. The pair had a textbook round over the cross-country course designed by Derek di Grazia (USA), going double-clear over the challenging track.

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Tamie Smith and Mai Baum

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



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Dear Friends,

It's been a thrilling year so far and the excitement is rising as we quickly approach the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, in October 2023, and the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, next summer.

Over the past several months, our athletes and horses have amassed numerous podium finishes proving that the U.S. equestrian teams are formidable forces on the greatest international stages. In April, Tamie Smith and her Tokyo Olympic mount Mai Baum won the 2023 Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI5*-L in brilliant fashion becoming the first U.S. combination to win the event since 2008. In addition, the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team has been unstoppable beginning with back-to-back wins in the spring in both the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of Mexico CSIO5* and the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ USA CSIO5*. In the summer, they again landed a podium placing with a third-place finish in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of Sweden CSIO5*. These results were critical in helping the jumping team secure their invitation to the 2023 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final in Barcelona, Spain, in September, which is one of two remaining qualifiers for the 2024 Olympic Games. The Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team also had a successful outing in early summer claiming third in the CPEDI3* Stadl-Paura in Austria. I have no doubt that we'll build on this momentum across disciplines as we head into the fall.

As equestrians and fans of equestrian sport know, there is never a moment to rest on our laurels. In addition to ensuring our elite athletes remain in peak condition, we must continue to support our developing athletes who will undoubtedly represent our country at the world's most impressive championships in the future including the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

As the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF), we are dedicated to meeting the training and competition needs of developing athletes as they progress along the USEF High Performance Pathway in preparation to represent our country on senior teams. Notably, the USET Foundation's Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant, in partnership with funds from USEF, enabled rising eventing stars Jenny Caras, Andrew McConnon, Caroline Pamukcu, and Cassie Sanger to compete in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Poland CCI04*-NC-S where they earned the silver medal. Similarly, the U.S. Dressage Young Rider Team earned a spot on the podium in the Future Champions CDI0Y Hagen Nations Cup finishing with the bronze medal.

In this issue, we also highlight the dressage, driving, eventing, and jumping athletes that represented the U.S. at CHIO Aachen, the dressage, jumping, and vaulting athletes that competed at the FEI World Cup Finals Omaha, and the athletes that earned their place to compete at the FEI Vaulting World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters. In addition, we recognize the teams that took the win in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Uggerhalne CSIO3* and put in strong performances in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Drammen CSIO3* and in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ Netherlands CDI04*. Finally, we honor and celebrate the lives of Karen Golding, Charles "Champ" Gordon Hough, Jr., and Carol Lavell — all of whom made remarkable impacts on our sport and in our community.

We are proud of our athletes' accomplishments this year just as they are proud of representing our country in international competition. Your ongoing support and encouragement play a significant role in their unwavering will to succeed at the highest levels, and it's so appreciated as we look ahead to some of the most prestigious championships in the world. I am looking forward to sharing in the excitement with you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



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

HISTORIC WIN

Continued from page 1

Their performance moved them into a 3.6-point lead heading into the show jumping phase. Smith and the 17-year-old German Sport Horse gelding delivered a flawless round over the jumping track designed by Steve Stephens (USA) to clinch the win with a final score of 24.2.

The result didn't fully sink in at first for Smith as the outcome seemed surreal. "I'm pretty numb. It is almost like an out-of-body experience," said Smith. "In this sport, as everybody knows, you take a beating. The resilient ones just keep coming back for more and you hope that one day it pays off, and today it did. I'm honored, I'm elated, and I'm excited. I'm a bit speechless, honestly."

The top placing was a result of Smith and Mai Baum's longtime partnership, which began in 2015. When co-owner Alexandra Ahearn headed to college, she pressured Smith to take over the ride on Mai Baum because, "America needs this great horse," as Smith recounted. Smith knew Mai Baum was special and hoped he could win at the highest levels of the sport.

"After I won the Fair Hill International CCI3* [in 2015], I wasn't certain if [winning at a five-star event] would ever happen, but I just wanted him to have his moment in the sun, and today he did," explained Smith. "He has missed out a few times even though he has been very competitive on the world stage. I feel like it eluded him, and I'm just so happy for him because I think he is unbelievable."

Smith received many congratulations from her fellow U.S. athletes following her win. With the amount of time that has passed since a U.S. winner, the result was special for the U.S. eventing community. "I think all of us have been rooting for an American to win the Land Rover Kentucky [Three-Day Event] five-star for a very long time, and Phillip [Dutton] won it here in 2008," commented Smith. "You have a lot of heartbreak in this sport, but I think you do in anything that is great. I think everybody felt the same emotion that I'm feeling right now — just elated."

While Tom McEwen (GBR) and JL Dublin were second on a score of 27.8, Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C finished third on a score of 28.5 in the horse's CCI5*-L debut. Halliday-Sharp of Lexington, Kentucky, and the 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties, LLC and Deborah Palmer, had a smooth dressage test to earn a score of 26.9. The pair had a stellar cross-country round with 1.6 time penalties. Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C closed out the competition with a double-clear show jumping round. As the second-highest U.S. combination, they earned the reserve title in Land Rover/USEF CCI5*-L Eventing National Championship presented by MARS Equestrian.

"He is the most amazing horse. For him to come in here and do his first five-star and to finish as he did — so strong and fresh," said Halliday-Sharp. "He is such a kind, generous horse. He gave everything this weekend, and I couldn't ask for more." — *Adapted from US Equestrian press release*



Tamie Smith and Mai Baum



Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C



NETJETS U.S. JUMPING TEAM

Jessica Springsteen, Laura Kraut, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, Kent Farrington, and Bliss Heers

SECURES WIN

IN LONGINES FEI JUMPING NATIONS CUP™ OF MEXICO

In the first outing of the 2023 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup Series at the Centro Ecuestre Otomi in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, on April 28, 2023, the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team, led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, claimed victory after a competitive jump off with Mexico. The win earned the team crucial points for qualification toward the Longines FEI Nations Cup Final in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2023.

Kent Farrington, of Wellington, Florida, and Landon, a 10-year-old Zangershiede gelding owned by Haity Mc Nerney, were the first combination for the team to contest the 1.60-meter track designed by Benjamin Fernandez (MEX). The pair finished with just four faults in a time of 76.49 seconds.

Bliss Heers, of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Antidote de Mars, a 13-year-old Selle Français stallion owned by Bridgeside Farms, LLC, were the second U.S. pair on the grass field. They also dropped one rail for four faults, putting pressure on the final two team combinations to produce clear rounds.

In their first appearance for the U.S. team since 2021, Jessica Springsteen, of Colts Neck, New Jersey, and Don Juan van de Donkhoeve, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion owned by Stone Hill Farm, notched the first fault-free round for the team.

As the anchor combination, veter-

an Laura Kraut, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, guided Baloutinue, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by St. Bride's Farm, to a spectacular clear effort in 76.85 seconds, ensuring the team moved forward to the second round on four faults ahead of both Mexico and Canada.

First to return for round two, Farrington and Landon delivered a clear performance. Heers and Antidote de Mars added two unfortunate rails to their round, finishing on a total of eight faults. Springsteen and Don Juan van de Donkhoeve followed with an unlucky four faults. With the pressure mounting, Kraut and Baloutinue were the only combination to produce a double-clear effort across the competition.

After two rounds, the team was tied with Mexico on a total of eight faults, forcing a jump off. Mexico's Eugenio Garza Perez went first aboard Contago, setting the pace in 42.13 seconds. Kraut then executed a precise jump-off round with Baloutinue, crossing the timers in 39.43 seconds to secure the team's win.

"It was amazing; we almost went rider-for-rider with Mexico the entire time, which made for an incredible competition," said Ridland. "By the time Laura [Kraut] went, we knew that we would probably be in a jump off.

"The course was excellent," he continued. "It was a major test, but also

doable. By the results, any Nations Cup that only has one double-clear combination means it was tough. It was a fantastic venue, and they're wonderful hosts. There's a lot on the line this year, and it was so gratifying that when we had our call to arms at the beginning of the year, everyone, including our athletes, owners, and staff, came forward to make this happen. We have a great support team behind us." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Laura Kraut and Baloutinue

Photos by Rodrigo Cecaña/Pasión Ecuestre

U.S. Athletes Score Top Placings at FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha

CHI Health Center Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska

April 4 – 8, 2023

Hunter Holloway ►

In her second World Cup Final appearance, Hunter Holloway of Topeka, Kansas, and Hays Investment Corp.'s Pepita Con Spita put in stellar performances over two rounds to earn a podium finish taking third place in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final.



Steffen Peters ▲

In the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by Havensafe Farm, Steffen Peters of San Diego, California, and Akiko Yamazaki and Four Winds Farm's Suppenkasper adjusted their famous freestyle from the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, by adding more music and difficulty. The pair earned a personal-best freestyle score of 83.921% and earned a fourth-place finish.

Kimberly Palmer ►

Kimberly Palmer of Half Moon Bay, California, concluded the Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final as the highest-placed U.S. athlete in fourth place. Partnering with Summit Equestrian LLC's Romeo, lunged by Christoph Lensing, the pair earned an overall final score of 7.791.



All photos by Shannon Brinkman



YOUNG EVENTING STARS

Rise to the Occasion

Four Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant Recipients Take Silver in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Poland CCIO4-NC-S*

On June 21-25, 2023, four up-and-coming eventing athletes and horses, which comprised the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team, held an impressive wire-to-wire second-place standing to take the silver medal with a final score of 142.8 in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Poland CCIO4*-NC-S at the Strzegom Horse Trials.

The team of Jenny Caras and Trendy Fernhill, a 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Elyse Eisenberg; Andrew McConnon and Ferrie's Cello, an 11-year-old Warmblood gelding owned by Jeanne Shigo; Caroline Martin Pamukcu and HSH Blake, an eight-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Caroline Pamukcu, Sherrie Martin, and Mollie Hoff; and Cassie Sanger and her own Fernhill Zoro were the 2023 recipients of the USET Foundation's Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant. The grant, in partnership with additional funding from US Equestrian (USEF), enabled the four combinations to compete in the event as a part of the U.S. Eventing European Development Tour for the summer of 2023.

Developing Future Stars

As the philanthropic partner to USEF, the USET Foundation supports the training and competition needs of America's developing and elite athletes. A key component to supporting developing athletes is through the funding of several USEF High Performance Pathway Programs such as the U.S. Eventing European Development Tour. The Karen E. Stives Endowment Grant, in particular, was established by the late Olympic gold medalist Karen E. Stives and provides financial assistance to eventing horse-and-rider combinations that are already competing at the four-star and five-star levels and have the perceived potential to achieve elite level through further competition and preparatory training opportunities.

While the combinations that participated in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Poland CCIO4*-NC-S had varied international experiences, the riders agree that the opportunities offered along the USEF High Performance Pathway are critical for their development as they aim their sights on one day representing the U.S. at the highest international levels.

"The more programs and opportunities we get, the more we grow and learn, and the better we'll do," shared Pamukcu of the ongoing support from the USET Foundation and USEF. "For me, I thrive off of team trainings and outings. [At Nations Cup events], we push one another, we focus on one horse, and it gives us a [similar type of pressure] that we'd have at the Olympic Games or World Championships."

Pamukcu, who is part of the 2023 USEF Eventing Developing Program with HSH Blake, contends that pathway opportunities like the upcoming U.S. Eventing European Development Tour have strengthened the pipeline of eventing horses and riders in the U.S.

"The U.S. eventing team has made a massive comeback [in recent years], and we're a force to be reckoned with," she



Andrew McConnon, Cassie Sanger, Chef d'Equipe Coach Leslie Law, Caroline Pamukcu, and Jenny Caras

said. "Hopefully, in the future the athletes on the team for the U.S. Eventing European Development Tour will be my teammates on senior teams."

This was the first time McConnon took a horse to Europe to compete and he attributes many of his successes

to the USEF High Performance Pathway Programs, the organizations that support them, and the owners and teams around him.

"The programs and pathway [that USEF offer] are incredible," shared McConnon. "The USET Foundation and USEF North American Futures Team Challenge was important for me, and it gave me an opportunity to compete on a practice team and to be introduced to people at USEF. That really bridged the gap [in my development] and helped me earn a spot in the USEF Eventing Developing Program."

Taking advantage of the USEF High Performance Pathway, Caras participated in the North American Junior & Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) in 2010 and in 2013 when she earned team gold and individual bronze medals in the NAJYRC CH-Y2*. The experience further solidified her dream of riding on U.S. teams internationally, and she was named to the USEF Eventing Emerging Athlete Program in 2013.

Now, with several years of competition successes under her belt, she is actively building on her experiences. Though Caras received support from the Karen E. Stives Endowment Fund Grant in 2016 to compete individually as an Under 25 (U25) rider at the Bramham International CCI3*-U25 in Great Britain, this was her first outing riding for the U.S. in a Nations Cup format.

"Grants make things possible that wouldn't be otherwise," she explained. "The sport is hard, and you need financial support and horses behind you [to be successful]. I want to extend a big thank you to the USET Foundation, USEF, and all of the owners. This opportunity was amazing."

For Sanger, who was accepted into USEF's Emerging Athlete Program for 2022 and 2023, traveling overseas to compete was a completely new experience. According to Sanger, the opportunity to work alongside the other athletes in the Emerging Athlete Program helped prepare her and her mount Fernhill Zoro for the challenge.

"I'm incredibly grateful and honored to have the opportunity to participate in this European Tour through the generosity of USEF and the USET Foundation," said Sanger. "Without the support, this would not be possible."



Photo by Libby Law

Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake

Making the Most of the Pathway

"The point [of the U.S. Eventing European Development tour] was to give a younger group team experience," said USEF Eventing Emerging and Development Coach Leslie Law, who led the team in Strzegom. "We were looking for a good result as well, and from that point of view, the event went extremely well."

Pamukcu of Miami Beach, Florida, with HSH Blake took the lead after the first phase, finishing with a score of 28.1. They completed a clean cross-country phase with no jumping faults, adding 7.6 time penalties to their score. With a double-clear jumping round to wrap up the weekend, Pamukcu and HSH Blake completed their Strzegom outing on a 35.7 to finish in second place individually, less than two points behind the first-place finisher, Austria's Lea Siegl and Van Helsing P.

Caras of Buckhead, Georgia, and Trendy Fernhill had an excellent first Nations Cup team outing, adding only time penalties to their 30.0 from the dressage phase, finishing on a 52.4 and in 11th place overall.

Just behind Caras was teammate and fellow first-time Nations Cup team member Sanger of Lakeville, Connecticut, with Fernhill Zoro. The pair also completed their cross-country and jumping phases with no jumping faults, finishing with a 54.7 in 12th place individually.

McConnon of Vass, North Carolina, with Ferrie's Cello, led the team as the pathfinders for Saturday's cross-country phase. An unfortunate frangible device activation and a late runout on course added 31 penalty points to their score, and they completed their event with a fast four-fault, zero-time jumping round.

"I think all the athletes performed extremely well," said Law. "On cross-country, it's difficult to be the pathfinder. Andrew had an unfortunate run out, and then the other three really needed clear rounds and they went out there and did that. Going into show jumping, they were fantastic. There weren't many clear rounds, and for us to get three clear and one four-fault round was over and above what was expected. They really excelled."

After their success at Strzegom, the athletes traveled to Aachen where they had the opportunity to watch a veteran U.S. team compete in the CHIO Aachen CCI04*-S, which took place June 30-July 1.

"We thought it would be a great education to stay and observe," shared Law. "I think you can learn so much by watching. Seeing the best in the world in all three disciplines — dressage, show jumping, and eventing — is a wonderful education for them."

— by Kara Pinato Scro 

U.S. JUNIOR SQUAD BRONZE

at 2023 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Young Vaulters and Juniors



Photo by Daniel Kaiser

Drillian and lunge Selena Brummund (GER), (Back row) Amber Terry, Miriam Griffiths, Mikell Stoddard, (Front row) Jacey Muir, Gracie Griffiths, Abby Wilson

The Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Vaulting World Championship for Young Vaulters and Juniors, held July 26-30 in Flyinge, Sweden, was the pinnacle 2023 event for the U.S. vaulting team. Athletes competed in the Junior Individual, Pas de Deux, and Squad competitions as well as Young Vaulters Individual competition. The Junior Squad claimed a bronze medal, and there were four top-10 placings for the U.S. under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe Emma Seely and Assistant Chef d'Equipe Kimberly Wellmann.

"It was really a journey for us," said Seely. "I'm super proud of the U.S. team because we had a lot of challenges, but we did well in the end. I'm proud of all the vaulters, the coaches, and our lungers. It was really a group effort with a lot of support for each other."

A World Championship is a big experience for any athlete, especially youth athletes, and the U.S. vaulting team rose to the occasion of competing on the world stage.

"We had athletes ranging from 11 years old through the early 20s," explained Wellmann. "They have a lot of life left to experience, so I think this was a good learning experience for all of them regarding how to select horses, decisions they might make for the future, and a general mental fortitude."

JUNIOR SQUAD

The Oak Hills squad of Gracie Griffiths of Elk Ridge, Utah; Miriam Griffiths of Elk Ridge, Utah; Jacey Muir of Payson, Utah; Mikell Stoddard of Eagle Mountain, Utah; Amber Terry of Spanish Fork, Utah; and Abby Wilson of Spanish Fork, Utah, represented the U.S. in the Junior Squad competition. The squad kicked off the event with their mount Drillian, a 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Reitclub

Blau-Weiß Löwenstedt, and lunge Selena Brummund (GER) by earning a score of 6.035 in the Compulsory Test. Next, they delivered a stellar Free Test to score 7.321. The squad closed out the competition by earning its top score in the second Free Test performance — a 7.364 — to finish with an overall score of 7.021, clinching the bronze medal.

"It was really touching," said Wellmann. "It was very emotional for everyone. It was everything it should've been for those kids in that moment."

"It is really cool, and it really surprised us," shared Griffiths of winning the bronze medal.

Her teammates shared her sentiments and appreciated the opportunity to compete at a World Championship for their country.

"We are so grateful that we got to see all of the other amazing vaulters and all of the horses," commented Stoddard. "It is a very cool atmosphere, and we are very grateful to be here."

"They are such a young team, but their coach, KyLynn James, had them well trained," described Seely. "They went in and did their job piece by piece on their reserve horse. That was very exciting."

JUNIOR PAS DE DEUX

Two U.S. pas de deux duos were among a field of nine of the world's best junior pas de deux combinations. Aria Deshpande of San Francisco, California, and Hanna Parker of Redwood City, California, along with Goldjunge, a 15-year-old gelding owned by his lunger Jaqueline Schönteich (GER), had an impressive start to the competition with a score of 7.334 in the first Free Test. They outdid their previous performance by scoring 7.772 in the second Free Test to finish in fourth place overall with a score of 7.597.

Persephone Brown of Brighton, Colorado, and Danica Rinard of Fort Lupton, Colorado, teamed up with Radihaza Juvena, a 10-year-old Hungarian Sport Horse mare owned by her lunger, Eilika Habsburg-Lothringen (GER), to score 6.624 in the first Free Test. The pair persevered through challenges with Radihaza Juvena's tension in their second Free Test to collect a score of 4.423 to finish in ninth place overall with a score of 5.303.

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL FEMALE

Two U.S. vaulting athletes were in the massive field of 56 for the Junior Individual Female competition, where the top 20 athletes could move on to the final round. Kylynn Ghafouri of Murrieta, California, partnered with Diamantino 14, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by his lunger Cornelia Raddatz (GER) and Daniela Hampel, to score 7.001 in the Compulsory Test and 7.603 in the First Round Free Test to move on to the final Free Test round. Ghafouri had a fantastic Free Test to earn a score of 8.176 to finish in eighth place overall with a score of 7.739.

Hannah Wildermuth of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, teamed up with Wallis, a 20-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by his lunger Nienke de Wolff (NED), to score 6.594 in the Compulsory Test and 7.640 in the First Round Free Test. Wildermuth earned her top score of the competition in the Final Free Test with a 7.700 to finish in 15th place overall with a score of 7.409.

YOUNG VAULTER INDIVIDUAL FEMALE

It was the first time that a Young Vaulter competition was held at the World Championship, and three vaulting athletes represented the U.S. in a field of 33 competitors. Melanie Ford of Fort Collins, Colorado, joined San Felice Z, a 13-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by RVV Equus e.V., and lunger



Photo by Daniel Kaiser

Jacey Muir and Amber Terry

Christina Ender (GER) to score 7.323 in the Compulsory Test and 6.597 in the Technical Test. Ford closed out her time in Sweden with a score of 7.671 in the Free Test to finish in 14th place overall with a score of 7.134.

Caroline Morse of Los Gatos, California, worked with Corazon Gran, a 14-year-old Deutsches Pferd gelding owned by Christina Hubert, and lunger Benita Julia Golze (GER) to score 6.963 in the Compulsory Test and 7.179 in the Technical Test. Morse had a solid Free Test to earn a score of 6.849, finishing in 15th place overall with a score of 7.014.

Emma Milito of Brighton, Colorado, along with Wallis and lunger Nienke de Wolff (NED), earned a score of 6.968 in the Compulsory Test and 6.686 in the Technical Test. Milito scored a 6.776 in the Free Test to finish in 21st place overall with score of 6.731.

Seely believes the U.S. vaulters have bright futures ahead of them, and they are helped by having such an invaluable competition experience at a young age.

"Probably one of the biggest lessons we've taken away from the event is how to plan your training and how to plan leasing horses," said Seely. "Also, being in that arena for the first time at a championship is huge because it is definitely different than a CVI. It is so beneficial for the athletes to have that experience under their belt. They learn the mental game, watch the best of the best compete, and [truly understand] what they are working toward." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾

NETJETS U.S. JUMPING TEAM EARNS PODIUM FINISH

at FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of Sweden CSIO5*

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team delivered an impressive third-place finish in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of Sweden CSIO5* in Falsterbo, Sweden, on July 14, 2023. Led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, the team jumped to a final total of eight faults over two rounds, finishing just a single rail behind first-place Switzerland's four faults.

"I've got one excited group of riders," Ridland said. "We're proud of their effort. To bring a team over here without a veteran [rider on the team] and to get experience and a podium finish is why we do what we do. I've always advocated the 3-2 system where it's a combination of veterans and up-and-coming riders. We didn't have a veteran this time, and they acted like they were all veterans."

Natalie Dean of Palo Alto, California, and Acota M set the tone with an impressive clear round over the track built by Frank Rothenberger (GER). Riding in their first CSIO5* Nations Cup representing the U.S., Alise Oken from Charlotte, North Carolina, and Gelvera answered with a second con-



Natalie Dean and Acota M with Alessandra Volpi and Berlinda

secutive clear round, putting the U.S. in a four-way tie for first with Switzerland, Belgium, and The Netherlands on zero penalties through two rotations.

Alessandra Volpi of Woodside, California, and Berlinda went third in the order and dropped two rails for a total of eight faults. Karl Cook of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Kalinka van't Zorgvliet, the anchor combination for the U.S., were nearly perfect but nudged the plank to add four faults. The team entered the second round tied for second with The Netherlands on four faults and narrowly behind Switzerland's first-round score of zero.

In the second round, Dean and Acota M, a 10-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses, LLC, led with a careful clear round, securing the only double-clear for the U.S. Oken and Gelvera, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Hi Hopes Farm, LLC, finished with just one rail and four total faults. Volpi and Berlinda, her own 15-year-old Warmblood mare added four faults to the total.

"Success and experience builds on itself," Ridland said of Dean. "She had a very successful week at [CHIO] Aachen, which gave her incredible confidence coming here."

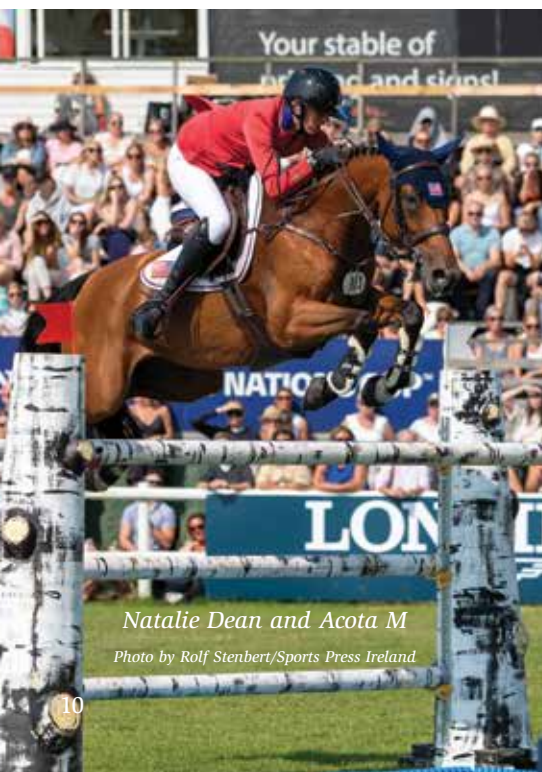
Both Oken and Volpi were members of the U.S. Developing Jumping

Team Tour earlier this summer in CSIO3* competition in Denmark and Norway, a key opportunity in the USEF High Performance Pathway structure.

"You can't say enough about how the USEF High Performance Pathway works," Ridland continued. "You don't just jump into a five-star event without experiences [from the Pathway]. Being able to learn from Anne Kursinski and those three-star events is what gave Alise [Oken] and Alessandra [Volpi] the confidence and ability to come here and do what they did today. It's vitally important we continue the USEF jumping program in this way because results happen when the program gives opportunities that lead to performance."

With the team tied for second, Cook and Kalinka van't Zorgvliet, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Signe Ostby, returned and produced a clear to keep the pressure on Switzerland. The Swiss needed a clear round from Martin Fuchs and Conner Jei to avoid a jump-off, and delivered, cementing the third-place finish for the U.S.

"In any sport, there are going to be bumps in the road when the rookies and younger players hit the big leagues," explained Ridland. "But, we felt all of them were very prepared for this, so the result is not a surprise to us." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Natalie Dean and Acota M

Photo by Rolf Stenbert/Sports Press Ireland

U.S. JUMPING TEAM WINS

FEI Jumping Nations Cup Uggerhalne CSIO3*

Led by Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski, the U.S. Jumping Team of Alise Oken, Jacob Pope, Nikko Ritter, and Alessandra Volpi won the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Uggerhalne CSIO3* in Uggerhalne, Denmark, on May 26, 2023. The competition marked the first of two competitions in the group's U.S. Developing Jumping Team European Tour. Notably, Pope, Ritter, and Volpi all made their senior team debuts in Uggerhalne, and Pope and Ritter both had double-clear performances.

Oken, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Gelfera, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Hi Hopes Farm, LLC, were the first combination in the ring for Nations Cup competition, tallying four faults.

Pope, of Columbia, Maryland, and Highway FBH, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by The Highway Group, delivered a clear round.

Ritter, of Wellington, Florida, and his own Aquiles del Caribe Z, a nine-year-old Zangersheide gelding, followed suit with their own clear round.

Anchor combination Volpi, of Woodside, California, and her own Berlinda, a 15-year-old Warmblood mare, also jumped clear for the team. The third clear effort resulted in the team being tied with the Netherlands on zero faults heading into round two.

In the second round, Oken and Gelfera jumped clear and Pope and Highway FBH had another excellent clear round. Ritter and Aquiles del Caribe Z delivered yet another zero-fault effort to secure the win for the U.S. Jumping Team, which meant Volpi and Berlinda did not need to jump in round two.

Denmark, Germany, and Poland finished tied on eight faults, but Denmark took second and Germany was third based on the cumulative times from the two rounds.

"I'm really proud of all of them," said Kursinski. "I had Alise Oken on a three-star team years ago, but she is really the only one who has ever jumped a real Nations Cup. For the other three to really rise to the occasion, be professional, and stay focused to jump clear rounds is very, very exciting. With [US Equestrian] sending the three-star teams [as part of its High Performance Pathway], they are getting this experience so they can hopefully be on more senior teams. I think everyone in this group has big futures ahead of them."

ALISE OKEN SHINES IN DRAMMEN

Though the U.S. Jumping Team did not have a repeat win in the second Nations Cup of their European tour at CSIO3* Drammen in Drammen, Norway, they overcame adversity from the first round to deliver improved performances throughout the competition.

After a tough first round, Oken and Gelfera had a four-fault second round. Pope and Highway FBH had four faults in round one and jumped clear in the second round. Ritter and Aquiles del Caribe Z had an eight-fault first round before coming back to have four faults in the second round. Volpi and Berlinda had impressive results jumping double clear.



Photo by Mia Bach

*Alessandra Volpi, Nikko Ritter, Jacob Pope,
Alise Oken, and Anne Kursinski*

"Being on a Nations Cup team in Europe is an experience that riders can't get at home," said Kursinski. "It was really a wonderful spirit and cohesiveness with all the riders working together. We have a great support team with Erin Keating, Dr. Christiana Ober, and the grooms. It's a great feeling, and, of course, everybody performs better when they experience that. It is an outstanding team — the whole team."

The U.S. Jumping Team closed out their CSIO3* European tour with top results in the CSIO3* Drammen Grand Prix on June 4, 2023, where Alise Oken and Gelfera won the class and Alessandra Volpi and Haya Loma N finished in third. It was the first time a U.S. combination had won that grand prix since 2001.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Alise Oken and Gelfera

Photo by Mia Bach

PERRIGO U.S. PARA DRESSAGE

Team Bronze

CPEDI3* Stadl-Paura, Austria

The Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team of Rebecca Hart and Floratina, Fiona Howard and Jagger, and Kate Shoemaker and Colijn finished in a close third place behind Italy at the CPEDI3* Stadl-Paura, Austria, held June 1-4, 2023. Even with the disadvantage of having only three team members, and therefore no drop score, the U.S. earned a final team score of 431.014%.

In CPEDI competition, the first two tests, Para Grand Prix Test A and Para Grand Prix Test B, count toward the team score. All three U.S. combinations returned for the individual freestyle tests.

Hart, from Loxahatchee, Florida, debuted a new partner in Floratina, a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare owned by Chloe Gasiorowski. The combination posted the highest scores in all three classes to win the Grade III division.

Hart said she went into Stadl-Paura with the goal of clean and confidence-boosting rides for “Flora.” Although the mare is a veteran competitor in dressage — she was



Rowan O’Riley, Kate Shoemaker, Rebecca Hart, and Fiona Howard

part of Canada’s gold medal-winning team from the 2019 Pan American Games with Lindsay Kellock — para dressage requires an additional set of skills.

“Flora recently switched from able-bodied dressage to para dressage, and because I don’t ride like an able-bodied rider — I have no ability to use my legs — she has to adapt to new and different cues,” said Hart. “I am beyond thrilled with how quickly she has figured it out. To win in our first international competition together in Europe felt amazing.”

Like Hart, Shoemaker of Wellington, Florida, is a veteran team athlete who debuted a new mount, Colijn, in Stadl-Paura. With Fiona Howard’s 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Shoemaker finished second in all three tests to finish second overall in the deep Grade IV division.

Howard, who is from Boston, Massachusetts, teamed up with her own 11-year-old Westphalian

gelding, Jagger, to post scores above 70% in all three tests and finish second in the Grade II division.

U.S. Para Dressage Chef d’Equipe Michel Assouline said the Stadl-Paura outing provided a strong development opportunity for the athletes and the new horses. The good scores and team results are an encouraging sign for the future of the program.

“It was really an experimental team because Becca and Kate had new horses,” said Assouline. “We knew that we wouldn’t be super competitive because we didn’t have our top horses there, but we actually did really well. It’s always nice to have new horses. I’m thrilled that both Kate and Becca did well for the first time out on them.”

Going forward, Howard will ride Colijn after he’s had more show mileage and Shoemaker will return to competing with Quiana, her silver-medal-winning mount from the 2022 FEI Para Dressage World Championship in Herning, Denmark. The depth of equine talent is an exciting asset for the program during the lead-up to the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Rebecca Hart and Floratina

FEI U.S. Jumping Nations Cup™ USA Reception

WALDORF ASTORIA MONARCH BEACH RESORT

Dana Point, California

May 11, 2023

The USET Foundation Trustees Robin Cleary Parsky and Signe Ostby hosted a reception at the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort to welcome all Nations Cups Teams that later competed in the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ USA held in San Juan Capistrano, California, on May 14, 2023. Supporters of the USET Foundation and U.S. equestri-

an sport were in attendance as well as each of the athletes that comprised the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team for the CSIO5* competition. Ultimately, Karl Cook, Lillie Keenan, Laura Kraut, and McLain Ward put in stellar performances to earn the top spot on the podium. ■



Anne Kursinski, Robin Parsky and John Cleary



McLain Ward and Bonnie Jenkins

All photos this page by Matt Turer/US Equestrian





McLain Ward and Contagious

Photo by Matt Turer/US Equestrian

NETJETS U. *Victorio*

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team finished their week in San Juan Capistrano, California, on top of the podium, taking a well-earned victory in the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ USA in front of a packed house at Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park on May 14, 2023. The victory propelled the U.S. team one step closer toward securing qualification for the 2023 FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona, Spain, this September. The team completed the two-round competition on a total of 12 faults ahead of Ireland, who finished on 17, and Mexico, rounding out the top three on a team total of 33.

“At the end of the year last year, we said that we’re going to have to come out firing,” explained Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland. “Qualifying for the Nations Cup Final in Barcelona had to be a major priority because it’s one of the two ways left to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. We took our ‘A’ team at the beginning of the year and split it in half and sent the first half to [the CSIO5* Nations Cup in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico]. That was a really tough win because the home team was really strong and took us to a jump-off, and Laura [Kraut] won it for us. [We came here] with the other half of the ‘A’ team. All four riders that were on our silver-medal team at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, were represented on either of these two teams. That was our plan, and sometimes plans work and sometimes they don’t, but this time for us it did.”

Lillie Keenan of New York, New York, led off the team order aboard Argan de Beliard and were the first combination to tackle the Leopoldo Palacios (VEN)-designed track, with the U.S. team drawing first in the team order. The pair added just four faults at the open water. Karl Cook of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Kalinka Van’t Zorgvliet followed Keenan in the order and also added four to their score.

With two rider rotations completed, veteran Laura Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and newer mount Dorado 212 dug in deep for their round. They opted for the forward five-stride option to the last combination and dropped the top plank rail to finish with four faults, putting pressure on anchor combination McLain Ward of Brewster, New York, and Contagious to produce a clear round.

Ward and Contagious went to work and notched the first clear round of the afternoon moving the team forward to the second round on a total score of eight.

“I thought Leopoldo [Palacios] set a very challenging track,” commented Ward. “When I walked it, I have to say I was a bit surprised at how big it was, but it’s a five-star Nations Cup, and there are huge consequences to this qual-

U.S. JUMPING TEAM

us IN LONGINES FEI JUMPING NATIONS CUP™ USA



Karl Cook, Laura Kraut, Chef d'Equipe Coach Robert Ridland, Lillie Keenan, and McLain Ward

ification, and that's the way it should be. When we have a group of riders here on form it suits us when it's more difficult, and I think it worked in our favor."

Returning for their second look at the course, Keenan and Argan de Beliard, a 13-year-old Selle Français gelding owned by Sigma Stables LLC, nudged the tricky plank to add four to their second-round score. Cook and Kalinka Van't Zorgvliet, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Signe Otsby, produced another excellent effort for the team but saw the same plank as Keenan fall in the second round to finish on four faults.

With Kraut and Ward left in the order, the team needed clear rounds to secure the win over the Irish team, with a single time fault to count in the second round. Kraut delivered aboard Dorado 212, a 10-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by St. Bride's Farm, navigating the track within the time

allowed and keeping all the rails up.

Ward and Contagious, a 14-year-old German Sport Horse gelding owned by Beechwood Stables, flew through their second round, the only combination to notch two clear-round efforts on the day. The pair earned the new \$50,000 bonus awarded to combinations jumping double clear efforts in the Nations Cup format.

With their win, the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team is one step closer to securing their spot in the 2023 FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona.

"The U.S. riders, and their horses and supporters, both here and in Mexico, are really stepping up and delivering," concluded Ward. "Not only do we need to qualify, but we had a little bit of a lull post-Tokyo, and I think it's important that we get back into the habit of winning." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

Photo by Matt Turer/US Equestrian

AACHEN

U.S. Sends Successful Five-Sport Delegation to 2023 CHIO Aachen



Tamie Smith and Mai Baum

EVENTING TEAM TAKES BRILLIANT SECOND-PLACE FINISH

The Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team completed the SAP Cup CCIO4*-S at CHIO Aachen in Aachen, Germany, finishing in second place. The U.S. team finished with three of four combinations inside the top six, including Tamie Smith and Mai Baum earning an individual podium finish in third place. The cross-country track was designed by Rüdiger Schawrz (GER) and saw 39 completions, with zero combinations finishing within the time allowed of six minutes and 55 seconds. Germany took the win on an overall team total of 104.9 penalties, while Great Britain finished third on 136.60.

"I'm encouraged because we planned to come here with the strongest possible team that we could field to make a statement to ourselves that [the U.S. eventing team's silver medal at [the 2022 FEI World Eventing Championships in Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy] wasn't a one-off," said Chef d'Equipe Bobby

Costello. "It was very strategic, and we came with the expectation of a strong finish. I'm glad we were able to produce a successful result.

"Make no mistake, everyone will go away from this competition, even with the good result, knowing that there are still gaps to be filled and areas of improvement, and that's what makes champions," he continued. "There's still so much to learn if we want to keep pressing for medals."

Phillip Dutton of West Grove, Pennsylvania, and Z were the trailblazers for the team out on the cross-country track. Z, a 15-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Ann Jones, Caroline Moran, David and Patricia Vos, Evie Dutton, Suzanne Lacy, and Thomas Tierney, showed his experience and confidence with Dutton, finishing with just 5.2 time penalties. The pair finished sixth overall on a 38.

With feedback from Dutton reaching the barns, Liz Halliday-Sharp of Lexington, Kentucky, and Miks Master C rode out on the cross-country course as the second combination for the team. In his Aachen debut, the 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Deborah Palmer and Ocala Horse Properties gave Halliday-Sharp a great ride and added just 4.40 time penalties. The duo earned fifth place overall on a final total of 36.50 to help the team solidify their podium finish.

Tamie Smith of Murrieta, California, and Mai Baum were pressed to produce a clear cross-country round for the team to keep them within the hunt of Germany, Great Britain, and New Zealand, and the seasoned combination that won the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event earlier in 2023 delivered. Smith was fast and confident in her guidance of the 17-year-old German Sport Horse gelding, owned by Alex Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn, and Eric Markell. They added just 1.6 time penalties to their score, finishing third overall on a 33.70.

"It's really a dream to be on the podium at Aachen, both as a team and individually. He's a once-in-a-lifetime horse, and it's a dream to have a competitive score like that against the world's best. Hopefully there's more to come," said Smith of her experience at this year's CHIO Aachen.

Anchor combination Will Coleman of Gordonsville, Virginia, and Off The Record ran into trouble at the Turkish Airlines complex, which gave numerous combinations a challenge throughout the cross-country day. Coleman and Off The Record, a 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by the Off The Record Syndicate, ultimately finished in 38th overall on a 109.30.



Phillip Dutton and Z

Dan Kreitl of Muncie, Indiana, and Carmango, 2022 winners of the USET Foundation's Gladstone Challenge Trophy, competed this week as the individual combination on the squad, finishing on a total three-phase score of 83.60. Kreitl and the 10-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Kay Dixon added 20 penalties late towards the course and came home with time to take 35th overall.



Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C

Continued next page



McLain Ward and Callas

FOURTH PLACE FOR NETJETS U.S. JUMPING TEAM

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team finished fourth in the Mercedes-Benz Jumping Nations Cup CSIO5* under the lights in the Main Stadium at CHIO Aachen in front of an electric crowd packing the stands. The team jumped to a final total of 12 faults over two rounds, with Switzerland earning the win on four faults, Great Britain taking second place on eight, and Belgium in third with eight faults. The team was led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and included Natalie Dean, Laura Kraut, Devin Ryan, and McLain Ward.

"We always aim for the podium, and we just missed it here, but these are eight of the top teams in the world and I think overall we were quite encouraged," said Ridland. "McLain's double clear was a masterpiece, and for Natalie, it was a great performance for her as well. This is the big stage and on a Thursday night in Aachen, there's never an empty seat in the house. It's something you live for in this sport, and it's great to see Devin [Ryan] and Eddie Blue back here for the team and it was a good experience [for Laura's mount] that will make him an even better horse in the future. We are feeling good about where we are as a group looking ahead to the fall."

Devin Ryan of Long Valley, New Jersey, and Eddie Blue were the trailblazers for the team. Ryan and the 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by LL Show Jumpers, LLC,

rode a nearly foot-perfect first round on the big track built by Frank Rothenberger (GER), but nudged the last vertical from the cups to add four faults to their round.

Following Ryan was Natalie Dean of Palo Alto, California, and Acota M, a 10-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses LLC, riding in their first Nations Cup at Aachen representing the U.S. team. The pair navigated the track well and just tapped the Rolex vertical to add four to their overall score.

Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Baloutinue rode third in the order, dropping two rails for a total of eight faults.

As the anchor combination, Ward of Brewster, New York, and Callas, a 15-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Beechwood Stables LLC, delivered for the team, producing a clear effort and moving them to the second round on a team total of eight faults.

In the second round, Ryan and Eddie Blue returned confidently to produce a clear round for the team. Dean and Acota M rode another fantastic round with one rail coming down. Kraut and Baloutinue also added four faults early in their second trip.

In a tremendous effort, Ward and Callas returned for an efficient, quick, and careful second round. With the team

sitting tied with Germany on 12 faults, a clear round was necessary to make a move up the leaderboard. The duo made the most of their second trip around the track, securing the only double-clear effort of the evening for the U.S. and solidifying the team's top-four finish in the historic Nations Cup competition at the venue.

"I wanted to deliver the best performances I could with Callas for the team," said Ward. "She's just a spectacular mare and has a wonderful character. The Revers' daughter, Annie, rode Callas at the grand prix level successfully for many years. They've put their trust in me to ride the horses at this level, and I'd like to thank my friend Max Amaya for helping to make this partnership happen."

In individual competition, Kraut and Haley, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Cherry Knoll Farm Inc., wowed the crowds earning a second-place finish in the Prize of Handwerk CSIO5* and winning the VBR-Prize CSIO5*.



Photos by Shannon Brinkman

Devin Ryan and Eddie Blue

U.S. DRIVING LEGEND CHESTER WEBER WINS DRESSAGE PHASE

Chester Weber of Ocala, Florida, and his own team of Dutch Warmblood geldings First Edition, Julius V, Kadora, and Kasper D, drove to an impressive win in the dressage phase of the CAIO-4* at CHIO Aachen finishing the first phase of competition on a score of 38.85. The win marks another top performance

Weber has achieved at Aachen throughout the years. His team finished atop the podium in a field of 25 entries.

Weber has been a mainstay at CHIO Aachen for the U.S. Driving program, having competed at the venue in four-in-hand competition since 2002, and has won the dressage phase sever-

al times over the years. Weber and his team and make it their goal every year to produce top performances across the phases and to make their supporters and team proud.

"We have a great team behind us doing the fundamental work with our horses," shared Weber. "I'm the lucky guy who gets to hold the reins. It wouldn't be possible without the tremendous efforts of our coaches and trainers, like Anne Gribbons for dressage, our farriers, vets, and our in-house team. This also wouldn't be possible without the support of US Equestrian (USEF) and the USET Foundation, and all of the U.S. supporters here. It's exciting to listen to the national anthem for them, too."

Weber continued, "The horses are really in form. They're quite young but are really coming into themselves. There are three horses in our group that are under the age of 10, which is young, especially in dressage. We've been building for this, and I'm really proud of them and everything they achieved here today."



Photos by Shannon Brinkman

Chester Weber with First Edition, Julius V, Kadora, and Kasper D

Continued next page

DUTTA CORP. U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM EIGHTH IN THE FEI DRESSAGE NATIONS CUP CDIO5*

The team of Susie Dutta of Wellington, Florida, and her own Don Design DC; Sarah Tubman of Wellington, Florida, and Summit Farm's First Apple; Alice Tarjan of Oldwick, New Jersey, and her own Serenade MF; and Anna Buffini of San Diego, California, and her own FRH Davinia La Douce collectively scored a total of 422.609.



▲ *Sarah Tubman* and First Apple scored 70.043 % on the FEI Grand Prix Special.



▲ *Anna Buffini* and FRH Davinia La Douce earned a 70.553 % in the FEI Grand Prix Special.



▲ *Erin Nichols* of Yorba Linda, California, and Premiere Sport Horses' Elian Royale rode to 10th place in the FEI Young Rider Freestyle test, receiving a 72.235 %.

▶ **Christian Simonson** of Ventura, California, made the last Young Rider class of his career count. Riding Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson's Son of a Lady, the pair scored 75.660% in the FEI Young Rider Freestyle test, earning third place overall in a competitive division.



U.S. VAULTING ATHLETE HIGHLIGHTS



Vaulting photos by Daniel Kaiser

▶ **Kimberly Palmer** of Half Moon Bay, California, with William II Z, owned and lunged by Malik Husmann (GER), earned 11th place in the CVIO4* World Cup Qualifier Free Test to Music Female and 12th place in the CVIO4* World Cup Qualifier Technical Female Test.

▶ **Daniel Janes** of Standwood, Washington, with Caretes Auhorn, owned and lunged by Jana Leib (GER), earned 14th place in both the CVIO4* World Cup Qualifier Free Test to Music Male and the CVIO4* World Cup Qualifier Technical Male Test.



Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team Finishes Sixth in FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ Netherlands CDIO4*

Up-and-coming talent represented the U.S. in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ Netherlands CDIO4* at CHIO Rotterdam, June 20-23, 2023, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team of Ben Ebeling and Indeed, Kerrigan Gluch and Mejorano HGF, Kevin Kohmann and Duenensee, and Lina Uzunhasan and Furst Fabelhaft UZN gained valuable experience on the world stage. They earned a sixth-place finish under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe George Williams against a solid field of competitors.

“When you come over and compete in this kind of environment, there are learning opportunities,” said Williams. “For some of the horses, it is going into a much more electric environment than what they are used to. It shows [the athletes] how important it is to be able to up your game in top international competition. I think it was a very positive experience for them and a real building opportunity.”

Competition began with the FEI Grand Prix Test, and Gluch of Ocala, Florida, and Mejorano HGF, a 12-year-old Andalusian gelding owned



Kerrigan Gluch and Mejorano HGF

by Hampton Green Farm, were the lead-off combination. In their senior team debut, they had lovely piaffe movements that helped them to score 67.304%.

Also making their senior team debut, Uzunhasan from Sint-Oedenrode, The Netherlands, and Furst Fabelhaft UZN, a nine-year-old Rhineland gelding owned by UZN Holding, were next to head down centerline for the U.S. The pair had solid tempi changes and trot work that secured a score of 67.348%.

Ebeling of Wellington, Florida, and Indeed, a 15-year-old Danish Warmblood mare owned by Vantage Equestrian Group II, LLC, were the most seasoned U.S. combination and they delivered a steady test, earning a score of 67.565%.

Kohmann of Wellington, Florida, and Duenensee, a 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Diamante Farms, were the final U.S. combination in the FEI Grand Prix Test. While Kohmann was previously on a senior team for his native Germany, he made his U.S. senior team debut in Rotterdam after becoming a citizen in 2022. The pair had a consistent test to earn a score of 69.326% and finished as the top U.S. combination.

On the second day of competition, the U.S. team returned to the dressage arena for the FEI Grand Prix Special and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, with two combinations competing in each of the classes. In the FEI Grand Prix Special, Uzunhasan and Furst Fabelhaft UZN collected a score of 64.596% while Kohmann and Duenensee earned a score of 67.298%. In the Freestyle, Gluch and Mejorano HGF made a statement by earning a personal-best score of 75.350%. Ebeling and Indeed followed suit with an impressive ride to score 75.690%.

“It was a young group, and we came into this with realistic expectations. What made me very happy was how they came back [on the second day],” said Williams. “They definitely had a healthy fighting spirit. For me, the future is very exciting and I think the competition was a very positive experience. The athletes proved that they belong in this company. I think it really speaks well for the future.”

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Ben Ebeling and Indeed

U.S. DRESSAGE YOUNG RIDER TEAM EARNS BRONZE at Future Champions CDIOY Hagen Nations Cup

The U.S. Dressage Young Rider Team finished with the bronze medal in the Future Champions CDIOY Hagen Nations Cup in Hagen, Germany, on June 15, 2023. Chef d'Equipe George Williams guided the team of Kat Fuqua with Dreamgirl, Erin Nichols with Eliau Royale, and Christian Simonson with Son of a Lady to a total score of 207.255%. Germany won gold with 216.372%, while Denmark collected silver on 215.196%.

In the combination's debut trip to Europe, Fuqua, of Atlanta, Georgia, and her own Dreamgirl, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, scored 68.382%.

Next, Nichols, of Yorba Linda, California, rode Eliau Royale, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Premiere Sport Horses, and scored 68.922%.

Simonson, of Ventura, California, and Son of a Lady, a 12-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson, were the anchor U.S. combination. As the most seasoned athlete, Simonson has made three consecutive appearances in Hagen, including helping the U.S. team win bronze in 2021. The pair earned a score of 69.951% to help secure the team's third-place finish.

"It was a very exciting day," said Williams. "For all three riders, it is proof that they can perform well, are well placed, and can compete against the best on the world stage. I think they are very competitive and to see where we are against the



Photos by Foto Mhisen

Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady

other countries is very encouraging and exciting for our future."

Heading into the CDIOY FEI Young Rider Individual Test and CDIOY FEI Young Rider Individual Freestyle, Simonson was seventh in the individual rankings, while Nichols stood in eighth, and Fuqua was in ninth.

In the CDIOY FEI Young Rider Individual Test, Simonson and Son of a Lady earned a score of 72.941% for fourth place. In the Freestyle, the judges awarded the pair artistic scores of 77.000%, 80.000%, and 88.000% for an overall total of 79.167% and an impressive second-place finish.

"It has been truly special," commented Simonson of his Young Rider career. "I feel really fortunate that I have been able to ride here in Hagen. Having access to compete against the most talented young riders in the world is important. These shows are the best preparation I have ever had for a senior Nations Cup because they do such an incredible job of educating you on the process, how you are there to support your teammates, and it really is an amazing show for the pipeline [of athletes progressing along the High Performance Pathway] that USEF has been developing."

Nichols and Eliau Royale scored 71.667% in the CDIOY FEI Young Rider Individual Test to finish in eighth. They followed that with a score of 74.158% in the Freestyle to claim sixth. Fuqua and Dreamgirl finished on a score of 67.402% in the CDIOY FEI Young Rider Individual Test and a score of 68.867% in the Freestyle to finish in 11th place.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



*Erin Nichols, Christian Simonson, Kat Fuqua,
and Chef d'Equipe George Williams*

Lisa Munro Joins USET Foundation as Director of Development



Photo by Kirsten Ziegler

Lisa Munro and her horse Cat

In July, Lisa Munro joined the USET Foundation as Director of Development to further engage the equestrian community in California and the western United States.

Munro, a lifelong equestrian with deep experience in philanthropy and sports management, will play an integral part in the USET Foundation's fundraising initiative, "Pathway to the Podium," which has a \$55 million goal to propel USEF athletes to podium placings at the upcoming 2024 and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

"Lisa's proven track record in fundraising, her passion for all things equestrian, and her charismatic personality will be immensely valuable as we double down our efforts with U.S. equestrian team supporters on the West Coast," said Jenkins. "I'm confident she will help the USET Foundation build more impactful and mutually beneficial relationships with current and prospective donors, and I'm thrilled to have her on the team."

"I'm excited to leverage what I know and love about the sport and philanthropy to help our U.S. equestrian teams achieve success at the highest levels," stated Munro. "As a young rider, I dreamed of competing at the Olympic Games. While that wasn't my path, this new position enables me to help fulfill that dream for talented athletes including those who might not have the opportunity to succeed on the greatest international stages without the help of the USET Foundation. I look forward to working with the sport's passionate donors whose experience and support can help our equestrian teams maintain international greatness." – by Kara Pinato Scro



2023 COMPETITION PARTNERS

The USET Foundation would like to thank its competition partners for their support of our mission and our U.S. equestrian teams and athletes.



Remembering

Charles “Champ” Gordon Hough Jr.

Legendary horseman Charles “Champ” Gordon Hough Jr. passed away on March 27, 2023, at the age of 88.

As a teen, Champ competed as a jockey, contesting steeplechases and point-to-point races in his home state of California. At the age of 16, in 1951, Champ was scouted by Colonel John W. “Gyp” Wofford, the founder of International Equestrian Competition Corporation — later known as the United States Equestrian Team (USET). Wofford had watched Champ in steeplechase events and recommended that he try out for the first civilian Olympic eventing team. Champ agreed and, in 1951, traveled to Fort Riley, Kansas, the USET’s training base at that time.

At Fort Riley, Champ trained under the tutelage of Wofford and ultimately was selected to compete as part of the U.S. eventing team at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland, with Cassivellannus. The team rose to the occasion, earning the bronze medal with Champ finishing in ninth place individually.

Following the Helsinki Olympic Games, Champ enrolled in classes at Long Beach State University in Long Beach, California, until he was again recruited back to equestrian sport, this time to the hunter and jumper ring by Otto Rousseau. Champ agreed to work for Rousseau and spent five years riding high-quality jumping horses before setting off on his own.

Champ moved to Northern California and got the ride on Sutton Place, a talented show hunter that had been winning classes on the East Coast for Tom and Peggy Lavery. Crown Zellerbach purchased Sutton Place for Champ to compete and the pair earned championships at all of the major shows on the California circuit, including Indio, Del Mar, Santa Barbara, and Monterrey. At one point, Champ and Sutton Place won 64 straight classes. Sutton Place ultimately landed with Champ for retirement and lived out his years on a farm Champ and his then-wife Linda named in the horse’s



Charles “Champ” Gordon Hough Jr. with daughter, U.S. grand prix show jumping athlete, Lauren Hough

Photo courtesy of Lauren Hough

honor. Sutton Place was inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame in 1999.

After Sutton Place’s career came to a close, Champ remained committed to several equine endeavors. He spent time breeding horses, working as a Thoroughbred yearling appraiser for auction house Fasig-Tipton, riding and training horses for President Ronald Reagan during his acting career before his presidency, and teaching judges’ clinics for the American Horse Shows Association (AHSA), now US Equestrian (USEF), earning the USEF Pegasus Medal of Honor.

He also had a role in the 1960 film, “The Horse With The Flying Tail.” On set, he served as a consultant, helping direct the horse scenes. The film, produced by Walt Disney Pictures, won the award for Best Documentary at the 33rd Academy Awards.

Though Champ is celebrated for his outstanding equestrian achievements, Champ’s greatest source of pride was fatherhood. Champ was a devoted father to his two daughters, rider and trainer Cindy Brooks and U.S. Olympic show jumping athlete Lauren Hough. Following in her father’s footsteps to the international ranks, Lauren earned two bronze medals at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada, and competed in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. At the time, it was the first instance in which a father and daughter had each competed in the Olympic Games.

Champ is survived by Cindy, Lauren, and his former wife Linda Lorimer. Champ left a lasting legacy on U.S. equestrian sport and he will be deeply missed. — *Adapted from articles written by Catie Staszak and Nancy Jaffer* 



Photo courtesy USEF Foundation archive

CAROL LAVELL

A Tribute

Carol Lavell, a renowned international dressage athlete, trainer, and instructor, passed away on March 27, 2023, at her home in Fairview, North Carolina, at age 79.

Lavell was born on April 8, 1943, in Newport, Rhode Island. She graduated from Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a degree in Physics. Prior to pursuing a professional career as an equestrian, Lavell taught high school science. Her background as an educator would later

extend to her involvement in dressage, where she was a sought-after instructor and clinician.

Lavell frequently represented the country on U.S. dressage teams from the late 1980s to the early 2000s. With the Hanoverian gelding Gifted, Lavell led the U.S. to a team bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. The pair was also part of U.S. dressage teams at the inaugural Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) World Equestrian Games in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1990, and again in 1994 in The Hague, The Netherlands, where the U.S. team won bronze. She was nominated for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's Female Athlete of the Year in 1990 and 1992 and was the US Equestrian (USEF) Equestrian of the Year in 1992.

Although her long and successful partnership with Gifted is what Lavell is most remembered for in the dressage community, she was successful on the world stage with other horses as

well. In 1987, she helped secure team silver at the Pan American Games in Indianapolis, Indiana, with In the Black and team gold at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with Much Ado.

Lavell also supported initiatives to elevate the sport of dressage in the U.S. as well as numerous grant funds at The Dressage Foundation. Notably, she established the \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize, awarded annually to athletes aiming to reach the high-performance level, as well as The Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs, which provides grants enabling adult amateur dressage athletes to pursue extended training opportunities that differ from their normal training routine.

Lavell made significant contributions to equestrian sport as a rider, trainer, teacher, judge, and supporter, which will be remembered for years to come. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by Karl Leck

Carol Lavell and Gifted

Karen Golding

IN MEMORIAM

Legendary Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) steward and groom Karen Golding passed away on April 14, 2023, at the age of 73 after battling severe health issues for several years.

Born to a military family in Wolverhampton, England, Golding spent her youth traveling through the Far East and Europe. When she was not traveling, she learned to ride and eventually began to show ponies and horses in hand, later riding in European junior jumper divisions. Her formative riding years also led her to fall in love with caring for horses. Golding watched and learned from one particular equine caretaker in her barn, which paved the way for her notable career caring for the sport's most remarkable equine show jumpers.

Golding met Bernie and Tiff Traurig in England in 1970. She was hired to accompany horses on four airline flights to the U.S. after which she planned to remain stateside for six months to work for the Traurigs at their Bloodstock Farm in Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania. Six months turned into three years with the Traurigs. During this time, she cared for several of their top horses including hunter Royal Blue and jumper Springdale.

Golding later worked briefly at Winter Place Farm in Salisbury, Maryland, before joining Jerry Baker and show jumping Olympic silver medalist Michael Matz at Erdenheim Farm in Lafayette, Pennsylvania, in 1974. Golding worked extensively with Matz until 1998, playing an integral role in his program's success. Golding attended every Olympic Games from 1976 to 2000, except for 1984, assisting either Matz or the United States Equestrian Team (USET) grooming horses and managing a team of grooms. As a groom, she attended several Pan American Games, World Cup Finals, and World Cup Finals. Throughout the course of her grooming career, Golding managed care for numerous show jumping horses



Karen Golding and Lynn Jayne

Photo by Nancy Jafer

including Bon Retour, Chef, Grande, Heisman, Jet Run, Judgement, Mighty Ruler, Rhum IV, and Sandor.

When Matz shifted his focus away from show jumping to Thoroughbred racing, Golding also changed her focus in equestrian sport by becoming an FEI steward in 2000. In her role as a steward, she became highly respected among national and international athletes for keeping horse welfare a top priority. Golding served as the Chief Steward at several FEI World Cup Finals and Olympic and World Equestrian Games selection trials.

In addition to being a groom and steward, Golding played an active role in governance of the sport and received

numerous recognitions for her contributions. Golding served on several US Equestrian (USEF) and United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) committees and task forces, and in 2007, she became the only groom inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. Golding also worked as an equine massage therapist furthering her passion for providing hands-on care to horses.

Through her work, Golding became a standard-bearer for equine care and welfare, and her presence in the equestrian community will be sorely missed.

Karen is survived by her partner, Tracey Edge, her nephew, Steven Golding, and his wife, Lauren.— *Adapted from US Equestrian press release*





USET Foundation News

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