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June 2012

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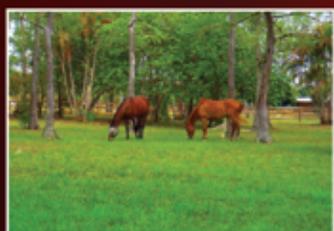
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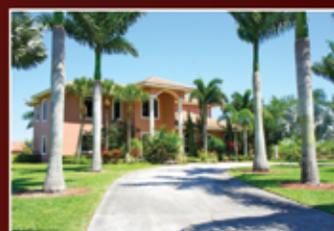
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On the Cover: John Abbott, the owner of Bridlewood Farm in Aiken, South Carolina, is also the coach of the USC Aiken college riding team.

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Letter From The Editor

The word “new” is certainly a wonderful word. I love almost anything new -- a new horse, new shoes (for the horse, of course), new places to ride and new friends to take along for the ride. With this issue of *Sidelines*, I become the new editor, replacing a recently retired Cornelia Henderson. It is a new and exciting adventure and I look forward to picking up the reins and continuing the *Sidelines* ride.

We will all miss Cornelia greatly, as working for her was a wonderful experience. I met her eight years ago when I joined the magazine as a staff writer. She gave me an assignment my first day and sent me several follow-up emails, signing each with the name “Cornelia.” A few days later I received another email assignment from someone at the magazine named “Neil.” I politely answered that I would have to check with “Cornelia” before I could take on another assignment. You probably figured it out faster than I did – Cornelia and Neil were one and the same and I still laugh about it to this day!

As the new editor, my goal for *Sidelines* is to embrace a bright new future filled with endless possibilities. With this issue we will be introducing several new columns, the start of a new look and a new emphasis on social media. We have already welcomed several new bloggers to our *Sidelines* website – from teen and col-

lege riders to well established trainers, polo stars and those who can entertain us with their escapades in the dressage, eventing and foxhunting worlds. It’s a virtual stable of *Sidelines* bloggers and, believe me, there is a horse of every color!

Speaking of virtual, the *Sidelines* staff has fully embraced technology when it comes to the production of our magazine. Although our roots began in Wellington, Florida, many



of us have escaped the Florida heat and we are now spread out across the country. Thanks to the Internet, we can all work from home offices and experience the joy of dogs at our feet and watching our horses in their fields. Although we are a national magazine and will continue to cover horse people across the globe, many of our staff have settled in Aiken, South Carolina, so we will now call Aiken our official summer home.

In the coming months *Sidelines* will be striving to increase our online presence. Stay in touch with us online for fun contests, news and your daily dose of horsey inspiration. It will be a learning experience for all of us, which brings us to the topic of this month’s issue – education. We have some fabulous stories for high school and college students looking toward the future. And for more of our education issue, visit our “What’s Happenin’” blog on the *Sidelines* website.

As our new image unfolds, I would love to hear what you think of it. Feel free to email me at editor@sidelinesnews.com, visit our website at www.sidelinesnews.com and don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook. Thanks for joining me; I’m looking forward to the ride!

Jan Westmark-Allan

Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

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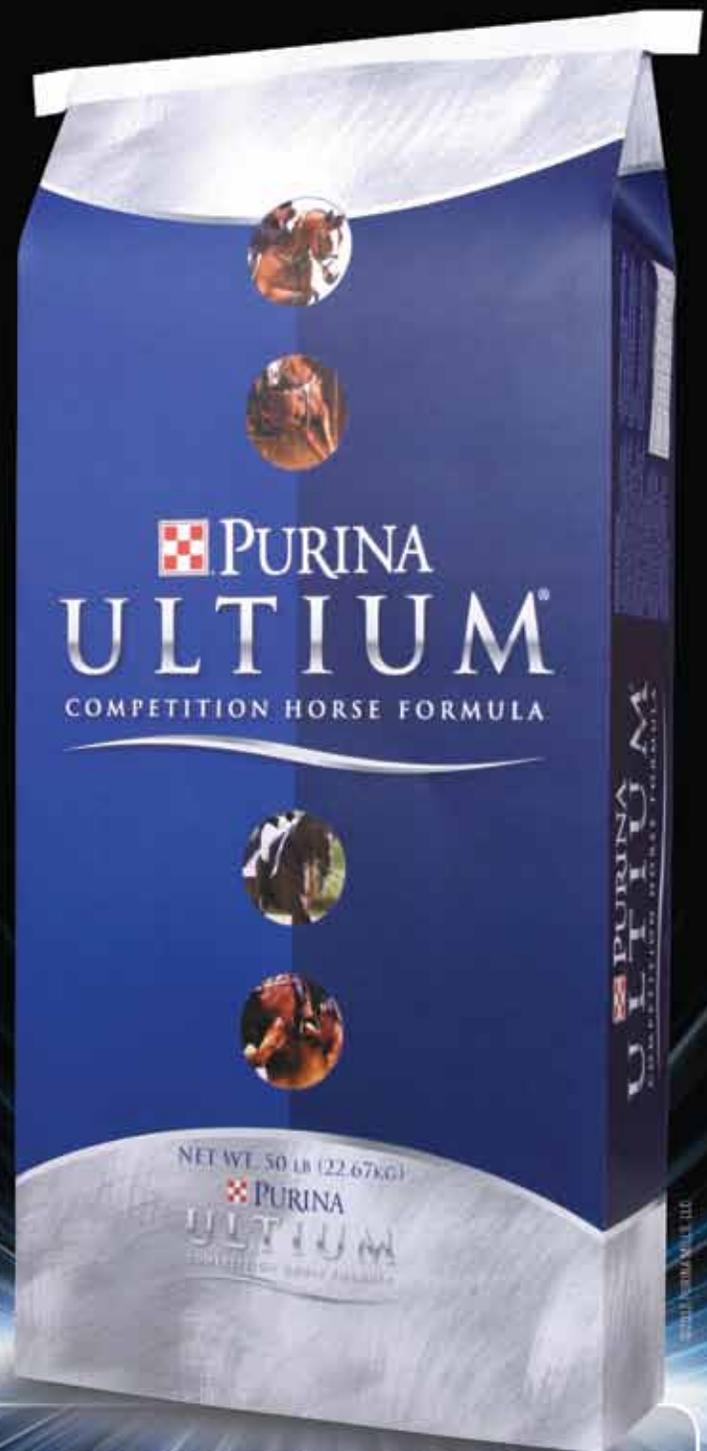
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Straight From the Horse's (and Child's) Mouth

Have you ever wondered what goes through the mind of a rider as they prepare for a huge show jumping competition? If the show is the 2012, \$200,000 Gene Mische American Invitational in Tampa, Florida, then we have answers! Winner Mario Deslauriers and second place rider Molly Ashe-Cawley shared their thoughts and feelings about the experience. Here -- straight from the horse's mouth -- is what it was like to compete in the 40th American Invitational.

"The Winner's Speak!"

Mario Deslauriers

The American Invitational is held in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football stadium? What's the atmosphere like?

It's very impressive. It's an event that all of the riders really love. Like Aachen or Spruce Meadows, there's that feeling in the air of real excitement. When we watch football games there and we see 50,000 people watching pro football and then we get to come to that same stadium and jump there, it's a great feeling. And for the horses - some horses will grow from the experience and some horses will be a little timid. Some horses get better with that electric atmosphere; some others are a little shocked by the whole thing.

The Invitational is a Saturday night class, what did you do all day?

We drove in on Friday night and had dinner on Tampa Bay. I rode my horse on Saturday morning and then hung around a bit on the beach and then spent some time watching the Masters (golf) on TV and then we went to the stadium around 4 pm. But, when you have so much time, you have to try and relax a little. After you ride in the morning, there's not that much you can do except wait (laughs).

Did you get butterflies before the Invitational?

Oh yeah. I think all riders do. And I think, with a little bit of age, you get more. I remember riding in the Invitational as an 18 year old, talking with McLain's father and eating a hot dog an hour before I was to go in the ring. At a young age, I don't think you realize the magnitude, the importance of the competition and maybe the nerves are a little better. But as you grow older and gain a little more experience, you understand that there are a lot

Continued on page 8



Mario Deslauriers, right, and Molly Ashe-Cawley on the American Invitational podium

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com



Mario and Cella jump to victory

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of consequences that can happen. Sometimes you think about these things; but you just have to think positive.

Did you have a good feeling on Saturday, a feeling that you might win?

I had a good feeling all week to tell you the truth. As you know my horse didn't do the trials because of her tooth; but she has been jumping really well all winter and was starting to peak a little bit. I knew she jumped well on grass at Spruce Meadows, so yeah, I did have a good feeling and you saw the result, she jumped fantastic!



Molly Ashe-Cawley, Lauren Hough and Catherine Pasmore (left to right) study the course

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

Molly Ashe-Cawley

What was it like returning to the Invitational after a five year absence and ten years removed since your last victory?

I love that stadium. This was the first time coming back to the stadium where I really felt I was there to compete and had a horse that was ready to win. I did Lutoxia there and then showed Cocu the year I got married in 2007. I got married the next day.

What does it feel like to ride through the tunnel and onto the field?

There's something about that tunnel, there's that noise, that whistling of the wind as you're walking up and then you hit that sunlight and see the field, there's a really special feeling about that. It's such a fun field to jump on and there's something very impressive about competing at that stadium. There's no place like it anywhere in the United States. It has that special history of 40 years and the "awe factor" that we rarely get to experience as riders. There's nothing like it anywhere.

How did your horse handle the roar of the crowd?

I went right after Beezie's clear round and the crowd was going crazy and screaming their heads off. There was this huge roar for her clear and I thought, 'Oh boy, here we go.' My horse has some blood, so he felt it, too, and I think somewhere along the way, he decided they were cheering for him!

What was it like with your children, four year old Taylor, and two year old Conner, watching?

Last time I competed here was before I got married so this was a completely new experience. This was their first stadium visit. It was great. Taylor said to me, before the class started, 'Mommy, I want you to win this one.' I told her I was going to try. And when I went in for the prize giving, Taylor was standing there and looked really sad and I said, 'What's wrong?' and she said, 'You didn't win!' Then she gave Mario the "death glare" and said she was never going to talk to him again!



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An Appeals Court Cannot Overturn a Decision Based on Evidence Not Considered at the Trial Proceeding

By Lisa Hollister, Esq.

In any Appeals process the Appellate Court can only review the evidence, legal claims and defenses that have been previously entered in the trial court record. As a result, it is important that, as a plaintiff or defendant, you make sure all evidence, claims and defenses which are in your favor have been entered into evidence or presented with the trial court. Appeals often allows for a second bite at the apple as far as the facts and legal issues that have been presented and decided upon by the trial court; but not when it is based on new evidence or claims which were not raised prior to making an appeal of the lower court's decision. As a result, make sure all of your favorable evidence, claims and defenses are entered into evidence or made at the trial court level.



Lisa Hollister is an attorney practicing in Cincinnati, Ohio. Questions for Ms. Hollister's column can be addressed to twinbridgefarm@aol.com

International Resort Properties, Plaintiff, Linda DeShields and her husband went for a guided trail ride at Bar-U Farm. Initially the guide led the trail ride and was followed by the couple. When Plaintiff had a problem getting her horse to keep up with the other horses, the guide decided that the Plaintiff should lead the trail ride. Unfortunately after the riders switched positions, the Plaintiff's horse sped up causing the Plaintiff to fall from her horse and incur injuries which prompted this lawsuit.

Trial Court Decision

Plaintiff filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court alleging that the Defendant's negligence caused her injuries. After discovery (the pretrial procedure by which both parties disclose facts deeds, documents and other such information in their possession and pertinent to the other party), the Federal Trial Court granted summary judgment in favor of the defendants.

Summary judgment may be granted in favor of a party when absence of a factual dispute on one or more issues eliminates the need for a full trial. Summary judgment can only be granted when all the evidence is looked at by the court in a light most favorable to the party asking the court to make a pretrial decision in their favor. In this case, the trial court found that based on the pretrial evidence and pleadings, there was no need to proceed to trial against the defendants because the plaintiffs had failed to put together a case which they could win against the defendants.

DeShields v. International Resort Properties, Ltd., 11-2672 (FED3) (Unpublished)

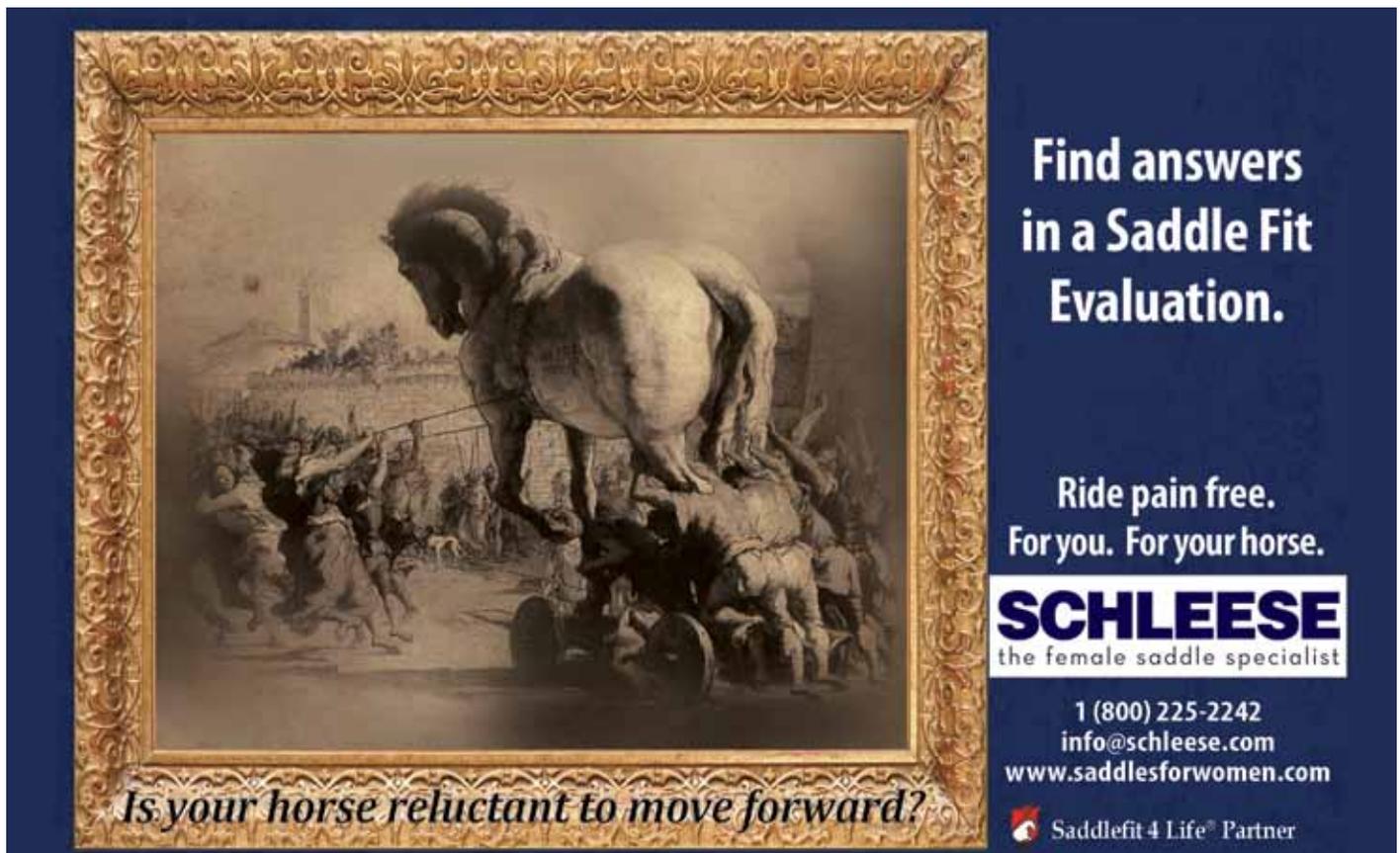
Facts

While vacationing at a resort owned by the defendant,

Appeal of the Summary Judgment against Plaintiff

Linda DeShields raised four questions on appeal challenging

Continued on page 13



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Continued from page 11

the lower court's decision that there were no facts supporting her negligence claim against the defendant. 1. That the lower court erred in determining that there was no evidence that Bar-U was negligent; 2. That the lower court failed to address the issue of Bar-U's negligence as the agent and the trail guide leader; 3. That the lower court failed to determine that DeShields raising the doctrine of "Res Ipsa Loquitur" was inappropriate based on the opinion that DeShields failed to produce any evidence of negligence; and 4. That no issues of material fact existed.

Res Ipsa Loquitur, the thing speaks for itself, is a legal rule under which the negligence of the alleged wrongdoer may be inferred from the mere fact that the accident happened. However in order to successfully prevail under this legal theory, the Plaintiff must show that "but for the absence of the alleged negligence, the injury would not have occurred"- in other words there obviously must have been some sort of negligence which caused the injury.

Negligence Argument not raised during the Trial Court Proceeding

The trial court specifically noted that Plaintiff had failed to present any evidence that the Defendants had been negligent by having her ride the horse she was given or that Defendants were negligent based on any conduct which they took or failed to take. The court also found that the Plaintiff had not put forth any evidence that the trail was negligently maintained by the defendants. Specifically, Plaintiff raised on appeal her objection to the lower court dismissing the case on summary judgment based on her claim that there was a bees nest in the vicinity of the trail and that bees had caused the horse to speed up and cause the injury. The Appeals Court specifically stated that if there was factual evidence upon which Plaintiff could base her claim that the Defendant had failed to maintain the trail in a safe manner and that this failure had caused the accident, the Plaintiff should have directed the District Court's attention to those facts. In essence, each party is responsible for making their own case and adequately presenting the evidence and facts to the trial court not the appeals court. The appeals court is not in a position to hear or make decisions regarding evidence not submitted at the trial court level.

Plaintiff also attempted to assert a new theory of negligence on appeal, one which had not been asserted at the trial court level. This new claim of negligence was that the trail guide had been negligent when she allowed the Plaintiff to proceed first during the trail ride. The appeals court found

that since the Plaintiff did not raise this theory of negligence in front of the trial court, the appeals court could not now consider it when it was raised for the first time on appeal. Again, what may have been a valid theory upon which to find negligence had to be dismissed on the bases that it had not been raised at the trial court proceeding.

Res Ipsa Loquitur

The trial court determined that riding a horse is an inherently dangerous activity and as such a rider can fall off a horse even if no one has been negligent. As a result, the doctrine of Res Ipsa Loquitur is inapplicable and, as a result, this particular argument which has been raised by the plaintiff must fail. Because all of the plaintiff's arguments on appeal failed, the appeals court affirmed the lower court's decision.

Conclusion

When consulting with your counsel as to the strategy of how to proceed and what arguments should be made make sure your attorney is aware of all of the facts. Similarly, make sure that your attorney listens to the facts and considers them carefully when formulating your case. Remember, it is your case, you have the most at stake and while your attorney understands the law, you have the most vested in the outcome.



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Setting the pace.

George Hundt, Jr. Never Looks Back

By Lauren R. Giannini

George Hundt, Jr. enjoys a legacy of rural sporting interests and rides as often as possible with Piedmont Foxhounds (VA), whose country is near where his horses are stabled with trainer Richard Valentine, also a hunting enthusiast. In 2009, George won his first start in the prestigious Maryland Hunt Cup with Michele Marieschi (GB) and immediately retired his gorgeous timber horse, gifting him to good friend Robert Bonnie who hunts Michele with Piedmont. In 2011, George and his horses won three timber point-to-point races; partnering with Justpourit (IRE) in amateur high weight timber contests, the duo won at My Lady's Manor, finishing second at Maryland Grand National and Willowdale. George and his wife Alex (Malvern, PA) are very involved in the Bryn Mawr Hound Show held each June at Radnor Hunt.

What are some of the most important lessons you learned from your father? [George S. Hundt, Sr. passed away in early March at the age of 81.]

Never look back! He was field master and Master of Foxhounds at Radnor for 22 years and he would never look back. He had a sense of humor about the horse world. He knew what he wanted to do in life and was able to juggle being a stockbroker, taking the train into Philadelphia every day, with running the hunt. I think I've learned how to do that with the amateur timber riding - figure out a way to pursue my passion with some other irons in the fire as well.

What is your biggest challenge as chairman of Bryn Mawr, one of the oldest hound shows in America?

To keep up the tradition. With the economy's struggles, it becomes more of an effort for packs to bring their hounds. I try to make it as enjoyable an experience as possible for the exhibitors and I'm constantly acting as a good will ambassador to encourage people about the merits of the show. It's a tough day for huntsmen because they have to work their tails off, although they do enjoy the camaraderie. Basically, it's about the tradition and making everyone feel it's worth the effort after Virginia to come to Bryn Mawr.

Who was your favorite pony growing up and why?

A mare I named Snickerpops, after my two favorite foods. She was bought for \$30 from New Holland sales. She was testy - she could fly a panel fence and on any given day she could put on the brakes, too, so I really learned to ride from her.



George Hundt, Jr. grew up foxhunting and couldn't quite shake his roots: he got hooked on racing with his field hunter via the Foxhunters series at point-to-points and has never looked back. Shown here, running his first ever Hunter Pace, Fast Time, at the Piedmont Foxhounds on March 24 with Westbound Road, field hunter and partner in two owner/rider timber wins in 2011.

Photo by Richard Clay Photography

When did you start racing? Your best timber horse?

I stopped riding when I was 18, basically: I worked in New York City for about 20 years, mostly for J. P. Morgan. I had my first timber race when I was 42. I've been very fortunate to have a number of horses very suited for amateur riders. My Hunt Cup horse, Michele Marieschi, could just take over a race and was extremely careful and very bold. Justpourit is a clever old 'chaser and he really enjoys the racing. They've all done something great for me and I hunt most of them. I enjoy them all.

How do people react when you talk about jump-racing for fun?

Some people think it's a little crazy, because I'm working on being 50, that I have a bit of a screw loose, which might not be far from the truth. I enjoy hunting, but racing is such a dramatic event to participate in. In a race, it can be a little frantic although you want it to be as smooth as possible. It's difficult to describe what it's like. I really enjoy the thrill and the special bond you have with the horse.

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A Clinic With the Unforgettable Rodney Jenkins

By Holly Hugo-Vidal

Life with Rodney Jenkins was unforgettable, whether it was watching him show our horses or working for him. So when I attended a judge's clinic in Dan Point, California recently, I was thrilled to see that Rodney's video would be the main topic of the day at the clinic. I have wonderful memories of Rodney (we are still friends) and I actually got to ride Idle Dice, who still holds the title for monies won, as well as all of his other grand prix jumpers and top hunters!

It is a requirement of "R" judges to attend a clinic every four years and the clinic was given by Fran Dotoli, Scott Hofstetter and Julie Winkle, all of whom did a super job, which was not an easy task considering that there were varying degrees of experience, ranging from applicants just starting out, small "r" judges with limited experience, up to the big "R" judges who have been judging for many years like I have.

The first thing we did was watch an old video that Rodney Jenkins made on "How to Choose a Hunter." I used to have this video, it was an eight track and unfortunately I think I tossed it out along with my eight track video machine! The video focused on conformation and what to look for and what to avoid. In classic Rodney fashion, he would discuss something like a curb then look into the camera and say, "To be honest, if I really liked a horse, that wouldn't stop me from buying it!"

During the video Rodney pointed out something that I do remember he told me years ago, but have never heard anyone make any reference to regarding where the mane ends. He likes the last few hairs of the mane to come very close to the withers instead of stopping way out in front of them. He measures the



The legendary team of Rodney Jenkins and Idle Dice

Photo courtesy of Nick Ellis

angle of the shoulder from that point. It was very interesting and we all agreed that, with the exception of Rodney's hunt cap, which has been replaced with the current safety helmet – it was totally relevant to today's way of evaluating conformation.

Rodney, always the very modest person, consistently gave the horse the credit. So it came as no surprise to me when Fran Dotoli told a cute story about Rodney applying for his judges' card many years ago. She was on the board that reviewed all the judge's applications and Rodney's application came in with all of his pertinent information on the front and on the back each applicant was asked to list their accomplishments. Fran said most people had pages and pages of things they had done, horses they had ridden, etc., but Rodney simply said, "I have had the privilege of riding many great horses." What an understatement!

Currently, Rodney works with racehorses where he successfully breeds and trains Thoroughbreds for the track. I spoke with him a few days after the clinic and told him that his old video was shown and discussed at great length in the clinic. He was pleased in his quiet way.

*Holly Hugo-Vidal will be reporting for Sidelines from California and we have coined her column our "West Side Story." Holly is based at Alicia Saxton's Oceancrest Farms in Rancho Santa Fe, California, where she specializes in developing young horses and training junior and amateurs. Holly's life has been strongly influenced by show legends Rodney Jenkins and George H. Morris, as well as her former husband Victor Hugo-Vidal. George Morris wrote the forward of her most recent book, *Build Confidence Over Fences*.*



Holly and Peanut on the beach in Del Mar, CA



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Karin Flint – Growing Flintfields Horse Park

By Lauren R. Giannini

Vision – the kind made up of creativity, imagination, inventiveness, innovation and inspiration – pretty much sums up the collaboration between Karin Flint and Alex Rheinheimer that has established Michigan as a major stop on the summer show circuit. Karin's Flintfields Horse Park provides a beautifully landscaped backdrop for Alex's uber-successful Horse Shows By The Bay. The US Equestrian Federation AA-rated series can measure its success in many ways; but one of the most telling indicators is being named for two consecutive years to the top 25 show list compiled by North American Riders Group (NARG).

"I'm in a unique position, because I'm the owner of the place and my horses exhibit there," said Karin. "I've also been a horse show manager. I've worn all the hats!"

Flintfields and Horse Shows By The Bay owe their existence to the late, great Detroit and Motor City Horse Shows, which ran in June from 1934 to 2000 when the property was sold. Karin had served as co-chair for the last seven years and Alex, a licensed jumper judge and announcer, had worked for the shows.

"We wanted to replace Detroit and Motor City," recalled Karin. "I was always in contact with Alex; but we knew of no place suitable for a big show. Alex went traveling through Michigan, looking, and fell in love with Traverse City."

The first Horse Show By The Bay took place in 2004 on rented land. They wanted to see if people would travel north and if the show concept would work. It certainly did.

"I started helping out. It took three years to find the right place and I bought Flintfields in January, 2007 – a bare piece of land with woods," said Karin. "It was a 24/7 endeavor, a massive undertaking; but we were up and running by July. I hired a large construction company from Traverse City. We had earthmovers contour the land and put in rings. I was out there digging gardens and showing them where to plant all this grass. Then we had a drought. That first show I spent all night, every night, going around with a tank of water and a pump to make sure nothing died. It was all pretty special."

It continues to be. Flintfields, a homestead in the 1800s, has flourished under Karin's watchful eye. She restored the barn and house. The facility grew to four rings and a grand prix ring, each with its own warm-up ring. The footing is sand and limestone in the hunter rings; but the grand prix footing is state of the art with an underground piping system to maintain consistent moisture.

"We started out with two weeks, and everyone kept saying, 'if we come this far, we want it to be longer.' We get a lot of people from Texas who like to get out of the heat and we increased the show to four weeks," said Karin. "We have two back-to-back rated dressage shows before the hunter-jumper series starts. We'd like to have a reining show in August. We're looking into holding weddings and we'd love to have a car show. Flintfields is a perfect setting, so green and so beautiful."

One of the latest improvements to the 84 acre facility will make sporting enthusiasts happy. Karin put in a five acre grass field that



Karin Flint with Lexi (Corgi) and Tito (German Shepherd): these CEOs (Canine Executive Officers) help Karin when she makes the rounds late at night to ensure that all is very well at Flintfields during Horse Shows By The Bay Photo by Phelps Media Group

can be used for polo, grand prix and derbies; but the roots need another year to be at least seven inches deep so that the grass is sturdy enough.

"The first thing I did after the drought that first year was put in a sprinkler system," said Karin, an avid gardener. "I dot every i and cross every t. I make sure that everything is clean and neat, first class and safe for the competitors and horses. We can't have trash or junk – I like everything pretty. I go around in my golf cart, checking on things. If I see a rock, I pick it up. I'm hands on."

This works well with Alex, who is quick to acknowledge how vital Karin is to Horse Sports By The Bay: "Without Karin, we wouldn't have a home and a place to grow the show. Sometimes I say pinch me."

The two women are very different in personality; but that's probably key to their success.

"Karin is always cheerful and she's a great visionary, too," said Alex. "I'm almost too practical at times. We complement each other. Karin's so concerned about the horses' welfare that she's out at 2 a.m. with her dogs, walking the grounds, checking on the horses. It's also therapeutic: Karin loves the sounds of horses chomping on hay and loves to see them flat out and snoring. I'm fast asleep because I get up at 5 a.m."

The collaboration has been positive for all concerned. Traverse City has benefitted greatly from the AA series, which has contributed \$81 million to local revenues since 2004. With each day concluding around 5 o'clock, everyone has daylight until 10:30 p.m. to enjoy Traverse City. It's a gem of a summer tourist town with great restaurants and leisure activities, including the National Cherry Festival and the International Film Festival.

"We have a nice working relationship with Acme Township and Traverse City," said Karin. "We help them, they help us. I'm the cheerleader, the cock-eyed optimist. I enjoy everything about the shows. I just love it."

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Drooling Over Marissa Quigley's Equestrian Heartthrobs

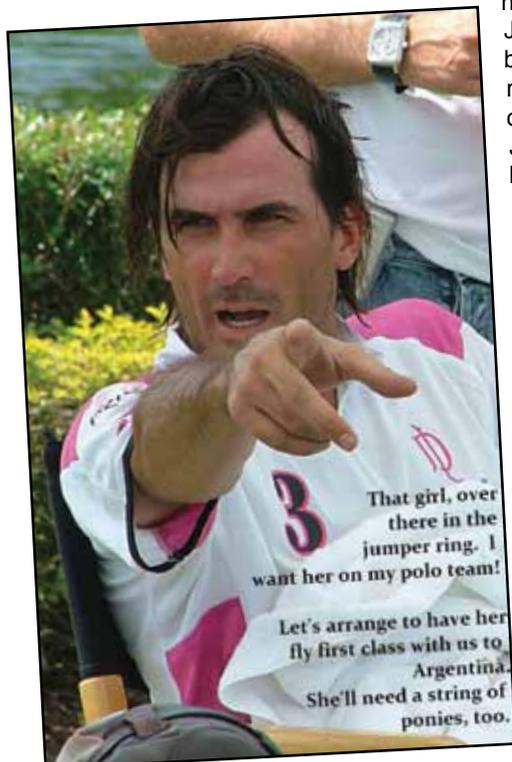
By Jan Westmark-Allan

Marissa Quigley may be a New Jersey lawyer by day; but by night she recreates photos of movie star Ryan Reynolds (the celebrity love of her life) and Johnny Depp, turning them into Equestrian Heartthrobs. If you haven't seen Marissa's photos, then you are among the few – as they have become a Facebook and Internet sensation. A great example of a photo that rocked the web, as well as our *Sidelines* Facebook page, is a photo of Ryan Reynolds looking into the camera with the saying, "I just finished re-rolling all your wraps. Do you want me to polish your boots again honey?" written in the corner of the photo. Marissa is the proud owner of a Dutch Warmblood named Tucker, the inspiration behind her blog called "Tucker the Wunderkind." The blog chronicles her adventures of competing in the Adult Amateur hunters with Tucker. Marissa will soon begin blogging on the *Sidelines* website and we are looking forward to following her journey as well as enjoying the new Equestrian Heartthrobs she creates.

How did you create Equestrian Heartthrobs?

I owe my inspiration to the creator of Equestrian Ryan Gosling (equestrianryangosling.tumblr.com). I happen to be partial to another Ryan, so when I saw the Gosling memes I was eager to create some of my own. I did a Google image search for Ryan Reynolds, which as you can imagine was an arduous task, and then tried to think of all the things I've ever wished a man would say to me...and voila, the memes were born. Since Equestrian Heartthrob Ryan Reynolds was so popular, I polled my readers to pick the

next heartthrob. Johnny Depp won by a landslide! Most recently, I also created Equestrian Jon Bon Jovi, based on a Versace ad I saw where a bronzed and extremely fit Bon Jovi poses with what looks like a



Marissa turns Adolfo Cambiasso, the best polo player in the world, into an Equestrian Heartthrob
Photo by Bill Tatgenhorst



Marissa and Tucker

Photo by Dominika Nawrot

custom dress sheet wrapped around his lower half. As a Jersey girl, I just couldn't resist.

Are you surprised by the success of your creations?

Shocked, is more like it. I had no idea I could create something that would be so universally popular. Granted, I have a feeling that Ryan and Johnny's dashing good looks have a lot to do with the widespread appreciation of these memes, but I'm happy to take a smidge of the credit for making people laugh, as well as drool.

What would happen if you met Ryan Reynolds?

I could easily see that meeting Ryan Reynolds would turn out to be one of the most embarrassing situations of my short, sweet life. I envision myself handling that encounter with less than my usual poise and finesse. I do love to write and I could see the novel I'm working on becoming an excellent screenplay. I think Ryan would be perfect for the lead male role, so I suppose our paths may cross someday. Though I can't promise not to faint if he offers to re-roll my wraps and polish my boots.

Do you spend your days dreaming of Ryan or Tucker?

Unfortunately, I'm more likely to be daydreaming about a judge granting my motion or an adversary agreeing to settle a case; but my desktop background is set to Ryan Reynolds, which is a nice way to start work each morning. I have to be pretty productive during my workday so that I have enough time for Tucker in the evenings and time to write the blog at night. Tucker is a wonderful motivator!

Who will be the next Equestrian Heartthrob?

Maybe we should open this question up to *Sidelines*' readers and let them pick the next Equestrian Heartthrob. I have a lot of fun making these -- I'll confess that I have laughed out loud at my own jokes -- so I'd certainly welcome the chance to do it again.



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Spruce Meadows' Linda Southern-Heathcott

Linda Southern-Heathcott has been a part of the famous Spruce Meadows equestrian facility in Canada since the beginning. When she was 11 years old her parents started to build the venue. "In the first few years I was on the rock picking team. I am now the President and CEO of Spruce Meadows," Linda said. Linda shares her thoughts on Spruce Meadows and her life:

Goals for Spruce Meadows...

My goal for Spruce Meadows is to continue to be a leader in the sport of show jumping; to strive to ensure that our show jumping events are enjoyed by our fans; and to strive to offer the highest of standards to the athletes, world class prize money and continue to appeal and excite our 500,000 fans who come to cheer on the athletes.

Exciting things about Spruce Meadows...

Wow, there are so many exciting things - but I guess I would try to explain where we have come from - humble beginnings. As a family, we have built a wonderful show jumping facility for athletes, sponsors, media and fans to enjoy. In return, my team and I get a sense of gratitude when the stands are filled with cheering fans.

Place she likes to "hang out" at Spruce Meadows...

I love to sit on a bench outside the All Canada ring and watch the jumping - especially on a sunny day. I also love to be in the center of the International Ring when the big competitions are on - the thrill and suspense of the event. Especially when the stakes are high - you can hear a pin drop and it is so special because the crowd brings a certain electricity to the venue.

Her riding career...

The highlight of my career was competing in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

On riding now...

Since 1998 I have tried to come back, and I even have a wonderful horse of my own, but I don't seem to have the time to ride.

In her spare time she likes to...

I ski on the weekends with my husband of twenty-three years, and my boys, and we try to golf. Mostly I like being with friends and family.

She doesn't like to leave home without...

I try to never leave home without my family and my five dogs but sometimes they have to stay at home when I am traveling.

Linda Southern-Heathcott on the grounds of Spruce Meadows
Photo courtesy of Spruce Meadows





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Win-Win With Collin McNeil At Lake Placid

By Rebecca Walton

Collin F. McNeil, co-owner of Callan Solem Show Stables, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Lake Placid Horse Shows. Collin and his family are dedicated equestrians, attending the Lake Placid Horse Shows for many years as exhibitors and spectators. Collin's involvement with the equestrian community is extensive. Having been named a Master of Foxhounds for the Radnor Hunt in Malvern, PA in 2011, he also serves on the Boards of the Radnor Hounds Foundation, the Pickering Hunt Foundation, the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and the Devon Horse Show. In addition to his equestrian activities, Collin has had a prolific and varied career as a writer and journalist, business executive and motion picture producer. Collin hopes to use his experience to assist the Lake Placid Horse Show with strategic planning; helping it to further strengthen its reputation as one of the best horse shows in the country.

You were recently named to the Board of Directors for Lake Placid, what are you looking forward to most in this new role?

Becoming closer to Richard Feldman and his wife Diana as they really are the champions of the horse show. One of the things they do is make you feel like you're a member of their extended family. To the extent that I can work more closely with them, from a social perspective it's a delight. From the horse show perspective, I have always enjoyed the Lake Placid Horse Shows and there is a particularly positive atmosphere there that is partially due to the Feldmans and the way they run the show; but also because it takes place in the first half of the summer. The season has just started and people are excited to be out in the fresh mountain air.

Where do you think you can most utilize your skills on the Lake Placid Board?

I like to think that I am a worldly person and because of my experience I know a lot of people, I've traveled extensively, I've seen the way other shows operate and I've been exposed to the way other kinds of athletic events are put together. I have a marketing and communications background, so if I am asked to do so, I can help further with the marketing and positioning of the show as one of the best in the country, if not North America.

How would you like to see Lake Placid grow?

One is the grand prix events. I'd like to see them viewed as among the best in North America. I'd like to help the show boost the prize money, so that it's difficult for the best riders to go anywhere else during the first weeks of the summer. The other key event is the hunter derby. I'd like to see purses increase there to attract even more accomplished riders to Lake Placid.

How has your partnership with Grand Prix rider Callan Solem changed your view of equestrian competitions?

I have always known that it was a tough sport; but once my wife started show jumping I realized pretty quickly that it's not only a very technical sport; but also very physically challenging. It wasn't too many years into her career as an adult jumper that she broke her back. To watch my wife fight back from the injury



Collin McNeil

Photos by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group

to the point where she has become an even better rider under Callan's tutelage has been very remarkable. The amount of work that Callan puts into her training and preparation is amazing and impressive.

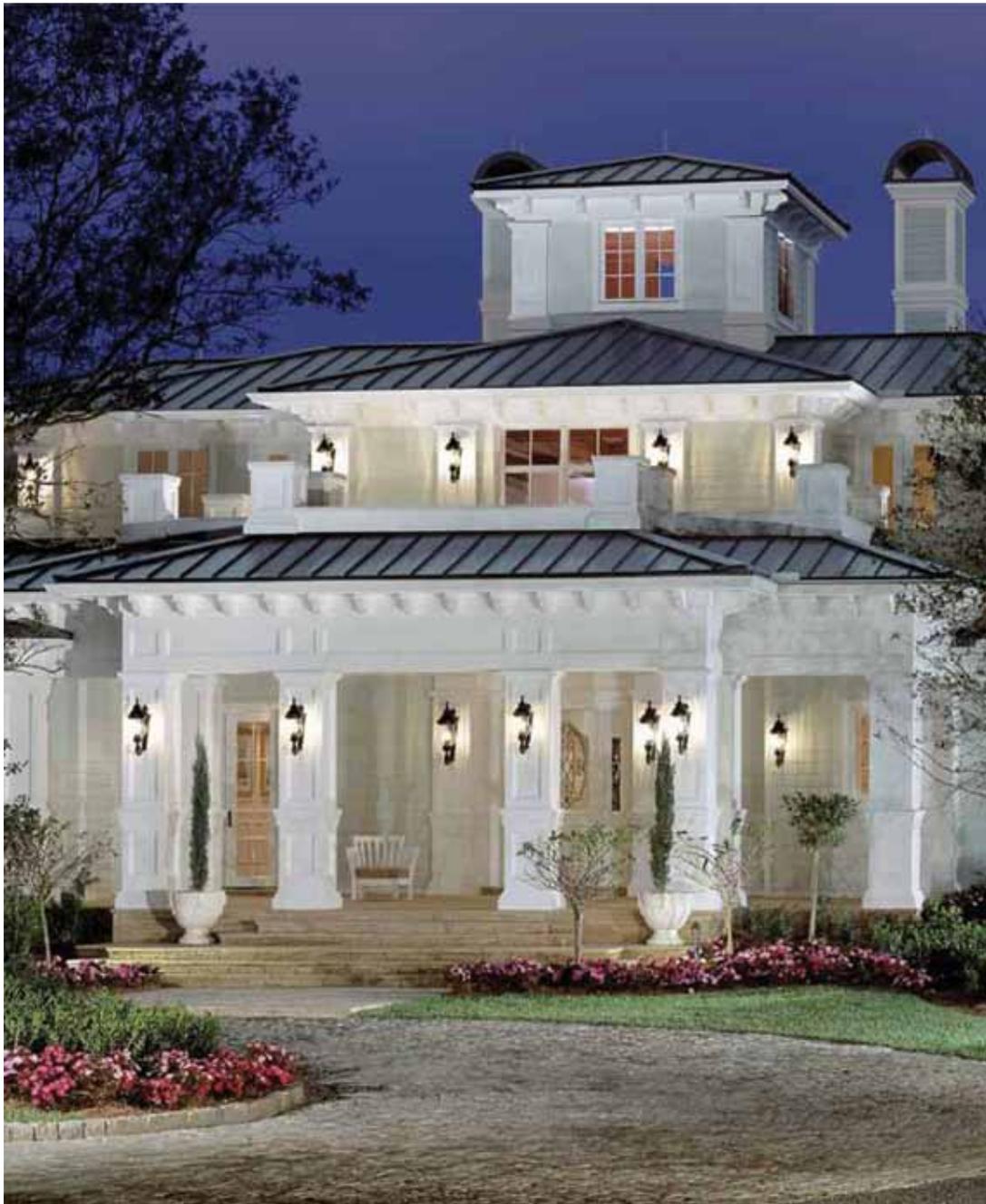
As an avid foxhunter, would you like to see horses and hounds at Lake Placid?

The Radnor Hunt parades hounds frequently at Devon and at the Brandywine Valley Association races. People really love to see that. I think the closest foxhunt to Lake Placid is in Burlington, Vermont. So it would be nice to get the huntsman there to bring hounds to Lake Placid for the day and show people the spectacle of the horses and hounds.



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Alexandra Efird Loves Equitation And Waffles!

By Jan Westmark-Allan

Alexandra Efird, a busy high school sophomore in Eads, Tennessee, is quick to say that she has very little spare time, thanks to the horses in her life. Allie, as her friends call her, doesn't mind that her life is consumed by her equines. In fact, her life has revolved around horses since she was five years old. "My older sister decided to go to horse camp when I was five and of course I wanted to do everything my older sister was doing," Allie said. "The minimum age to go to camp was supposed to be six years old but they allowed me to attend."

Allie said that during camp she had to take lessons with girls who were much older and more coordinated. "I thought I could do anything the older students were doing so I was constantly asking, 'What about me?' At the end of the camp they had a small schooling show to allow our parents to see what we had learned. The instructor, Barbara Grubbs, renamed my pony for the show, *What About Me*. That camp changed my life forever!"

Who do you train with?

I have trained at Spring Mill Farm in Eads, Tennessee with David Pellegrini and his staff Michael Tokaruk and Emily Hertz for four years. When I lived in Michigan I trained with Mark Tompkins.



Allie

Photo by Cathrin Cammett

What horses do you compete and in what divisions?

I have a large junior hunter, Chalice, which I have owned for about a year. I also compete in the equitation classes on Chief that I was able to lease at medal finals last year.

What are your career highlights so far?

It is always a highlight for me to be able to compete at the Devon Horse Show, the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and the Washington International Horse Show. This past year I was fortunate enough to also compete at the Alltech National Horse Show. The ribbons I have won at those shows, even the ones on small ponies, hang in my room. It is so exciting to see all of the incredible riders, ponies and horses at those shows. I also love the challenge of medal finals and the excitement of competing.

What are your riding goals?

My biggest interest is in the equitation. I love the courses, options and challenges that equitation presents. I am working very hard in this area of my riding and am striving to be a real contender in the equitation finals in the next two years.

What do you like about being a horse person?

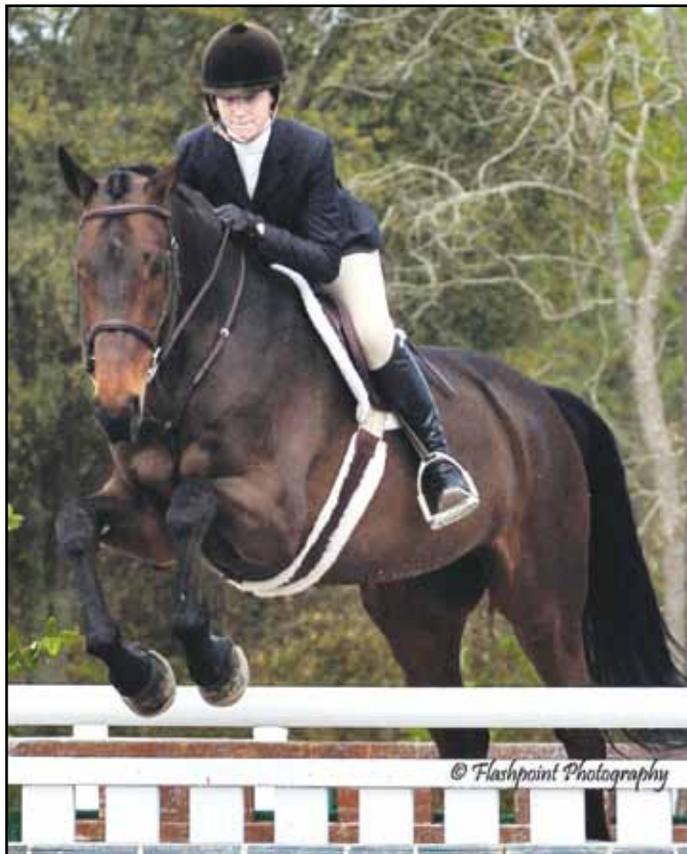
I love the companionship and sense of accomplishment I get from riding horses. No matter what goes on in my day, when I have finished riding and taking care of my horses I always feel like the day was a success. I feel like I always learn something every day from my horses!

What do you think you would do if you weren't a rider?

I cannot even imagine my life without horses.

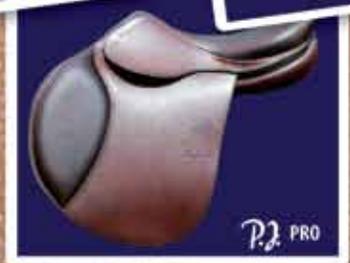
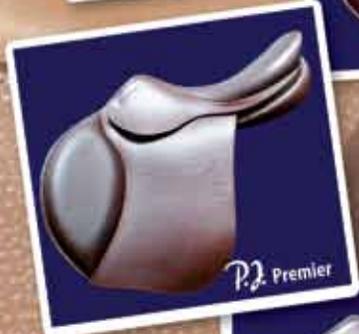
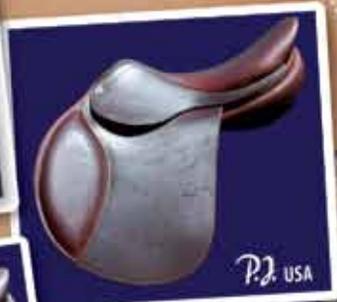
What's something people don't know about you?

That my favorite restaurant is Waffle House! Tacky, huh? All of the staff knows me by name.



Allie and Chief competing in the Maclay

Photo by Flashpoint Photography



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Unquestionably the most extravagant equestrian facility in Wellington, located in coveted Grand Prix Village. Built in a style reminiscent of an Old World European castle with finishes that would rival any Palm Beach estate. Enjoy the luxury of the finest materials available, but planned and constructed with the horse in mind at every turn. 20 custom-made stalls, 4 paddocks, 7 wash/grooming stalls, 2 feed rooms, 2 tack rooms, 2 storage rooms and hot walker. Complete with state of the art jumping arena and a full size dressage arena with mirrors. Grand owner's apartment and upstairs living areas come with oversized balconies and terraces perfect for watching your horses or entertaining guests. Must see to believe!





PINEWOOD EAST - AREACA

Classic elegance describes this one of a kind, meticulously maintained home on oversized, extremely private lot. Entire house has been remodeled with the finest of finishes. Master suite is located downstairs with extra large walk in closet. Many architectural details have been added throughout, including custom moldings, archways, fireplace, built in book shelves and trophy room. French country inspired kitchen. Lush landscaping, separate dog run, and oversized pool finish the house perfectly. A Must See! **Priced at \$650,000**



NEW CASTLE TERRACE

Move right in to this tastefully furnished townhouse with large open loft that separates the 2 master bedrooms. Townhouse has a large screened patio to enjoy your evenings and for outdoor dining and comes completely turnkey. No need to rent next season at this price. Located in the heart of Wellington and just a few minutes drive to the horse show. Walking distance to shopping and dining. One of the last great deals in Wellington.

Priced at \$168,000 Fully Furnished/Turnkey



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Priced to sell at \$168,000



SUNSHINE BAY - MIAMI BEACH

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Priced at 219,000



BEDFORD MEWS

Lovely 3-Bedroom Townhome with ceramic tile throughout. Includes both a fenced front and back yard - perfect for pets. Ideal location - close to horse show, mall and restaurants. A large community pool and one of the friendliest communities in Wellington.

Priced to sell at \$164,000. Also available for rent at \$1800 a month.



BEDFORD MEWS

Great Community! Great Price! Close to show grounds & shopping. 2BR/2BA corner unit on cul-de-sac. Upgraded lighting, window treatments, and tile floors throughout. Fenced yard with private screened patio and pool. New Air-conditioner, garage door, hot water heater, and hurricane shutters. **Priced to sell \$177,000**



DELRAY BEACH - HOME DEPOT OUT PARCEL

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LITTLE RANCHES - 8 ACRES LAND

Beautiful trees adorn this 8 acre parcel of land waiting for your house and barn to be built. **ONLY \$25,000 PER ACRE.** Owner will consider trading condo, townhouse or single family house for the property or will offer owner financing. Just minutes from dining, shopping, and the horse shows.

Priced at \$199,000



Meet the Photographer

Jack Mancini – Mancini Photos

If you're looking for photographer Jack Mancini, the best place to find him is at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, Florida. Jack is the Official Social Photographer of the FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival as well as the publisher of the Official FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival Yearbook. The showgrounds is his home-away-from home.

While Jack has always loved photography, the first part of his life included working as a long haul trucker traveling the wide open spaces across America, then raising kids and cattle and working in the cutting horse industry in his adopted home state of Texas. Growing up in South Florida, Jack felt the call of the Sunshine State and returned to strike out on his own and pursue his love for photography. He felt that the world class venue of the FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival would be the perfect location to pursue his dream. Mancini Photos is sponsored by Sigma of North America, manufacturer of cameras and lenses and is a member of the Nikon Professionals group.

When not at the Palm Beach Equestrian Center, Jack lives in Wellington full time, photographing horses and living as a single dad and proud father of Linzee, Heather, Wilson, Jazz and JP. Visit his work at www.manciniphotos.com.

Jack describes his photos:

1 Eric Lamaze (CAN) and Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER) prior to the 2012 FEI Nations Cup

2 Reed Kessler (USA) celebrates another win at FTI WEF 2012

3 Daniel Bluman (CO) FTI WEF 2012 Rider Challenge Winner

4 Makayla Langmeiers studies the course

5 Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) is all smiles at FTI WEF 2012

6 German national team toasts their 2012 Nations Cup win

7 Laura Hanson of Merrill Lynch, Hector Florentino, Victor De Lengaigne, Daniela Stransky of Stransky Le Club Wellington at the VDL Auction in Wellington

8 Danny Robertshaw, Missy Clark and Ron Danta unveil the new Danny & Ron's Rescue jump at FTI WEF 2012

9 Young Riders FTI WEF 2012

10 The photographer – Jack Mancini

Photo of Jack Mancini by Anne Amundson Hoover





Sidelines heard from our old friend, **Kayce Douglass** and she is now living in Colorado where she is a rep for a new supplement company, *Royal Champion*. We wish Kayce well in her new endeavors!

Liliane Stransky and her 16 year old daughter **Daniela** have accepted an invitation from fellow philanthropist Caroline, Princess of Hanover, to join her at the Jumping International De Monte-Carlo 2012 in Monaco. Daniela will enter the arena to compete at the CSI2*/GCT/CSI5* rated horse show, part of the prestigious Global Champions Tour, as the sole representative from Venezuela and to champion her mother's charity Step by Step.

Todd and Amanda Minikus lost their great grand prix horse, Pavarotti recently. This is quite the loss for Todd; but we feel certain the Minikus Family will be back in the Grand Prix ring in short order.

The Alltech National Horse Show has added a \$50,000 puissance to its schedule. The class is tentatively scheduled for Friday evening, November 2.

The Seraphim12 Foundation hosted their debut cocktail reception and dinner in March at Graffito's South in Wellington and it proved to be a huge success. All were asked to sign letters to their Representatives, Congress and the President, clarifying the need to support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011.

Can you imagine putting your trunks and equipment at the end
Continued on page 34

Amy Tryon, a two time Olympian for the United States in equestrian eventing, died in her sleep recently. She was 42 years old. Tryon was on the bronze medal US team at the 2004 Athens Olympics and took part in the Beijing Olympics as well as two World Equestrian Games, taking team gold in Spain in 2002 and an individual bronze in Germany in 2006.



Amy Tryon
 Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

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*Kelly Ross riding Carlos Don Benito
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of your barn driveway waiting for the trucks to come and fetch you and your horses and having everything swiped. **Rich Fellers and Karl Cook** were packed and waiting to ship back to California when someone drove thru Grand Prix Village in Wellington and heisted their equipment, right in the middle of the day. Wow!

The rumor on the street – Triple **Crown of Show Jumping** will be underwritten by **Taylor Harris Insurance Services**. We are told the three shows making up this Triple Crown will be Devon, Hamptons and the Alltech National Horse Show. Win all three folks and get a BIG CHECK.

Three Olympic hopefuls and a former USEF National CCI4* champion horse took part in a United States Olympic Committee's invasion of Times Square in New York in April to mark the 100 day countdown to the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Spotted on television were 2011 Pan American Games medalists **Heather Blitz** (Team Gold and Individual Silver in dressage), **Buck Davidson** (Team Gold and Individual Bronze in Eventing) and 17 year old **Reed Kessler**, who won a USEF Selection Trials for the U.S. Show Jumping Team.

Phelps Media Group International announced its sponsorship of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA). Phelps Media Group looks forward to working with the IEA to expand their reach to the mainstream equestrian audience, provide access to leaders in equestrian education and act as a provider of current industry information.

The First Annual Southeast Medal Finals will take place on September 21-23, 2012 at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center.

Social Scene

Riding For the Red Cross



Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center donated the horses – including a mount for Joe Fargis

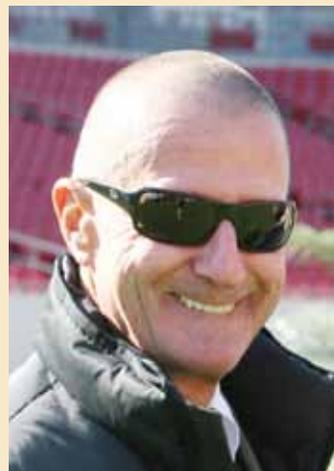
34 SIDELINES JUNE 2012

The American Express Ride for the Red Cross brought out a fantastic group of riders in Wellington, Florida, who not only raised more than \$35,000 for the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund but had a great time enjoying a trail ride and catered reception. Grand Prix riders Candice King, Joe Fargis, Rodrigo Pessoa and Debbie Stephens led the trail ride through Wellington's Grand Prix Village.

"We got to tour around Grand Prix Village and I personally got to see parts I had not seen previously. We all came out to support a great cause and had a lot of fun while raising some money," said Charlie Jacobs, who co-chaired the event.

Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center generously donated horses for the event and all of the riders wore red in support of both the Red Cross and to celebrate Show Jumping Hall of Famer Rodney Jenkins, the "Red Rider." The best-dressed "Red Riders" earned prizes and Debbie Stephens, who dressed up as Rodney Jenkins, earned the grand prize.

Photos by Tony De Costa



George Morris
Photo by Kendall Bierer/PMG

USEF and the entire horse show community wishes Morris a full recovery.

USEF reported recently that U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe **George Morris** will be undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. Morris will remain in his position of Chef d'Equipe and will stay closely involved with the program. Morris is expected to be fit and able to return to the horse show circuit by early summer and is expected to be able to travel in time to prepare the team in Europe for the Olympic Games and attend that Championship. The

Sponsors are lining up to support this great new show. Highlights include the Southeast Junior and Adult 3' Medal Finals, ASPCA Maclay Regionals and much more.

This has been a sad time for many in the horse show world. The passing of both **John Quirk** and **Sis Steinkraus** is a huge loss. John was one of the pioneers in bringing the World Cup



Grand Prix rider Debbi Stephens doing her best impersonation of Rodney Jenkins

FOR HORSE PEOPLE • ABOUT HORSE PEOPLE

to Las Vegas and an ace reporter and publisher when he owned *Horses Magazine*. And what can we say about Sis Steinkraus? She was a class act and a friend to everyone. Both of these folks will be missed by everyone they touched. And folks, we have lost another fellow exhibitor. Top hunter rider from Virginia, **Martha Sifton** has passed away recently. Another loss for all of us.



Olympic Silver Medalist **Peter Leone** kept up a breakneck pace after a successful season in Wellington. He had five minutes of rest at his Lionshare Farm in Greenwich, Connecticut before he was off and running to attend Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio where he was a featured clinician. In between sessions Peter held signings and completely sold out of advance copies of his book, *Peter Leone's Show Jumping Clinic: Success Strategies for Equestrian Athletes*. Then it was off to Goucher College to teach a clinic to the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) to the Service Project Award winning team. Next stop: Culpeper.

Peter Leone
Photo by Carrier Wirth/PMG



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Racing Away with George Wagner

George Wagner is not your typical accountant. Six times a year he leaves his office in Canada behind and travels to faraway lands on amazing journeys revolving around horses, racing and sightseeing. George doesn't go alone, however, but welcomes all travelers with a sense of adventure to join him.

George owns Horse Racing Trips Worldwide – a company that offers a wide range of trips, such as one that includes traveling to eight different racecourses by train. “There are 59 racecourses in England and they feature huge crowds and an electric atmosphere. They are the ‘place to be’ in England,” he said. Sidelines caught up with George to learn more about Horse Racing Trips Worldwide and he gave us five great trips on traveling with him.

Tip One: We stay in great places.

All our accommodations are “deluxe” country inns and historic stately homes. In London, Paris and Prague we stay in the heart of each city. By staying in the greatest cities in the world the possible experiences are endless - cruises on the Thames and Seine, Day trips to Windsor Castle and Versailles, Buckingham Palace, Eiffel Tower....

Tip Two: It's a great big party.

With us you can experience the exhilarating roar of 70,000 punters as the tape rises on Cheltenham Opening Day! It's hard to imagine a typical weekend in the UK without thinking about the horse races; the tradition goes back to the Romans. So it's no surprise to read Cheltenham's report about the Festival crowds being up again for this year's festival. Attending horse racing

meets in the UK is like our Super Bowl - everyone turns out and it's party time!

Tip Three: We take care of you.

We arrange all ground travel - travel passes or arrangements for individual transportation as appropriate.

Tip Four: Get ready for the expected and the unexpected!

We do like to deliver the expected - champagne receptions, the best hospitality at the races, tipsters, (inside info?) authentic pubs, but whenever possible our trips are unique. For a little diversion, we can arrange a day of fishing, foxhunting, shooting, polo, golf, tickets to the theatre, a concert or a premiership football or rugby match!

Tip Five: You will get to hob-knob!

For instance on our Cheltenham trip we offer private “yard” tours - visit leading trainer Philip Hobbs' Sandhill Stable, Pat Murphy's Glebe House and Brian Meehan's historic Manton House Stables. We tour the yard and watch hopefuls bound up the gallops. Then back to East Garston Village Hall for the Preview Night with a panel of local trainers, jockeys and the senior Jockey Club Handicapper. Our base, The Queen's Arms Hotel, doubles as an unofficial headquarters for British racing - so stop in the pub any time to find owners, trainers and jockeys discussing the day's sport.

The last fence at Sandown

Photo by Sandown Racecourse

Stopping by a pub before a hunt

Photo courtesy of Horse Racing Trips Worldwide



Watching Imperial Commander at the races

Photo by Cheltenham Racecourse



British Racing by Train

June 13 - 24, 2012 \$ 2,990

Stay in the heart of London right on The Strand at newly renovated Strand Palace Hotel, close to Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square, the Thames. Experience the pageantry and tradition of Royal Ascot, Britain's premier event on its racing & social calendar! Travel by train to 8 racecourses : **Ascot (Royal Ascot Meeting) Sandown Park Windsor – Newmarket – Goodwood – Newbury – Brighton – Salisbury**

Price includes: accommodations, London travel pass, member's enclosure racecourse admission, travel to/from airport, hotel, & racecourses. Available options : flexible arrival & departure dates, sightseeing tours, river cruises, visits to Windsor Castle & the Royal Pavilion Brighton. We also can arrange for a day fishing, shooting, polo, golf, tickets to the theatre or concert, a spa day of relaxation – or how about staying for Wimbledon!

Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe/London Trip

October 4 - October 15, 2012 \$ 3,850 3 days in Paris - 7 days In London

Hotel accommodations in the heart of Paris with 3 day travel pass. We offer an exclusive 3 day package in partnership with Horse Racing Abroad – France Galop's only officially appointed tour company for the **Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe**. Then travel on the Eurostar chunnel train from Paris to London. Hotel accommodation in the heart of London with 7 day travel pass. Travel to racecourses by train and enjoy Member's enclosure racecourse admission at **Newmarket, Goodwood, Windsor, & Brighton**.

Price includes: accommodations, Paris & London travel pass, member's enclosure racecourse admission, travel to/from airport, hotel & racecourses. Available options - flexible arrival & departures dates, sightseeing tours, theatre tickets, tickets for premiership football or rugby.

Cheltenham Festival March 2013

Great Horses – Great Racecourses – Bookies – Pubs & Irish Craic*

Stay in the heart of the Lambourn Valley – the heart of Great Britain's historic "Valley of the Racehorse". Enjoy champagne receptions, afternoon teas, special guest speakers & tipsters, private tours of top trainers' yards & gallops, country inns noted for fine food, real ales and racing reputations - the racing trip of a lifetime! We can also arrange a day of foxhunting, shooting, fishing, or tickets to premiership football or rugby.

* **Irish Craic:** *getting together for laughs, fun, & enjoyment, as well as scandal & gossip!*



www.HorseRacingTripsWorldwide.com 1-800-368-0872
gwagner@horseracingtripsworldwide.com

First Place! Rich Fellers and Flexible Win Show Jumping World Cup!



It was a historic moment for the United States when American Rich Fellers and Flexible, the little stallion that could, won the 2012 Rolex FEI Show Jumping World Cup in The Netherlands. Their victory marked the first time in 25 years that the United States placed first in a World Cup Finals. Flexible is a talented 16-year-old owned by Harry and Mollie Chapman. Sidelines caught up with Rich and asked him for the FIRST thing that came to mind on his historic FIRST place win!

FIRST thing that went through your mind when you realized you had won?

I thought, "What a great horse."

What was the FIRST thing you said to Flexible after the win?

I reached down and patted him and said, "That's my man!"

How does it feel to be the FIRST American to win in 25 years?

It feels kind of funny because it seems odd that it has been so long for the United States. We have so many top horses and

riders. It's great to win a World Cup Finals no matter what country you are from.

FIRST thought you had as you held the trophy above your head?

My first thought was that I was sad that my wife, Shelley, and Flexible's owners weren't there. They are always with me and this was one time they weren't.

What was the FIRST thing you did after you left the show grounds?

I went back to my hotel room and sat down and answered about 40 texts. I'm not a big texter so that was quite an ordeal.

When you got home, what was the FIRST thing you did?

My wife picked me up at the airport and I gave her a big hug and kiss and then she broke down and cried. (Rich and Shelley have been married 25 years!)

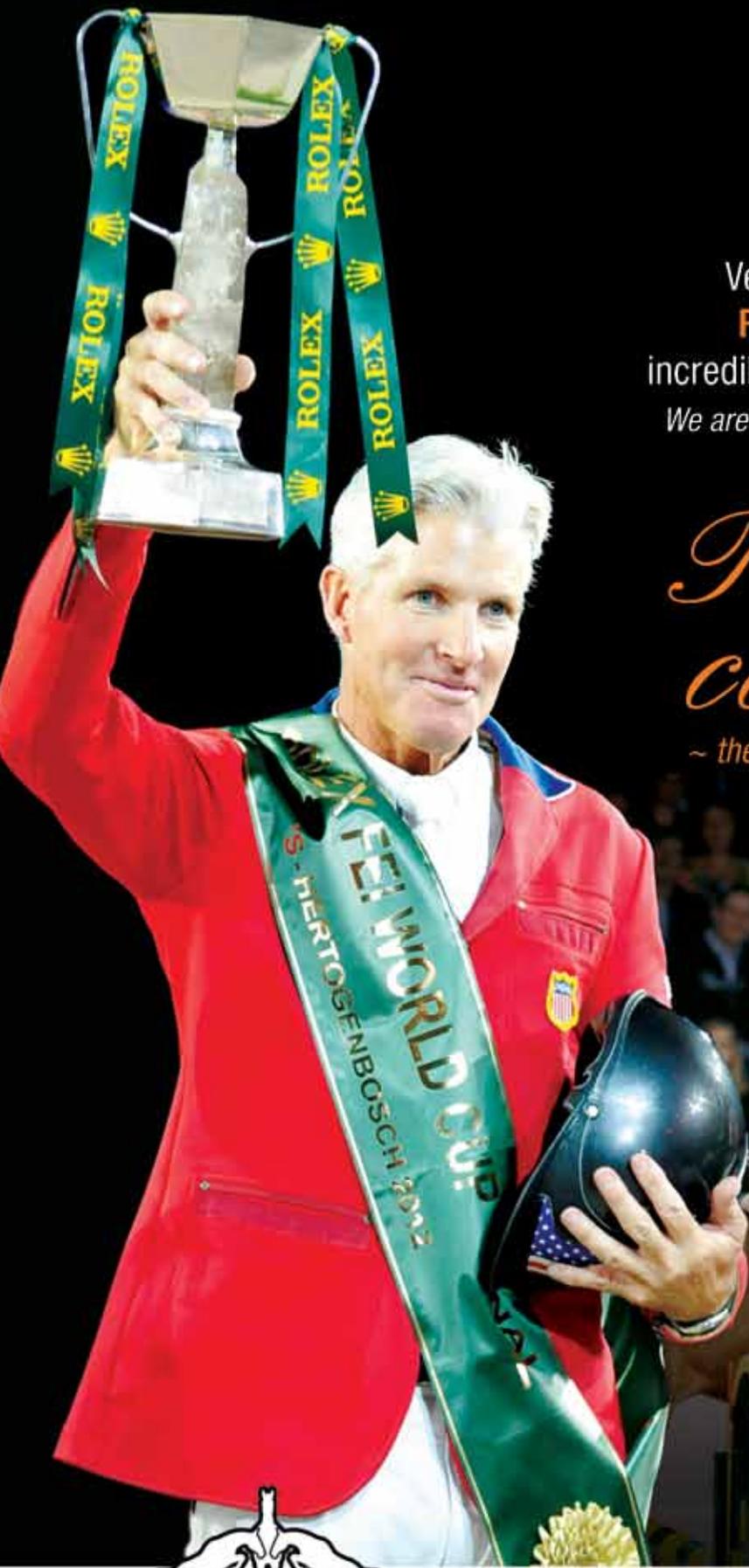
Photos by Susan Stickle



Veredus® would like to congratulate
Rich Fellers and **Flexible** on their
incredible 2012 Rolex/FEI World Cup Final win.
We are proud to be a part of the Fellers/Flexible team.

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Rich is wearing the
Veredus® Guarnieri Boots
and Flexible is wearing
the Veredus® Carbon Gel.

Molly Seeger/The Chronicle of the Horse



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Sunsets And New Horizons

By Lauren Corey

As my senior year is wrapping up, many of my favorite activities are coming to an end. I have participated in the Interscholastic Equestrian Association for the last four years, which has shaped a large part of my life. Sadly, this amazing part of my life has come to a close with this year's Zones. I have gained so much from my participation in the IEA; the entire Zone 10 is one huge family! We compete against the different teams; but I have friends on all of them and even if they beat me, it still feels like I won. We all try our best in the arena and go out to dinner afterward with other riders and coaches. I simply can't imagine my life without the IEA and the friends I have gained from it.

The weekend of Zones began on Friday. I was allowed to miss school to drive down to Southern California. Since it was the weekend of my 18th birthday, we stayed in a nice hotel with several other families competing at Zones. The Zones banquet was exceptional, complete with a photo booth and crazy hats! The seniors were recognized with individual videos and equestrian-related gifts. We even had a representative from the IEA office on the East Coast attend. It was a fun evening; but there was a tinge of melancholy since the seniors knew this would be the last time we would all be in a room together.

Saturday morning began with my mom's iPhone "gently" waking us up. I drove a car full of middle schoolers since their parents opted to miss the warm-up. Despite the early hour, the energy in the car was palpable, everyone was wondering what the day would bring. The kids had the door open before I finished parking and ran up to the arena to see the horses. Since I was only



Lauren and Gemini cantering in the Open flat class at Zone 10 Finals

Photo by Linda Kierans Corey

competing in the flat, I focused on giving the younger kids advice on how to ride the different horses that I had experience with and how to impress the judge on course.

While I was watching one of the middle schoolers show, I heard my name being paged to the draw table. Apparently I was so caught up in the competition that I didn't hear the announcer calling for all open riders. I drew my favorite horse, Gemini, who sent me to Nationals my sophomore year. I was so excited to get into the ring that I had difficulty focusing on the younger kids. What felt like days later, the announcer finally told the Open riders to mount. Unfortunately, I was the last on because Gemini's saddle was being used in the warm-up of novice flat horses. When I entered the arena, my heart was pounding with adrenaline. I was so excited to have the opportunity to ride Gemini again that the flat class wasn't long enough for me. It felt like I was hardly in the ring for a minute when the announcer called us to line up in the center of the arena. I heard many of my friends names called until there were just two of us left. I placed second in my last ride for the IEA; but I could not have been happier. Gemini was fantastic and the entire day worked out wonderfully. I couldn't have asked for a better end to the season.

Even though my time with the IEA is over; I know I will hear all about the shows next year from my younger friends. I can only hope that my future college will offer me an experience similar to that of the IEA. At least I won't have to say goodbye to my friends just yet. Several of us are planning on working at a riding camp one of the IEA coaches hosts each summer. There are camps running all summer long so I am hoping to spend a few weeks living in a cabin surrounded by horses. Although the season has come to an end; I am still looking forward to the camp and my college equestrian experience!

Mutt of the month

Zooma is a darling 1 year old Greyhound/Lab mix who lives up to her name - she is a bouncy girl with a lot of energy. This blond sweetie also has a lot of love to give and would be a wonderful addition to an active family. Zooma is waiting at the ranch to meet you! Please contact Big Dog Ranch Rescue at 561.309.3311 or www.BDRR.org.





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Two Best Weeks of a Horseman's Summer

Sometimes it's hard to decide what makes the Lake Placid and I Love New York Horse Shows "The best two weeks of a horseman's summer!"

It could be the schedule – whether its hunters or jumpers, professionals or amateurs, the Lake Placid Horse Shows give every rider a chance to shine. The schedule includes two \$75,000 Grand Prix, Classics for lots of divisions, Short Stirrup, Lead Line and a Parade of Champions each week with fabulous prizes for all champions.

It could be the horse show grounds – in addition to three all weather rings, Lake Placid's show grounds feature the Richard M. Feldman Grand Prix Field, a huge, all grass arena with natural terrain. Despite its name, this ring is not just for Grand Prix and Open Jumper riders, it hosts classes for the full range of LPHS competitors including Amateurs, Juniors, Adults and Children's, plus the horse show's Kathy Scholl Equitation Classic and USHJA International Hunter Derby!

It could be the prize money – more than half a million dollars! – or the internationally respected management of Michael Morrissey of Stadium Jumping, Inc. and David Distler. The Lake Placid and I Love New York Horse Shows, presented by Sea Shore Stables, LLC, return for the 43rd year, June 26-July 8. The combination of first class horse shows with all the amenities of a world class destination resort make the Lake Placid Horse Shows two weeks that should not be missed!

Best horse show in America - "In Lake Placid, we are driven by one thing and one thing only, and that is putting on the best horse show in America!" said Richard M. Feldman, Chairman of the Lake Placid Horse Show Association. "We have spent many years listening to our exhibitors and improving our horse show to make sure that everyone enjoys themselves to the fullest when they are with us. There's a reason why so many of our exhibitors come back year after year."

Photos: All photos by Parker/Russell-The Book LLC 2011



Lake Placid Horse Show Chairman Richard M. Feldman presents award to a rider in the Juliam Farm Lead Line Class



The Lake Placid Horse Shows have something for everyone – from Short Stirrup classes to Grand Prix



Jonathan McCrea and Colorado won the 2011 \$75,000 Mirror Lake Inn Grand Prix of Lake Placid

42 SIDELINES JUNE 2012



Margie Engle is a multiple time Lake Placid Grand Prix champion and Olympic veteran

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Enjoy this private, professionally designed farm with sunset views. The 4 bedroom home has updated kitchen and baths and features a saltwater pool. The grounds boast an 8 stall center aisle barn, large irrigated all-weather arena, and 4 paddocks. The 2 bedroom staff quarters and short hack to WEF make this property a must-have.

OFFERED AT \$2,500,000



CALYPSO LANE

This modern 3 bedroom, 3 bath home is located in the exclusive Equestrian Club Estates, within easy walking distance to the horse show. The travertine patio with jacuzzi is great for entertaining. Beautiful water views and white marble tile throughout are just some of this lovely home's contemporary amenities.

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 Polo

Zacara Wins Nespresso U.S. Open Championship

Utilizing an unconventional but brilliant line up, Zacara won the 2012 Nespresso U.S. Open Championship at the International Polo Club in Wellington, defeating Lechuza Caracas 10-8. Rain soaked the field prior to the game, but the highly anticipated game and the festivities continued, thanks to three low flying helicopters brought in to dry the field.

Lyndon Lea, the Patron and lowest rated player of the team, was placed at the #2 position to defend the opposition's most talented veteran #3 player. Typically, patrons are placed at either #1 or back at #4; but this change enabled Zacara to lead the entire game. Lea's aggressive defense allowed Mike Azzaro to come up from his defensive position of #4 at the appropriate times to score four superb goals.

The teams were close through the first half, Zacara up, 5-4, on two goals by Azzaro late in the third chukker. Juan Martin Nero tied the game at 5 all early in the fourth; but Zacara came storming back in that chukker with 3 goals by Facundo Pieres, Magoo LaPrida and Azzaro to take an 8-5 lead.

Zacara's win was sealed on goals by LaPrida and Lea in the sixth chukker. Lea snuck through the pack for a brilliant goal. Lechuza did their best to get back into the game, thanks to Azzaro clearing a ball that hit the Zacara goal post with help from Pieres; but Zacara took total control as the clock ran out of time on a besieged Lechuza Caracas quartet. Azzaro was MVP and Lelani was Best Playing Pony for Pieres, played in the 2nd and 6th chukker.

All photos by Alan Fabricant (www.alfabphoto.com)



1 Team Zacara holds the US Open Championship Cup

2 Helicopters were brought in to help dry the rain soaked fields

3 Magoo LaPrida celebrates after his shot goes in for a score

4 Laura Kaeppler, Miss America 2012

5 Sapo Caset moves ahead of the field on his way downfield

6 MVP, Mike Azzaro goes in for a shot on goal

7 Jeffrey Donovan, star of "Burn Notice," with Michelle Woods

8 Magoo LaPrida and Facundo Obregon battle for control of the ball

3



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7



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5



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8



6



Keeping Your Horse Focused in a Distraction Derby and Fire Truck Parade

Ann S. Reilly, Ph.D.

I often write about keeping the rider focused. It occurred to me that an article on focusing the horse's attention was an important topic. The two go hand in hand, as horse and rider are mirrors for each other.

Coping with Unforeseen Distractions

This past week I competed at a show venue that was under construction. There were numerous workers on the roof of the indoor arena hammering and a crane was moving around installing lights. It was a big disruption for my horse and me. He has a very good brain; but we must remember horses have the inherent tendency to become sidetracked by things they may find frightening.

First Step in Coping – Focus on the Basics

The first day I worked very hard at getting my horse to focus. This meant doing very basic work in the schooling ring to ask and encourage him to focus on me. This included getting him straight, forward, on the bit and bending. He was good in the show ring. Basics encourage the horse to focus on the rider.

The second day my horse was more focused on me when I first started warming up. Then I had some more unforeseen distractions. When I went into the class, for the first time in my life my mind went blank. I could not remember the test. I asked my trainer to read for me, so it took away that problem. My horse entered the ring carrying me forward --- great progress as his tendency is to suck back going in. He was focused and trying so hard. Going around the test he suddenly focused on the road and not on me. I maintained my concentration on the test, did not turn my head to look at what he was trying to look at: another KEY to maintaining a horse's focus.

Any Horse Will Freak Out at Fire Trucks

For the canter departure, which he usually does amazingly well, he stopped and froze, head up, eyes popping out of his head. I looked over and there were two fire trucks slowly, loudly, with brakes making noise, on the road next to the other side of the ring.

Well, at that moment I had a choice. This test was going downhill fast. My choice was give in to the horse and the fire trucks, or keep trying and try to make up points. I chose the latter. He finally started cantering and going around and my next choice was to go for his bold medium canter to try to make up points, or play it safe and show no change in the canter. I went for the big bold canter, alongside the fire trucks, working as hard as I could to keep him straight and bold. He did it and then working as hard as I could to prevent the swap and get him back into the collected canter he did swap and jump in the air. I got a bit angry and channeled my emotions into the challenge. I realized I had to regroup my horse and continued the thought of making up points. I got through the rest of the test but I wondered what my trainers were going to say????

Always Practice Riding to Win

I was concentrating so hard on refocusing my horse it did not

occur to me to lose my composure and quit, my response was to keep riding and trying to make up points lost to the fire trucks. This judge had no mercy for the horse being scared by the fire trucks and blamed it on me. Maybe she did not notice the fire trucks?? And, what horse, unless drugged, wouldn't freak out at fire trucks moving alongside the show ring?

With huge smiles on their faces, my trainers said, "We are so proud of you for keeping your composure and riding as hard as you could and taking the chances of going for the points, riding to win." I was really surprised. I thought I was going to get crucified --- the judge did that --LOL. My trainers saw the situation unfolding and said when my horse saw the fire trucks they might have left the ring and they are both excellent riders and competitors. Wow, did their comments make me feel good, despite my disappointment that my ride was interrupted by a fire truck parade.

I patted my horse all the way out of the ring. I was proud of him for doing the normal horse response to fear --- but hanging in there with me and not bolting or bucking but finishing the test well. After all, he is a horse. A wonderful spirit whom I love dearly, who had never seen fire trucks before.



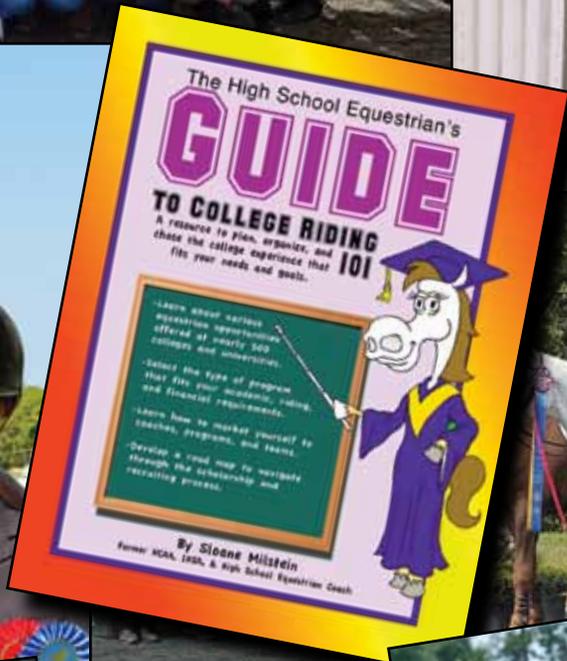
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Riding In College



USC Aiken Coach John Abbott
with members of the riding team
Photo courtesy USC Aiken



Education

John Abbott's Life as a College Riding Coach

By Jan Westmark-Allan

Hunter and jumper trainer John Abbott, the owner of the beautiful Bridlewood Farm in Aiken, South Carolina, has coached students for many years, from short stirrup kids to amateur owner hunters and jumpers. John is wearing a new “coach” hat now – a hat emblazoned with a USC Aiken logo! We caught up with the man who is the coach of the USC Aiken riding team to find out more about coaching a college riding team:

Becoming the coach of the USC Aiken team...

The original coach suggested I interview for the position. It was quite a process with about eight other applicants and after two interviews they picked me to be the USC Aiken coach!

Responsibilities of a coach...

I teach a lot of lessons to prepare for the IHSA shows. The team members have different goals, so I identify their aspirations and assist in their achievement. The rider's abilities range from no prior equestrian experience, all the way to successful junior careers on the USEF AA show circuit. Most of all, I understand college can be stressful so I try to make this an outlet for the students to get away from the campus and enjoy their time with the horses.

Working with a young team...

The USC Aiken team is only three years old! The first year was focused on the western aspect and the emphasis on hunter seat and equitation started when I took over in September 2010. Our goal is to build the team and continue with the show season as it comes up in the spring and fall.

Training at Bridlewood Farm...

I opened my farm two years ago and it's a beautiful facility with a great location, just 5 miles from downtown Aiken. I have a couple of school horses that I provide for the USC Aiken team and the team members take lessons a minimum of once a week to be able to be on the IHSA team.

The reason he likes coaching...

Mainly because it allows anyone with an interest in riding and being around horses to have a competitive experience, along with the team experience.

The shows are for the beginner to the advanced rider.

Funding a college riding team...

They have a small budget and I provide the experienced horses for them to ride and learn on. Also, the students pay for their lessons at a discounted rate, not by the school. Aiken Saddlery generously donates grain for the school horse program.

Watching his team riders grow...

No matter what their aspirations, I enjoy seeing a rider learn and grow – it's a great reward to me. One rider, who originally didn't feel that she was that talented, has developed into a fantastic rider! She has a great feel when jumping and she's brave.

If he could coach another team...

It would probably be tennis because I like wearing shorts! Seriously though, I played in high school through college and enjoyed it a lot. It keeps you in shape!



Photo of John Abbott and Ferragamos Feature. Champion 1st Year Green Working Hunter, Atlanta Fall Classic 2011

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Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio

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Mount Holyoke's Regional Championship team

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Mount Holyoke College's (MHC), Dressage Team from South Hadley, has been a force to be reckoned with for many years. Since 1997 the MHC Dressage Team has finished first in their Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) region. This year was a year of transition with a new slate of officers and many new team members. In addition, the team had a new coach, Dee Loveless, hired in September 2011. During the 2012 season every rider on the team was able to compete at least once and it was the entire Dressage Team working together that made success possible. The goal is to be National Champions 2012 and add a 5th National Championship Title to MHC's record. Visit www.mtholyoke.edu/org/dressage.

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The 411 On College Riding Teams



The SMU riding team

By Jan Westmark-Allan

A college student at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, 20 year old Alessandra Shultz is a proud member of SMU's riding team, the SMU Mustangs. She is also a business major and, because horses are in her blood, hopes to open a riding apparel company after graduation.

Alessandra journals her adventures on the riding team on the *Sidelines* website in a blog called "Pony Up!" for high school students hoping to ride on a college team and for those who want to know more about riding in college. Alessandra is the one to follow! We chatted with Alessandra to find out more about the ins and outs of riding at college. Here is what she had to tell us:

How to pick a college...

When I started the college application process, I looked exclusively at schools that had NCAA teams or reputable IHSA teams. I made a riding video and resume and sent them out to schools that I could envision myself attending. I narrowed my criteria on other important factors, like academics, location, majors, job opportunities and decided on SMU. They offered me a scholarship and I locked in to SMU in the fall of my senior year in high school.

Best part of being on a team...

It's a toss up between my friends and simply having the opportunity to continue riding. My best friends are my teammates and our common passion for riding keeps us close. I don't know what I'd do without them and the horses.

A little about college team horses...

SMU has four team horses: Conde, Landy, Slate and Olivia. They were donated to the team this school year and their addition is hugely appreciated and beneficial to our team. Conde is a large bay gelding with a goofy personality. He's a big chicken but a lot of fun to ride. Slate is an even bigger gray gelding; he's an old pro and a great draw on the flat. Olivia is our spoiled princess; she's very opinionated. She is a great draw for the fences, a hunter-type. Landy is a tall flea-bitten gray gelding who use to event, so he's brave and fast. We joke that he needs two riders: one to steer his front end and the other to steer the back. He's a bit of a wiggle-worm.

We get to ride all year...

Our season lasts the entirety of the school year. This season
54 SIDELINES JUNE 2012

we had one scrimmage against Baylor, two invitationals (where one girl is chosen to represent the team in a class held at an A-rated show for college team entrants), 12 regular season meets and nationals.

Our riding schedule includes...

To save our horses and to get everyone schooled, we ride in small groups twice a week. Two groups ride on Monday and Wednesday and two groups ride on Tuesday and Thursday. Depending on where we are in the season, the intensity and amount of practice fluctuates.

The success of a team...

We went 7-5 in our regular season this year, which ranked us fifth in the nation. This is the most successful season of SMU Equestrian to date. One of our freshman, Emma Roberts, earned All-American over fences and three team members: Julie Fischer, Renick Townsend and Jordyn Petterson, earned Academic All-American. Our team is on the up-and-up.

It's important to have goals...

The SMU Mustangs want to be ranked first in the nation and be "the team to beat"! My goal is to have a successful show season and keep everyone updated about what it's like to ride in college on my Pony Up! blog on the *Sidelines* Magazine website.

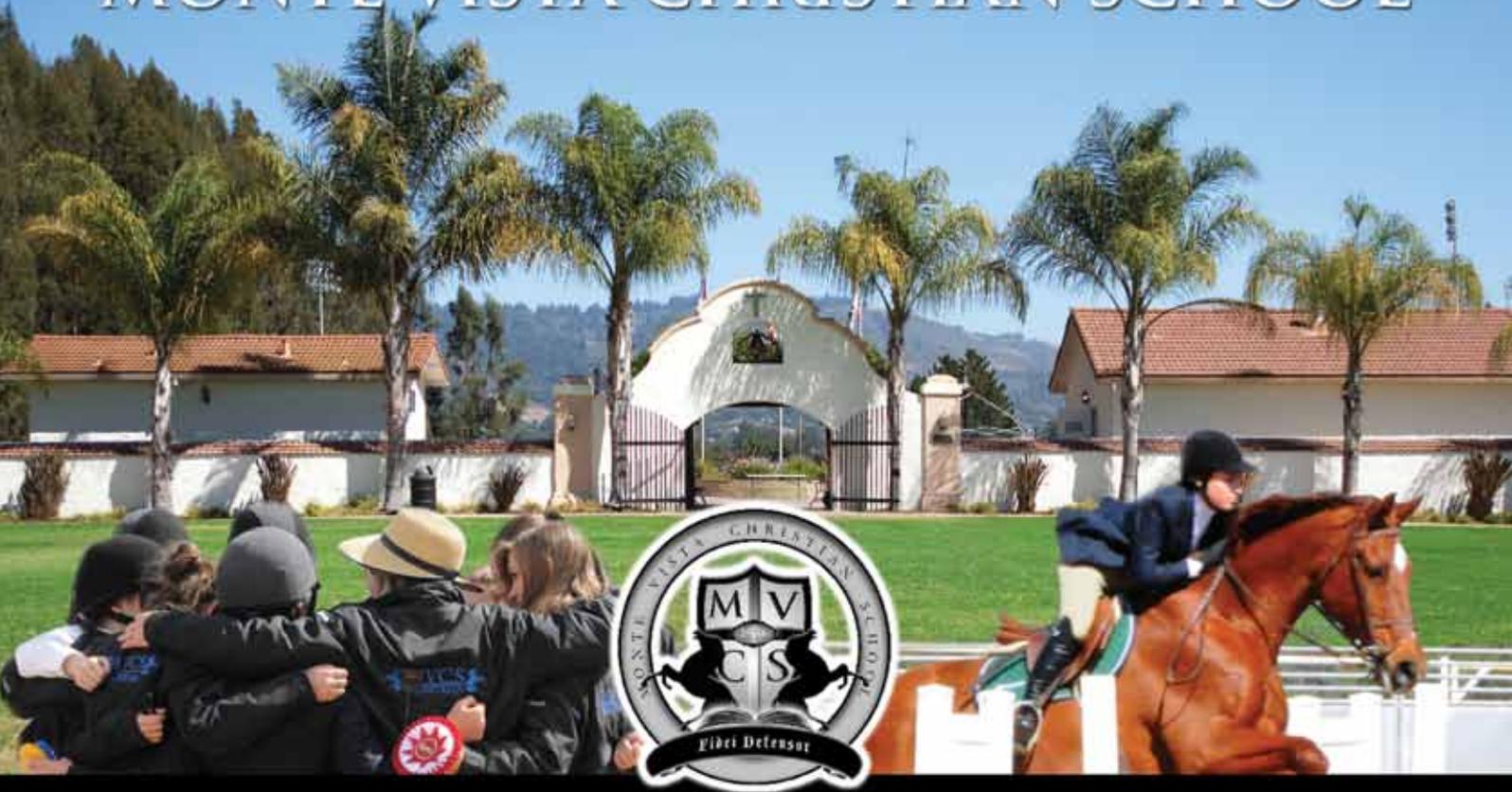
Want to learn more about college riding...

Alessandra's post "The Rules of the Game" is a great way to learn more about riding on an NCAA team. Visit her blog at www.sidelinesnews.com. Follow the link to blogs and then click on Pony Up!



Alessandra Shultz

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Walk On, Tryouts or Being Recruited... How to Ride on an Equestrian Team

By Sloane Milstein

One of the biggest questions about college riding is how a rider makes it on to an equestrian team? Does the program recruit its riders, hold a tryout or have an all inclusive participation policy? This question comes after several current college riders admitted they felt misled when they visited with the team during their initial college visit. Each of them conveyed a similar story of feeling that the school's tryout was a formality when in reality there were only a handful of spots for upwards of 75 riders trying out.

Some schools are able to take all students that want to participate because the team will raise its lesson and competition fees. Other teams are supported by an athletic or recreation department and will have a set number of members that can participate, often determined by the program's budget. If the athletic department sponsors the sport, then coaches may recruit riders, which entail a very specific process mandated by the NCAA.

No matter what method, it is important for you to be part of team. Here are a few questions you might want to ask during your college visits: How many spots will be available the year you are planning on attending? How many riders generally tryout each year? At what levels will tryouts be held? For example, if those graduating are novice level riders then it might suggest that only novice level spots will be open.

You might also find out if you don't make the team when the next opportunity to tryout will be: Next semester? Next year? Or if the program is for recruited athletes only will there be "walk ons" or individual tryout opportunities? Also, if you did not make the team it is important that you consider meeting with the coach to determine what specifically you should work on to prepare for the next tryout and find out if there is an opportunity to volunteer with the team.

Another option for those who are self-starters or who participate in a discipline that is not offered is to request to add a team or program. Some institutions have a "team" sponsored

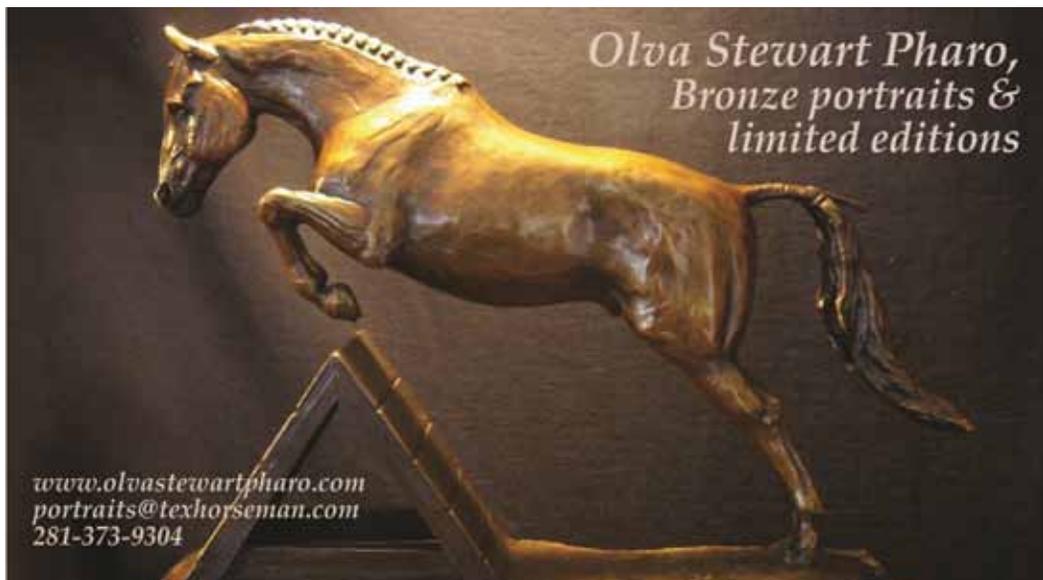


Riding on an equestrian team can add to your college experience

by the athletic department and a "club" sponsored by a recreation department. Other schools that have an existing hunt seat team might be very interested if you want to add a western, dressage, saddle seat team, etc...

If none of the above options work out for you and you still have your heart set on riding at college, ask if the school's riding facility gives lessons in the form of physical education classes or if they would suggest a local riding facility that might be able to accommodate you when you attend their school. The more questions you ask ahead of time the more likely you will have a positive equestrian experience while attending college.

About Sloane: Sloane Milstein founded College Riding 101 after completing her fourth season as an NCAA Division I, Varsity Equestrian and IHSA Coach and Assistant Athletic Director for Sacred Heart University.



Need to Raise Money? Visit the Equestrian Fundraising School

It is said that in equestrian sports, money is the ultimate hurdle to success. A new program from The Dressage Foundation addresses this need. The Equestrian Fundraising School teaches communication, presentation, marketing and financial skills to help riders succeed. This bi-annual program (sessions start in January and July) gives students both classroom and first-hand experience on these topics, while teaching the benefits of giving back to the sport and community.

Kim Jones, US Para-Equestrian Team alternate for the Alltech 2010 World Equestrian Games and Fundraising student said, "The program affirms that I have been on the right path, though I still have a long way to go and a lot to learn about the fundraising side of riding. Anyone hoping to compete on the international stage and needing funding should consider taking this course."

In order to grow their future athletes, any sport needs a well rounded curriculum of ideas and techniques supported by experienced faculty, giving real-world advice. Anne Moss, a 2012 Fundraising student and Delaware Valley Combined Training Association President says, "I have enjoyed approaching potential sponsors, which is a surprise to me, and I am surprised by the friendly and generous response to my requests. The Equestrian Fundraising School has been an excellent experience so far."

Visit www.DressageFoundation.org to learn more.

Anne Moss is learning about fundraising and sponsors

Photo courtesy of the Dressage Foundation



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Stephens College Student Vanessa Tupeker Competes on Open Circuit

By Elsie Vieira

Young and aspiring high school riders are on the lookout for positions on intercollegiate teams; but many may not know there is an alternative to competing while in college. Stephens College, based in the popular college town of Columbia, Missouri, offers a program in which students can compete on the open circuit.

Sidelines caught up with Vanessa Tupeker, a Stephens student and member of the class of 2013. A California native, Vanessa has set her sights on a career in physical therapy, with the hope for a client base composed of equestrian athletes. While at Stephens she is completing an undergrad degree in Equestrian Business and is one of the most notable riders in the hunter/jumper program.

What was your equestrian experience before attending Stephens College?

I grew up on a farm in Missouri, so I was always accustomed to horses. I competed in 4-H as well; but it was a very small group and while it was increasingly educational, I knew that I wanted something a bit different. Once I had moved to California, I bought a horse with the money I had saved up from cleaning stalls and I worked with her on groundwork and dressage basics. Essentially, I started out at Stephens with big dreams and very little experience.

How did you hear about Stephens College?

I knew that I wanted an equestrian program and while I did look into IHSA, I knew very little about it at the time. My sister attended the University of Missouri, so I already knew that I would love the town of Columbia. With that established, I knew I wanted to ride dressage and at the time Dianna Rankin was teaching so I jumped at the chance. Having done very little research, I took a bit of a gamble but it ended up being the right choice.

Why did you switch from dressage to hunter/jumpers?

Stephens offers hunters, jumpers, reining, western pleasure, saddle seat and driving. They do offer the dressage program but it differs depending on the demand from students. The best part about having these disciplines is that equine majors are required to take at least three of them, so I knew I would have to try new things. As a freshman and working student, I would fill water



Vanessa rides in the hunter/jumper program at Stephens College



Vanessa and Junior compete on the open circuit

buckets in the evening, which just so happened to be when many of the hunter/jumper classes took place. I would water the horses by the arena and watch girls of differing levels evolve in their riding from week to week.

How did your competitive career begin?

I began showing as a freshman in my spring semester at local shows in St. Louis. It was an enjoyable experience because while I was extremely anxious, I knew I was being pushed to a level that I could handle.

How does the Stephens College program advance your career?

The format of the program is set up in a way that mirrors a professional barn. We learn to ride multiple horses, however, many times when a great match is identified a student will work with a particular horse towards an end goal. In my case, the program received "Junior" in my sophomore year and since then our partnership has grown through clinics, shows and a daily schedule. My developed skill set has advanced my career and given me the chance to take Junior to Mississippi this summer, where we will compete in the A rated hunters.

Why do you think the open circuit program is not as widespread in colleges?

I believe that the reason is quite easy to pinpoint; but that the remedy is a difficult dilemma. The dilemma is lack of funding, which of course is a prominent problem among college programs today. Because the IHSA programs are comprised of teams, the expenses to show are less than that of the open circuit. Unfortunately, as individuals we have to pay for shipping, stabling and entries, which can add up to thousands of dollars for one show but Stephens does an amazing job of trying to cut expenses for its riders.

Photos by: Molly Mellinger

Complete Course for Riding in College

By Lauren R. Giannini

Sloane Milstein has more than enough credits on her resumé to give credence to *The High School Equestrian's Guide to College Riding*. She has been there and done a lot, sports-wise. In addition to hunter/jumper, eventing and sidesaddle, she has also competed as an Olympic hopeful: pistol shooting in 2008 and Modern Pentathlon (shooting, running, swimming, fencing and riding) in 2004.

At Sacred Heart University, ranked Division I, the NCAA's highest level of intercollegiate sport, Sloane served as varsity equestrian coach, Intercollegiate Horse Show Association coach and Athletic Administrator.

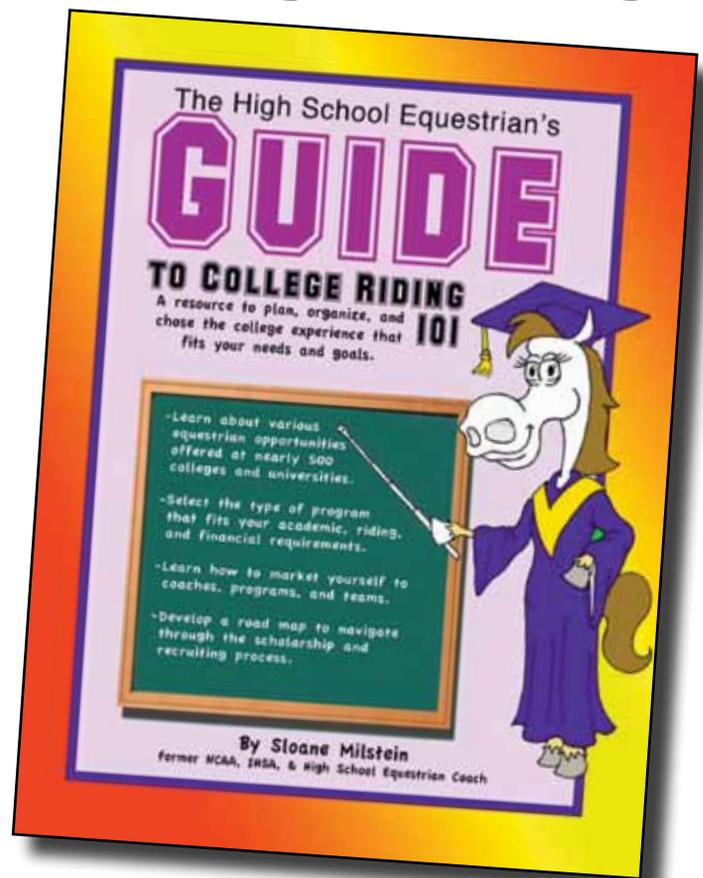
With her credentials, it's no wonder that she concocted this gem of a guide. It's quite impressive how much she manages to pack into 120 pages. In fact, Sloane offers much more than "how to ride through your bachelor degree" years. She provides a complete course in self awareness and goal setting. Worksheets provide valuable practice. One self assessment "quiz" determines if you are a competitive rider, recreational rider or fence-sitter. There's help all along the way; but you need introspection and honesty to reap the maximum benefits. *The Guide to College Riding* takes the form of well-organized information and exercises to hone your lifemanship skills and refine your research so that you can make intelligent, thoughtful choices. You learn various essential criteria to enable you to formulate sound opinions when considering a school. Information includes tips about location and campus size, extracurricular and social requirements, academic qualifications and how to find the right school that offers your preferred major.

Wait – there's more, lots more. Suppose you're looking for a school and you've never really had a chance to do much more than pleasure ride and you get the wild idea, why not find a school with a riding program? Perhaps your success in the show ring makes you wonder if you have what it takes to be recruited into an equestrian program. Or maybe you have a good mind but skimped on your studies to spend time in the saddle and you need to score well when you take SAT or ACT tests. Suppose the college application process throws you and your parents into a tizzy?

No worries: Sloane unravels the mysteries from filling out the applications to the differences between NCAA, NCEA and IHSA. She goes into great detail: what you need to do during each step of the process, alternatives for financial aid, how to interview, questions to ask and even what to avoid. *The Guide to College Riding* lives up to its name, offering an abundance of help, information, clarifying worksheets and exercises, even a list of questions to ask your school counselor. Sloane covers the gamut, including what to do while you're in high school to prepare for riding in college.

Education is the bottom line, no matter how great your passion for equestrian competition. The author herself is back in school. She stopped coaching two years ago in order to earn her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She'll do her dissertation this summer. "I'm still involved – clinics, presentations at Equine Affaire – but the reality check is one of the things I teach in my guide," stated Sloane. "When I decided to get my Ph.D., I wanted a school close enough to home so I could keep coaching; but it was too hard to juggle both and do a good job. I do individual consultations and College Riding 101 is a great way to interact with high school groups. I'm also a steward for the Interscholastic Equestrian

FOR HORSE PEOPLE • ABOUT HORSE PEOPLE



Association. I plan to teach Sports Management and Equestrian Management, and I'm looking forward to getting back into the classroom." *The Guide to College Riding* is a great resource and while reading it cover to cover is a terrific idea, you can pick and choose what will help you best to achieve your dream college/riding experience.

To obtain your copy of *The High School Equestrian's Guide to College Riding*, please visit: www.collegeriding101.com. You can preview the book by downloading the first chapter for free. Bonuses include a listing of all colleges and universities with websites and the type of program/team offered and a glossary of terms pertinent to the entire college application process.

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Kelse Bonham – The Other Side of the College Fence

By Lauren R. Giannini

Kelse Bonham grew up living the life that most horse-crazy kids dream about: hitting the road two to three weeks every month to show. The Bonhams have a long history in the horse world: her father Michael was a fourth generation horse trainer and her mother Heather (née Herring), rode with Denny Emerson, US Eventing Hall-of-Famer. Horses romped all over the family tree and a foxhunting grandmother introduced the young rider to the chase.

Early Leap Into Showing

Kelse's equestrian career began precociously: she was jumping before she started kindergarten. Her parents had a hunter/jumper and eventing farm, Scotch Wheat Stables, about 30 minutes from St. Louis, Missouri. When she was 10, they decided to move to northern Oklahoma. One reason was the need for a school district that would better understand about Kelse and her younger brother Chester being on the road so much to show. "I rode ponies until I was 15 – I'm very short – and we had six or seven at a time," explained Kelse. "Occasionally, we'd get in a horse. When I was 11, my grandfather bought me a children's jumper. I had him until I was 16. I really fell in love with the jumpers. They make sense to me. I enjoy equitation and hunters; but I always feel I have to put on a show, like a figure skater going in the ring. With the jumpers you go in and ride instinctually and I think the horses enjoy it, too."

Riding On The SCAD Team

Enjoyment seems to be a new bottom line for Kelse. Her priorities about horses, life and showing shifted when she arrived at Savannah College of Art & Design for her freshman year. She majored in Equestrian Studies with a minor in business, earning a 3.7 grade point average and riding on the team. During her four years there, Kelse has racked up an impressive list of collegiate titles, including IHSA 2010 Cacchione Cup Reserve Champion.

"Our school is relatively young in IHSA – I think SCAD has only been doing it for 20 years or so," said Kelse. "Last year was our first time of making it as a team to the Finals and we won the team jumping. To qualify you have to win your region and be first or second in your zone. We finished fourth as a team and we were really happy with that."

SCAD, coached by Ashley Kelly, earned their fifth consecutive for a total of eight American National Riding Commission (ANRC) team titles. Kelse scored her fourth individual national championship at Centenary College, in New Jersey, April 20-23.

Before SCAD, Kelse won the 2008 Pessoa/USEF Medal Final. She has been a working student with North Run Stables in Vermont and with Todd Minikus in Florida, in addition to the years she rode for her parents in the family business. She won two Grand Prix, the 2005 \$25,000 Tunica and the 2006 \$30,000 American Royal.

More Education

With graduation looming, Kelse faces some important choices. She thinks that going professional for a year or two will give



Armani and Kelse Bonham, undefeated ANRC individual national champion, Savannah College of Art and Design

her a chance to catch her breath and put money toward more education. "I want to go back to school and get my MBA," stated Kelse. "I want something to fall back on if I end up riding as an amateur. I also love to teach. I enjoy it and it energizes me."

Growing up in the business and learning every aspect from grooming to dealing with clients, teaching and training has been a hands on education, not available in any institute of higher learning. Kelse will be the first to tell you that for a long time, showing was all she knew – until she went to college.

"My whole outlook on riding has changed. I've matured into a more laid-back, home-loving person," admitted Kelse. "I used to want to be on the road all the time. In the last couple of years of school I've taken a breather and gone only to a handful of shows." Keeping her marks up, enjoying riding and lessons factor into Kelse's new outlook on riding and life in general.

"I enjoy training and not having to worry about the next show," she said. "I actually don't have big riding goals right now – I used to have them; but I'm very content and happy riding and competing for the fun of it. I don't like to push my horses hard. I want them to have fun, too. Part of the reason why I'm drawn more to jumpers is the standards expected in hunters and equitation. It's unfair to the horses if they play on the landing side of the jump and they're penalized for being horses. In the jumpers, horses can be themselves a little bit more."

Riding Into The Future

Success has not turned her head. There's a lot to be said



in favor of how Kelse tweaked her long range goals from jumper driven dreams of equestrian glory representing the USA to the prospect of enjoying horses. "In an ideal and perfect world I would love to have my own training and sales business. I would love to pick out young horses with potential – that's where I really find enjoyment," admitted Kelse. "I would love to have three or four horses at a time and sell them as seven or eight year olds. Jumpers are my passion, especially taking young horses up to the Amateur Owner jumper division. I'd love to get a job riding, working my way up to assistant trainer. I want to get my MBA. I also think that if I had the money, I would love to stay an amateur." The bottom line, however, leaves the stable door wide open. "My goal is to have a comfortable life and enjoy my horses," affirmed Kelse, "but if I have a once in a lifetime jumper that could do it..."

Photos by Dennis Burnett/SCAD

Kelse Bonham shows her form over fences en route to her third consecutive ANRC individual national title at last year's finals hosted by SCAD

Hunter/Jumper 🐎 Polo 🐎 Dressage 🐎 Eventing

Wanna make the headlines in Sidelines?

Fill out the questionnaire below and send it to
editor@sidelinesnews.com

SIDELINES

PONY KIDS

Name: Sierra Myshon Cavien
Hometown: Guilford, Surrey GB
Age: 12
Hobbies: Reading, Jazz and Theatre (Dance, Jazz)
Owners: Jack, Robert, Nick, Edward, Lisa, Lisa and Greg Bracken
Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite? Why?
What pony would you like to ride? How do you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
What was the high point in your riding career? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
What was the low point? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
Who are your Equestrian Idols? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
Other than riding, what do you do? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
What are your plans for the future? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
Thanks! We'll be in the news!

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRACKENS



SIDELINES JR

PONY KIDS

Name: Grace Howard
Hometown: Crossland, MO
Age: 12
Hobbies: Reading, Jazz and Theatre (Dance, Jazz)
Owners: Robert, Robert & Grace Howard
Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite? Why?
What pony would you like to ride? How do you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
What was the high point in your riding career? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
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What are your plans for the future? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding? How did you get into riding?
Thanks! We'll be in the news!

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRACKENS



Name: _____

Hometown: _____

Age: _____

Ponies: _____

Trainer(s): _____

Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite?

What pony would you like to ride?

How did you get into riding?

What is your favorite horse show?

What was the high point in your riding career?

What was the low point?

Who are your Equestrian Idols?

Other than riding, what do you do?

What are your plans for the future?

Be sure to include a photo (scanned or taken with a digital camera) that has a minimum resolution of 200dpi and let us know who took the picture. If there was a story behind the event in the photo, we encourage you to include that as well.



Does Size Matter? Does a Small School Mean a Small Team?

By Sloane Milstein

One only needs to browse the Internet to learn about the academic advantages and disadvantages of different school sizes. For instance small schools have smaller classes, often a stronger curriculum, more personalized attention in the classroom and during advising, increased participation in institution programs and a more family friendly community feeling. Larger schools often have more diversity when it comes to courses, majors, extracurricular activities, student population, sports funding, library resources and housing options. Schools range from fewer than 1,000 to over 35,000 students, so when it comes to your academic choice of schools, your personality and goals will help you decide how much size matters.

When it comes to considering your equestrian team experience, many of the same principles apply. But don't be surprised if you find that a small institution has a large team or that a large institution has a small team. Smaller equestrian teams tend to have more of a family feeling and often spend time outside of the barn and team practices socializing and studying together. Often more experienced members will work with newer riders to bring them along. On a smaller team there tends to be one instructor or coach so you as the student-athlete-rider will not only have access to the that person for instruction but that person will likely be available to advise and guide through the college process.

Smaller teams have a variety of disadvantages as well. For instance, if there is only one coach that person may be stretched very thin. The team coach might be a riding instructor at a local barn where the team has chosen to take its lessons from, and that person may only be obligated to work with the team during scheduled ride times. Competition management, scheduling, recruitment and fundraising may become the sole responsibility of the team.

When these responsibilities fall on the team, this is where being on a large team might have its advantages. From barn chores to event management, larger teams are able to spread the responsibilities. Larger teams often have more than one coach, which allows for specialization in regards to discipline or specific talents. Costs associated with the team will depend on which institution department sponsors or assists with the team. Therefore if fundraising is part of team responsibilities having a larger team will be beneficial in selling raffles, holding events, creating newsletters or simply gaining support from the larger community.

Larger teams come with their disadvantages as well. Larger teams generally equate to large expenses and the team may be responsible to cover the costs. While specialization or multiple disciplines might be offered teams can be competitive within themselves. On a larger team you are likely to see a first string and second string or riders, which could equate in the amount of time in the saddle and potential scholarship opportunities.

After determining which school is a good academic fit for you then consider the following questions to see if the equestrian team is the right fit as well:



Sloane Milstein encourages students to consider their options when choosing a school

- How many riders are on the roster? Are their backgrounds similar to yours?
- How well does the team get along? Do riders generally quit the team after the first season or stay on all four years?
- How many lessons and or hacks will you be able to participate in each week?
- Does the team participate in barn chores, teaching responsibilities, group activities, study sessions or workouts?
- Does the team have fundraising obligations?
- What equipment does the team provide for the riders? Or what will you be expected to bring to the team?
- Will being on the team allow for participation in other activities (sorority, clubs, and events on campus)?
- What do current members like most and the least about the program?
- Are there any team rules or policies that you should be aware of, what is mandatory, what is optional?

One last thought when it comes to size. Don't assume you know which size school or which size team you will like. If for no other reason to confirm your choices make sure to consider all options.



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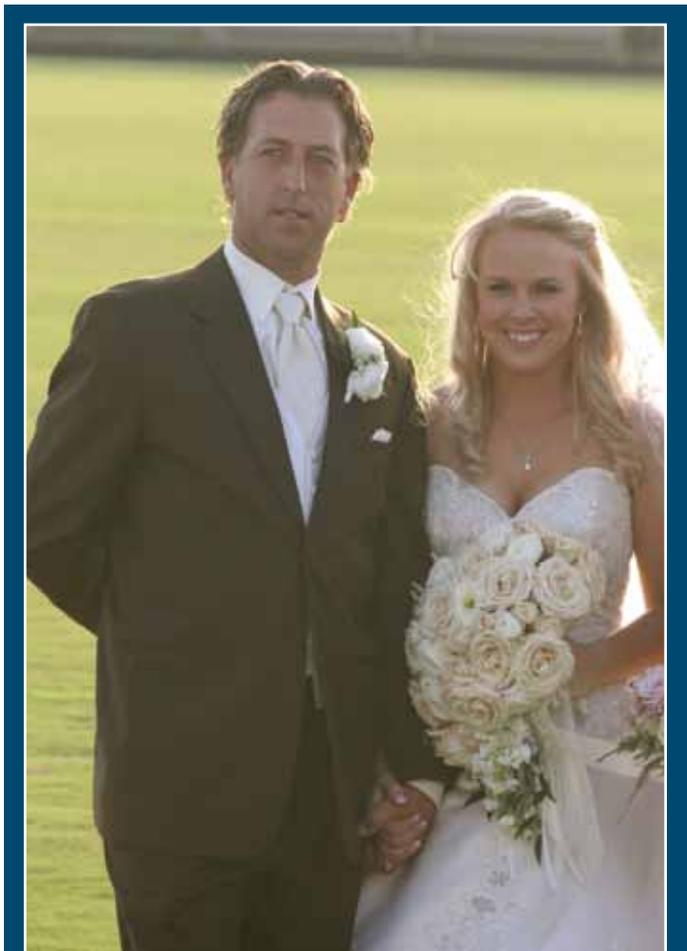
Brandi Roenick has leased **Bruce and Jen Hlavacek's** Pan American Games gold medal winner Weltino's Magic this season. Roenick, 17, won three gold medals at the North American Junior And Young Rider Championships. She has been living and training with Steffen and Shannon Peters for a year and a half.

Congratulations to **Courtney King Dye!** She found the perfect horse for her bid as a Para competitor at the Games in London. And "hats off" to **Jane Clark** who purchased the horse for Courtney. It is a win-win for everyone and a new discipline for Jane Clark.

Congratulations to **David Marcus** and Chrevi's Capital who led the Canadians in a sweep of the top three places in the FEI Intermediare 1 at the WEF Wellington Dressage Nations Cup CDIO-3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm at the Global Dressage Festival (GDF) Stadium show grounds in Wellington.

Congrats to the Nation's Cup Gold Medal Team comprised of **Chris Hickey, Caroline Roffman, Shelley Francias** and **Devon Kane**. This foursome made history beating out Team Europe to win the first US Nations Cup competition.

Global Dressage Festival was the place to "see and be seen" this season. The facility was up and running in three short months and has become the dressage hot spot. Spotted at the



Werner Van den Brande and Mary Cameron Rollins

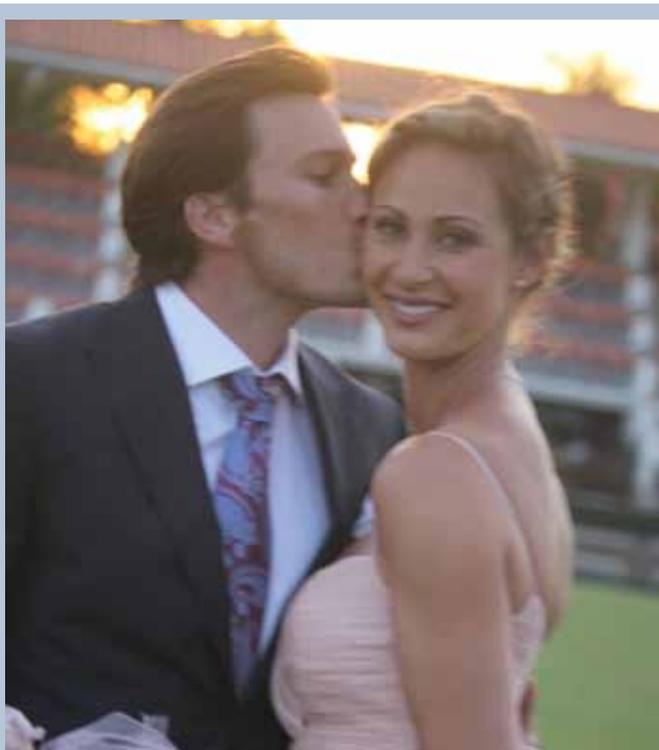
Wedding Bells rang for dressage's newest couple, **Mary Cameron Rollins** and **Werner Van den Brande** who were married this month at International Polo Club. The wedding was a who's who of the entire dressage community and one of the most beautiful weddings just shy of the royal wedding!

show grounds - **Lily and Alex Zilo** with dressage rider and trainer **Endel Ots**.

Tami Hoag is one busy murder mystery writer who just happens to be a talented dressage rider in her spare time. Her recent book, *Down the Darkest Road*, made it on to the *New York Times* Best Sellers list and she is winning on two of her horses, Lonestar and Baachus, in the I-2 and Grand Prix this season.

The premier dressage boutique, **Sho Clothes** has changed its name to **ShowChic** to reflect the fashion and style the boutique is famous for even outside the sandbox! ShowChic kicked off their new name by implementing an Emerging Rider Mentorship program with three super stars including the recently married **Mary Cameron Rollins, Rebecca Cohen** and **Lauren Knopp**.

Condolences to **Carol and Rebecca Cohen**, of Two Swan Farms, on the loss of two of their dogs. Lucky Heart, a German Shepherd they found along the road 10 years ago and Barkley, a sweet Golden Retriever, have passed on to doggie heaven. They will be missed around the farm. To alleviate their loss, the mother daughter pair has been keeping very busy. Rebecca has been unstoppable in the Young Riders with her horse Downtown, aka Daddy.



Caroline Roffman and Travis Laas

Nation's Cup Gold Medalist, **Caroline Roffman** and Palm Beach Equine Vet, **Travis Laas**, celebrated Caroline's win with a trip to Peter Island in the Caribbean. But when they arrived on the beautiful island, Travis had something up his sleeve... a beautiful engagement ring that Travis designed and **Jack Van Dell** made! He popped the question and Caroline, a big fan of engagement - said yes to a whole new kind of engagement! No wedding date yet but we will keep you posted.

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Rolex Kentucky – An American Four-Star Triumph

William Fox-Pitt won his second Rolex, this time with Parklane Hawk, the horse he piloted to first place at Burghley last fall. His visit to Rolex Kentucky harvested the winner's check of \$80,000, along with incredible trophies and loot, including the signature Rolex watch. The brilliantly bred Parklane Hawk wasn't much good on the racetrack; but is turning into one of those Off The Track Thoroughbred ambassadors for ex-racehorses.

By Lauren R. Giannini

Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, presented by Bridgestone, means superb horses, world class riders and a great cross-country sandwiched between dressage and show jumping. This year, the 15th Rolex/USEF CCI**** Championships at Kentucky Horse Park, April 25-29, served as a major stepping stone for American riders hoping to make the US team for the London Olympics later this summer.

The fact that it was won by previous Rolex champion William Fox-Pitt (GBR) riding Parklane Hawk, his partner for last fall's win at the Burghley CCI****, takes nothing away from the American riders who proved themselves and their horses. Allison Springer and Arthur finished in second place overall, thereby earning the USEF National Four-Star Championship as well as Best Conditioned Horse. Boyd Martin piloted Otis Barbotiere to third place with Karen O'Connor and Mr. Medicott in fourth, followed by Twizzel and Will Coleman.

Derek di Grazia's cross-country course raised the stakes and earned praise from the riders who found their precision and concentration put to the test.

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"It's a great course," said Phillip Dutton, who finished 10th on Mighty Nice, owned by Bruce Duchossois, and 12th on Fernhill Eagle, owned by Team Rebecca LLC. "I have nothing but praise for what Derek has done here. He hasn't done anything tricky. He's just built big jumps that we have to jump. He's really stamped this as a challenging four-star course."

The show jumping course designed by Richard Jeffery (GBR) also demanded concentration and precision. The flat cups don't allow much of a 'touch' and Fox-Pitt called it "a serious show jumping track" – only five recorded fault-free rounds of the 27 horse and rider combinations that jumped on Sunday.

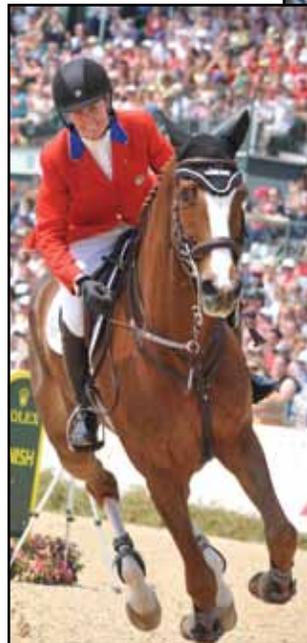
Rolex Kentucky is one of the greatest shows on earth. In addition to the eventing action, the Ariat Kentucky Reining Cup and Freestyle gave horse sports fans two evenings of action in the Alltech Arena. Nearly 47,000 attended, some shopped 'til they nearly dropped, the US Pony Club Games held court in the Walnut Ring and lines were uber-long for autograph sessions and book signings.

For more complete results and more information: rk3de.org

Photos By Lauren R Giannini, except where noted otherwise

FOR HORSE PEOPLE • ABOUT HORSE PEOPLE

Will Coleman and Twizzel, fifth, found themselves in an elite club after Rolex Kentucky: they were one of only three horse-rider combinations to finish on their dressage score. This means two double clears, no time penalties, cross-country and show jumping – pretty impressive anytime, but really significant in an Olympic year.



Karen O'Connor and Mr. Medicott finished in fourth place after a clear show jumping round. The Olympic veteran couldn't have been more pleased with her Rolex experience – for the first time in her 35 years of eventing she won "Best Dressed" for the first jog, a pair of Dubarry boots – even though a dunk in the HSBC Water Park on the cross-country eliminated her and Victoria early on Saturday morning. She called Mr. Medicott "a fabulous horse – the word I use to describe this horse is wise. He's very wise." Talented and athletic and possibly London-bound – that describes both the horse and the rider.

Allison Springer and Arthur finished second and as the highest placed American rider, earned \$37,000 in prize money, plus the Rolex USEF National four-star championship and an 18 month free lease of a Range Rover HSE courtesy of Land Rover North America. Allison's hard work, faith in her horse and intrepid determination has turned the page. She's incredibly pleased with her horse and said, "I knew what I had to do, and I did it. It's great to feel that way after all three days."

Boyd Martin and Otis Barbotiere placed third overall, finishing on their dressage score in the horse's four-star debut and garnered the reserve tri-color in the Rolex USEF National Four-Star championship. Boyd also finished eighth on Remington XXV. Factor in HOTY Neville Bardos and four-star veteran Ying Yang Yo and Boyd has an equine 'bench' with depth, to say the least, when it comes to the competitions factored into the US team selection process in the run-up to the Olympics.





Doug Payne, one of the Rolex Featured Riders, partnered with Patti Springsteen's Running Order in a dual (horse and rider) debut at the four-star level. 15th after dressage, they had a costly run-out on the cross-country and two rails show jumping, but still finished in the ribbons, 18th, and in the money. Doug also won the Dubarry Style Award for "best dressed" – his prize: a pair of the bling boots.



Let the games begin! United States Pony Clubs put on their traditional Prince Phillip Mounted Games during Rolex. Here's the winning team enjoying their victory gallop in the Rolex Arena before the start of the show jumping finale.

Marilyn Little-Meredith, the show jumper turned upper level eventer, made her four-star debut at Rolex. She started two horses, but withdrew RF Rovano Rex after jumping clear cross-country. Marilyn finished ninth on RF Demeter (shown), a mare who is "really fast and totally brave."

Photo by Elisabeth Harpham

Phillip Dutton finished 10th with Mighty Nice in the horse's first four-star, "This is some horse! He's only eight and I didn't take it lightly bringing him here. I was prepared to take the long ways in a few places; but he seemed to just get better and better as we went." They navigated the cross-country clean within the time, had two rails in show jumping – a good outing, all things considered.

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Olympic veteran Andrew Nicholson (NZL) and Qwanza jumped two double clear rounds to finish on their dressage score of 55.8: they moved from 24th after dressage to fifth after cross-country to seventh place after show jumping.



Shawn Florida, 2010 Alltech World Equestrian Games gold medalist and Wimps Chocolate Chip scored a decisive victory in the CRI*** at the Ariat Kentucky Reining Cup. "I just had a lot of fun [tonight]," said Shawn.

Photo by Beth J. Cole

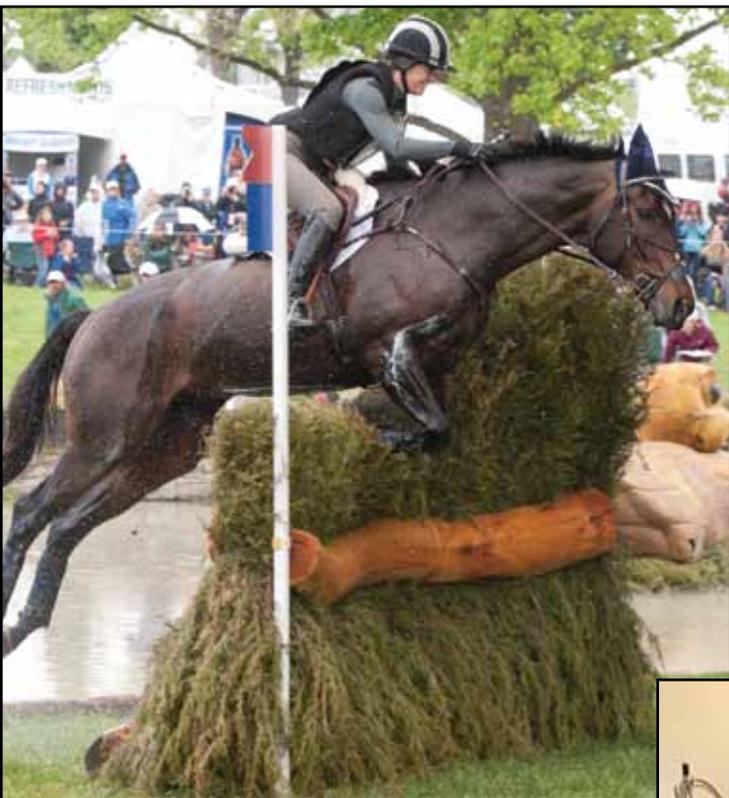


Rolex sponsored course walk ride took some lucky journalists out on "ponies" used for trail rides at the Kentucky Horse Park. Guess who was their course-ride tour guide? None other than David O'Connor, USEF president and incoming US chef d'Equipe, who certainly appeared to be enjoying himself, cruising around the hallowed grounds of the Rolex four-star cross-country.



Erin Sylvester and No Boundaries tackled their first four-star and ran cross-country clean and clear, picking up only four jump penalties. They stood 48th after dressage, moved up to 15th after a brilliant cross-country and finished 13th overall, taking home a rosette and a check for \$2,500.

Photo by Elisabeth Harpham



Three 2012 Rolex Kentucky riders visited patients at Kentucky Children's Hospital: Michael Pollard, Buck Davidson and Clark Montgomery. They took posters, hats and pins. "It was a very moving experience," said Buck, who, along with Pollard, won team gold at the 2011 Pan American Games. "Seeing these children reminded all of us just how fortunate we are. It really was a privilege to be able to spend some time with them."

Photo Courtesy of Classic Communications



Gamma Mu Wins Third Annual International Gay Polo Tournament

A record crowd of nearly 3,000 fans watched the third annual International Gay Polo Tournament at the Grand Champions Polo Club in Wellington, where Gay Polo League president and founder Chip McKenney lead Gamma Mu to a thrilling come from behind 6-5 victory over Polo Gear/Palm Beach Rox in the championship final. With three seconds remaining, Gamma Mu team captain Juan Bollini took a short pass from Jack Hoffman and tapped in the winning goal. Bollini led his team with three goals, McKenney

scored two goals, Christine Vermes finished with one goal and Hoffman came up with some outstanding defensive plays. Wellington's first family of polo, Marc and Melissa Ganzi served as honorary chairs and their Grand Champions Polo Club was presenting sponsor and supplied the polo ponies, tack and grooms.

All Photos by Alan Fabricant



Gamma Mu champions Chip McKenney, Juan Bollini, Christine Vermes and Jack Hoffman



MVP Talbot Logan of Polo Gear Palm Beach Rox, Juan Bollini and Jack Hoffman of Gamma Mu



Chip McKenney scores a penalty shot
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Most Improved Player, Dwight Tran of Polo Gear, along with Melissa Ganzi, Juan Bollini and Jean-Marc Herrouin



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Katie Dinan Wins Maxine Beard Award

By Rebecca Walton

Eighteen year old Katie Dinan, of New York, took the 2012 Winter Equestrian Festival circuit by storm, landing the money ride after ride. She was also victorious in the \$50,000 Horsecare Ireland CSI 2 Grand Prix and successfully competed in the 2012 U.S. Show Jumping Selection Trials with Nougat Du Vallet. With so much talk of the rising talent in the United States, Katie is certainly proving that she will be at the top of the sport in no time at all. It was no surprise during this year's \$200,000 Gene Mische American Invitational to see Katie chosen by the United States Equestrian Team Foundation as the winner of the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Rider Award. The selection was based on Katie's competitive record and future potential to represent the United States in international competition. The award provided Katie with the amazing opportunity to travel with the U.S. delegation to the 2012 FEI World Cup Finals in 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands.*

How does it feel to win the 2012 Maxine Beard Award?

I feel very honored to be the 2012 recipient of the Maxine Beard Award. Representing the United States in international competition is a dream of mine and it is thrilling to receive such a distinction from the USET.

You've had so many great wins, which one meant the most to you personally?

Winning the individual gold medal at Young Riders meant a lot to me personally. Medaling at Young Riders was one of my main goals in 2011. The competition tested my consistency and ability to ride under pressure, two things I have been working to improve. It was so rewarding to accomplish these goals and it was a defining moment for me and Vancouver as a team. Also, winning the Horsecare Ireland Grand Prix at WEF 3 this year on Nougat du Vallet was a huge turning point. It was my first major victory among international competitors and gave me a lot of confidence going forward.

McLain Ward is one of the top riders in the world, what is biggest thing that you have learned from him?

McLain has taught me an innumerable amount over the last year. One major element he emphasizes is the importance of fundamentals, whether it is basic exercises through gymnastics for the horses at home, or working on the basics of my riding and position. I have learned that the core fundamentals become more important as one progresses to higher levels of the sport and that it is very important not to lose sight of this. Another major thing I have learned is how to deal with the mental element of the sport. There will always be ups and downs and it is necessary to believe in what you are doing, learn from, but not dwell on past mistakes, and just focus on your overall progress.

You will be starting college in the fall, how will you juggle school and riding?

I will be a freshman at Harvard University this fall. I am in the middle of a "gap year" right now, which I have used to solely focus on riding and competing. I think that I will focus on school this fall, showing at a few of the year-end indoors and hope to work my schedule so that I will be able to go back and forth and compete at enough weekends of WEF next year.



Katie at the Winter Equestrian Festival

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhelpsSports.com

What is some advice you would give to young riders starting to come up through the ranks?

First, practice as much as you can. There is no substitute for time in the saddle. I flat without stirrups everyday and take my lessons really seriously. Second, you can learn a lot from watching professionals ride. When I am not competing, I try to walk the courses of grand prix classes before watching to give myself a better understanding of the course. It is particularly helpful if you can watch horses that go like yours and see how they tackle the hard parts of the course. Third, I have learned that no matter how hard you work, there are going to be frustrating days and that this is a sport of ups and downs. It is important to try to maintain perspective and keep looking forward. Lastly, remember that this is a team sport because behind every horse and rider in the ring is a team of people who help get you there. There is so much to be learned from the team at the barn and it is so important to be thankful for all their hard work.

Top Five Reasons to Attend the Vermont Summer Festival

The Vermont Summer Festival returns to East Dorset, Vermont, for six consecutive weeks of competition running July 4 through August 12, 2012. New this year, the weekly Grand Prix events move to Saturday each week, with the \$50,000 Vermont Summer Celebration Grand Prix held Saturday, August 11. The weekly \$10,000 Open Welcome Stake, Presented by Manchester Designer Outlets, now moves to Thursday.

The top five reasons to attend this year are:

1. Offering more than \$750,000 in prize money, the Vermont Summer Festival is the richest sporting event based on purse in the state of Vermont.
2. Shopping, shopping and more shopping! From Ralph Lauren and Banana Republic to Coach and Jockey (hey, we all need underwear!); your credit card will be put to the test!
3. Endless fun after the horse show is over. Swimming at the quarry, zip lining at Bromley Mountain Thrill Zone, ice skating at Riley Rink – there's something to keep everyone entertained!
4. The new weekly \$5,000 3'3" Hunter Derby each Thursday, culminating in Week Six's \$15,000 Hunter Derby, sponsored by Vermont-based equestrian luggage manufacturer, Oughton Limited.
5. The exhibitor parties! Each Wednesday, competition organizers John and Dotty Ammerman invite exhibitors to join them at various local venues, each hand selected to showcase the historical and scenic rural region surrounding the Vermont Summer Festival.

For more information about the Vermont Summer Festival, please visit www.vt-summerfestival.com

All photos by David Mullinix



Darragh Kenny and Bazooka de Muze won the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix at last year's Vermont Summer Festival



Competitors lined up to compete at the picturesque Vermont Summer Festival



The Bromley Mountain Thrill Zone hosts one of the famous Vermont Summer Festival Exhibitor Parties

Rebecca Cohen -- Wellington, Florida

Sixteen year old dressage rider Rebecca Cohen competes a 17.2 hand Westphalian gelding named Downtown and they recently earned a 70% in the FEI Junior Individual Test – a very respectable score. Rebecca hopes to become a lawyer and believes she will be a good one thanks to her excellent negotiating skills. “I practice them on my mother!” she said.

Top songs on your iPod...

Pumped Up Kicks by Foster The People; Levels by Avicii; Electric Feel by MGMT; Paradise by Coldplay and This Love, which is the canter music for my freestyle, by Maroon 5.

Favorite Movies...

The Hunger Games, any Harry Potter movies and Easy A.

On winning the Team Bronze at the NAJYRC...

It felt great! After I rode I knew our team was in fourth with one last rider and I was so nervous. I walked and listened to music until our last rider went in and got the score we needed for Bronze. I couldn't believe it at first!

If you could have dinner with anyone it would be...

My dad. He died in 2004 and I miss him so much. I'd love that.

Best animal friend (other than a horse!) is...

My mini dachshund named Tulip. She was my dad's dog so she's very special to me.

Side item to order in a restaurant...

I really like ordering soup for a side.

Heroes in my life...

My mom because she supports me so much and I am so grateful. My trainers, Ilse Schwarz and Robert Dover. Also my two best friends Alexa and Lauren. They really understand how important riding is to me and are always there when I need a friend.



Rebecca and Downtown
Photo by Susan Stickle

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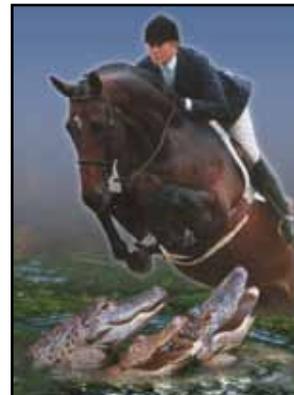
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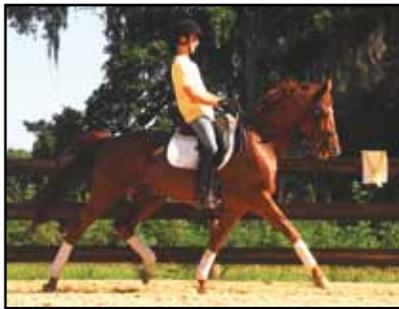
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Connor Husain – Rising Eventing Star

By Lauren R. Giannini

Connor Husain, 18, hopes to qualify for the eventing two-star at the North American Junior & Young Rider Championships this July at Kentucky Horse Park. Last fall, he bought Piece of Hope, nicknamed “Bruno” around the barn, who offered athletic talent and valuable overseas experience in the European Young Rider Championships and had just won the Breda CIC*** (BEL). The new partnership launched with great success, getting acquainted at Training and moving up through the levels. At the end of March, Bruno and Connor won Open Intermediate in a field of 21 at Morven Park (VA). Connor is a working student with Skyeler Icke Voss, head trainer of Angelica Run Eventing and a three-time NAYRC medalist.

How did you get into eventing?

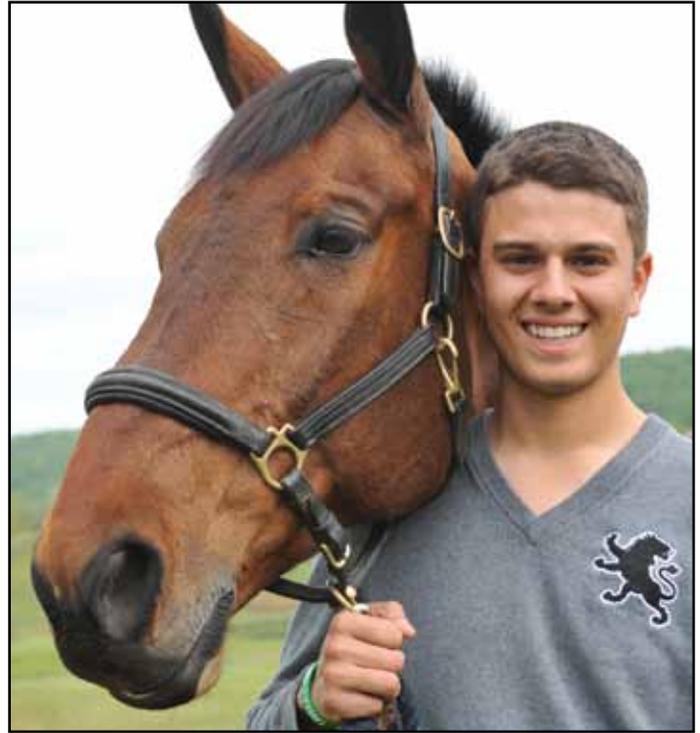
I always liked unique sports and when I was seven, I was bored with normal sports. We lived in Great Falls (VA) and I wanted to try riding. I got my first lesson from a family friend, Leslie Frederick, and that’s all she wrote. With horses, there is always something to learn, always something different.

When did you start working with Skyeler Icke Voss?

I was about 14 and in a rut in my training. My dressage had to be the worst you’ve ever seen. I went to Skyeler and her dressage trainer Sallie Spenard and a few months later moved into Angelic Run Farm (Vienna, VA). The horse I had we sent back, he had some issues, and I ended up with Folk Lore – “Story” – from Allison Springer. I couldn’t ride well at all and I went to boot camp with Story. He taught me the real basics of riding: I went from Novice to one-star, from a 45 to a 26 in dressage. Skyeler put so much effort into training me. I wouldn’t be where I am today without her. Skyeler taught me how to be a good horseman, about taking care of the horses as well as the riding.

What is it like to have parents who purchased Morningside Training Farm, a dream facility, and installed Skyeler as the head trainer?

I feel like I’m the luckiest kid in the world. I can’t take it for granted. You can have all the money and horses; but if you don’t put the time into it, you can’t be successful. My parents aren’t horse people; but they’ve seen my passion and have been so supportive of me over the years and especially the past three years when I’ve ridden with Skyeler. One of the most important



Connor Husain and “Bruno” (Piece of Hope)

Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

things I learned is – listen to your trainer! When I wanted to move up early, Skyeler said no. She was right, and we won our first time out at Prelim and Intermediate.

Is it true that you home schooled before George Mason?

Actually, I did my senior year of high school online because I was a full-time working student with Skyeler and competing a lot more, aiming at Young Riders with Folk Lore. I didn’t like it in a standard high school situation. I did better on my own. With online schooling, you could do it when you want to: you could wait until the end of the quarter or pace yourself. I paced myself. I’d be at the barn until seven o’clock some days and then go home and study. I think that online schooling is a great option, especially when you’re at the upper level in a sport. In one of my classes, one girl in Colorado was an Olympic gymnast. It’s also important to interact with a lot of people and I had the best of both worlds – I had already gone to traditional school for 11 years and I was interacting with the people at Angelica Run. That’s the year that my riding really came on. Skyeler gets all her horses off the track and trains them up through the levels. I rode all of Skyeler’s OTTBs that year. I learned stickability and finesse.

What about your goals and your new ride?

Once I got into horses, it’s all I’ve ever wanted to do. I’m very one-track minded and I think about them all the time. Young Riders is a steppingstone. I hope to get on a Pan Am team and the Olympics would be a dream come true! Last fall we bought Bruno from Christoffer Forsberg (GER) and I really hope he will be my Advanced horse after Young Riders this summer. He’s 13 and had done a three-star a few weeks before we bought him. I love him to death. He’s easy to deal with. He lays down in the stall and I can sit with him. He’s amazing.

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Pony Kids

Name: Micaela Batto

Hometown: Sagaponack, New York

Age: 7

Ponies: Longacre Red Rhapsody (Blue) and Raisin Toast (Princess)

Trainer: Raquel Batto at Wolffer Estate Stables

Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite? Longacre Red Rhapsody

What pony/horse would you like to ride?

My mom's horse Calandria

How did you get into riding? My mom is a trainer and we love horses and ponies. The first time I got on a pony I was six months old.

What is your favorite horse show? The Hampton Classic

What was the high point in your riding career?

My high point was a 4th place at short stirrups over fences at the Hampton classic 2011. It was my first big show of my life and my first course of eight fences

What was the low point? At the Winners Circle Horse Show I was having a perfect round but at the last jump I chipped and popped off my pony.

Who are your Equestrian Idols? Eric Lamaze and Claudia

Fino, my best friend

Other than riding, what do you do? Gymnastics and jumping on a trampoline



Micaela Batto loves ponies

Photo by Claudia Fino

What are your plans for the future? To work hard to become a professional rider and a veterinarian

Name: Lucy Deskins

Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky

Age: 2.5

Ponies: Red Hot Chili Pepper

Trainers: Liz Barcomb

Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite? Red Hot Chili Pepper, but it's a close second to my stuffed rocking horse!

What pony would you like to ride? My mom's big Dutch Warmblood Burnie

How did you get into riding? My mom and my Aunt Liz

What is your favorite horse show? My first leadline will be at the Kentucky Horse Park in the spring

What was the high point in your riding career? It has just started so every day is new for me

What was the low point? The days I have to practice at home on my stuffed horse because it's raining out

Who are your Equestrian Idols? My mom

Other than riding, what do you do? I like to just be a normal 2 year old

What are your plans for the future? Wait till I can walk on my own pony by myself!!



Lucy Deskins looks forward to leadline classes

Photo by Liz Barcomb

Do You Want To Be A Pony Kid?

Fill out this easy questionnaire and e-mail it to editor@sidelinesnews.com. Be sure to include a photo scanned at a minimum of 300 dpi, and tell us who took the picture

Name:

Hometown:

Age:

Ponies:

Trainers:

Of all the ponies you've ridden, which is your favorite?

What pony would you like to ride?

How did you get into riding?

What is your favorite horse show?

What was the high point in your riding career?

What was the low point?

Who are your Equestrian Idols?

Other than riding, what do you do?

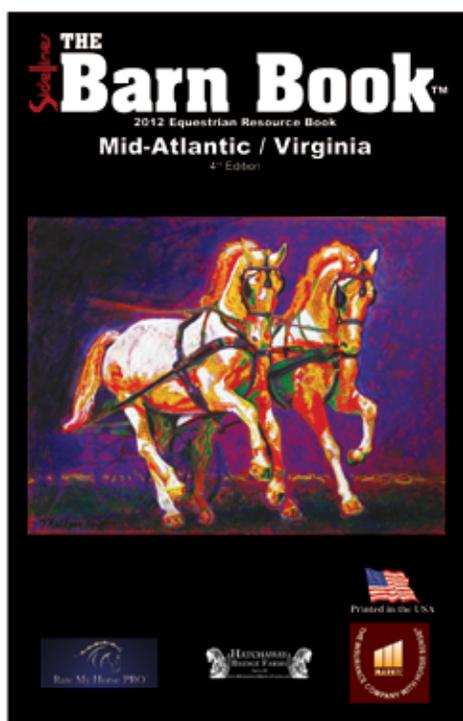
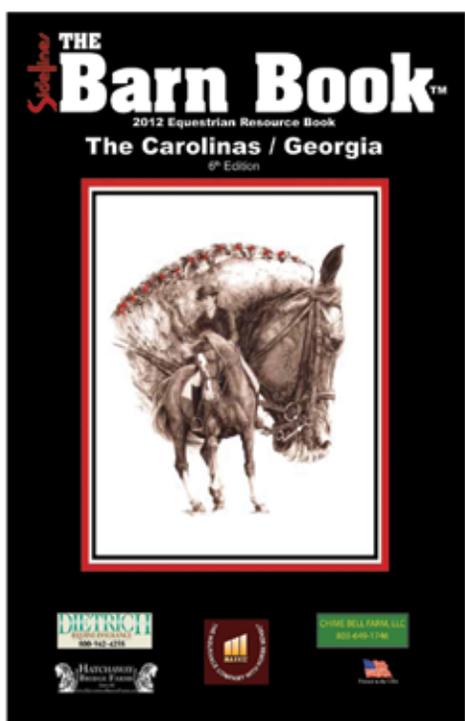
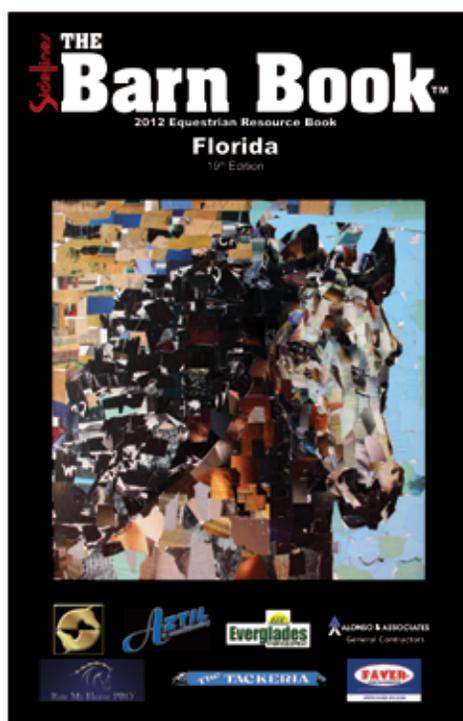
What are your plans for the future?

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Taking a Break

By Sarah Ward

Summer is here – thank goodness! It has been a long year for everyone. For some there was school, others work and for most family and friends. And let's not forget about the barn and of course, horse shows! Just keeping ahead of the game is a challenge. It can be taxing, it can be rewarding... but it is always ongoing.

Family took precedence this year and I kept school as a focus with my homework being submitted on time and making sure to keep up with my grade point average. No easy task, but then again, who said life was easy!? All this didn't stop me from enjoying my horses, being focused on my training and doing my utmost to put in the best rounds ever in both the hunter and jumper rings.

Now it is vacation... for some. But while everyone is enjoying the "dog days" with their stablemates and horses; I have opted to take additional summer courses at college. This means... UGH!!... I have to take a short break from riding (again)! I know, horses and vacation go hand in hand. I'm sure I will suffer withdrawal of the worst kind; but I'm going to deal with not showing, cope with the fact that I don't have to run to the barn at the crack of dawn and accept the fact that I am going to have to become a "pedestrian" instead of a "competitor" this season!

Maybe a break is what my body has been longing for. If you know me, or read my column, you are aware that I am extremely accident-prone. I make a horrible habit of hurting myself and when I do it, I make sure to do something drastic! I tore my ACL and meniscus in my knee and – being the stubborn young adult that I am – I didn't listen to my doctor. I was back in the show ring in just under two months after my surgery. Needless to say, my body is feeling the repercussions and is probably celebrating my time out of the saddle to mend properly. Sure, the knee hurts; but I also have torn a ligament



Sarah Ward is currently living in Atlanta. Sarah rides with Finally Farm's Jack Towell and Liza Towell-Boyd and competes with Finally Farm in the hunters and jumpers in both the amateur and open divisions.



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in my shoulder. Big question: rehab or surgery? Either way, my body is going to get a much-needed break, one that I always afford my horses; but usually don't allow myself. I'll be sitting on the bench again this summer and I am heartbroken! Question is - how do I stay sane? I do not like sitting around much. So, I've loaded up on classes (alas, not the kind you find at a horse show) to keep my mind off horses and focusing on geology, criminal justice, language and political science! Fun times! Maybe I'll learn what keeps my "non-horsey" friends entertained during the summer holiday... We'll have to see. Either way, I'm open. But I know that whatever happens to be on the agenda, it won't be as exciting a hand-galloping around a Derby course or navigating tight turns at maximum speed in an Amateur Owner jump off! Oh well...

I will be back in no time ready to go and better than ever. Of course, I will keep writing and yes, going to shows to support my friends who have become my family. I am sure I'll be envious; but nothing makes me happier than being near horses... It doesn't mean just riding. While I can't be in the saddle this season, nothing can stop me from spending time on the ground with my boys! Yeah for summer!

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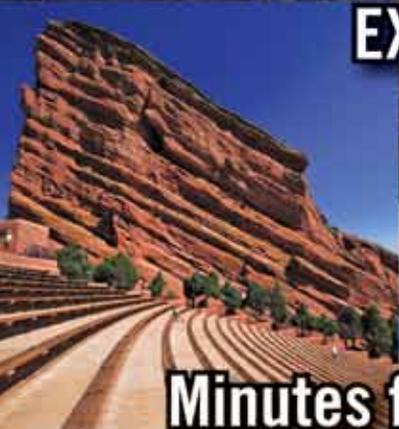
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Asides

Dwight Tran (a student at Yale University) of Polo Gear/Palm Beach Rox Team was named Most Improved Player at the Third Annual International Gay Polo Tournament. **Talbot Logan** (Marketing Director for Ralph Lauren) of Polo Gear/Palm Beach Rox Team was named MVP at the Third Annual International Gay Polo Tournament.

Another polo club in Aiken? Sort of! **Wire Road Polo** has recently changed hands and is being developed along the Gulfstream lines, with stockholders as well as members. Two club barns will house lots of horses for out of towners or those who wish the convenience of boarding on site. At press time, players were signing up... and it looks like it's going to be a good summer in South Carolina for polo.

Bumps and Bruises: There've been a lot of falls lately.... something about "spring in the air???" In Houston, **Joe Wayne Barry** got bucked off while umpiring the 8 goal, **Luisa Stainback** took a fall in the 4 goal, **Lara Straussfield** got bucked off in the 2 goal and **Tim Kelly** and **Esther Kane** both took spills while playing



The Hippies tail gaiting

Photo by Abner Pedraza



The Big Kahuna Polo Team

Photo by Abner Pedraza

When you think of tailgating – tea sandwiches and champagne would be the order of the day. Not so at the recent **Gay Polo Tournament** at Grand Champions Polo Club in Wellington. The boys went all out – Studio 54, Hippies, the Big Kahuna, A Safari, Candyland, The Titanic, Mardi Gras and more. It was sight to behold – all 64 tailgate spaces were filled and we are told plans for bigger and better are in order for next year.



Cristina Fernandez

Sidelines newest polo blogger has everyone laughing. **Cristina Fernandez**, who is based out of Aiken, South Carolina, is an aspiring polo professional and member of Team USPA. In 2009, she captained The University of Virginia Women's Polo Team to a National Championship. She has spent the past three winters in Wellington, Florida and travels extensively around the country playing and grooming. Cristina already has a great following on her blog – check her out on the *Sidelines* website at www.sidelinesnews.com and then click on blogs. Cristina's blog is called **The Offside** and it's a must read!

the 8 goal tournament. I guess when you have the biggest club in the country, you get a lot more bruises???? In a non-polo related incident, **Johnny Fitzsimmons** separated his shoulder and will have to sit out the remainder of the spring season in Houston as well.

In Florida, **Eddie Margalef** took a hard fall playing in Sarasota (but came out unscathed) while both **Matt Coppola** and **Adolfo Cambiaso** both hit the injury list in Wellington, with knee and hand injuries respectively.

It was a Texas sized celebration as **KC Beal** and **Steve Krueger** were married in Ft. Worth on April 13th.

Out in California, preparations are underway for the wedding of **Reggie White** and fiancée **Rhianna Long**.

FarmVet announced the APHA horse of the year: Anselmo, an 11 year old stud owned by **Sebastian Merlos**, who played him in the 20 goal and his brother **Agustin "Tincho" Merlos**, who played him in the US Open Championships.

Ty MacCarty spent the winter season being mentored by **Mike Azzaro** – they wrapped up their season with winning the US Open! Also, let's not forget to mention how proud we are of our FOUR Team USPA National Intercollegiate Champs! UVA Men and Women won this year's NIC Championships which included Team USPA's **Isabella Wolf**, **CB Scherer**, **Felipe Viana** and **Todd Thurston**.

Also, this is old news but this winter Team USPA's **Carlitos Galindo** proposed to his longtime love and former Intercollegiate player (and NIC Champ of '05,'06,'07)...and she said yes!

The spring Team USPA season is just getting started at the Aiken Training Center with lead mentors **Adam Snow** and **Owen Rinehart**. They are also planning a Team USPA event at the Houston Regional Polo Center in May with 13 of our 39 members playing in Texas this season!

We are sad to learn that **Lloyd Layton** died at the age of 96. With the exception of Orv Volkman, Lloyd was one of the last of the original TCPC members that founded the Twin City Polo Club at High Path near Chanhassen.



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Jochen Schleese
demonstrates Saddle
Support Area

rider's physical attributes, discipline, horse's age, physical condition, demands, equipment - size, shape and appropriateness). Saddle Ergonomists many use 2 approaches - reactive (fixing a problem caused by something else) or proactive (using corrective action to improve or prevent potential issues).

Jochen Schleese passes on "back saving" principles at trade fairs, equine schools and associations. Jochen's passion to teach and mentor the expanding Saddlefit 4 Life network is the focus of his dedication to protect horse and rider from long-term damage. Former German three-day junior event rider, graduate of Passier, Certified Master Saddler, Jochen came to Canada in 1986 as Official Saddler at the World Dressage Championships, founded Schleese and registered the trade of saddlery in North America in 1990 (www.saddlesforwomen.com). Jochen's passion to protect horse and rider led to establishing Saddlefit 4 Life. To inquire about lectures, diagnostic evaluation in your area, professional seminars and certification courses, contact info@saddlefit4life.com

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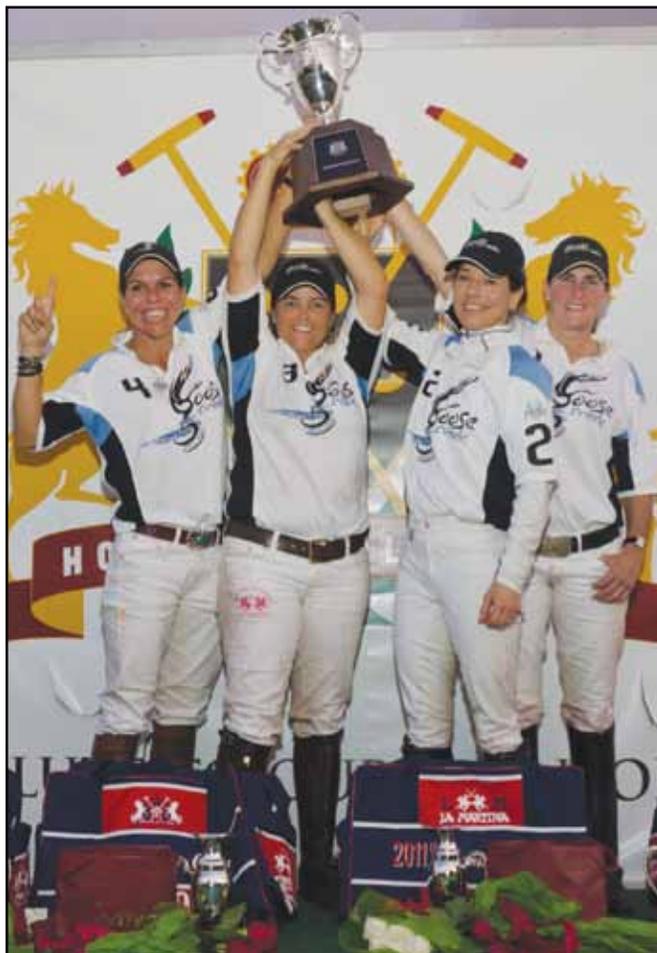


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Kristy Outhier Plays With the Big Boys!

By Danika Rice

You wouldn't often expect the revered finesse often associated with polo as the "Sport of Kings" to coincide with the rustic attitude of today's modern cowboy; but in the East Texas town of Fulshear, polo and rodeo co-exist in both a figurative and literal marriage. Under the lights of an indoor arena, two goal professional polo player Kristy Outhier rides alongside husband and professional cowboy Mike - she on an elegant, polo-playing Thoroughbred, he on his roping Quarter Horse. As the busy spring season begins in Houston, Texas at the nation's largest polo club, Kristy prepares her horses, and herself, for another season of "playing with the boys" as one of Houston's top local professionals. Sidelines caught up with Kristy to talk about family, horses, cowboys and the sport that has captured her heart.



Winning Women! (left to right) Kristy Outhier, Sunny Hale, Dawn Jones (wife of actor Tommy Lee Jones) and Maureen Brennan, winners of the 2011 US Women's Open Championship in Houston, Texas

Is it difficult to balance polo and family?

To be a woman pro is even harder I think because I am a mom and a wife and it is a big balancing act between trying to be a good polo player and trying to do well by my family. Any woman can attest to the time and effort it takes to be a mother of two small kiddos and also to be a wife. I think the husband is more time consuming than the kids! Haha, just kidding!! I am just so honored every day when I go to bed to think that I play polo for a living.

What is it like being a professional woman player in a male dominated industry?

The business is so competitive. I prefer men's polo, so to compete at their level you have to keep a tight lip and try your hardest. Males dominate this sport because it is a very intense, aggressive, quick and tough sport. You have to have incredible strength and endurance to complete six chukkers, working your butt off as a pro. I usually get the hardest job of marking a man rated much higher than I am...but I just love the game. I get excited and pumped every time I am on the field in tournament. I am lucky that I started polo after great women like Sue Sally [Hale] and many others who paved our way. I really have never had any trouble being a woman player. I think you either get ignored, or they come at you like an equal. It is a great sport.

Has your husband's rodeo career influenced or changed your riding, playing or approach to polo and horses?

Mike's rodeo career and upbringing has definitely influenced my polo. He has made me much tougher, but also much more grounded. Rodeo cowboys never quit and they face life and death everyday and are respectful of that. They are big Christians and therefore have a bigger picture than just the "game!" Mike is an incredible horseman who has been influential to me and he is also an incredible competitor that has, I believe, made me a stronger player. He is always telling me to go faster and be tougher! The greatest thing about Mike is we have a great family and life outside of polo. We are able to appreciate our time in polo because we step away from it quite often.

Who has been your biggest influence, on or off the polo field?

Adam Snow will forever and always be my biggest influence on the field. I was lucky enough to play for him in Aiken years ago and his mental approach to the game is something I use always. But I learn something from every great player I have been lucky enough to play with. My Mother

and Father are my biggest influences off the field. They are so supportive in their own ways! I hope to be the wonderful mother and wife my mom is, and be as kind and wise as my father when I grow up.

Most memorable polo game you've played?

The US Open, I substituted Steve Van Andel of Orchard Hill with Sugar [Erskine], Julio Arellano, and Eduardo Heguy. We won the semi finals in OT, which is a blur; but I remember every second of the finals against Cambiaso and Outback.... it was really fun. No words were said, we just hauled butt the whole time. We were on the old field one of PBPC. It was cool.

What's the most important part of polo to you?

To me, I love the horses most. It is awesome to raise one, train it and play it. But, really the competitive polo is still my favorite. I just love the game. I am lucky to have a great family to come home to so I don't go too crazy! You really do need to leave it all on the field. You should try to play as clean and well as possible. Your horses work so hard for you, you shouldn't try to put them in harm's way. But, again, polo is a great sport and we are all lucky to have it in our lives.

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Shelly Reichart Is Hooked On Dressage

By Edna B. Wilson

Shelly Reichart began riding at the age of four and competing in the hunter circuit when she was seven years old. After joining the United States Pony Club, she changed disciplines and fell for eventing. By the ripe age of 15, dressage became her favorite discipline. After winning four US Pony Club National Dressage Championship titles, she was without a doubt addicted to the discipline.

In her Young Rider days, Shelly was a working student for Jayne Ayers, Michael Poulin and George Williams. Her formal education includes a B.A. in Business Administration and a Masters in Management Information Systems from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. She trains out of her farm, Paradigm Farm, in Lake Mills, Wisconsin and travels giving clinics to riders at all levels.

What are your goals for the future?

Competitively, my goal is to represent the United States at the World Cup, World Equestrian Games or an Olympics. Travelling the path towards this goal has been an amazing experience. I continue to define short-term goals along the way, which of course get adjusted as needed. This winter I competed on the Florida CDI circuit at Grand Prix, with the goal of earning an invite to the National Grand Prix Championships at Gladstone.

Who do you train with?

I've been fortunate to work with some of the best trainers throughout the United States and world. For the past 15 years Linda Zang has been my mentor and coach. Since she's an "O" judge, when and how often I can train with her is defined by her judging and my competition schedule. She comes to my farm in Lake Mills and I also work with Linda during the winter in Wellington.

You also train with your mother, what is that like?

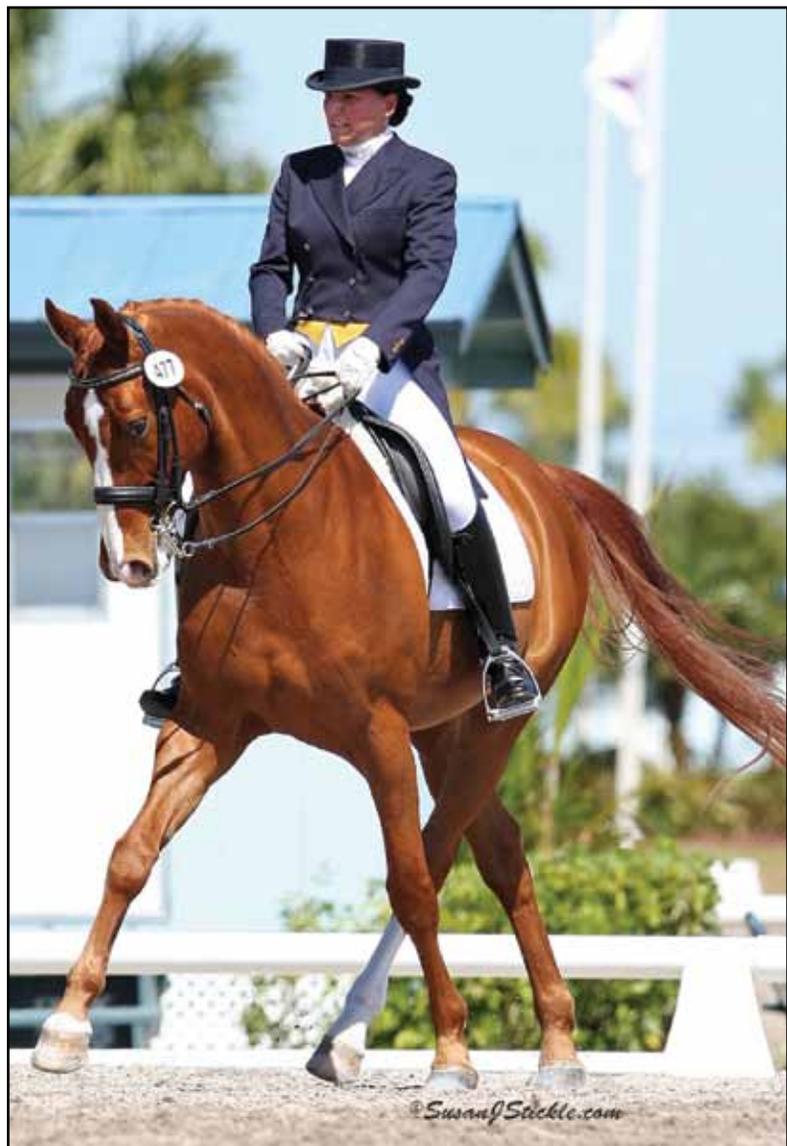
My mother, Sheri, is a huge factor in my training. She acts as my eyes on the ground and should have been a dressage judge. We make a great team as I have the riding and training knowledge and she has the eye, so she tells me what she sees; I make the adjustments, and voila!

Funding is often an issue for competitors, how do you handle it?

Purina and Schleese Saddlery sponsor me and I've used their products for years. Both companies know my horses, as well as what we need to be successful. Eventually I hope to ride a sponsored horse as the cost of participating at the highest level of the sport are very expensive. That's my struggle with my current Grand Prix partner, Welttaenser. We have been successful, but to continue to participate at the international levels of competition, I need funding.

What was it like competing with Welttaenser (Wally) last year?

Welttaenser is the first horse I've had with a natural talent for dressage. My experience and his talent have provided us with great success – we were USDF All Breed Champions at Grand Prix Open for the American Hanoverian breed in 2010



Shelly Reichart

Photo by Susan Stickle

and 2011. Welttaenser also earned the FEI Dressage Horse of the Year from the American Hanoverian Society and finished in the top ten for the USDF Grand Prix Dressage Horse of the Year in 2011.

How do you balance teaching, training and competing?

I find competing, training and teaching add balance to one another. That is, the better I am at explaining dressage principles and tactics to a student while teaching, the better I should be able to implement it myself in my training. And if my training is solid, competing should reflect the same. Juggling comes in when trying to find time for all three on the calendar.

E.B. Wilson rides and competes in hunter/jumper shows throughout the Midwest with her feisty mare, Argentina. She writes and provides marketing for several companies in the horse industry.

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