



XV Pan American Games

July 13 – 29 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Media Guide



The National Governing Body for Equestrian Sport in the United States of America

Since 1917, the Only National Organization Dedicated to Promoting Equestrian Sport, Participation and Competition Regardless of Breed or Discipline

From backyard dreamers to Olympic champions, more than 89,000 members call themselves equestrians. They're part of the United States Equestrian Federation® family—a family that continues to grow as we share our sport with the world while advocating fairness, excellence and equine welfare in all aspects of horsemanship and competition.

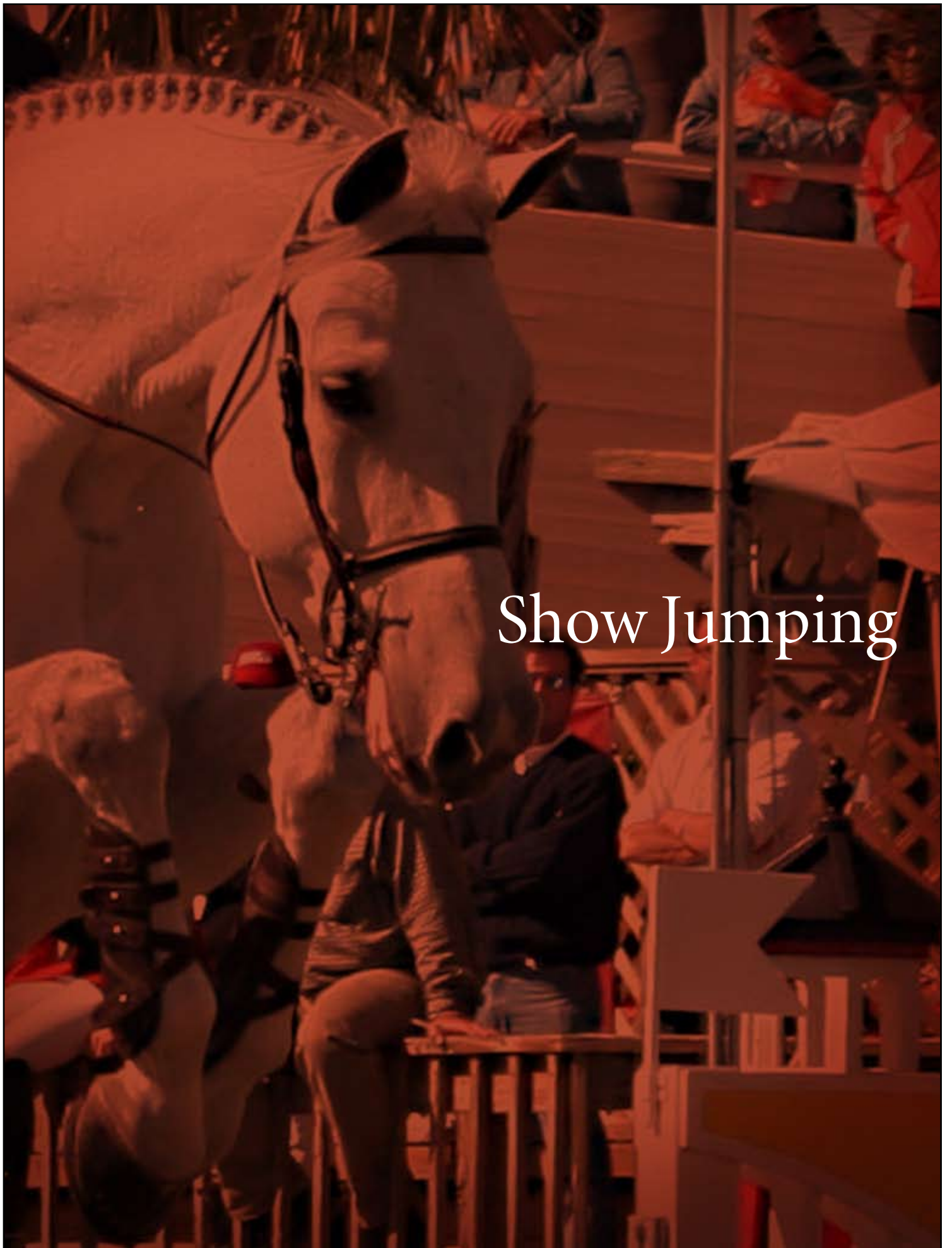
As the National Governing Body for equestrian sport in the United States, we send athletes and teams of the highest caliber to represent our

country at home and abroad. Each year, we share their successes and the excitement of their Olympic and world-class medals with all who have a love for horses, regardless of breed, discipline or organizational affiliation. Through more than 2,800 USEF-licensed competitions in 28 breeds and disciplines, we continue to acknowledge equestrian athletes at every level and nurture new ones along the way. Our members will tell you, to be an equestrian is a passion that defines their lifestyle, and to us, equestrian means family.

For the latest results and for more information on the United States athletes competing in the 2007 Pan American Games, visit www.usef.org/panams

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Show Jumping

Laura Chapot

Born: October 25, 1971

Residence: Neshanic Station, New Jersey



Randi Muster



Bob Langrish

Horse: Little Big Man (13-year-old KWPN Dutch Warmblood gelding by Topas out of Hillkeney; Owned by Laura Chapot)

Laura Chapot's parents have been deeply rooted in the American show jumping program for the last 40 years. Her father, Frank, was a six-time Olympian in the saddle and then served as the chef d'equipe for 20 years. Her mother, Mary, was a two-time Olympian and was the first woman to win an Individual Gold medal in show jumping at the Pan Am Games.

"My parents have been an incredible inspiration," said Laura. "They provide me with a tremendous amount of support and guidance." Laura had the opportunity to compete her parents homebred Gem Twist, one of the most renowned show jumpers in history. Before Laura began riding him, Gem Twist was the Olympic Silver medalist in 1988 with Greg Best. He helped Laura earn Rookie of the Year honors in 1995 and win her first grand prix.

"I had the honor to ride Gem Twist," said Laura. "He was one of the greatest horses to ever live." Gem Twist died last year at the age of 27 after spending his retirement years with the Chapot family.

Little Big Man has out-jumped expectations and his slight stature to prove he is a force to be reckoned with in the grand prix ring. The 2006 USEF Grand Prix Horse of the Year won five grand prix on the way to the title. Already in 2007, he's won two and been second twice.

"He's actually a real crowd pleaser," said Laura. "He's a very small horse, but he has a lot of energy and a lot of spunk. He doesn't know how small he is. He thinks he's king of the world. He's a little bit pompous and he has a strong personality."

Laura will be making her first championship team appearance despite having lots of Nations Cup experience (and wins) on her resume. She is grateful that a horse she has had since the beginning will be accompanying her.

"Of all my horses, Little Big Man is probably the dearest to my heart," said Chapot. "I've grown up with him, and I brought him along since he was doing the smallest divisions. He just has an incredible personality and a huge heart."

Laura spends most of her time riding and teaching, and she enjoys starting and producing young horses at home. She attends lots of local shows and her family still does a little bit of horse breeding.

Lauren Hough

Born: April 11, 1977

Residence: Wellington, Florida



PhilipPhotos.com



Nancy Jaffer

Horse: Casadora (11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare by Indoctro out of Kadora; Owned by Laura Davies Mateo and Meredith Mateo)

A member of the 2000 Sydney Olympic squad, Lauren Hough had Olympic aspirations running through her veins at birth. Her father, Champ was a member of the 1952 Olympic Team in eventing. Lauren was a member of the Gold medal winning Pan American Games Team in 2003, representing the U.S. in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Demonstrating her tenacity, she rode in the selection trials with a broken collar bone.

Originally a Californian, Lauren got her start in the hunter ring and was a very successful junior rider. She won a Gold medal at the North American Young Riders' Championships and at 15 years old was the Pacific Coast Horseman's Association Rookie of the Year. Most of her show jumping success in the early part of this decade was with two horses, Clasiko and Windy City. She won the National Horse Show Grand Prix back-to-back in 2001-2002.

In 2006, she was fourth overall in the FEI World Equestrian Games Selection Trials, which qualified her for the short list for the games in Aachen, Germany. Earlier in the year, she won the \$60,000 Carlisle Wellington Cup. Over the past three years, she has been a member of the very successful U.S teams competing in the Samsung Super League. In 2004, the team finished in fourth place; in 2005, the U.S took home the Gold medal; and in 2006, it won the Silver medal.

Casadora had her biggest win to date recently, taking top honors in the \$171,468 CN Reliability Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows in Canada on June 9. The CSI***** was fiercely competitive. The combination has also been a very successful part of the Nations Cup team over the years.

"Casadora definitely likes her own space!" said Lauren. "However she acts much tougher than she really is."

When Lauren isn't riding, she loves to cook and spend time with her friends and family.

Todd Minikus

Born: June 11, 1962
Residence: Loxahatchee, Florida



Pheipsports.com/Kenneth Kraus



Pheipsports.com/Kenneth Kraus

Horse: Pavarotti (10-year-old KWPN Dutch Warmblood gelding by Lancelot out of Kiaralda; Owned by Todd Minikus, Ltd.)

Turning professional in 1980, Todd Minikus competed in his first grand prix in 1985. Across the last two-plus decades, he has forged an impressive career highlighted by more than 75 grand prix wins, four FEI World Cup Show Jumping Finals and six Nations Cup teams. In 2001, he was selected by the American Horse Show Association (now USEF) as the recipient of the Horseman of the Year Award.

Earlier this year, Todd and his Samsung Super League partner, Pavarotti, took the reserve title in the \$150,000 CN U.S. Open Jumper Championship, presented by Cosequin. A 15.3-hand chestnut KWPN Dutch Warmblood gelding, Pavarotti is known as something of a "wonder runt" around the barn according to his rider.

"He is very small, [but] he has plenty of personality and attitude," said Todd.

Last year, Todd scored a first-place finish in a host of competitions, including the \$50,000 Sussex County Grand Prix aboard Olinda, and both the \$25,000 AGC 1.5-meter Classic and the \$40,000 Winston National Grand Prix aboard Pavarotti. During the year, he placed well aboard that mount in a long list of other competitions.

He was the five-time winner of the American Grand Prix Association (AGA) Budweiser Grand Prix of Indianapolis, and won the 2001 \$100,000 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Championship and the 1997 American Invitational. In addition, he was an alternate to the U.S. show jumping team (with Oh Star) for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Todd, who grew up near Des Moines, Iowa, now operates Todd Minikus, Ltd., in Loxahatchee, Florida. When he's not at the barn or on the road, he enjoys playing golf and fishing.

Cara Raether

Born: May 2, 1979
Residence: North Palm Beach, Florida



Randi Muster



Randi Muster

Horse: Ublesco (10-year-old Belgium Warmblood stallion by Darco out of Joblesse van het Lindehof; Owned by Trelawny Farm, LLC)

Cara Raether started riding at the age of six and began showjumping six years later under the guidance of her mother. She participated in the North American Young Riders' Championships in 1997 and 1998 winning Team Silver and Bronze medals, respectively. She went on to be part of the successful Developing Young Riders Tour in 2004, which gives-up-and coming riders exposure at some of the major shows in Europe.

In 2004 she won the \$50,000 EMO Grand Prix in Culpeper, Virginia, with News. With Ublesco she has notched up consistent placings over the last four years. Most recently, they were fifth in the \$171,468 CN Reliability Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows in Canada on June 9.

Cara cites four people who have been instrumental to her training. Eric Hausbrook, Katie Prudent and most recently Beezie and John Madden have all been valuable to her education. This will be her first championship team appearance.

Owned by her family's farm, Ublesco is in his first years of multi-tasking as a grand prix horse and a breeding stallion.

"He's a typical stallion," said Cara. "He's not very affectionate but he's a great horse, and he's well-behaved as far as stallions go. He's very honest, and he wants to do his job."

When she's not with her horses, Cara loves to ski but has predominantly been focusing on her riding and competing recently.

Jill Humphrey (Alternate)

Born: October 18, 1982

Residence: Sacramento, California



Tish Quirk



JumpShot

Horse: Kaskaya (12-year-old bay Holsteiner mare; owned by Leone Equestrians, Inc.)

In 2006, Jill Humphrey began winning grand prix competitions in the big leagues. That year, she won three, in fact. The first win was secured at Pebble Beach aboard Landor B. But, her first wins aboard her World Cup mount, Kaskaya, came in Los Angeles at a World Cup qualifier and in Las Vegas, host city of the 2007 FEI World Cup.

It was in 2005 that Humphrey took the PCHA Rookie Grand Prix Rider of the Year honors. In addition, she was named the PCHA 18-35 Equitation Champion, as well as the winner of the Northern California Triple Crown of Show Jumping.

Humphrey has wasted no time in securing even more titles in 2007. At Thermal, CA, she was presented the Thermal Desert Circuit Jimmy Kohn Style of Riding Award. Aboard Kaskaya, she took first place in the \$50,000 EMO Grand Prix. She was consistent throughout the circuit with zero first-round jumping faults in six Sunday grand prix in a row, as well as Top Five ribbon finishes in every Sunday grand prix of Thermal. Aboard the 11-year-old black Zweibrucker gelding Felix 380, Humphrey took second place during Week VI in the \$150,000 Grand Prix of the Desert, fourth place during Week V in the \$75,000 Footing Authority Grand Prix, and another fourth-place finish during Week IV in the \$30,000 Ariat Grand Prix.

Born in Bakersfield, CA, Humphrey rode as a junior in Southern California, competing almost exclusively in hunters and equitation. At age 20, she transferred from Bakersfield to UC Davis, to complete her B.A. in communication. Shortly before graduation, she was introduced to Leone Equestrians, where she began riding with Rudy Leone in the Fall of 2004. At the time, she competed in the adult amateur division and modified jumpers. However, Leone gave her the support and confidence to move up quickly. She began the 2006 season working as a professional for Leone Equestrians.

"I enjoy every aspect of the equine industry from riding to teaching lessons to starting young horses," said Humphrey. "I spend my free time finding more activities around the barn, like taking one of the two-year-old horses for a walk around the property, or turning one of the jumpers out to eat some grass. With approximately 90 horses on the property, it is easy to stay busy."

George H. Morris

Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe



Diana DeRosa

The chef d'equipe of the United States Show Jumping Team, George H. Morris of Wellington, Florida, is considered one of the most influential riders and trainers ever to participate in international equestrian sport. Since becoming the chef d'equipe in 2005, he has guided the U.S. Team to the Gold medal in the 2005 Samsung Super League, the most prestigious annual league in show jumping; the Team Silver medal at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games; and the 2006 Silver medal in the Samsung Super League. United States team rider Bezie Madden won the Individual Silver medal at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games.

George's career began as a precocious junior rider winning both the American Horse Show Association (AHSA) Hunter Seat Medal Final and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Maclay Final at the tender age of 14, the youngest rider ever to do so. In international competition, he represented the United States on the Gold medal-winning Pan American Games team in 1959 and on the Silver medal-winning team at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Between 1958 and 1960, he rode on eight winning Nations Cup teams and in later years served as chef d'equipe for numerous Nations Cup teams, including as co-chef d'equipe at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada, where the U.S. won both the Team and Individual Silver medals. George also served as a director of the former USET, and as a member of its Executive and Show Jumping Committees.

George's training successes include a "Who's Who" of the United States' top show jumping riders figuring prominently in U.S. Olympic history. At the 1984 Olympics, the Gold medal-winning team included three former Morris students, Conrad Homfeld, Leslie Burr-Howard and Melanie Smith Taylor. The 1992 team included students Lisa Jacquin, Anne Kursinski and Norman Dello Joio. In 1996, George was assistant chef d'equipe of the Silver-medal Olympic team, which included former students Burr-Howard, Kursinski and Peter Leone. At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, former student Chris Kappler won the Individual Silver medal and was a member of the Gold medal-winning team.

George is also a well-known author of equestrian books and videos. He currently serves on several USEF committees, including the National Jumper Committee, as well as on the United States Hunter Jumper Association Hunter Seat Equitation Task Force, and the USHJA Jumper Zone II and Trainer Certification Committees. He holds a Registered judge's license in the jumper, hunter and hunter seat equitation divisions. Additionally, George is president of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

In recognition of his lengthy list of accomplishments and generous contributions to equestrian sport, George was the recipient of the highest honor the United States Equestrian Federation can bestow, the 2006 USEF Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sally Ike

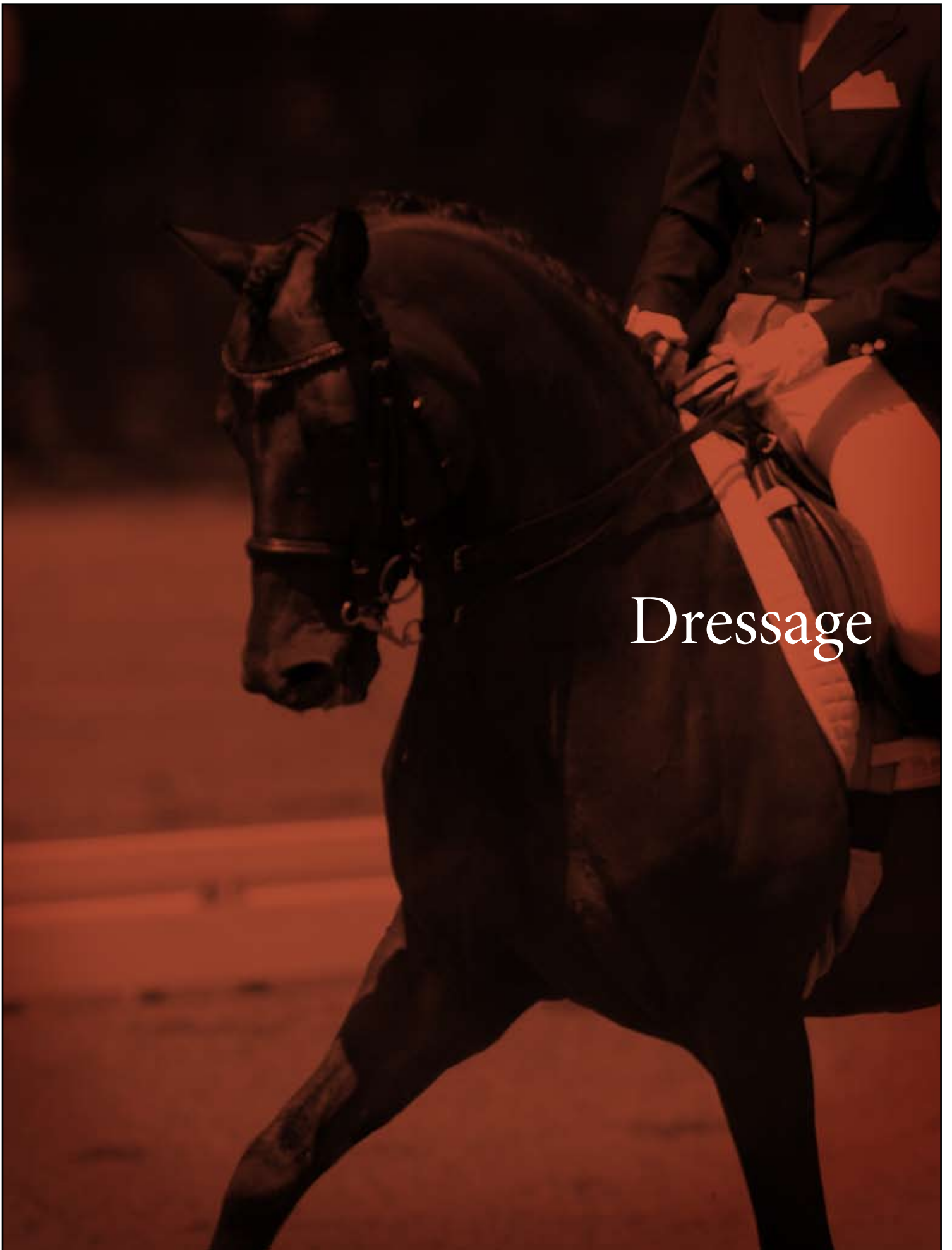
Managing Director, Show Jumping Sport Programs



USEF Archives

Sally Ike uses her considerable experience to direct all aspects of show jumping for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), both from a national and high-performance perspective. Sally competed internationally for the United States Equestrian Team (USET) in three-day eventing. In 1989, she was named the USET's Director of Three-Day Eventing and Show Jumping Activities. Beginning in August 1993, Ike devoted all her energy to overseeing and planning all aspects of USET show jumping activities, adding responsibilities for vaulting from 2001-2004. Sally was chef de mission and show jumping team leader at the 1994 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in The Hague, Holland; co-chef de mission and show jumping team leader at the 1998 WEG in Rome, Italy; and managing director of show jumping and team leader at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. She has also served as show jumping team leader for the Pan American Games (1995, 1999, 2003); Olympic Games (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004); and WEG (1990, 2002, 2006). She has been the team leader for the FEI Show Jumping World Cup Final team since 1990, and served as the chef d'equipe for the show jumping teams at the National Horse Show in 1990 and 1991.

Sally is a past member of the USEF Eventing Committee and is a non-voting advisor to the Jumping Committee. She is a current member of the USEF Drugs and Medications Committee, and a Director of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. Sally is a USEF Registered eventing judge and technical delegate and a recorded jumper judge, as well as an FEI chief steward for show jumping and eventing and an author/panelist for the USEF Eventing Training and Continuing Education Programs for Licensed Eventing Officials. A Pony Club "A" graduate, Sally was also an alternate member of the 1968 three-day event squad for the Olympic Games. In addition, she has designed show jumping courses, primarily for eventing, since the mid-'70s, including the Fair Hill CCI***, Radnor CCI**, Jersey Fresh CCI**/**, Red Hills CIC-W***, the 1996 and 2004 Olympic Games Eventing Final Selection Trials, the 1995 and 1999 Pan American Games Eventing Selection Trials, and the 2002 and 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games Eventing Mandatory Final Outing.



Dressage

Christopher Hickey

Born: August 14, 1968
Residence: Coloma, Maryland



Sue Stickle



Amy Drago

Horse: Regent (Nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Flemmingh out of Jenny; Owned by Brenna Kucinski)

A native of West Hampton, Massachusetts, Christopher Hickey has been a lifelong horse enthusiast. He was cleaning stalls as a kid and tagged along with a group of middle-aged women to former Olympian Lendon Gray's for dressage lessons. It was there, riding some of the nicest veteran dressage horses in the barn that Hickey was hooked.

"My first dressage lesson at Lendon's was my first flying change I ever did on purpose on a horse called Medallion," said Chris. "Then I learned to do tempi changes on Seldom Seen, and I rode other horses like that and that was an amazing opportunity."

Chris went on to represent Region 8 at the North American Young Riders' Championships in 1988 and 1989, and he participated in the selection trials for the 1995 Pan American Games but this will be his first team appearance.

"I'm pretty emotional," said Chris after he won the final selection trial in June. "I've been close before and something has gone wrong."

Chris has been successful at the highest levels of dressage, both in the U.S. and in Germany, and been on the USEF Training List with three different horses. With Regent, Chris won all three qualifying classes for the Pan American Games Selection Trials at the Cosequin Wellington Dressage Show in Wellington, FL, scoring over 70% in all three classes. The most challenging thing for Chris can be capitalizing on Regent's ability.

"If he was a person," said Chris, "He would be the laid-back jock, but when push came to shove, he would seize the day. It's pretty easy for him but he's actually a little on the lazy side. What you see is about 60% effort usually. When he gets really pumped up and really goes, it is amazing. He's the best horse I've ever had."

Despite his own success in the saddle, Chris considers his biggest accomplishments to be the success of his students. He has three students who have earned their United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. He also teaches clinics nationwide.

Chris' education has come from some of the best in the business, including Olympians Gray, Robert Dover and Sue Blinks. He has also ridden with FEI judge Lilo Fore. While training in Germany he worked with Conrad Schumacher and Ulla Salzgeber. A large influence on his career came from a horse named Dwight.

"He's in his 20's now," said Chris. "He's a schoolmaster. He was the first grand prix horse I made from scratch. He's still carting kids around doing first and second level. It makes me very happy that he's able to give back."

Chris started working at Hilltop Farm in January 2007. Hilltop has bred and produced champions in show jumping, eventing and dressage. He is grateful for his new opportunity at Hilltop and to his sponsors and owners. When he's not riding or teaching, which is rare, Chris likes to be on the water, either in a boat or on water skis.

Katherine Poulin-Neff

Born: July 8, 1979
Residence: Newbury, Ohio



Sue Stickle



PheipsPhotos.com

Horse: Brilliant Too (11-year-old Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross gelding by Brilliant out of Blue Brigetta; Owned Sharon Poulin)

Kate Poulin-Neff was born into the equivalent of U.S. dressage royalty but has made a name for herself in the industry in her own right. Her parents, Olympic medalist Michael and Sharon Poulin raised their family in rural Maine and Kate has steadily risen through the levels while working in the family business.

Since the age of five, Kate has been traveling to Florida in the winters and has predominantly trained under the tutelage of her parents. She had a very influential 13.2-hand pony named Blaze that arrived as a misfit, but with Kate became very successful through third level. Kate has been competing at the FEI level since 1995, and a Thoroughbred named Herb Commander brought her on to the international stage.

"I took him from fourth level to grand prix," said Kate. "He was my first grand prix horse. He's still at my parents, a working student rides him, and he's continuing to teach. I really think he was probably the most influential horse as far as making me a better rider, but he wasn't a high performance horse like Brilliant Too."

Brilliant Too, who was bred by the Poulins, has received all of his training in their program. He is a family favorite and unique in his discipline due to his size and his breeding.

"He's a lot of fun," said Kate about Brilliant Too. "He's a happy guy. He's always got his ears forward. In the paddock he's very fresh, he plays a lot. He has to be in a structured program because of that. He's half Thoroughbred, so he has a lot of spirit and energy. He's so intelligent. He's like a little sports car and he loves to be outside. He'd be a great event horse because he's got a lot of heart."

The combination has had lots of success over the last two years. In 2006, they won the Zada Cup in Florida and then Prix St. George, Intermediaire I and Intermediaire I Freestyle at the Paxton CDI-W in Ohio. They went on to be the reserve Intermediaire champions at the Festival of Champions that summer.

"Once I got to first or second level I knew he was special," said Kate. "My parents kept telling me not to worry about his trot, because that was always the question—it was short and quick."

Kate married Matt Neff in the summer of 2003, and when she's not teaching or competing, they try to spend as much time outdoors together as possible.

"When I'm not trying out for the Pan Ams - we love to work outside," said Kate. "We have a garden and an old century home. I love remodeling. That's what my husband does for a living. We also like whitewater rafting, we camp a lot, we like to do anything outdoors."

Lauren Sammis

Born: October 14, 1970

Residence: South Orange, New Jersey



Sue Strickle



PhelpsPhotos.com

Horse: Sagacious HF (Eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Welt Hit II out of Judith; Owned by Hyperion Farm, Inc.)

Lauren Sammis began her competitive career as a three day event rider when she was 13. Four years later she decided to stop jumping and just do dressage. The decision paid off. Lauren runs a very successful training and sales business and her success on a variety of horses demonstrates her versatility as a rider. Sammis Sales is a leading sales outfit for dressage horses on the East Coast.

Her success with Sagacious HF has secured her place in the company of the country's best dressage riders. The pair has stormed through the Prix St. George level picking up numerous victories from Florida to New York. She initially rode the horse to evaluate his potential as a sale prospect but liked him so much, she refused to let him out of her barn. Sagacious' personality is growing with his success.

"If he was a person he would be your arrogant little body builder," said Lauren. "He's really got a lot of personality and confidence. He thinks that people have really been put here to take care of him."

Demonstrating his consistency, Sagacious HF has won 24 of the 39 dressage tests he has contested since 2003. Lauren is making her first team appearance, her last really nice horse died from a rare disease. She considers Silver Boy to be the most influential horse she's had, largely because he prepared her for Sagacious HF.

"I had a great horse (Silver Boy)," said Lauren. "He got me going a little bit toward the quality that this horse is. I had a great deal of success with him but he died of Cushing's disease when he was nine years old. That horse sort of pushed me in the direction of this horse – that was the first horse that I ever got 68-69% in the Prix St. George tests on."

Lauren is on the road for a good portion of the year but tries to find time to do some non-horse related activities. Like most dressage riders in the east, Lauren winters in Wellington, FL. Her home base is Bedminster, NJ.

"It doesn't seem like we are ever anywhere for long enough to do much for fun. Sometimes it seems like we pack and unpack a lot for fun," said Lauren. "I used to play golf but I don't think I've done that in a year. I like anything to do with water. I like boats. I used to live in Virginia Beach so I'm used to being on the water."

Susan Dutta (Alternate)

Born: January 9, 1969

Residence: Wellington, Florida



Sue Strickle



Nancy Jaffer

Horse: Pik L (14-year-old Hanoverian stallion by Pik Bube II out of Abaja; Owned by Horses Unlimited)

Susan Dutta finds herself in a familiar position: in 2003 with Westsidelady she was also the alternate rider for the Pan American Games Team. She has only been riding her current mount, Pik L, since the end of March and it is through the generosity of a friend that the possibility of Susie having a horse for these games arose. "Horses Unlimited [the owners] had just changed riders from Cesar Parra to Mikala Munter Grunersen who is Dutch," said Susie. "Mikala is a friend of mine, our boys do Tae Kwan Do together, and she was the one that really helped orchestrate me being able to ride the horse this year. She and Anne Sparks Whitten have been super, super supportive"

Pik L represented Columbia with Parra in the last Pan American Games and was fourth, so he is no stranger to this level of competition. Susie has nothing but praise for the classy veteran. "The horse is extremely rideable and consistent," she said. "He's been to the Pan Ams before and done the small tour in Aachen. I'm very happy to have the ride on him because I didn't have a horse for this. I'm completely grateful for the horse, the owner and the opportunity. It's good for the horse too, being a breeding stallion."

Pik L and Susie have been extremely successful all spring and despite her years in the business and the multitude of horses which have come through her barn, she knows that Pik L is special. "You wouldn't even know he was a stallion," she said. "He's probably the nicest stallion in the world — an absolute gentleman. He's lovely to ride and very sweet. He has the same personality all the time. Riding-wise he barely has a bad day. Out of the three months I've ridden him I've maybe had two bad days with him but he still does his job. He's so talented — hot, cold, rainy whatever — it doesn't matter, and I know that if he has a bad day he's still so good. I feel really confident with him as a team horse."

Susie's husband Tim owns a horse transport company bearing his name and they have a five-year-old son, Timmy. Susie has taken some time off from teaching and selling horses to concentrate on her own riding and her family. "I'm trying to be a good mother and a rider," said Susie. "I took the year off to concentrate on my riding. I love flowers and love to garden. My husband knew I had a lot on my plate."

In the summer the Dutta family is on the road between New York (where they have a summer home) and Pennsylvania (where the horses live). "It's like a traveling road show," said Susie. "On the road we have two dogs, a lizard, a five-year-old and the housekeeper. The commute, it's a little crazy, but it's really fun."

Klaus Balkenhol

Dressage Chef d'Equipe



PhelpsPhotos.com

Klaus Balkenhol is respected worldwide for his exceptional skill as a dressage rider and a coach. In addition, Klaus has experience in the saddle as a German mounted police officer. The highlights of his extensive riding career for the German team include a Team Gold medal and Individual Bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and a Team Gold medal and an Individual Silver medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Both Olympic wins were on his amazing police horse, Goldstern. Klaus also won the Individual Silver medal at the 1994 FEI World Equestrian Games for Germany. As a dressage trainer and coach for Germany, he led their 2000 Olympic team to a Gold medal.

In 2001, he became the coach of the United States Dressage Team, leading them to a Silver medal at the 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games in Jerez, Spain—the best finish for a U.S. dressage team at a World Championship or Olympic Games. There have been many impressive wins under Klaus' leadership include a Team Gold at the 2003 Pan American Games; a second, fourth, and sixth-place finish at the 2003 FEI World Cup Finals; a sixth-place finish at the 2004 FEI World Cup Finals; a third, fourth and sixth-place finish at the 2005 FEI World Cup; and Team Bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games.

Klaus and his wife, Judith, reside in Rosendahl, Germany, and enjoy spending time with their daughter, Bellie.

Gil Merrick

Managing Director of Dressage



USEF Archives

Gil Merrick began riding at the age of 11 and for the first five years gained a well-rounded education in horsemanship competing actively on hunters, jumpers, eventers and Western pleasure horses. From the age of 16 and throughout his college years, Gil honed his focus to the world of dressage. Thanks to the advanced training Gil had received at an early age and his fluency in German, he was invited to spend his summer breaks from college in Hamburg, Germany, as an apprentice trainer at the estate of Rosemarie Springer. After receiving his MBA, Gil began a 20-year career in corporate management working throughout Europe and Asia while simultaneously advancing his own dressage training.

Gil changed course in 2000 and began teaching and training dressage on a full-time basis while facilitating the importation and sale of numerous horses from Germany and assisting clients with the selection of Lusitanos in Portugal. Gil joined the United States Equestrian Federation® in October 2005 and directs all dressage programs. He served as the team leader at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany, where the United States dressage team won the Bronze medal.



Eventing

Stephen Bradley

Born: March 26, 1962
Residence: Leesburg, Virginia



USEF Archives



Shawn Hamilton

Horse: From (14-year-old Russian Thoroughbred gelding by Mif out of Florma; Owned by Stephen Bradley and Charlotte Harris)

Stephen Bradley has been successful at the highest level of the sport for almost 20 years. After winning the CCI*** at Checkmate (Canada) three consecutive times Stephen became only the second American to win the prestigious Burghley CCI**** in England in 1993. For all this success, he was partnered with his 1992 Barcelona Olympic mount, Sassy Reason. He considers Sassy Reason to have been vital to his career.

"Sassy was the most influential horse," said Stephen. "Mostly because I was still so young and so green and I look back and realize how good he was. Now I know how important winning Burghley was to my career. For one, the only other American to win it is Bruce [Davidson] and the only other time I went to the event I was grooming for Bruce."

Stephen considers Davidson, a U.S. Eventing legend and the most decorated athlete in the sport, to be an incredibly valuable part of his education.

Stephen also won the 1996 Rolex Kentucky CCI*** on Dr. Doolittle. With Brandenburg's Joshua, Bradley was a member of the 2003 Gold medal-winning team at the Pan American Games. Only eight at the time, Brandenburg's Joshua has become an inspiration for off-the-track Thoroughbreds; he won the Foxhall CCI*** in 2005 and was third at Rolex Kentucky CCI**** in 2006, his first attempt at the level. A Russian-bred Thoroughbred, From has been lightly competed over the last three years, but when he shows up at a competition he makes it count. At 14, he has an impressive list of credentials, including a fifth-place finish in the 2004 CCI**** Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, and runner-up in the 2007 Jersey Fresh CCI***. He has also completed Burghley CCI**** in England in 2003.

From is a very independent character. "He would have one or two close friends if he was a person," said Stephen. "He would be very opinionated but he wouldn't have a lot to say. I think he would spend a lot of time alone."

When he's not riding (which is rare), Stephen loves to ski but the trips to the mountains have gotten few and far between. "As I've gotten older, when I fall it tends to hurt more," said Stephen. "I don't heal quite as fast as I used to, and the (eventing) season starts so early now it doesn't give you much time to heal. I pretty much stopped a few years ago. Aside from that, I'm an amateur cook, but I love it and I love to entertain."

Mara Dean

Born: July 30, 1973
Residence: Round Hill, Virginia



Brant Gamma



Brant Gamma

Horse: Nicki Henley (12-year-old Irish-Thoroughbred gelding, breeding unknown; Owned by Willow Bend Farm, LLC)

Mara Dean was only 23 years old when she represented the U.S. at the 1996 Olympics with a little horse named Hopper. Riding as an individual, the relatively inexperienced pair, originally from Vermont, jumped around the difficult track to end up sixth. Mara was also on the Silver medal-winning team at the 1995 Pan American Games. Hopper holds a very special place in Mara's history as the horse who helped to establish her career. Hopper lived on the Deans' Willow Bend Farm until he died in 2006.

Her current horse, Nicki Henley, has been a long-term project. A very talented youngster imported from England by Jan Byyny and Craig Thompson through renowned British horse finding connections Susie Pragnell and Alan Robertson, Nicki Henley is a celebrity in Pragnell's hometown of Henley.

"When he got to Alan's they just called him Nicki," said Mara. "When I got him and registered him, I added the Henley after Susie's town. They follow his progress in the local paper there; Susie calls every now and again for an update."

Nicki Henley won a CCI* as a six-year-old in 2001 and followed that up with a win the following autumn at the famed Radnor Hunt CCI**. Mara was on the sidelines with a broken leg at the time, so David O'Connor was in the irons for that win. Nicki Henley was out of action for a considerable time over the next three years due to a variety of setbacks to both horse and rider, but he returned in 2005 to win the CCI** at Bromont in Canada and completed two CCI****s before finally chalking up the result his rider always knew he was capable of: third in the CCI*** at Jersey Fresh in 2007.

A character in the barn, Mara knows the horse is very talented.

"He's a total spook," said Mara. "But he's the biggest personality in the barn. He's spoiled to death, drinks Gatorade out of the bottle; he's more like a dog than a horse. Having said that, he loves to work and he loves to compete; he's the toughest horse I've ever had."

Mara runs a busy training and sales barn in Round Hill, Virginia where she lives with her husband, Pete, and their Labrador, Scout. She has eight to 10 horses in training and is renowned in the sport for her dressage training. Many of the top riders send their horses to her when they go away for a tune-up in the first phase.

Phillip Dutton

Born: September 13, 1963

Residence: West Grove, Pennsylvania



Nancy Jaiffer



Nancy Jaiffer

Connaught



Shawn Hamilton

Truluck

Horse: Connaught (14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by Ballysimon out of Bromehill Rogue; Owned by Bruce Duchossois)

Alternate Horse: Truluck (10-year-old Thoroughbred gelding by Maha Baba out of Grayfully; Owned by Ann Jones and Shannon Stimson)

Phillip Dutton represented Australia in three Olympics and four World Championships before acquiring U.S. citizenship in 2006. A native of Australia, Phillip has been based in Pennsylvania since 1991 and lives there with his wife, Evie, her daughter, Lee Lee and their twin girls, Mary and Olivia. Phillip won team gold medals at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics with True Blue Girdwood and House Doctor, respectively, and was fifth individually in the 2002 World Equestrian Games with House Doctor. He also represented Australia at the Athens Olympics in 2004, won the CCI*** Foxhall Cup, was second at the Blenheim CCI*** — both in 2003 — and was second at the Rolex Kentucky CCI**** in 2004, all with Nova Top.

Phillip brought True Blue Girdwood with him from Australia as a relatively inexperienced horse and, now 24, he still lives on the farm. Phillip credits "Jug" with teaching him how to ride and getting him onto the world stage. Phillip has been runner-up at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event five times, was second, fourth and fifth in 2005 and was also second at Burghley CCI**** with The Foreman in 2005.

With Connaught, he represented Australia at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games as an individual after placing fourth at Rolex Kentucky earlier that year. The pair returned to Kentucky in 2007 where they were second and the highest placed American combination. With Truluck, Phillip was third at the Fair Hill International CCI*** in 2006 and 10th at the horse's first CCI**** at Rolex Kentucky in 2007.

Phillip feels that his top three horses epitomize what is unique about the sport of eventing: The Foreman, Connaught and Truluck are all very different yet excel at their job. Phillip admits that although he has never braided a horse, he can put shoes on one. Having grown up on a farm in Nygan, New South Wales, he was responsible for all aspects of his horses' care. His introduction to horses came through Pony Club and riding on the farm as a child.

Phillip and Evie run a very busy training and teaching business at True Prospect Farm, and Phillip's list of students is a "Who's Who" of the stars of the sport. He considers his biggest accomplishment that he is able to make a living doing what he enjoys. When he's not competing or traveling Phillip spends time with his family and enjoys all sports.

Gina Miles

Born: November 27, 1973

Residence: Creston, California



USEF Archives



Shannon Brinkman

Horse: McKinlaigh (13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by Highland King out of Kilcumney Hostess; Owned by Gina Miles, Thomas Schulz and Laura Coats)

A California native, Gina Miles had her first taste of eventing as a spectator at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles with her mother. Gina burst onto the international scene herself in 2001 with seven-year-old McKinlaigh and has kept up a steady pace ever since. Seventeenth out of 93 entries at their first CCI*** at Fair Hill International that year, they caught the eye of the U.S. selectors and headed to Rolex Kentucky the following spring. They were 11th at their first four-star, earning a spot on the squad for the 2002 World Equestrian Games. They put in a solid individual performance at the WEG, another good effort at the 2003 edition of Kentucky and finished third the following autumn at the World Cup Final in Pau, France.

Gina took some time off to have a second child, Taylor (20 months), to accompany Austin (age 8) and came back with a vengeance in 2006, winning the CCI*** at Fair Hill International aboard McKinlaigh. They traveled to Badminton this spring and made light work of the course, finishing 15th and adding only cross country time faults to their dressage score.

McKinlaigh and Gina are an unlikely pair, with McKinlaigh towering over his 5'3" rider at 17.3 hands. Despite his stature, Gina finds him very rideable in every phase.

"You go into the dressage ring and he acts like a dressage horse," says Gina. "But then he goes and blasts around the cross-country."

Gina is married to Morgan, and when she isn't riding likes to go to Disneyland with her family, read the *Harry Potter* books and cook.

Bonnie Mosser

Born: September 29, 1962
Residence: Unionville, Pennsylvania



Amy Drago



Amy Drago



Shannon Brinkman

Close The Deal

Merloch

Horse: Merloch (10-year-old New Zealand Thoroughbred cross gelding, breeding unknown; Owned by Bonnie Mosser)

Alternate Horse: Close The Deal (13-year-old Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross gelding by Art Deco out of Foolish Friday; Owned by Rebecca Polan)

A spot on the U.S. Equestrian Team has always been a dream for Bonnie Mosser but her first taste of international team competition wasn't on the back of a horse — it was flying downhill on skis. A member of the U.S. Ski Team for eight years, she turned her attention to riding exclusively when she was 22. Bonnie knocked on the door of the big leagues for a long time and finally pushed it open with the help of a horse called Jenga. Together, they won the Foxhall Cup CCI*** in 2003. They jumped around their first CCI**** together in 2006 at the Rolex Kentucky CCI****, earned a trip to England with the U.S. team and capped their season off with their best performance to date, placing 11th at the Burghley CCI**** that fall. In 2007, Bonnie affirmed a partnership with her newest star, Merloch, winning the 2007 Jersey Fresh CCI***. Bonnie still skis when she gets the chance, is a very popular riding instructor and clinician and runs a busy training operation at Point Above Farm.

"I try to get a vacation in once a year...I try to ski once a year," said Bonnie. "But lately the horses have been consuming me."

It was an Oldenburg mare called Verbena in the late 1990s that gave Bonnie the confidence so evident in her riding today. Highly successful at the preliminary and intermediate levels, Verbena is now a broodmare for her owners in Wyoming.

"Verbena was probably one of the biggest influences because she won so much," said Bonnie. "It made me believe in myself a little bit more because I won a lot, and it was a big confidence booster."

Merloch was imported from New Zealand by a student of Bonnie's, Alexandra Zavoyna, who won the CCI** Individual Young Rider Eventing Championships at the CN North American Young Riders' Championships with him. A very kind and genuine horse, Merloch would live in the house if allowed.

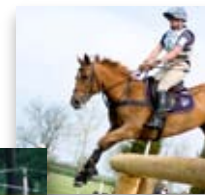
Bonnie has a serious fear of heights. She says she would never look over a railing, but hot air balloons and airplanes don't bother her.

Karen O' Connor

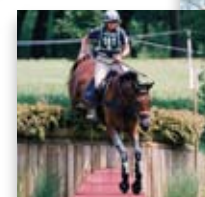
Born: February 17, 1958
Residence: The Plains, Virginia



USEF Archives



Arnd Bronkhorst



Shannon Brinkman

Allstar

Theodore O'Connor

Horse: Theodore O'Connor (12-year-old Thoroughbred/Shetland/Arabian cross gelding by Theodore out of Chelsea's Melody; Owned by The Theodore O'Connor Syndicate, LLC)

Alternate Horse: Allstar (11-year-old Thoroughbred gelding by Double Leader out of Southern Secret; Owned by Rebecca Broussard)

U.S. Team veteran Karen O'Connor, the reigning Individual Silver medalist from the 2003 Pan American Games, was always known for riding giant horses like Biko and Prince Panache to Olympic medals. Then a pony named Theodore O'Connor came into her life. A crowd favorite due to his pony classification and inordinate jumping ability, Theodore O'Connor was third behind two very experienced horses at the 2007 Rolex Kentucky CCI****. He leapt his way onto the international stage at his first four-star adding only a handful of cross-country time faults to his dressage score.

"He doesn't know how small he is," said O'Connor of Theodore O'Connor or "Teddy" as he is known. "To ride him he feels like a giant."

Karen (along with her husband, 2000 Olympic Gold medalist David – with whom she shares two Olympic team medals) has been an instrumental part of the U.S. team since the late 1980s. Karen has a storied career finding success on three different continents. Karen's first major placing came at the Badminton CCI**** on March Brown in 1979. She then won the Boekelo CCI*** on The Optimist in 1984 and the Chesterland CCI*** on Castlewella in 1985. Her first team appearance was in 1986 on Lutin V at the Gawler World Championships in Australia. She has won CCI****s at Punchestown, Foxhall, Rolex Kentucky and twice at Fair Hill International. With Prince Panache, she won the Rolex Kentucky CCI**** in 1999. She was a member of the 1988 Olympic team, a team silver medalist at the 1996 Olympics, and a Team Bronze medalist at the 2000 Olympics. She was part of the World Championship squad in 1994 and 1998, picking up a Team Bronze medal in 1998, she also rode Upstage as an individual in 2006 in Aachen.

Karen is involved in the sport at every level, she serves on the USEF Board of Directors, is very active in the United States Equestrian Association (USEA) Instructor Certification Program and teaches riders of all ages. When she's not riding or doing horse related activities, Karen spends time with her family and her dogs.

Kristin Bachman (Alternate)

Born: January 6, 1972
Residence: The Plains, Virginia



Shannon Brinkman



Shannon Brinkman

Horse: Gryffindor (13-year-old Thoroughbred gelding by Country Light out of Lani Molly; Owned by Kristin Bachman)

A Washington state native, Kristin Bachman set out for the East Coast with aspirations of team selection. With her first Advanced horse, Gryffindor, she caught the eye of the U.S. selectors by notching up top 15 finishes at the two spring CCI***s in 2005. In 2006, they contested their first four-star at Rolex Kentucky, finishing 27th and in the fall were sixth at Fair International CCI***. They were the winners of the American Eventing Championships during their preparation for Fair Hill.

A series of riding lessons while growing up in Nebraska hooked Kristin on riding, after cantering and jumping in her very first lesson she gave up all the other things she was doing and focused on horses. She was eight years old. Involvement in the United States Pony Club and the hunter/jumper world followed and then a lame horse introduced her to eventing.

"I probably would still be doing the hunters, but I was leasing a mare, a really nice hunter, and we were just about to buy her and she broke her coffin bone, so then I leased a foxhunter/event horse," said Kristin.

Kristin's family moved to New Mexico, where she got involved in the Young Riders' program while finishing high school. She attended Kenyon College in Ohio and double majored in English and French Area Studies.

Kristin sold her Young Riders' horse Greystoke during her senior year in college after going to two championships on him. She took a job teaching at a riding resort, Fox Equestrian in Colorado, and stayed for two years. Noel Parker-Ortiz came to Colorado for a horse show and offered Kristin a job, Parker-Ortiz was shortlisted for the U.S. Team at the time. After a stint with her in California, Kristin moved to Washington in 1996 and was based there for 10 years. Kristin found Gryffindor through fellow event rider Meika Decher. Purchased off the racetrack by Decher, Kristin knew she had to have him.

"I usually have a really hard time finding horses. There are lots of horses that I like but few that I want to own," said Kristin. "I've always said that Griffin is the only one who's not for sale."

"Griffin is very well behaved — he came that way. He always wanted to please, and he tries really hard to figure out what you want him to do. He's never obnoxious, but since Kentucky, he's been kind of pushy, I don't mind. He's very confident, but not arrogant."

Darren Chiacchia (Alternate)

Born: September 18, 1964
Residence: Springville, New York



USEF Archives



Shawn Hamilton

Horse: Better I Do It (14-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding by Billion out of Concitia; Owned by Adrienne Iorio)

Darren Chiacchia first represented the U.S. at the 1995 Open European Championships in Italy with Fascination Street after a third place-finish in the CCI*** at Rolex Kentucky. He was then named as an alternate for the 2000 Olympic team with R.G's Renegade with whom he went on to represent the U.S. at the 2002 World Equestrian Games. It was with Windfall that Darren has accrued his greatest successes, winning an individual gold medal at the 2003 Pan American Games and the Modified division of the 2004 Rolex Kentucky CCI****. Windfall and Darren went on to represent the U.S. at the Athens Olympics where the pair was a valuable part of the team's bronze medal winning effort.

Darren values the education he has gotten from each of his horses.

"They have all made such huge contributions to my career," he said "Sometimes the horse that makes the magazine covers isn't the one you learn the most from. From a teaching standpoint Fascination Street — he was my first team horse and I had my first big placings with him. He was a tough horse. R.G's Renegade was fabulous in a lot of ways and Windfall, he made me known as Windfall's rider. Just by the nature of who he is and being a black stallion he did a lot for the public side of my career. They have all contributed a lot. If my life was void of any of them I would be different."

With Better I Do It (Gus), Darren was fourth at the Fair Hill CCI*** in 2006, very early on in their partnership. They jumped confidently around Rolex Kentucky CCI**** this spring.

"He's a very sensitive horse" said Darren about Gus. "He absolutely needs to feel a connection with his rider. He needs an accurate ride and to understand his ride, he looks to the rider for guidance."

Darren splits his year between Springville, New York and Ocala, Florida. When not in the saddle, Darren coaches dozens of students, and away from horses he loves to be outdoors. He enjoys waterskiing, yoga, running and fishing.

"If I didn't ride, I'd be doing something with design and architecture. My properties are really important to me. I also love cooking and entertaining as all of my friends know when they call me to ask what's for dinner," said Darren.

Captain Mark Phillips

Eventing Chef d'Equipe



Amber Heintzberger

Sara Ike

High-Performance Director of Eventing



USEF Archives

With Captain Mark Phillips as chef d'equipe and technical advisor for eventing since March 1993, the U.S. eventing team has won events such as Punctestown, Burghley, Badminton and the British Horse Championships. Under his leadership, the team has experienced consistent successes including an impressive number of medals over the past 12 years including the 1994, 1998 and 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games (Team Gold); the 1995, 1999 and 2003 Pan American Games (Team and Individual Gold); and at three Olympic Games—1996 (Team Silver and Individual Bronze), 2000 (Individual Gold and Team Bronze) and 2004 (Individual Silver and Team Bronze).

As a rider, Captain Phillips had a remarkable career, winning a Team Olympic Gold medal in 1972 and Gold medals at world and European championships, as well as four Badminton and one Burghley. Riding for Britain, he won the Team Silver medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Sara Ike began riding at the age of four. Her first pony, Taffy, was a 10-hand Shetland who lived in grazing reins while under saddle. Sara has childhood memories of playing in Bruce Davidson's Volvo box truck with Buck and Nancy Davidson at numerous horse trials while their parents went neck-and-neck on the field of play. A Pony Clubber, Sara competed in eventing, local jumper shows and foxhunted in the winters. She also earned her Bronze medal in vaulting in 1988. A 1999 graduate of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, she studied geology which allowed her to spend time outdoors. Although Sara didn't ride on Skidmore's intercollegiate team, she found her niche working with young and "problem" horses in the program.

Sara started working for the Federation in 2003, and served as the Team Leader in 2004 at the Vaulting World Championships in Austria. She was named Director of Vaulting Activities in January 2005. In March 2007, she became the High-Performance Director of Eventing. Horses are in her blood. She credits her mother with exposing her to many aspects of the horse industry—across the disciplines, from the short stirrup rider to the Olympic athlete.