

EQ Luxe

EQ's finest

The Cup Runneth
Breeders' Cup

Galloping through time
Hermès

Ride of a lifetime
MACHU PICCHU

TREVOR BRAZILE

Georgina
BLOOMBERG

ZENYATTA

Barn envy
Cross Country
with BLACKBURN

Aftercaring

PDJF

LRF Cares

SIP AWAY

Folded Hills

heart Racing

MIKE
SMITH



7 42186 88421 9

Bloomberg 20/20

We admire **Georgina Bloomberg**. There's a name for her and it's moxy. She's noteworthy and inspiring on so many levels in addition to her show jumping career. Her conviction for animal rights and dedication to philanthropy is notwithstanding Bloomberg started her top show jumping career early at the age four in 1987. She showed quite a bit of success on pony hunters and junior hunters as a young rider. In 2001, she decided to focus on jumpers. She earned two gold medals at the FEI North American Young Riders Championships—team gold with Zone 2 in 2002 and individual gold in 2003. In 2005, Bloomberg made her FEI World Cup Final debut and was a member of the first winning U.S. team on the Samsung Super League Nations Cup tour at La Baule, France. Among many grand prix victories, Bloomberg has also been a staple on the U.S. Show Jumping Team. In 2014, she anchored the U.S. team victory at the Furusiyya Nations Cup in Gijon, Spain with a double-clear performance.

Q+A

What is your favorite show?

The Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows are my favorite each year. North Salem is where I grew up riding, and I have a lot of family and friends there who like to come watch. It's also just up the road from our farm. I have so many happy memories from

Old Salem after growing up riding there.

You compete on the Global Champions League tour can you briefly explain to those who may not be overly familiar what that is?

In 2016, Jan Tops and Frank McCourt created the Global Champions League, where top riders from different countries compete on teams. There's a season of team competition at 19 venues around the world that's very exciting, and a League final in November in Prague.

I really respect show jumping's history and tradition, but I also think that sports have to evolve and grow a little bit. When Jan Tops came up with the idea for the Global Champions League and presented it to us, I really believed in it and wanted to see it succeed. I jumped at the opportunity to own a team. It was a really cool experience to be one of the first team owners. I love sports in general, so I think that it's great when a sport wants to improve and become more spectator-friendly, and I think that's what the GCL was intended to do.

I always love riding on a team. We have limited opportunities to ride for our nation, so this gives me the opportunity to be part of a team in a different way. I think it's the future of the sport, and it's exciting to be involved in it from the ground up.

As the owner of a Global Champions League team, New York Empire, you are teamed up with equally established and accomplished riders. As a team owner, what responsibilities do you carry? Did you choose your teammates?

We choose the teammates. My criteria for choosing the team is pretty simple. I obviously want riders who can have good results and produce clear rounds, but it's also very important to me that the riders I pick are also ones I genuinely like as people and who represent our team well. The riders I've chosen have always been people who I respect as riders, but also who I consider to be friends.

There's the financial side to owning the team, but there's also a leadership side that I take very seriously. It's an interesting position because I'm the owner of the team, but I'm also a rider on the team. I'm the leader of the team, but when I'm in the ring and riding for the team, that role changes and I'm a teammate. It's sometimes a tricky balance for me, because as a teammate, I want

to be everybody's equal, but as a team owner, and to provide that leadership, you have to sometimes be the boss. That's a thin line that I have to balance on. I think the team riders handle it well with having me ride on the team and treating me as an equal, but also having a little bit more respect as I'm also the owner. Team members include London Olympic gold medalist Scott Brash, Irish veteran Denis Lynch, Germany's Hans-Dieter Dreher, U.S.-based Daniel Bluman, who competes for Israel, and the USA's rising U25 star Spencer Smith.

Beyond your riding accomplishments you are also a devout animal activist. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

I have a wide span of causes and different ways to help with things that I care about. Obviously, raising funds is a big part of it and necessary for most organizations. I'm also involved with the Humane Society, and a big part of what they do is helping animals with legislation and trying to change the rules that are in place to protect animals. Whether it's requiring that farm animals are being kept in bigger cages or doing away with puppy mills, changing legislation is a huge part of it that ends up making a big difference on the other end in terms of impact. It's a necessary link in the chain and I enjoy being part of that.

I also am able to be hands-on, to help the Humane Society in raids, or to go to Puerto Rico and help with spay and neuter events, and also to help with transports of rescue animals. There's not a single link in the chain that I like to focus on; I like to be part of all of it. All the parts of the effort are connected and affect each other.

Where can we find your books?

I wrote four books in the A Circuit series—"The A Circuit," "Off Course," "My Favorite Mistake," and "Rein It In." They're not currently in print, but there are some copies still available on Amazon.

Where can we help support your causes?

I always say to do whatever is easy and local for you. Whatever you can do is great. Find a local animal shelter and volunteer or drop off supplies. Find things you can do that will make an impact. It doesn't matter how much you do as long as you do as much as you can, and that's different for everyone. If you're a kid who can spare half an hour to help at a shelter, that's great. Or if dogs aren't your passion, figure out what is and then research how you can help.

In your career you have suffered two major back injuries. What drives you to get back on the horse after months of recovery?

So many people think my back injuries were traumatic, but I was born with a back condition. I always knew I was going to need



photo Jump Media

back surgery at some point, and I broke my back so easily because of the condition. They weren't terrible falls; in fact, they were relatively simple falls considering some of the falls that we as riders take, but my back condition meant my spine wasn't stable. Doing the back surgery was one of the best things I ever did and something I probably wouldn't have done if I had not had those falls and broken it. So I think that in every way, it made me stronger.

Do you have a daily workout?

I'm one of those annoying people who loves to go to the gym! In general, I do a good bit of cardio, core strengthening, and weight training to stay strong. I definitely feel a difference when I don't work out for a week. I start to feel weaker and I start to feel aches and pains that I don't when I'm working out. I think exercise is my therapy mentally, as well. I know that without working out, I wouldn't be able to compete at the level that I am. When I'm in Florida, I box twice a week and do Pilates twice a week. I also try to fit in a day of cardio and weights on my own. I swim a lot, so I do laps in the pool a couple of times a week.

What's your secret in keeping in the winner circle?

I do recognize that I'm not always the winner, and that's okay. You learn to appreciate when you are the winner. You have to let yourself enjoy the moment, because the next class you go into, it can all change. I think one of the things that keeps me at the top of the sport is realizing how precious and fragile that position is and not letting that get to me. I think that a lot of riders who maybe have some success early in their career and then all of a sudden don't have that success—because of bad luck or injury or not having the right horse—might give up. You have to keep going, because this sport has its ups and downs. Nobody is always in the winner's circle. But the ones who are in there the most are the ones that realize that it's okay to not win every day, or every month, but who keep fighting and trying.

I was lucky enough to watch you ride at WEF this year and your talent as a rider speaks for itself, where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

In 10 years, I'd say I'd see myself not riding anymore. It's a sport that I love desperately, but it's hard on your body and it's a hard lifestyle. Having more children and having a family is something that's always been incredibly important to me. I'd rather give the

sport my all for the next couple of years, go out of the sport at the top, and retire gracefully rather than fade away. I know it won't be easy because I love the sport so much, so I'm just going to appreciate and enjoy every show and every year I have in the sport. When I no longer compete, I'll still be involved in the sport in some way.

You have ridden some amazing horses, who is or was your favorite and why?

I've been very lucky to have some awesome horses, and they've all been my favorites in one way or another. I get very attached to my horses. There are horses in my barn that I just love seeing in the morning and spending time with in the barn, even if they're not as talented. My junior jumper Action didn't have the most scope and wasn't a grand prix horse, but as far as speed, talent, and heart, he was one of the best horses I ever sat on. I've always appreciated horses that want to try and do their very best, even if their very best might not be as good as another horse in the barn.

If you could share anything with younger generations who want to pursue a career in show jumping what would it be?

My advice for anybody looking to come up in the sport is to appreciate the good days in this sport, and then when you make a mistake or something goes wrong, you have to learn from it. I had a lot of success in my junior years, but I had many more bad days and bad shows than wins. This is something that I really wanted to do, and I used failure to make me work harder. I never let failure hold me back or make me less determined to go in the ring the next time. I think if you ask any rider in the world, McLain Ward or Beezie Madden or Kent Farrington, they've lost more classes than they've won. That's something that a lot of people forget about. It's how you deal with failure in life, and especially in this sport, that really defines you and your success. I think it's important to learn from mistakes, but also to be able to put them behind you and move on from them.

Does your son Jasper share in your horse enthusiasm?

I've never really cared if Jasper rides and I certainly don't care if he shows. But I do want him to come to the barn, and I think that being at the barn and learning horsemanship and learning about animals is very important for every kid. It's just fun for me on the weekends for him to come and spend an hour or two there, whether it's walking around or petting horses or riding—whatever he wants to do. He's wonderful with animals and always has been.



photo Jump Media

“It’s how you deal with failure in life, and especially in this sport, that really defines you and your success.”