



DEFINING DEVELOPMENT TO BUILD WINNING TEAMS

BY WILL CONNELL, USEF DIRECTOR OF SPORT PROGRAMS



Caroline Martin and Islandwood Captain Jack

Photo by Andrea Evans / US Equestrian

As Tokyo 2020 (in 2021) looms ever closer, it is easy to focus solely on performance at the Games. It is very much Games in the plural, as this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games will be followed very quickly by World Championships (or World Equestrian Games), which will be split between Denmark and Italy. Then it will be off to Chile for the Pan American Games and then a can-can to Paris for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Maybe there will be an interlude for a quick breath in 2025 but not really, as the "big one," the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be ever looming on the horizon.

So, as the senior U.S. teams leap from one Games to the next, we absolutely must not take our eyes off the sometimes-unseen churning wheel that is their supply chain. Ostensibly, that is the Development Programs and they each look a little different for each discipline.

We must be very clear that we, within the US Equestrian (USEF) Programs, are not seeking to replace the need for excellent trainers and coaches. What we hope to bring to the development of athletes and horses are opportunities that they might not be able to access or experience otherwise. This might be a chance for selection to a Nations Cup team, access to a recognized expert within a given area, mentoring, or enhanced communication that pushes athletes to set, monitor and achieve short and long-term goals and targets.

I can never agree that any sport is "different;" ultimately all sports are seeking their athletes and staff to perform to their personal best on a given day or days. For equestrian sport, this is the Games, World Championships, World Cups, Nations Cups, and various individual competitions. Of course, all sports have their unique identities and challenges, but the fundamental basics of "Development" apply across the sporting spectrum: Identify Talent (Talent ID), Confirm Talent, Develop Talent. It is across these three areas that we seek to grow and expand the USEF Development and Pathway Programs.

The Jumping selection methodology for the Nations Cups of three off the Ranking List and two discretionary selections, has allowed Jumping to introduce many developing athletes and/or horses to 5* Nations Cups. Youth Jumping teams have also had great success in Europe, and Jumping, as well as all disciplines, have worked hard to have a progression from North American Youth Championships (NAYC) to European competition. The Eventing Youth Team Challenge (replacing NAYC) and Futures Team Challenge introduced within Eventing are expanding "team" opportunities. In Dressage, the Under 25 division is growing and competition opportunities in Europe are being expanded for those that have achieved a minimum standard in the U.S. The re-launch of NAYC has also been a catalyst for growth within Dressage. The inaugural 2020 Para Dressage Championship, which enabled

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Dear Friends,

As I read each article in this issue of the USET Foundation (USET) newsletter, I was struck by the breadth and depth of strong, young talent in our sport's High Performance pipeline. US Equestrian (USEF) Director of Sport Will Connell notes in his article about USEF's Development Programs that, "we must not take our eyes off of the sometimes-unseen churning wheel that is the supply chain for the senior teams." With the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in view followed by World Championships, the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, and a home Games in Los Angeles in 2028, I absolutely agree.

Development and Pathway Programs such as the Show Jumping Horsemastership Clinic and the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic are priming our country's top young athletes to successfully represent the United States on the greatest international stage—the Olympics and Paralympics.

The USET Foundation's "Raising the Bar" Campaign was designed specifically to support Development Programs such as these. With a goal of raising \$40 million, the Campaign has raised \$37.2 million as of April. With \$2.8 million more to raise, we need to continue to make this Campaign a priority if we wish to continue to maintain and build on our High Performance pipeline.

Recognizing and creating opportunities for outstanding up-and-coming ambassadors of our sport is also a critical part of young athletes' trajectories to representing the United States. Dressage rider Hannah Irons was honored with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy—an award given to a Junior/Young Rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies the Team's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship—and Woods Baughman, an athlete on the US Equestrian 2021 Eventing Pre-Elite Training List received the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant to help offset expenses associated with his training over the next year. Similarly, Will Faudree was named the recipient of the 2021 Connaught Grant given his horse's potential to represent Team USA on an international level.

I think we've seen that our Development Programs are working, and the U.S. Jumping Team Olympic Shortlist for Tokyo is a reflection of its success. Lucy Deslauriers, Bliss Heers, Brian Moggre, and Jessica Springsteen are consummate examples of developing athletes that have taken advantage of the opportunities presented by the Pathway and have all risen to the occasion.

Opportunities for development aren't just limited to up-and-comers, however. The U.S. Eventing Team's first High Performance Training Session for Pre-Elite and Elite athletes took place with the Team's new show jumping coach, Olympic gold medalist Peter Wylde.

In this issue, we also recognize the world's highest-ranked para dressage rider Roxanne Trunnell as the recipient of the prestigious Whitney Stone Cup—an annual award given to an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and whose standards for sportsmanlike conduct exemplify the Team's highest ideals and traditions. This year's honor is especially exciting given that Roxanne is the first para dressage rider and only eighth dressage rider to receive the Whitney Stone Cup in its 60-year history.

This issue also highlights the Show Jumping and Dressage Nations Cup competitions in Wellington, Florida, and welcomes our newest and extremely impressive individuals to the Board of Trustees: Sloan Lindemann Barnett, Caroline Moran, and Laura Z. Wasserman.

Finally, we pay tribute to Jane Brown and Jane Savoie whose influences on our sport will be forever cherished.

As we head into what I hope will be an exciting summer with the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games as the headline, as a country, I think we should all be excited and optimistic about what's to come. Thank you to all of the supporters of the USET Foundation—especially those that organized and participated in the "Tee Off to Tokyo" Golf Classic Presented by Ethel M Chocolates and Lugano Diamonds, which raised money to support our athletes in what will be the most expensive Games to date.

I look forward to the coming months and appreciate you taking this ride with us. Be well!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



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

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Benjamin Ebeling, Caroline Martin, and Brian Moggre have participated in USEF Development and Pathway Programs before going on to represent the U.S. on an international stage.

athletes to ride borrowed horses, allowed athletes new to the sport to compete at a national level without the expense of shipping horses. Vaulting has revamped its programs by increasing opportunities for developing athletes. In Driving, the new Short Format competitions can act as a springboard to attract more young athletes.

Training sessions are also an integral part of "Development." These should not be seen as just "circles and bumps" (essentially schooling lessons) but rather as opportunities to push developing athletes to think about how they develop their personal programs and processes. Our Olympic medalists have honed their businesses, their priorities, and how they develop their horses through to world level. "Development-level athletes" are still building the house that will harbor their sporting ambitions, so it is important they are pushed to look at every aspect of what might or might not help them be successful. Imagine every house painted the same and with identical furniture — that's not how it happens!

Of course, all equestrian athletes need potential top-level horses, but our aim is to open athletes' eyes to all the concentric circles that surround the athlete and the horse. These circles include the whole spectrum of Sports Science and Medicine (human and equine), technical skills, communication skills, and learning about the "business of equestrian" because our sport is also a business for many.

Interoperability is another vital mindset that we need to work harder to develop and deliver. Interoperability is about developing a more effective interlink between all the specialists that athletes rely on to accomplish their goals. It is about taking a holistic, 10,000-foot view of how each athlete / horse combination is developing. A simple, basic example would be that there is little point to have a physical therapist treat a horse if the saddle does not fit and its shoeing regime is not correcting an imbalance.


So, there is much to do.

However, growing Development must never be at the expense of supporting the Elite athletes and preparing the teams that head to the Games. To do this would be like walking from Seattle to San Francisco only to discover the Golden Gate Bridge no longer stands—a long journey without an ability to achieve the final goal.

The 10-10-10 Rule applies to nearly every sport. From the point of Talent ID, it takes 10 years to reach podium level, 10,000 hours of training, and only 10 percent of

the identified talent make it to the podium. Apply that to the road to LA2028 and we are already well within that 10-year window. All the horses that will compete in 2028 have been born and all the equestrian athletes will already be competing FEI or are starting to specialize in a discipline.

LA2028 presents us with a unique opportunity. A home Games can act as a catalyst for so many areas. It should not be seen just as a target destination, but rather the launch pad for the growth of equestrian sport. Of course, we want to see U.S. athletes on the Podium, but we should also strive to develop volunteer involvement, commercial links, licensed officials, and inner-city opportunities. Simultaneously, we should aim to increase the number of owners and recognition of owners, give exposure to young and talented Development athletes, and grow the programs that support those that just want to ride at the lower levels and have fun. The list goes on and on.

LA2028 represents an opportunity to bring together the Federation, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation, and the Affiliates with a united aim to ensure that in 2038, the next generation can look back and see the good we accomplished with LA 2028; that we put in place sustainable programs that aided in the growth of equestrian sport at all levels, in all its manifestations and for all that want to enjoy horse sport. It is perhaps a lofty ambition, but it has been said: "The United States of America, where dreams become reality." 



Photos this page by Taylor Pence / US Equestrian

Brian Moggre and MTM Vivre le Reve



Benjamin Ebeling and Illuster Van De Kampert

Tee off to TOKYO



Sponsors, Patrons, and Participants “Tee Off to Tokyo” in Support of US Equestrian High Performance Programs and U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams



Team Lugano Jimmy Sardelli, Molly Newsome, Cheri Scully, Debbie Dacus, Christy Pope, Denise Wynne, Melissa Brandes, and Craig Dickmann

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation, the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF), hosted a benefit golf outing on February 22, 2021, at The Wanderers Club in Wellington, Florida. The “Tee Off to Tokyo” Golf Classic, presented by Ethel M Chocolates and Lugano Diamonds, directly supported the USEF High Performance programs and the U.S. equestrian teams traveling to Tokyo, Japan, to compete in the rescheduled Olympic and Paralympic Games this year.

Thanks to the event committee co-chaired by George Davis, Hal Kamine, and W. James McNerney—in addition to the generous sponsors and patrons—participants enjoyed the opportunity to practice on the putting green and driving range sponsored by PNC Aviation Finance; breakfast sponsored by Pomponio Ranch; a beautiful day of golf and camaraderie with a beverage and snack

cart sponsored by Jane Forbes Clark; as well as competed for prizes awarded during the luncheon sponsored by Sleepy P Ranch. All 18 holes on the course were sponsored and honored a horse that represented the U.S. at an Olympic or Paralympic Games, recognizing our country’s legacy of success in Olympic competition.

“I’m extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and patrons that have remained unwavering in their commitment to the USET,” said Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director, USET Foundation. “‘Tee Off to Tokyo’ not only supported preparations for Tokyo and the developing athletes and programs critical now for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024, but also allowed us to come together and celebrate our Team’s greatness, especially after a year of uncertainty within our sport and in the world.” – Kara Pinato Scro 

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Show Jumping athlete Wilton Porter



*USET Foundation Executive Director
Bonnie Jenkins with Show Jumping athlete Alise Oken,
Longest Drive Womens Award winner*



Jim McNerney, Hal Kamine, and George Davis

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TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2021 USEF ROBERT DOVER HORSEMASTERSHIP CLINIC

Twenty top young American dressage riders were invited to Wellington, Florida, to ride with former U.S. Dressage Technical Advisor and Chef d'Equipe Robert Dover and U.S. Dressage Youth Coach George Williams in the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic from January 7-10, 2021.

The purpose of the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic week is to identify and develop the next generation of U.S. Dressage Team talent. Riders were selected to participate based on their performances at the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, the Horseware Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship, and the USEF Children Dressage and Pony Rider Dressage National Championships, in addition to several wildcard applicants.

Dover tapped into a lifetime of coaching and competing to inspire young minds and left them with valuable takeaways that will help them become top competitors in the sport of dressage.

Athletes selected for the 2021 USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic are listed below in alphabetical order:

Averi Allen (Pleasant Hill, MO)	Maren Elise Fouche-Hanson (Colbert, GA)	Sydney Lipar (The Woodlands, TX)	Allison Nemeth (Flemington, NJ)
Caroline Cadorette (Pownal, ME)	Hannah Irons (Queenstown, MD)	Annelise Klepper (McCutchenville, OH)	Bianca Schmidt (Edina, MN)
Melanie Doughty (Cocoa Beach, FL)	Tillie Jones (Lincoln, NE)	Katherine Mathews (San Marcos, CA)	Carmen Stephens (Saratoga, CA)
Maggie Elsbernd (Excelsior, MN)	Kayla Kadlubek (Fairfax Station, VA)	Lydia McLeod (Charleston, SC)	Meredith Talley (Nicholasville, KY)
Abby Fodor (Bloomsbury, NJ)	Lexi Kment (Palmyra, NE)	McKenzie Milburn (Bothell, WA)	Grace Young (Cazenovia, NY)

HAVE A VISION OF GREATNESS

"In every moment, from half-halt to half-halt, you're seeing a movie in your mind, and the movie is you being the most beautiful, grand, fearless, fierce, and invested combination," Dover said to one rider. "It doesn't mean something won't ever go wrong, but it means your vision is clear: your rhythm, your sense of cadence, your sense of your half-halt, your sense of greatness in every step." He continued to say if you don't see this vision in your mind, you must create it, and you must not leave room for "what-ifs."

GIVE THE LIGHTEST AID POSSIBLE

Dover referenced horses' innate sensitivity frequently during the clinic. Horses can feel a fly land on their skin and react with a twitch, proving they can feel even the lightest of contact. Riders must expect the response from the horse with light aids. "Every touch is training," said Dover. "That's why you see beautiful dressage riders, and their feet are faced [toes pointed in]. You don't see a lot of spur. You rarely see the spur touch. Even the thought of the touch is more than enough."

PRAISE YOUR HORSE

"Don't forget to tell him when he's a good boy," reminded Dover. "Praise for the horses acknowledges the hard work they're doing and when they have lived up to the expectation. If the horses are motivated, the riding will be less work in the long run."

USE YOUR BREATH

When working on precision in the location of each movement and transition, Dover explained that movement should begin when the rider's body is in line with the letter on the side of the ring and using breath can help to prepare for this movement. "When the horse's nose arrives at the letter is the beginning – the breath in," he explained. "Close your legs and close your fists. Then breathe out. It's three steps: breathe in through the nose, bring your aids on and say, 'This is where we're going now,' and as he starts into his half-halt, you breathe out and he goes there."

COLLECTION AND EXTENSION LIVE WITHIN EACH OTHER

When riding collections and extensions, no matter how grand, the horse is thinking the opposite is achievable. "While the horse is in the extended trot, it could piaffe at any stride because it's through and on the aids," explained Dover. "And when it's in the collected piaffe, it's forward-thinking. Those are what we call access points, where you truly know how to access collection and extension and you don't lose one for the other."

HAVE PURPOSE IN YOUR WARM-UP

Dover told the story of an Olympic student of his who had the same warm-up routine every time she rode, but it had different effects on her two horses. One got better and better that way, but the other became more exhausted. "By the time she went into the ring, instead of having the most brilliant animal, he was brilliant 20 minutes ago," recalled Dover. "Every step that you're going around where you're not creating something are just steps. You're either making it better, or you're just going around for the sake of going around. So, when you get great feelings, when they've done what you want, you don't need to keep doing that." – Adapted from US

Equestrian Press Release



*Lexi Kment and Montagny von der Heide
with Robert Dover*

Photo by Aman Hepner / Phelps Media Group



LESSONS LEARNED

FROM THE 2021 USEF HORSEMASTERSHIP SERIES

Three of the United States Equestrian Team's (USET) very best show jumping athletes, Anne Kursinski, Beezie Madden, and McLain Ward, took center stage for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Horsemastership Series to instruct upcoming show jumping talent on January 14-17, 2021 in Wellington, Florida. The USEF Horsemastership Series is designed to assist in the development and identification of the next generation of top U.S. Jumping team athletes.

The riders were selected based on their results in the U.S. Jumping Pathway Program (the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, the Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals East and West, and the Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships), as well as six wildcard applicants. They underwent mounted instruction in flatwork basics with Kursinski, gymnastics fundamentals with Madden, and a mock competitive experience of warming up and jumping a 1.30m course with Ward.

Athletes selected for the 2021 USEF Horsemastership Training Series are listed below in alphabetical order:

Gracie Allen (Moorestown, NJ)
Ellie Ferrigno (Newtown, CT)
Dominic Gibbs (Colorado Springs, CO)

Mimi Gochman (New York, NY)
Maggie Kehring (Woodside, CA)
Caelinn Leahy (Maple Park, IL)

Violet Lindemann Barnett
(Miami Beach, FL)
Rachel Long (Horseshoe Bend, ID)

Alex Piolet (Highland Park, IL)
Madison Rauschenbach (Newburgh, NY)
Emma Reichow (Menlo Park, CA)
Skylar Wireman (Bonsall, CA)

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR HORSE

Kursinski taught dressage principles that lead to increased fitness and rideability, including lateral work, extension and connection, and no-stirrup work. "There's got to be clear communication," she told the riders. "When I'm riding, I'm having a conversation with my horse through my aids. It's a lightness, it's a heartbeat, it's breathing, by releasing and relaxing my aids."

BETTER FLATWORK MAKES BETTER JUMPERS

"To me, basic dressage is so important for any horse, no matter what age," said Kursinski. "They've got to first learn the rideability for jumping, turning, lengthening, and shortening. It's like you going to the gym or doing yoga or Pilates to get stronger. Your basic dressage is like your horse going to the gym."

YOU'RE ALWAYS TRAINING YOUR HORSE, BUT BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU'RE TEACHING THEM

Madden encouraged the riders to think of themselves as trainers every time they ride their horses. "You've got to have it in your head that you're not just out there to improve yourself, but to train your horse, too," she echoed. "You have to be firm and consistent. [Your horse] needs to have confidence in you, and they need to respect you."

SET YOUR HORSE UP FOR SUCCESS AT THE WATER

The open water can be a difficult obstacle for any horse-and-rider combination, even at the top levels, but Madden emphasized riding the water as part of a pattern to avoid surprise, then moving on quickly once the horse successfully clears the water. "If they do it well, you don't need to repeat it and kill it," she said. "We want them to stay a little impressed. You always want to keep them jumping water well and if you repeat it too much, they're going to get casual."

KEEP THE WARM-UP SIMPLE

Ward's warm-up words of advice to the riders were to be patient, stay calm, and trust their riding skills. "Your warm-up is about getting prepared for what the test is in the ring," said Ward. "Warm-up before competition isn't a full half-hour flatting or super technical. Keep it simple to accomplish what you need. You need your horse to be forward. You need your horse to be balanced and come back to you. You want them to get loosened up; it's a warm-up."

STAY BALANCED AND CENTERED IN THE TACK

Ward emphasized that, as riders, we can help horses jump better by sitting up tall, being soft, adjusting position, and looking up. A solid, balanced position helps to achieve a quiet manner of riding that encourages the horse to come your way. "For me, I picture staying still and the horse's withers coming up and hitting me in the chest [over the jump]," said Ward. "My lower leg is my base of support. I keep my torso out of the way, and I envision the withers coming up to me; I never go down to meet it. The torso stays over the center of gravity."

KNOWLEDGEABLE TRAINERS ARE BENEFICIAL TO ALL RIDERS

Even for those at the top of the sport, mentors and trainers help them to constantly improve. "Having a coach who knows your skill level and can remind you about your position is essential for riders of all levels," said Ward. He underscored that riders should be cognizant of feedback and to use it to mold them as riders and scholars of the sport. "It's very hard to keep that discipline on our own," he said. "It is a constant battle. Don't let it slip, because it will limit your results."

— Adapted from US Equestrian Press Release



Gracie Allen and Soliel de Cornu CH
with McLain Ward

Photo by KTB Creative Group



U.S. EVENTING TRAINING CAMPS COMMENCE

The U.S. Eventing Team's first High Performance Training Session of 2021 took place in Ocala, Florida, from February 1-7. Riders from Elite and Pre-Elite Training Lists were invited to an intensive four-day clinic focused on individualized training with Erik Duvander, the U.S. Eventing Team's High Performance Director, and the program's new show jumping coach, Olympic team gold medalist Peter Wylde. The training session offered athletes the ability to familiarize themselves with Wylde's coaching style and focus on fine-tuning their jumping technique with the opportunity to train on multiple horses each day.

February's jumping session with Duvander and Wylde was the first of 10 sessions scheduled for the Elite and Pre-Elite athletes this year. Dressage-focused training with U.S. Eventing Team Dressage Coach Johann Hinnemann will follow.

The first day consisted of smaller exercises that allowed the horses to loosen up and to emphasize the basic elements of jumping. The second day, Wylde set a track for the pairs to jump that enabled him to identify where each horse and rider could improve. On the third day, Wylde offered specific, tailored advice for each horse and rider combination.

"We have been working on control, having a really good relationship with the horse, and getting the horses supple and jumping well to improve their rideability," said Wylde. "I have to say, I'm so impressed with the riding and the horses. We have an incredible group of riders, both the seasoned ones and the younger athletes, who are just fantastic with really good horses."

The most common underlying theme Wylde observed was that the group was more inclined to keep a fast pace with more forward momentum toward the jumps, which is normal considering they are used to doing cross-country as part of their training.

"[My advice] – and the more I've done with the eventing group, it further strengthens my opinion – is to actually work on collection, suppleness, control, and getting the jump to be much more vertical and up than forward and flat. That's a big part of it. It includes the roundness of the jumps and gymnastics training, so that's really what we've worked on a lot. Most of it is very simple: low jumps, jumping out of hand, jumping with collection, landing and having collection after the fences."

Though the first session took place with necessary COVID-19-related protocols and safety measures in place, it ran smoothly and effectively. "We were thrilled to host a successful and safe training session in Ocala under the USEF's COVID-19 protocols," said Jenni Autry, USEF Managing Director of Eventing. "The horses on the Elite/Pre-Elite squad were also evaluated by Team Vet Dr. Susan Johns and Team Equine Physio Jo-Ann Wilson to establish a baseline for the year. We were lucky to host both the training session and vet evaluations at Rob and Chris Desino's beautiful farm and are very grateful for their support and generosity."

Duvander feels good about the potential he has seen from the participants in recent training sessions and believes this opportunity lays a solid foundation for the creation of future winning teams. "This year is the first year I really feel like things are starting to gel," he said. "When I look at the quality of the riders and horses we have at the moment, and their focuses, I think we're really on to good times ahead of us."

– Adapted from US Equestrian Press Release



Erik Duvander with Peter Wylde riding Z

Photos this page by Taylor Pence / US Equestrian



Liz Halliday-Sharp and Deniro Z





A BETTER WORLD FOR HORSES, PETS AND PEOPLE



WILL FAUDREE and MAMA'S MAGIC WAY

2021 Connaught Grant Recipients



In January, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named Will Faudree of Southern Pines, North Carolina, and his mount, Mama's Magic Way, a 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Jennifer Mosing, the recipients of the Connaught Grant for 2021.

Each year, the USET administers up to \$25,000 to a CCI* or CCI2* horse in the U.S. that is seen as a potential candidate to represent Team USA on an international level. The grant was established by Caroline Moran in memory of her dear friend and former USET Foundation Vice President, the late R. Bruce Duchossois, who was passionate about and dedicated to encouraging the development of eventing horses in the United States. The grant is named after the famous eventing horse Connaught, who was owned by Duchossois and ridden by Phillip Dutton.

As the recipient of the Connaught Grant, Faudree, who is an athlete on US Equestrian's Eventing High Performance Pre-Elite Training List, will be able to use the funds to support further competition and training toward this goal.

"I'm very lucky to have known Bruce [Duchossois] and see his passion for his horses and the American team," stated Faudree. "He is a huge inspiration for me—not just as an owner and supporter of the U.S. equestrian team—but as a rider and horseman. I also recall exactly where I was sitting the day Phillip [Dutton] won Kentucky Three-Day with Connaught in 2008. He is also an inspiration. So, to be the recipient of the Connaught Grant is a huge honor and incredibly humbling.

"Jennifer [Mosing] and I are very excited about Mama's Magic Way's future," continued Faudree. "We have a really fun partnership, and he loves the sport and loves his job. I know that we have our work cut out for us, but he and I are up for the challenge and we're ready to do Bruce proud."

Moran shared, "It's an honor to carry on [Bruce Duchossois'] legacy in supporting up-and-coming horses that show great promise for representing our country. [As part of the Connaught Grant Committee], I was very excited by the strong group of horses that were put in front of us [for this grant], and I send my congratulations to Will. I hope that he has a great schedule ahead of him and look forward to supporting him and Mama's Magic Way on their journey."

Though competition plans remain tentative as the world continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Faudree says the ultimate goal would be to compete Mama's Magic Way at the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials (England) in September.

Thanks to the Connaught Grant, Faudree and Mama's Magic Way can continue their training with the goal of representing the United States in future international competitions.

— Kara Pinato Scro 



Will Faudree and Mama's Magic Way

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

USET Foundation Awards Para Dressage **WORLD NUMBER ONE ROXANNE TRUNNELL** With 2021 Whitney Stone Cup

Roxanne Trunnell, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, has always held Olympic aspirations, beginning when she was an able-bodied rider. She earned a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) bronze medal and was close to obtaining a silver medal until she contracted the H1N1 virus in 2009. The virus caused a stroke that put her in a coma and ultimately required her to be wheelchair-bound.

After a long recovery, Trunnell did not lose her vision for competing at the top of the sport and focused intently on getting back in the saddle. In 2013, she rode in her first CPEDI and five years later she represented the U.S. at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina, where she earned the individual bronze medal in the freestyle.

Fast forward three years, Trunnell is ranked number one in the FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking in Grade 1 and number one across all Grades. In March 2021, she set a world record when she scored an 83.500%—the highest score to date in an individual para dressage test—at the Perrigo CPEDI3* at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival aboard Dolton (Danone I x Lady, Londonberry), an eight-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Karin Flint of Wellington, Florida.

Trunnell is at the top of her game, but it's not just her successes that have led her to becoming a recognized name in the sport. Those around Trunnell note that she can always be counted on to support her peers and that she is the consummate example of sportsmanship. As a result, in January, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named Trunnell the 2021 recipient of the prestigious Whitney Stone Cup. The honor is awarded annually by the USET Foundation Executive Committee to an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and whose standard for sportsmanlike conduct and contributions as an ambassador for the sport and for the USET Foundation exemplify the Team's highest ideals and traditions. Trunnell is the first para dressage rider and only the eighth dressage rider to receive the Whitney Stone Cup in its 40-year history.

"It means quite a lot to me to receive the Whitney Stone Cup as the very first para equestrian in history to do so," stated Trunnell. "I did not start out as a para equestrian and I thought being in a wheelchair was the end of my equestrian career, but then I found para equestrian and a whole new world opened up. Over the years, I have watched the para dressage world grow and people gain more interest in it. It is very exciting to be recognized as an ambassador for para dressage and having the ability—with the help of [my mount] Dolton—to influence this sport to grow and prosper."

As an ambassador for the sport, Trunnell, who is preparing for a Paralympic Games debut in Tokyo this summer, strives to encourage those that are not yet involved in horse sport and are hesitant to try para dressage to give it a chance.

"Yes, you will have bad rides from time to time, and you might even take a fall," she continued. "What matters is that you get back on the horse and keep trying. This is one of the few sports in the world that allows you to compete with your best furry friend. Why not give it a shot?"

— Kara Pinato Scro



Roxanne Trunnell and Dolton
Photo by Susan J. Stickle

RISING STAR WOODS BAUGHMAN RECEIVES

2021 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant



Based on the number of accolades amassed by eventer Woods Baughman of Lexington, Kentucky, you'd think he was born into a family of equestrians, yet it's quite the contrary. After his first ride at the age of six, Baughman blazed his own career path, earning championships at some of the world's most prestigious events.

Notably, in 2019, Baughman and his veteran partner, C'est La Vie 135, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Contendro I x Aarking xx), took the win in the CCI3*-L at The Dutta Corp./USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship at The Dutta Corp. Fair Hill International in Fair Hill, Maryland. At the age of 25, Baughman was named to the US Equestrian 2021 Eventing High Performance Pre-Elite Training List, which aims to identify and support athlete and horse combinations with the potential to meet Elite status within the next two to four years, and with the target of competing on a Championship team in the next four years.

In March, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named Baughman as the recipient of the 2021 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant. As the recipient of the grant, Baughman will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with his training over the next year.

"I can't thank the USET Foundation and the people involved with this grant enough," stated Baughman. "You can never have enough training, and I'll certainly put this to good use."

"It can be hard trying to put yourself in the right place without having enough financial backing to get the training and support that will help the rider and horses improve," he continued.

"Having good eyes on you is important because there is always something you're missing. It's huge to have this help and not have to worry about if I can make this happen."

Baughman plans to use the grant to support training with C'est La Vie 135, noting that, "C'est La Vie is at the top of the sport and I think if I can polish him, he's really world class. Anything and everything I can do to fill my gaps [in training] so that I can show off the horse I am lucky to ride is worth it."

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant will allow Baughman to focus on his training and prepare for competitions, helping to reach his goal of representing the United States on the international stage.

– Kara Pinato Scro



Woods Baughman and C'est La Vie 135

Photo by Taylor Pence / US Equestrian



USET Foundation Awards

YOUNG DRESSAGE TALENT HANNAH IRONS

Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy



Hannah Irons and Scola Bella

Photo by Meg McGuire

Early in her career when many of her peers were competing at the international level on horses, Hannah Irons, 20, of Queenstown, Maryland, was happy to compete in the FEI Pony division on a donated horse and even trained her own homebred Paint pony all the way to Grand Prix level.

For the past three years, Irons, an active member of the Discover Dressage USEF/USDF Emerging Athlete Program, has been partnered with Scola Bella, a 12-year-old Hanoverian mare that was donated to Lendon Gray's Dressage4Kids program by Deb Mullaney. The pair emerged as the FEI Young Rider Individual Test champion at the 2020 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. Now, they have their sights set on qualifying for the 2021 FEI North American Youth Championships and making the USEF 2021 Dressage European Young Rider Tour with a longer-term goal of competing in the Under 25 division in 2022.

The blend of determination, grit, and hard work that fostered her early career success also led the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation to name Irons as the recipient of the 2021 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, an award given to a Junior/Young Rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies the Team's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship. Irons now joins a very elite group of riders that have gone on to achieve great success on an international stage on behalf of the U.S.

"To be selected this year as the recipient of this prestigious award is very humbling," stated Irons. "Being recognized and added to this list of elite equestrians exemplifies the network of support that is available to up-and-coming equestrians in the United States. It's great to see all of the Youth programs growing year over year.

"In the horse world, and in life in general, not everything always goes as planned," continued Irons. "This award demonstrates that if you keep up the good work, it's really rewarding to see that pays off."

Dedicated to growing as an all-around horseman, Irons' passion extends beyond riding, and she hopes to manage her own barn in the future.

"Throughout my career, it's my goal to inspire the next generation of equestrians the way that the prior award recipients have inspired me," she said. "We should always strive to be role models and to set high standards of sportsmanship and horsemanship. It's not all about competing; it's about making connections and helping each other along the way. I think the equestrian community is quite strong, especially after 2020. To see US Equestrian and the USET Foundation come together and make things happen the best they can is really exciting."

– Kara Pinato Scro



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Each day, our equestrian athletes train relentlessly with a singular focus—to become better than they were the day before. The United States Equestrian Team Foundation takes this important cue from those we support. We are in the final stretch of a campaign that is *Raising the Bar*, empowering ourselves, our friends, and donors to make a commitment to the future of American equestrian sport—a commitment to build stability and permanence for our United States Equestrian Teams.

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Three New Members Elected to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation welcomed three accomplished women to the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting on January 12, 2021. The new trustees are Sloan Lindemann Barnett, Caroline Moran, and Laura Wasserman.



SLOAN LINDEMANN BARNETT is the author of The New York Times Best Seller: *Green Goes with Everything: Simple Steps to a Healthier Life and a Cleaner Planet* and is also the author of *The End of Food Allergy*, a landmark book on preventing, diagnosing, and reversing food allergies.

Barnett has been a television and print journalist for more than 15 years, appearing on-air as a consumer and green contributor on NBC's Today Show in addition to being the consumer editor for the NBC affiliate in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has also appeared twice on The Oprah Winfrey Show, has been a legal and consumer expert for Fox, CNN, and ABC, and has hosted women's talk shows for Lifetime and Oxygen.

Barnett began her career as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan, New York, and went on to write a legal and consumer advice column for the New York Daily News for nearly a decade.

In addition to her professional credentials, Sloan is an accomplished hunter rider having competed across the country earning championships at major events such as the Devon Horse Show, the Washington International, and the National Horse Show. Sloan's daughter, Violet, also competes and won the individual gold medal and team bronze medal at the 2020 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships.

Barnett received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and her law degree from NYU School of Law. She is a member of the Board and the Executive Committee of NYU School of Law, the President's Council at Brown University, and was the Chair of the California Pacific Medical Center Board.



CAROLINE MORAN is a lifelong equestrian who was born and raised in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Her riding career began with the Radnor Hunt Pony Club and included fox hunting with the Radnor Hunt and the Cheshire Foxhounds. Moran was also an avid competitor earning top championships in the Amateur-Owner Hunter and Jumper divisions over the years.

In 2013, Moran was the recipient of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Amateur Sportsmanship Award, and in 2017, Moran was the inaugural recipient of the Kavar Kerr Distinguished Service Award, presented by the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Committee, for exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to the WCHR Program through volunteer service and philanthropic efforts.

Since retiring from competition, Moran has become a distinguished owner of competition horses for eventing, including Olympic team gold medalist Phillip Dutton, as well as for top hunter trainer and rider Havens Schatt.

Moran has served as the co-chair of the Peter Wetherill USHJA/WCHR Hunter Spectacular of Palm Beach and also served on the board of directors of numerous equestrian and non-equestrian organizations, including Caridad Center, the largest free healthcare clinic in Florida that aims to upgrade the health, education, and living standards of underserved children and families, Danny & Ron's Rescue, and The Middleburg Classic Horse Show.



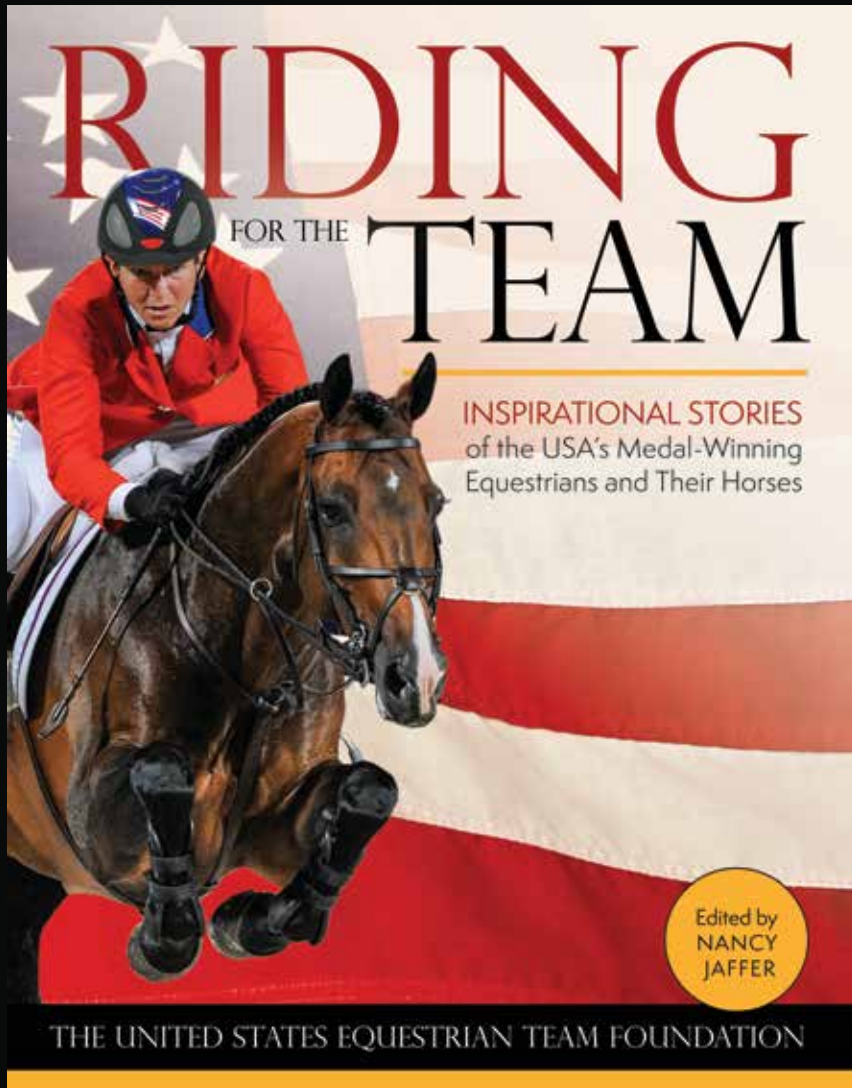
Laura Z. WASSERMAN is a philanthropist who is passionate about education, child welfare, and animals. She is a Trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association where she serves as Vice Chair on the Development and Nominating Committees. She is also a member of the Executive Advisory Board for the UCLA Center for Child Anxiety Resilience and Support (CARES), and serves as Board Chair of College Track's Los Angeles Local Advisory Board. Wasserman is on the Common Sense Media Local Advisory Board in Los Angeles, a member of the New Profit Leadership Circle of Reimagine Learning, and a member of the Understood.org Parent Advisory Council. She is also involved with the Wasserman Foundation, which is focused on education, arts and culture, health, service, and global initiatives.

For 15 years, Wasserman was an independent Music Supervisor on numerous film projects, including "Moulin Rouge," "Romeo + Juliet," "Serendipity," "Great Expectations," "The Beach," "Scooby Doo," and "Shark Tale."

Laura is an accomplished and successful hunter rider, having earned championship honors at major competitions in California and at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, the Washington International, and the National Horse Show. Laura's daughter Stella is also a successful hunter and jumper rider.

Wasserman holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California, Berkley. She resides in Los Angeles, California, with her husband, Casey Wasserman, and two children.

INSPIRING STORIES FROM THE USET FOUNDATION



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NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team Tops Podium in FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*



U.S. Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and riders Bliss Heers, Brian Moggre, Jessica Springsteen, and Lillie Keenan take top honors presented by Heidi Zorn, President of Premier Equestrian, and Mark Neihart, CEO of Premier Equestrian

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team bested the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*, presented by Premier Equestrian, held at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, Florida, on March 4-5, 2021.

Finishing on a final two-round score of just a single fault, the team edged out Ireland, whose team completed the evening with a total of four faults for second place, and Brazil, whose team finished on a final score of 14 for third place.

The competition served as the first team outing of 2021 and also the first opportunity for the team to test themselves in a Nations Cup atmosphere since early 2020. All eyes were focused on the young, but talented, team members led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. The team featured the following combinations:

- Bliss Heers, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Antidote de Mars, an 11-year-old Selle Francais stallion owned by Bridgeside Farms LLC
- Lillie Keenan, New York, New York, and Fasther, an 11-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Chansonette Farm
- Brian Moggre, Flower Mound, Texas, and Balou du Reventon, a 15-year-old Oldenburg stallion owned by Ann C. Thompson
- Jessica Springsteen, Colts Neck, New Jersey, and Don Juan van de Donkhoeve, a 15-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion owned by Stone Hill Farm

"We knew coming in that we had a very young team. When your second and third riders in the order combined have one Nations Cup, it's not much experience in the heart of the order. It was really nice and exciting," commented Ridland after the class. "We were up against some real teams. When we saw the Irish start-

ers, on paper that's a really solid team. I couldn't be more excited."

In the first round, Keenan and Fasther were selected as the team's lead combination and finished the course, designed by Steve Stephens (USA), clear and inside the time to set a strong tone. Heers jumped second aboard Antidote de Mars, and in her first appearance for the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team, recorded another clear effort in the first round. Moggre and his new mount Balou du Reventon completed their initial trip with four faults, while Springsteen and Don Juan van de Donkhoeve added a single time fault as the final combination, allowing for Moggre's four-fault tally to be the drop score, as the team moved into the second round on a total of one fault.

In the second round, Keenan led once again with Fasther and added four faults to the team score, before Heers, Moggre, and Springsteen ultimately clinched the victory producing three consecutive clear efforts to conclude the competition on an unbeatable final team score of just one single fault.

"I feel very blessed. My teammates are incredible, and I'm happy for the opportunity. My horse is also incredible. After the first round, it was exciting to say the least," said Heers. "Then to go into the second round under the lights and have to repeat the same thing, it doesn't seem like much, but it is, and I relied on him. He feels the pressure and always rises to the occasion. I can count on him every time."

Moggre elaborated, "I think the course really asked a lot of the right questions for this type of class, and I think that's important. It was really interesting how the first round went during the day and the second round went at night because that's a change of atmosphere [from the traditional format]. Some horses struggle with

that and some horses thrive with it. Even between day and night, some changed their plan. I think that it was a really interesting way to do the Nations Cup this year, but as the first one we had, I think it was a great experience.”

Springsteen and Keenan echoed their teammates’ excitement with the victory, and added that the pressure of competing on home soil in the team’s first outing of the year intensified the atmosphere. Both have represented the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team on numerous occasions, but with the first team competition of 2021 now behind them, they noted that winning at home is incomparable.

“I think you always feel more pressure when you’re representing your country. It was the first Nations Cup in a long time, and we all were so excited this whole week. It was a really fun team,” said Springsteen.

“Every time that I get to jump for Team USA, it’s my favorite competition,” concluded Keenan. “It’s something we all look forward to every year. We plan out the year, and the high point is the chance [to represent the U.S.]. To be able to bring home a win on home soil is thrilling. It’s what we set out to do, and we had a plan. I had fantastic teammates, our Chef d’Equipe, Robert Ridland, and our manager, Lizzy Chesson; they do an unparalleled job, and we are ridiculously lucky. We’re grateful to rise to the occasion.”

– Adapted from US Equestrian Press Release 



Lillie Keenan and FASTER



Brian Moggre and Balou du Reventon



Bliss Heers and Antidote de Mars



Jessica Springsteen and Don Juan van de Donkhoeve

Photos: this page by Jump Media



The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team Takes Silver in Stillpoint Farm FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ CDIO3* USA

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team claimed the silver medal at the Stillpoint Farm FEI Dressage Nations Cup CDIO3* USA at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) March 17-20, 2021, in Wellington, Florida. A total team score of 448.381% put them into second place, just a fraction behind the winning team, Germany, which secured a final score of 448.568%. The Stillpoint Farm FEI Dressage Nations Cup CDIO3* USA is the only Dressage Nations Cup event held in the United States and the first event in the 2021 FEI Dressage Nations Cup Series.

The U.S. team, led by Chef d'Equipe Debbie McDonald, consisted of Katherine Bateson-Chandler of Wellington, Florida, and Alcazar; Benjamin Ebeling of Moorpark, California, and Illuster Van De Kampert; Adrienne Lyle of Wellington Florida, aboard Harmony's Duval; and Jennifer Schrader-Williams of Olympia, Washington, with Millione. Bateson-Chandler and Lyle both represented the winning Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team last season aboard Alcazar and Harmony's Duval respectively, while Ebeling and Schrader-Williams made their senior Nations Cup debuts at this event.



Katherine Bateson-Chandler and Alcazar

Photo by KTB Creative Group



Adrienne Lyle, Katherine Bateson-Chandler, Jennifer Schrader-Williams, Benjamin Ebeling and U.S. Chef d'Equipe Debbie McDonald

Photo by Taylor Pencer / US Equestrian

“I can always expect our team to deliver,” said McDonald. “We had two rookies in their first Senior Nations Cup appearance and two combinations who have been there several times, so it was good for our two newer combinations to have mentors on the team. As far as the performances, we were one, two, and three in the Special and the Germans also did a very good job. I’m so proud of our U.S. team.”

With four combinations competing at Large Tour, a 1.5% coefficient was added to each of their individual scores in both the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special. On the second and final day of competition, three of the U.S. riders claimed the top of the leaderboard.

Lyle and Harmony’s Duval, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Duval Partners, finished with a 75.989% to lead the class rankings. Williams piloted Millione, an 18-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding owned by Millione Partners LLC, to second place following a personal best performance and career-high score of 75.458%. Ebeling, the youngest member of the team at 21 years old, rode Illuster Van De Kampert, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding owned by Amy Ebeling and Sasha Cutter for Nuvolari Holdings LLC, to a 74.564% for third place in the class. The veteran combination of Bateson-Chandler and Alcazar, a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Jane Forbes Clark, received a 71.011%.

“For me, it is super exciting to see someone as young and as talented as Ben with such a lovely horse,” said McDonald. “I see that partnership continuing on an uphill trend, and it is wonderful for our new combinations to be on a team and experience that kind of pressure.

“Jen Williams is an amazing rider, and her horse is a bit older and is just amazing – a little machine,” McDonald continued. “I look forward to seeing what she has coming up in her pipeline for the future, too.”



Jennifer Schrader-Williams and Millione

The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team looks forward to the FEI Dressage Nations Cup Series through 2021 and aims for additional podium finishes in future competitions. Follow their efforts on the USA Dressage pages on Facebook and Instagram.

– Adapted from US Equestrian Press Release 



Adrienne Lyle and Harmony’s Duval



Benjamin Ebeling and Illuster Van De Kampert

Photos this page by KTB Creative Group


Remembering Jane Brown



Longtime supporter of the United States Equestrian Team, Jane Brown, passed away on January 6, 2021, at the age of 86. Brown was born on July 9, 1934, and married Dick Brown, who served as treasurer for the U.S. Equestrian Team for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Brown resided in Carlsbad, California. The Browns ran a successful jewelry business, and upon retiring, they developed an interest in dressage and as a result, began to support the top levels of the sport.

Brown and her husband, who passed away in 2013, were owners for and sponsors of U.S. dressage rider Günter Seidel. When the Browns met Seidel at the Rancho Santa Fe Riding Club, it sparked the beginning of a 23-year partnership that spanned three Olympic Games and five World Championships.

Most notably, Mr. and Mrs. Brown owned Seidel's Olympic mounts Graf George, who secured team bronze at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia; Foltaire, who won team bronze at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia; Nikolaus, who took home team silver at the 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain; and Aragon, who won team bronze at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, and the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. Seidel also paired up with the Browns' horses Wolina, U II, and Princeton.

The prestigious main arena at the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey, was named in honor of both Dick and Jane Brown in 2013 for their \$1.5 million gift commitment to the sport. – *Tori Bilas* 



Remembering Jane E. Savoie



Jane E. Savoie passed away Monday, January 4, 2021, in Berlin, Vermont, at the age of 71, after a five-year battle against the blood cancer multiple myeloma.

Savoie was born April 15, 1949, in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she grew up before receiving her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Massachusetts. It was there that she met her husband, Rhett Savoie, and they were married on March 24, 1974. The couple spent their years living primarily in Massachusetts and Vermont, and beginning in 1988, spent winters in Wellington, Florida, among the equestrian community.

Savoie had loved horses since she was a young girl, riding ponies and hunters as a child. She was a member of the riding program at the University of Massachusetts and following her college years, conducted extensive research in animal science. Her first horse, a Thoroughbred, piqued her interest in dressage, which began her lifelong occupation as a well-known trainer, mentor, author, and motivational speaker.

At the peak of her riding career, Savoie was named as an alternate for the bronze-medal-winning U.S. Olympic Dressage team in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992 and served as a coach at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, and Sydney, Australia, respectively. She was inducted into the U.S. Dressage Association's Hall of Fame in December of 2019.

Savoie turned her lessons into writing and published six books on sports psychology, dressage, and jumping that have been translated into eight languages. She also created multiple video series to spread her knowledge of training and horse welfare to a wider audience. Focusing on adult amateurs, she served as the lead instructor of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Adult Clinic Series in 2007-2008, as well as instructed numerous USDF University events and USDF Annual Convention education sessions. Through her teaching, she taught the importance of developing a happy horse while also encouraging progress and success in the art of dressage.

Later in life, Savoie also pursued ballroom dancing, and she competed passionately as an amateur. She had also begun writing literature, with her first dressage-inspired novel, *Second Chances*, going to press five days before her passing.

Savoie is survived by her husband of 47 years, Rhett Savoie; sister, Rhonda; and many close friends in the equestrian and competitive dancing worlds and beyond.

– *Tori Bilas* 



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