



# USET Foundation NEWS

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER OF US EQUESTRIAN



VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2024

## *Victory in Versailles*

PRESENTED BY LUGANO DIAMONDS

## Raises More Than \$2 Million

*The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's "Victory in Versailles" Benefit Gala, presented by Lugano Diamonds and co-chaired by Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen, raised more than \$2 million to support the U.S. equestrian teams competing at the upcoming 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France.*

*Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa joined The Legends of The Voice, a premier band presented by entertainment sponsor HUB Private Client, on stage at the "Victory in Versailles" Benefit Gala presented by Lugano Diamonds.*

*Photo by Jump Media*





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Dear Friends,

We kicked off this Olympic and Paralympic year in a remarkable way. In January, we hosted the “Victory in Versailles” Benefit Gala presented by Lugano Diamonds, in Wellington, Florida, and in March, we held the “Equestrians in Paris” benefit event in Del Mar, California. From coast to coast, we celebrated the achievements of our country’s athletes to date while raising almost \$2.5 million for our U.S. equestrian teams headed to the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France.

As USEF’s philanthropic partner, we’re proud to be able to raise the funds that are so critical in ensuring developing and elite athletes alike receive the training and competition experiences necessary to bring home medals on the greatest international stages. These benefit events greatly contributed to this mission and I’m deeply appreciative to all of our friends and donors who played a role in their success. Without a doubt, these funds will help ensure our teams’ sustained excellence on the world stage.

Our U.S. jumping team did us proud at the inaugural Longines League of Nations™ competition at the World Equestrian Center – Ocala. The venue is an absolutely world-class facility with awe-inspiring attention to detail, from the hospitality down to the smallest elements of the stabling, giving horses, riders, and spectators a top-notch experience. The U.S. team’s third-place finish bodes well as we look forward to Paris in a few short months.

While we look ahead to the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games with great excitement, we cannot lose sight of the incredible accomplishments of our athletes across all levels and disciplines. In this newsletter, we highlight USEF Pathway Programs such as the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic Week and USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series, which offer unique training opportunities for up-and-coming dressage and jumping athletes. We also feature two USET Foundation eventing grant recipients. Boyd Martin and Commando 3 earned the 2024 Connaught Grant while Tommy Greengard earned the 2024 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant.

We also highlight the dressage, jumping, and para dressage athletes that represented the U.S. at Nations Cup events and U.S. driving athlete Chester Weber for his 21st win in the USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Four-in-Hand Horses. Finally, we welcome Toni Cupal to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees and honor the legacy of Karen Golding through a Hamilton Farm stall naming gift generously donated by Jane Forbes Clark.

As we quickly approach the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, I want to thank you for your steadfast support of our athletes and teams. I am confident that our collective efforts will reward us in spades and I’m very much looking forward to celebrating alongside all of you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins  
Executive Director



*Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa*

## **Victory in Versailles**

*continued from page 1*

Held on Friday, January 19, 2024, at Five Rings Farm in Wellington, Florida, the event attracted approximately 600 guests and featured a live auction and entertainment by Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen. On stage, the pair joined The Legends of The Voice, a premier band showcasing the stars of NBC's hit show "The Voice," presented by entertainment sponsor, HUB Private Client.

The USET Foundation's prestigious annual awards were also presented during the gala. USET Foundation Chairman, President, and CEO W. James McNerney, Jr. was presented with the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award; up-and-coming show jumping athlete Zayna Rizvi was presented with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy; and five-time show jumping Olympian and Olympic gold and silver medalist McLain Ward was awarded the Whitney Stone Cup.



*Photo by Luxetiné*

*Caroline Moran*

"Sustaining competitive excellence at the highest levels of equestrian sport on the international stage requires hard work, an unwavering commitment, and significant resources," said McNerney. "Unlike some other countries, U.S. equestrian sport does not receive government funding. Our teams rely predominately on support from the USET Foundation and the organization's and sport's dedicated and loyal donors.

"I'm thrilled that 'Victory in Versailles' was an outstanding success and raised more than \$2 million for our country's equestrian programs," McNerney continued. "In addition to supporting our US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Programs and elite athletes and horses, USET Foundation funding also supports developing athletes through USEF's High Performance Pathway Programs such as the FEI North American Youth Championships and USEF's international developing tours."

*continued next page*



The entrance to “Victory in Versailles” at Five Rings Farm



McLain Ward and daughter Lily Ward

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins said, “Each and every donor plays a critical role in helping our country’s athletes and teams achieve greatness on the most prominent international stages, and I’m very grateful to our community for sharing in this vision and contributing to the success of ‘Victory in Versailles.’ It truly takes a village. Special

thanks to Zacharie and Louis Vinos for hosting this event at their beautiful Five Rings Farm. In addition to all of those in attendance, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our benefit chairmen and committee members, presenting sponsor Lugano Diamonds, entertainment sponsor HUB Private Client, wine sponsor Château de Reignac, and event pro-

fessionals GLDN Events, Creative Edge Parties, and Renny & Reed Florals and Event Design.”

Scialfa and Springsteen were also among those instrumental in making a lasting impact in the event’s success thanks to their live auction donation of a VIP concert experience and travel on the tour plane with Springsteen and the E Street Band, which was ultimately auctioned twice. Notably, a historic villa in Tuscany, Italy, donated by Glen Senk and Keith Johnson, was also purchased two times during the live auction, and Casa de Casas, a Mexican oceanfront escape donated by the Casas family, garnered several enthusiastic bids and support for the U.S. equestrian teams.

On the heels of a successful event, McNerney and the team at the USET Foundation look forward to cheering on the U.S. equestrian squads in the exciting and critical months ahead.

“This is a momentous year with the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, held on the grounds of the historic Palace of Versailles, in plain view,” concluded McNerney. “The money raised will ensure our teams have the resources to be prepared for the biggest stage in sport.”

– Kara Pinato Scro 



The Vinos Family

All photos this page by Luxaciné



*Presenting sponsor Lugano Diamonds showcased its fine jewelry.*



*Alexa Pessoa, Joey Wölffer, and Max Rohn*



*U.S. Paralympic dressage gold medalist Roxanne Trunnell and Karin Flint*



*Flo Fulton Miller*



*The "bosses," Jim McNerney and Bruce Springsteen*



*U.S. Olympic show jumping silver medalist Jessica Springsteen and Monica McCourt*

*All photos this page by Luxeciné*

# USET FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTED TO

**W. James McNerney Jr., Zayna Rizvi, and McLain Ward**

*The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation presented the organization's three most prestigious awards to W. James McNerney, Jr., Zayna Rizvi, and McLain Ward during the USET Foundation's "Victory in Versailles" Benefit Gala presented by Lugano Diamonds held on January 19, 2024, at Five Rings Farm in Wellington, Florida.*

## **W. JAMES MCNERNEY, JR. PRESENTED WITH R. BRUCE DUCHOSSOIS DISTINGUISHED TRUSTEE AWARD**



USET Foundation Chairman, President and CEO W. James McNerney, Jr. was presented with the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award. The honor pays homage to the late Mr. Duchossois by recognizing a member of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees who embodies his leadership, generosity, and outstanding character.

McNerney of Wellington, Florida, was elected to the role of Chairman of the USET Foundation in 2019 after serving as the President and CEO since 2017 and having supported the organization in various capacities since 2012. In these roles, McNerney has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, a dedication to philanthropic endeavors, and a deep love for the sport.

"This is all about people, our teams, and our country," said McNerney. "It's all about coming together in a way that demonstrates that our country upholds values that people aspire to be a part of and a country that aims for excellence. I'm inspired by everyone I meet in this sport, and particularly those that strive to achieve great success. Thank you for this unexpected award. I'm highly appreciative."

Under McNerney's stewardship, the USET Foundation has reached new heights. He has co-chaired two major gift campaigns, driving unprecedented support for the organization's mission, and has been a lead donor showcasing his personal commitment to the cause.

McNerney's philanthropic efforts extend beyond his role with the USET Foundation. A testament to their commitment to the sport and their country, McNerney and his wife Haiy have owned horses for U.S. Olympic show jumping athlete Kent Farrington. Several of these horses have successfully represented the U.S. in Nations Cup competition. Most recently, Farrington and Landon, owned by the McNerneys, helped the U.S. show jumping squad earn the team gold medal before claiming the individual silver medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. ■

*USET Foundation Board of Trustees Vice President William H. Weeks (left) and USET Foundation Board of Trustees Treasurer Philip Richter (right) presented the R. Bruce Duchossois Distinguished Trustee Award to USET Foundation Chairman, President and CEO W. James McNerney, Jr. (center).*

*Photo by Luxeciné*

## MCLAIN WARD AWARDED WHITNEY STONE CUP

The 2024 Whitney Stone Cup was awarded to five-time show jumping Olympian and Olympic gold and silver medalist McLain Ward, identifying him as an active competitor whose consistent excellence in international competition and whose standard for sportsmanlike conduct and contributions as an ambassador for the sport exemplify the U.S. equestrian team's highest ideals and traditions.

Ward's commitment and strong performances as the lead-off rider at the 2023 Pan American Games helped the team secure the gold medal and qualification for the Olympic Games. He also earned the individual bronze medal at the same competition.

"Thank you to the USET Foundation, its officers, and its supporters for honoring me," stated Ward. "The Whitney Stone Cup recognizes something that I aim for tirelessly: excellence in equestrian sport. It's not possible to achieve such goals without the unwavering support of my family as well as Lee McKeever and his family.

"I'm so grateful to everyone who has supported the USET Foundation including our owners and sponsors," he continued. "I also want to recognize the professional grooms



Photo by Luxecine

USET Foundation Board of Trustees Vice President William H. Weeks (left) and USET Foundation Chairman, President and CEO W. James McNerney, Jr. (right) presented the 2024 Whitney Stone Cup to McLain Ward (center).

and veterinarians. Finally, to our partners, the horses. Without their reins, we could not fly and none of this would be possible."

The Whitney Stone Cup is given in honor of the late Whitney Stone. Stone served as President and Chairman of the Board of the USET and was instrumental in the creation of a civilian team when the Army retired from competitive horse sports after 1948. ■

## ZAYNA RIZVI NAMED RECIPIENT OF LIONEL GUERRAND-HERMÈS TROPHY

Zayna Rizvi was awarded the 2024 Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, which is presented to a junior or young rider in an Olympic discipline who exemplifies the U.S. Equestrian Team's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

"This is an honor and I very much appreciate the USET Foundation's and the Guerrand-Hermès family's commitment to recognizing up-and-coming U.S. athletes," said Rizvi of Wellington, Florida. "Thank you to USEF, my parents, and the team at North Run. Lastly, the most important thank you goes to the horses that have given me these opportunities."

Developing through the USEF High Performance Pathway, Rizvi has successfully represented the U.S. at the Children's, Junior, and Young Rider levels.

"USEF Pathway Programs taught me invaluable lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, and performing under pressure, all of which have been crucial to my growth as a junior rider," Rizvi explained.

In 2023, Rizvi made her senior Nations Cup team debut at the CSIO3\* Vejer de la Frontera, Spain, and CSIO3\* Vilamoura, Portugal. Her strong performances helped the U.S. team secure podium finishes at both competitions.

The Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy was established in 1983 by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès in memory of his son, Lionel, an Olympic hopeful trained by U.S. Eventing Coach, Jack LeGoff, who tragically passed away at the age of 18. A perpetual trophy designed by Patrick is inscribed with the winner's name and displayed at the USET Foundation's headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. ■



Photo by Jump Media

USET Foundation Board of Trustees Vice President William H. Weeks (left) and USET Foundation Chairman, President and CEO W. James McNerney, Jr. (right) presented the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to Zayna Rizvi (center).

*The presentations of the USET Foundation's three distinguished awards and this year's "Victory in Versailles" Benefit Gala presented by Lugano Diamonds, hosted by honorary chairmen Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen, were made possible thanks to the USET Foundation's generous donors and sponsors, including the "Victory in Versailles" presenting sponsor Lugano Diamonds, entertainment sponsor HUB Private Client, and wine sponsor Château de Reignac. – Kara Pinato Scro*





# BOYD MARTIN AND COMMANDO 3

## USET Foundation's 2024 Connaught Grant Recipients

In December 2023, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation named three-time eventing Olympian Boyd Martin of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, and his mount, Commando 3, a 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Connor 48 x R-Adelgunde) owned by Yankee Creek Ranch, the recipients of the 2024 Connaught Grant.

Each year, the USET Foundation administers up to \$25,000 to a developing horse that is seen as a potential candidate to represent the United States eventing team at international level. The grant was established and is funded by Caroline Moran in memory of her dear friend, the late R. Bruce Duchossois, who was dedicated to encouraging the development of eventing horses in the U.S., and is named after Connaught, a horse that was owned by Duchossois and ridden by Phillip Dutton at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games and 2008 Beijing Olympics.

As the recipient of the Connaught Grant, Martin, who is an athlete on the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Elite Program List with Commando 3 and Luke 140, will use the funds to support further competition and training with Commando 3 with the aim of riding for the U.S. at the highest levels on the international stage.

"It's a huge honor and privilege to receive the Connaught Grant with Commando 3," stated Martin. "In the last year, Commando 3 has burst onto the U.S. equestrian scene. We've worked very hard at building a partnership. I really feel like he is developing into one of the top horses in the nation.

"When I first arrived in the U.S., I got a job as a rider for Philip Dutton and was lucky enough to get to know Bruce Duchossois and Connaught," continued Martin. "From the bottom of my heart, receiving this grant is a touching moment because I witnessed how much Bruce [Duchossois] changed his career and helped U.S. equestrian sport. I was also there to see Connaught in his finest moments, winning five-star events, and representing



Boyd Martin and Commando 3

Photo by Erin Gilmore

America. To be put in a category with a champion bloke like Bruce and a horse like Connaught is a huge accomplishment."

Throughout 2023, Martin and Commando 3 competed at four-star level. In October, the pair won the CCI4\*-L at the Morven Park International, in Leesburg, Virginia. This win came on the heels of several top-five finishes in four-star competition, including winning the CCI4\*-S in September at The Fork at Tryon International and placing third in the horse's first CCI4\*-L in May at the Tryon International Three-Day Event, both in Mill Spring, North Carolina.

Martin credits Commando 3's character and is also quick to recognize the horse's owners for their support.

"He's an interesting character," Martin said of Commando 3. "He's a very good-looking horse and, sadly, he knows it. He struts around like a wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles. He has an amazing presence, and even when I watch him walking in the field,

he has a championship look. I feel like we have an exciting future on the horizon with him.

"I'm really grateful for Yankee Creek Ranch getting behind me and owning Commando 3," he continued. "We've developed a great friendship and partnership and it's a fantastic feeling to ride a horse for people that have the same beliefs, goals, and aspirations."

Martin has his eyes on the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, with Commando 3 and other horses in his string. Whether or not Commando 3 is selected for the Games, Martin plans to enter the gelding in five-star competition.

While Martin will leverage the grant in a way that will help Commando 3 gain the experience necessary for him to be successful on the world stage, he also hopes that up-and-coming athletes will continue their hard work and look for opportunities for the USET Foundation and USEF to support their journeys up the ranks.

- by Kara Pinato Scro





Left to right: Laura Kraut/Baloutinue, 2020 (2021) Tokyo Olympics, Tamie Smith/Mai Baum, 2023 CHIO Aachen, Anna Marek/Fire Fly, 2023 Pan American Games. Photos by: ©Shannon Brinkman

100 Days until Opening Ceremonies

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# TOMMY GREENGARD

## *Receives the USET Foundation's 2024 Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant*

In February, up-and-coming eventing athlete Tommy Greengard of Malibu, California, was named the recipient of the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant for 2024. A current competitor on the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Emerging Program List, Greengard has aspirations of representing the United States internationally.

The Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant is awarded annually through the USET Foundation's Amanda Pirie Warrington Fund. Pirie's family established the fund in her memory to provide financial assistance to an eventing athlete identified as having the talent and ability to represent the United States in the future. It is intended for a recipient that will benefit most from the opportunity to continue their training with top coaches and to compete against the world's best in eventing, one of three Olympic equestrian disciplines. As the recipient of the grant, Greengard will receive up to \$5,000 to help offset expenses associated with his training throughout 2024.

"I'm so appreciative to the USET Foundation and USEF for all of the opportunities that have been offered to me including this grant," stated Greengard. "Earning this grant took me by surprise; I wasn't expecting it at all. It's a wonderful way to start the year, and I'm very grateful."

Greengard began riding when he was six years old and trained with Robyn Fisher in Malibu, California, for nearly nine years. When he moved to northern California to attend college at the University of California, Berkeley, he began training with Andrea Pfeiffer. After graduating in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science, Greengard decided to make horses a career and began to work as a full-time trainer at Pfeiffer's Chocolate Horse Farm in Petaluma, California.

While Greengard has had success at the four-star level with his own Joshuay MBF 2, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, including winning the CCI4\*-S at Woodside Fall International in October 2023 and placing third in the CCI4\*-L at the Eventing Championships at Galway Downs in November 2023, he hopes to capitalize on the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant to make his international debut..

Working closely with Pfeiffer, Greengard has been focused on building a string of promising young eventing horses and plans to leverage the grant to support the development of one particular horse, That's Me Z, Greengard and Pfeiffer's seven-year-old Zangersheide gelding.

"I have some exciting up-and-coming horses, and I'm hoping that I can take That's Me Z to the 2024 FEI World Championship for Young Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France," Greengard explained. "I'd like to use this grant to gain additional training and competition opportunities that I might not have access to otherwise for That's Me Z. He's a pretty brave horse, but I think new experiences and introducing him to different atmospheres will be important before competing on the world stage."

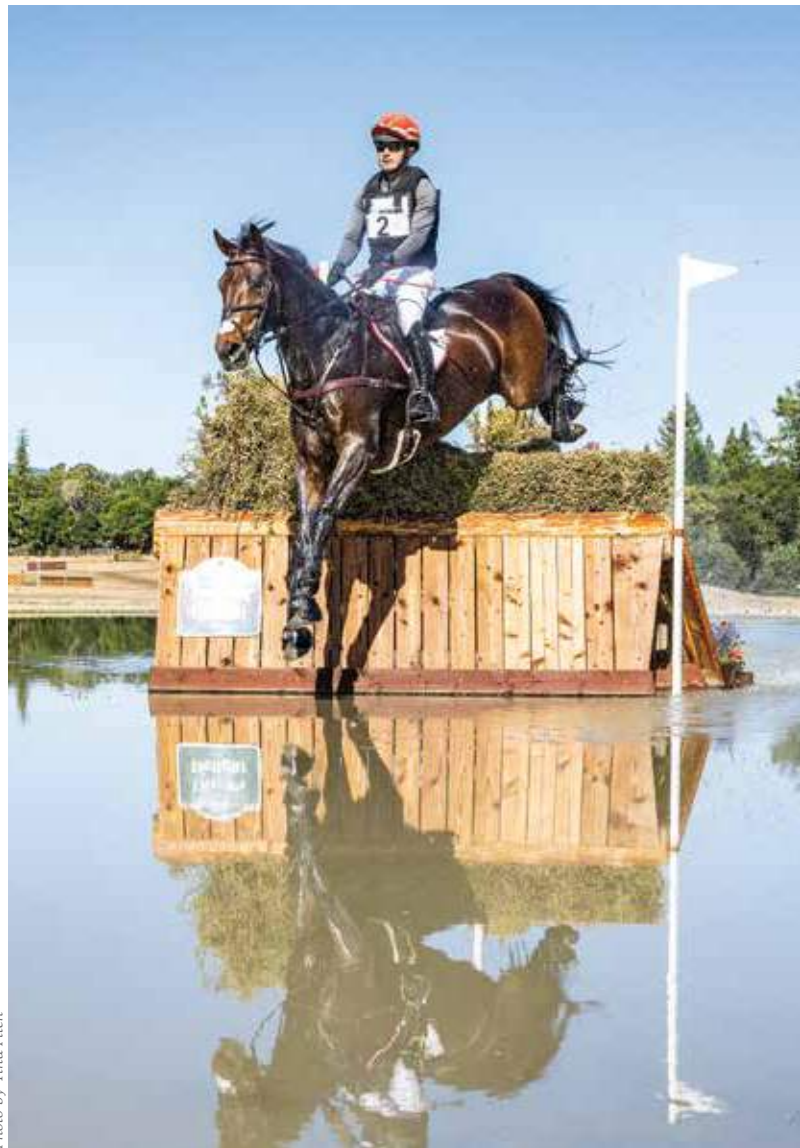



Photo by Tina Fitch

*Tommy Greengard and Joshuay MBF 2*

With his sights set on international competition, Greengard credits his partnership with Pfeiffer and support from USEF's Eventing Emerging Program List for bolstering his career path.

"First and foremost, I have to acknowledge Andrea Pfeiffer. She has been behind me and the horses one thousand percent day in and day out," said Greengard. "I've also been fortunate to have help from USEF's Development and Emerging Coach Leslie Law through the Emerging Program List. Finally, Lilo Fore has helped me on the flat and, of course, my parents have been hugely influential in making everything happen."

Thanks to the Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant, Greengard can continue to focus on his training to help reach his goal of representing the United States around the world.

– by Kara Pinato Scro 

# Equestrians in Paris

## West Coast Benefit Gala a Rousing Success

*Funds raised from the event will support  
U.S. equestrian teams headed to the  
2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games*



*The USET Foundation's "Equestrians in Paris" benefit transported over 500 attendees to springtime in Paris.*

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's "Equestrians in Paris" benefit event raised \$475,000 to support the U.S. equestrian teams competing at the upcoming 2024 summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France.

Held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar, California, "Equestrians in Paris" was a glitzy showcase celebrating the best of U.S. talent. Guests were awed by spectacular demonstrations from several top athletes including a quadrille performance by U.S. Olympic dressage medalists Guenter Seidel, Steffen Peters, and Sabine Schut-Kery, as well as U.S. FEI Dressage World Equestrian Games bronze medalist Kathleen Raine and a spectacular liberty performance to the national anthem.

"Equestrians in Paris" was hosted by Josh Meyers and 2023 Miss California Sabrina Lewis, and benefit co-chairs Sean Caddell, Katherine Annie Finch, Laura Maloney, Patricia Mayer, and Francie Nilforushan, as well as several athlete host committee and benefit committee members. The event attracted more than 500 attend-

ees and featured live equestrian performances, presented by Halter Ego.

"The event was a spectacular success, and I'm so humbled by all of our donors and supporters for their role in helping our athletes achieve their Olympic and Paralympic dreams," said Lisa Munro, Director of Development, USET Foundation. "The generosity of our community is crucial, especially in an Olympic and Paralympic year. Unlike in some other countries, U.S. equestrian sport does not receive government funding. As a result, our athletes rely solely on the support of US Equestrian [USEF] and funds raised from the USET Foundation. It's truly a team effort."

The dressage riders who performed brought with them a host of experience, in the shape of a dazzling 20 medals between them for the United States from Olympic Games, World Equestrian Games, and Pan American Games.

Olympic show jumping team gold medalist Will Simpson led a unique performance with his daughter and North American Youth Championships show jumping gold and bronze medalist Sophie Simpson-Leckie. Their performance was ridden in tandem to strains of Bruce



*Benefit co-hosts, Josh Meyers,  
with Miss California 2023 and equestrian,  
Sabrina Lewis*

Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A."

In the highly anticipated live auction, a month of residential training with U.S. Dressage Chef d'Equipe Christine Traurig and Olympic silver medalist Schut-Kery in California attracted a bidding frenzy.



*Attendees bidding during a thrilling live auction.*

The private jet roundtrip flights donated to the silent auction by Sky Partners were another hot item, with the company deciding to offer a second identical lot to the live auction on the spur of the moment. There was also much interest in the private dinner cooked by Guenter Seidel with wine served by Traurig.



*U.S. dressage Chef d'Equipe Christine Traurig and Olympic medalist Guenter Seidel during the live auction*

Honorary chairman Mark Wahlberg donated a VIP experience at the premiere of one of his upcoming films. Other lots included an Olympic VIP package experience with gold level dressage hospitality passes and a private course walk and VIP tickets to the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, among others.

Munro added: "This evening was particularly special because we were able to celebrate our avid community of West Coast-based supporters and equestrians. This community plays an integral role in furthering the USET Foundation's mission, so I'm delighted with the outcome of 'Equestrians in Paris'. It will bolster the support we can provide our athletes as we cheer them on at this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games.



*United States Equestrian Team Foundation Parisian ice sculpture*

"With Paris 2024 just months away, the USET Foundation would like to emphasize our appreciation to our devoted donors and supporters who have contributed greatly to the thriving West Coast equestrian community," concluded Munro. "In addition to all of those in attendance, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our benefit chairmen and committee members, as well as our sponsors. Thanks to the unparalleled collective effort, our U.S. equestrian teams will have a very exciting and momentous year ahead."

*- by Alice Collins* 

*(Below) La Vie en Rose Dressage Quadrille (L-R) Steffen Peters, Sabine Schut-Kery, Guenter Seidel, Kathleen Raine*



*USA eventing elite athlete, Tamie Smith, and USET Foundation National Advisory Committee member, Ellen Ahearn*



All photos by Kirsten Zeigler Photography

# ••••• ROBERT DOVER •••••

## 2024 USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week



*Robert Dover led a demonstration for participants.*

Every year, the country's top up-and-coming young dressage riders are invited to learn from the professionals at the Robert Dover US Equestrian (USEF) Horsemastership Clinic Week. The event is one of many USEF High Performance Pathway Programs designed to help identify and develop the next generation of U.S. dressage team talent.

The 2024 clinic, presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center, took place January 3-7 at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida.

Automatic invitations to the clinic are sent to the winners of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals, the top six overall winners from the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, the Horseware Ireland/

USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship, and the champion and reserve champion from the USEF Children Dressage and Pony Rider Dressage National Championships. The remaining clinic spaces are open to wild card applicants.

Athletes selected for the 2024 USEF Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Taylor Allen (Niwot, CO)
- Korey Denny (Williston, FL)
- Leah Drew (Lincoln, MA)
- Alexandra Garvey (Dallas, TX)
- Maryn Geck (West Linn, OR)
- Emily Hewitt (Atlanta, GA)
- Campbell Jones (Saline, MI)
- Franki Kesner (Hampton, NJ)
- Lexie Kment (Palmyra, NE)
- Mary Chapman Martin (Opelika, AL)
- Bennett McWhorter (Baton Rouge, LA)
- Jenaya Olsen (Naples, FL)
- Lizzie Oshman (Menlo Park, CA)
- Elizabeth Petersen (Elbert, CO)
- Mary Claire Piller (Oakdale, TN)
- Marin Roth (Bloomington, IL)
- Emma Claire Stephens (Loxahatchee, FL)
- Claire Tucker (Lincoln, NE)
- Autumn Vavrick (Oxford, MI)
- Virginia Woodcock (Atlanta, GA)



*Clinician Sarah Tubman and Korey Denny*

All photos by Taylor Pence/ISC



*Campbell Jones*



*Franki Kesner*



*Clinician Katie Duerrhammer instructs Lexie Kment.*



*A select group of up-and-coming dressage athletes, pictured with Robert Dover, honed their skills at the 2024 Robert Dover USEF Horsemastership Clinic Week.*

All photos by Taylor Pence/ISC

# 2024 USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series

On January 4-7, 11 young accomplished show jumpers rolled up their sleeves and learned from some of the nation's top jumping athletes at the 2024 USEF Jumping Horsemastership Training Series in Wellington, Florida.

The USEF Horsemastership Training Series is an important USEF High Performance Pathway Program that helps identify riders as potential future U.S. jumping team athletes as well as provides athletes with a comprehensive educational experience to promote their development.

Riders were selected from the USEF Jumping Pathway Programs and included winners of the 2023 Platinum Performance/USEF Talent Search Finals East/West and 2023 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships, the top two U.S. athletes from the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships, as well as wild card athletes.

Athletes selected for the 2024 USEF Horsemastership Training Series are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Emmeline Adamick (San Francisco, CA)
- Mia Bagnato (Fishkill, NY)
- Hunter Champey (Bedminster, NJ)
- Avery Glynn (Petaluma, CA)
- Luke Jensen (Denton, TX)
- Camilla Jerng (Woodside, CA)
- Amira Kettaneh (Hollis, NH)
- Sterling Malnik (Ocean Ridge, FL)
- Carlee McCutcheon (Aubrey, TX)
- Nora Nauss (Maple Plain, MN)
- Ansley Wright (Manalapan, FL)



*Avery Glynn rides in a flat session with Anne Kursinski.*



*Clinician Anne Kursinski gives a flat demonstration for USEF Horsemastership Training Series participants.*





*Camilla Jerng reviews a course with clinician Beezie Madden.*



*Sterling Malnik jumps a course.*



*Luke Jensen chats with clinician Beezie Madden after his warm-up ride.*

*(Photo below L-R) Luke Jensen, Sterling Malnik, Amira Kettaneh, Hunter Champney, Mia Bagnato, Nora Nauss, Carlee McCutcheon, Avery Glynn, Camilla Jerng, Emmeline Adamick, and Ansley Wright*



# Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Teams DELIVER ONE-TWO PUNCH AT 2024 WELLINGTON CPEDIS

In March, the Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team had their second outing of the 2024 competition season and they made it count by winning the CPEDI3\* at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) 9 in Wellington, Florida. Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline guided Beatrice de Lavalette and Sixth Sense, Rebecca Hart and Floratina, Fiona Howard and Fleuresse 4, and Cynthia Screnci and Sir Chipoli to a win in the team competition with a score of 428.150. This podium finish came on the heels of the team's January outing where Chef d'Equipe Laureen Johnson led the same combinations to top honors in the CPEDI3\* during AGDF 3.

"The team was excellent throughout the competition and in the freestyle in the end," said Assouline of the combinations' performances in the AGDF 9 CPEDI. "All in all, we had several horses scoring above 70%, which is very good."

Hart of Loxahatchee, Florida, and Floratina, a 16-year-old Hanoverian mare owned by Chloe Gasiorowski, earned scores in the 70s throughout the competition, showcasing how their partnership has developed since they began competing together last spring. They collected scores of 73.445% in the Grade III FEI Para Grand Prix A Test, 75% in the Grade III FEI Para Grand Prix B Test, and 76.367% in the Grade III FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle to round out an impressive weekend.

De Lavalette of Lake Fort Worth, Florida, and Sixth Sense, a 14-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by her parents Elizabeth and Nicolas de Lavalette, began the event by winning the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix A Test with a score of 68.908%. They also earned class-winning scores of 72.833% in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix B Test and 74.007% in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle.



Front row: Kate Shoemaker, Fiona Howard, Beatrice de Lavalette  
Back row: Susie Wong, Karen Pavicic, Cynthia Screnci, and USEF Para Dressage Director Laureen Johnson

Howard of Boston, Massachusetts, and Fleuresse 4, a seven-year-old mare owned by Fiona Howard, Elizabeth Bagsby, Sharon Day, and Julian Howard, earned scores of 67.471% in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix A Test, 66.333% in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix B Test, and 72.389% to finish second in the Grade II FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle.

Screnci of Boca Raton, Florida, and Sir Chipoli, a 17-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Volado Farms and Cynthia Screnci, earned 69.060% in the Grade V FEI Para Grand Prix A Test, followed by a personal-best score of 68.904% in the Grade V FEI Para Grand Prix B Test. Screnci elected not to compete her team mount Sir Chipoli in the Grade V FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle after strong efforts on Friday and Saturday, instead competing his stablemate For Memory 4 for the experience and scoring 69.6% to win the class.

As this newsletter went to press, the Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team were headed to the World Equestrian Center Ocala for their next CPEDI3\*. The venue will be hosting a CPEDI for the first time, and it will be a new experience for several U.S. combinations.

"As a chef, I am quite keen to see how the horses will develop in Ocala because it is a complete change of facility," said Assouline. "A lot of the horses are based in Florida, and Wellington is their home showgrounds. We have never been to Ocala and we will compete there in the main stadium, so I will find it very interesting to see how the horses will be. In terms of the technicality, the horses have already progressed well from the first show [in January]. I think we will see the real results of the adjustments that have been made when they show in Ocala."

– Adapted from US Equestrian Press Release



Front row: Kate Shoemaker, Fiona Howard, Beatrice de Lavalette  
Back row: Judge Carlos Lopes, U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, Cynthia Screnci, and Caitlin Lane

All photos by SusanStickle.com



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# NETJETS U.S. JUMPING TEAM FINISH ON THE PODIUM

*in Inaugural North American Leg of Longines League of Nations™*

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team earned a solid third-place finish in the first-ever North American leg of the new \$770,000 Longines League of Nations™ team event held on Saturday, March 23, at World Equestrian Center – Ocala (WEC), Florida. The team finished with a final score of 12 faults after two rounds of elite jumping competition against the 10 best teams in the world. Ireland took the win on a total of five, while Switzerland finished in second on eight faults.

“The format here gives you options and we considered that in the second round,” said Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland. “We ended up with our standard plan, with our three clear rounds moving to the second round, but I like the format a lot and I think it’s great for the spectators, especially for people who don’t know our sport or how team competition works. We always aim for the podium. This is the top 10 teams in the world, so being on the podium when you have the quality of teams we had here is still a very good result for us, though we’re always pushing for the win.”

The U.S. went fifth in the order out of the 10 teams competing. Laura Kraut, of Palm Beach, Florida, and Baloutinue, a 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by St. Bride’s Farm and cared for by Margo Thomas, were selected as the trailblazers for the team, riding first in the U.S. rotation of rider-and-horse combinations and testing the beautifully presented track designed by Ireland’s Alan Wade. The dependable pair were precise and efficient, crossing through the timers clear and well under the time allowed to start the team off confidently.

The hometown duo of Aaron Vale, from Williston, Florida, and Carissimo 25, an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Debbie Smith and cared for by Nicky Cook, produced a strong round for the team, just nudging out the top rail of the tall Liverpool vertical after the open water to add four faults to the total score, with Farrington and Ward still to jump.

Continuing to add valuable experience to their successful resume, Kent Farrington, of Wellington, Florida, navigated Landon through the track, showcasing the tremendous scope and athleticism of the 11-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Haity McNerney and cared for by Denise Moriarty. The pair were quick and careful, adding another clear round in the third rotation for the team.



*Kent Farrington and Landon*



*McLain Ward and Callas*

As anchors, McLain Ward, of Brewster, New York, and Callas, a 2008 Holsteiner mare owned by Beechwood Stables LLC and cared for by Irvin Perez, produced a lovely clear, and with the U.S. already in the top eight teams moving to the second round, the team was able to drop Vale's four faults. They headed into the second round tied with Ireland and the Netherlands on zero faults.

Kraut and Baloutinue returned for the second round with the task of keeping the U.S. competitive on the leaderboard. The pair delivered, notching the fastest double-clear effort of the evening, and finishing as the only U.S. combination to jump clear in both rounds.

"I have so much confidence in my horse. We have such a great partnership now and I really feel like I know him so well. I think going first served the team well so we could bring back information for the later rotations," said Kraut. Of the venue and atmosphere, she continued, "This is incredible for the sport here. For the people in the U.S. to get to see the sport, live and at this level, is probably not only just exciting, but also incredibly educational at the same time."

Farrington and Landon jumped to eight faults in the second round after dropping a foot in the water and the first element of the double combination towards the middle of the course. The pair's score put the Irish and U.S. in a neck-and-neck battle for the podium, alongside the Swiss and Dutch.

With Ward returning aboard Callas, the pair fought to keep the team on the podium ahead of the Dutch. The duo looked strong throughout their second trip, but a rub at the B element of the triple combination added four faults to their score, but with the team on a total of 12, and faster than the Dutch, they secured third place overall in front of an enthusiastic home crowd. The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team earned 80 points for their podium finish, adding to their 55 points from Abu Dhabi, as they sit in fourth overall in the Longines League of Nations™ standings. The next leg of the series will take place at St. Gallen in Switzerland from May 30 – June 2. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



All photos by Jump Media



Laura Kraut and Baloutinue



McLain Ward and Callas



Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25

# KAREN GOLDING

## *Remembered With Hamilton Farm Stall Naming*

In April 2023, legendary Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) steward and groom Karen Golding passed away at the age of 73 after battling severe health issues for several years. Golding's illustrious grooming career included supporting show jumping Olympic silver medalist Michael Matz.

To honor Golding and her influence on the sport, USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Jane Forbes Clark dedicated a stall at the USET Foundation's headquarters Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey, in Golding's name and in the name of Golding's favorite horse, Jet Run. As part of her role within Matz's program, Golding was Jet Run's primary caretaker for 12 years. In that time, Jet Run became one of the winningest U.S. show jumping horses of his era, including winning individual and team gold medals at the 1979 Pan American Games and the gold medal at the 1981 World Cup Final. Golding's stall at the USET Foundation's headquarters joins an impressive group of stalls dedicated to former U.S. equestrian team horses, riders, owners, and supporters.

Golding attended every Olympic Games from 1976 to 2000, except for 1984, assisting either Matz or the United States Equestrian Team (USET) grooming horses and managing a team of grooms. As a groom, she attended several Pan American Games, World Championships, and World Cup Finals. When Matz shifted his focus away from show jumping, Golding became an FEI steward. She served as the Chief Steward at several FEI World Cup Finals and Olympic and World Equestrian Games selection trials and was well known for her commitment to horse welfare. In addition to being a groom and steward, Golding played an active role in governance of the sport and received numerous recognitions for her contributions.



Karen Golding

“Karen’s unwavering devotion to U.S. equestrian sport was unparalleled,” stated Clark. “We will all remember her as the ultimate team player and someone who always put the horse’s best interest first. Her hard work and her commitment were key to ensuring the success of the USET on some of the greatest international stages. Everyone who knew her and worked with her is extremely grateful for Karen and for the legacy she has left behind.”

– by Kara Pinato Scro 



Photo courtesy of the USET Foundation



Photo courtesy of the USET Foundation

# TONI CUPAL

## Joins the USET Foundation Board of Trustees

**T**oni Cupal is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of Healing Cultures, a nonprofit organization she co-founded in 2016. She is also a yoga instructor and practitioner of the Japanese healing method Ninniku Okyū. The mission of Healing Cultures is to keep this rare form of healing alive by creating an environment in which all individuals can explore and cultivate their own paths to deeper health.

Cupal also serves on the Advisory Council for the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. Before that, she was a member of the Advisory Taskforce for the establishment of the Doerr School of Sustainability at Stanford University. Additionally, Cupal previously sat on the Board of Directors for The Community Foundation of London and The University of Wyoming Foundation Board where she was the first Chair of the Donor Stewardship Committee. Before focusing on yoga and working with nonprofit organizations, Cupal had a career in the technology industry.

In addition to her nonprofit governance roles, Cupal is an enthusiastic supporter of the U.S. equestrian teams. Her daughter Alessandra Volpi is a professional show jumping athlete who successfully progressed along the USEF High Performance Pathway, participating in US Equestrian (USEF) Pathway Programs including competing at the FEI North American Youth Championships in 2019 and 2021. In 2019, she earned a team silver medal in the Young Rider division. Later, in 2020, Volpi was a member of the silver medal-winning U.S. Jumping Young Rider Team with Taiwan du Landey at the Palm Beach Masters CSIOY.

In 2022, Volpi made her senior debut competing for the U.S. with Berlinda in the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Leipzig, Germany. Since then, Volpi has successfully represented the country in several Nations Cup competitions. Notably, in 2023, Volpi was a member of the winning U.S. Jumping Team in the FEI Nations Cup™




*Toni Cupal*

*Photo courtesy of Toni Cupal*

Uggerhalne CSIO3\* in Denmark, the third-placed team in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of Sweden CSIO5\*, and placed third individually in the CSIO3\* Drammen Grand Prix in Norway.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Toni [Cupal] to the USET Foundation’s Board of Trustees,” said W. James McNerney, Jr., Chairman, President, and CEO of the USET Foundation. “She brings diverse professional talents and a successful tenure in nonprofit governance to the table. This, in partnership with a passion

for the horse and commitment to High Performance sport, will help bolster the USET Foundation and the US Equestrian (USEF) programs it supports.”

Cupal holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Wyoming. She also earned a Masters in Business Administration and a Masters in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Stanford University. She lives in Woodside, California, with her husband, Mike Volpi, and their two dogs, Leo and Atticus. 

# Emerging & Developing Eventing Athletes

## Kick Off 2024 Training Sessions

As part of the US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Eventing Pathway Program, athletes named to its 2024 Emerging and Development Program Lists kicked off the season with group training sessions to hone their skills under the guidance of USEF Emerging and Development Eventing Coach Leslie Law. Several industry professionals also lent their expertise to help participants expand their knowledge across various aspects of the sport.

The educational series began with the East Coast-based Eventing Emerging Program Training Session at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, Florida, from January 8-11. The West Coast-based Eventing Emerging Program participants trained at the Galway Downs Equestrian Center in Temecula, California, from January 15-18. Participants in the Eventing Development Program gathered at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, Florida, from January 29-February 1.

“The January training sessions offer athletes an opportunity to concentrate on the basics,” said Law. “When you

are in the middle of the season, you are more focused on the competitions along with the individual show jumping and cross-country rounds and the dressage tests. Overall, I thought the horse-and-rider combinations looked good. The horses were in great shape and we had valuable cross-country schooling sessions with Ian Stark.”

In each session, experts gave lectures on a variety of topics. Longtime groom Max Corcoran spoke about horse management and Dr. Joanna Frantz PT, MSPT, DPT reviewed human physiology basics and exercises for the athletes. Veterinarians Dr. Lisa Cassinella, Dr. Jonathan McLellan, and Dr. Paul McClellan shared how to keep equine athletes in top shape, while farriers Rebecca Ratte and Kenny Bark discussed hoof care.

“We host several lectures on top of the training itself,” shared Law. “We try to cover as many parts of the business as possible. The athletes have their own bases and their own programs, so we try to help them maximize their potential in all areas.”



Photo by Deyn Trethevery-US Equestrian

Emerging and Development Coach Leslie Law teaches Eventing Development athlete Cornelia Fletcher in Ocala, FL.

Along with the educational component, Law and Christina Vaughn, USEF Director of Eventing Development and Emerging Programs, reviewed the athletes’ plans for the year ahead to help them identify potential spring and summer competitions to attend. Law and Vaughn also hope to identify a handful of horse-and-rider combinations that will travel abroad to compete in Europe in the spring and summer months.

“We’d like to take up to six riders to Europe to compete in Nations Cups competitions in England and Ireland,” stated Law.

Looking beyond 2024, Law is encouraging the athletes to think long term and to set their sights on the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

“There are discussions happening about the LA-based Games,” he explained. “We want the riders to think bigger picture. It might seem far out, but it’s not. The participants in these sessions are capable of being named to a team of that caliber, so now is the time to put it all together for the future.” – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Photo by Deyn Trethevery-US Equestrian

Eventing Emerging athlete Maddie Hale schooling a show jumping course in Ocala, FL.



# COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

## DRESSAGE NATIONS CUP

Led by Chef d'Equipe Christine Traurig, the team of Jan Ebeling and Jubi's Tenacity owned by Ann Romney; Kevin Kohmann and Diamante Farms' Duenensee; Erin Nichols and Premiere Sport Horses' Elian Royale; and Jennifer Williams and Joppe K owned by Joppe Partners, LLC earned the silver medal in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ USA CDIO3\* in Wellington, Florida.



Jennifer Williams, Kevin Kohmann, Jan Ebeling, and Erin Nichols

Photo by Deyn Tretheeny/US Equestrian



Josh Albrecht and Goldenboy Vinckenburgh

Photo Deyn Tretheeny/US Equestrian

## CDIOU25 FREESTYLE

In the CDIOU25 FEI Grand Prix Freestyle during the FEI Dressage Nations Cup USA in Wellington, Florida, Josh Albrecht and Goldenboy Vinckenburgh earned the silver medal, while Dennessy Rogers and Chanel took home the bronze medal. Albrecht, aboard Coalcyn Equestrian LLC's 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, earned a personal-best score of 70.13% while Rogers, riding Dorriah Rogers' 19-year-old Danish Warmblood mare, also collected a personal-best score of 68.8%.

## JUMPING NATIONS CUP

Led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, the team of Karl Cook and Signe Ostby's Caracole de la Roque; Laura Kraut and Cherry Knoll Farms' Bisquetta; Zayna Rizvi and Exquise du Pachis owned by The Exquisite Group; and McLain Ward and Ilex owned by Ward and Bonne Chance Farm had a third-place podium finish in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ CSIO4\* presented by Florida Coast Equipment in Wellington, Florida.



Zayna Rizvi, Laura Kraut, McLain Ward, and Karl Cook with Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland

Photo Deyn Tretheeny/US Equestrian

## FOUR-IN-HAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Chester Weber claimed his 21st USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Four-in-Hand Horses at Live Oak International. Driving his striking team of bay Dutch Warmblood geldings — Amadeus, Gouveneur, Julius V, Kadora, and Nico Teusje C — Weber was the wire-to-wire leader, scoring a 39.59 in dressage and winning the marathon phase with the best time. He secured the win with the fastest cones round with only six faults, finishing on a total score of 167.45.



Chester Weber in the cones round

Photo by PiesOYou



# FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Wellington CSIO4\*

Wellington Club at Wellington International

Wellington, Florida

March 2, 2024

USA



Sara Cady, Sofia Cady, Pam Cady, and Steve Cady



USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Betsy Juliano, USET Foundation National Advisory Committee member Camille Branca, Tony Branca, Chip McKenney, and USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Margaret Duprey



USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Kristi Mitchem with Tom Mawhinney, Paul Mendoza, and Pernilla Ammann

The USET Foundation hosted a reception at Wellington International to watch and cheer for the NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team that was competing in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Wellington CSIO4\* presented by Florida Coast Equipment held in Wellington, Florida, on March 2, 2024. Supporters of the USET Foundation and U.S. equestrian sport were in attendance. Ultimately, the team of Karl Cook and Signe Ostby's Caracole de la Roque; Laura Kraut and Cherry Knoll Farms' Bisquetta; Zayna Rizvi and Exquisite du Pachis owned by The Exquisite Group; and McLain Ward and Ilex owned by Ward and Bonne Chance Farm earned a third-place podium finish. 🐾



Elizabeth Fath and Bonnie Jenkins



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