



PARIS

A Logistical Feat of OLYMPIC PROPORTIONS

Planning for an Olympic and Paralympic Games is a tremendous undertaking for even the most organized among us. To ensure that the U.S. athletes and their horses can ride down the centerline or stop the timers at peak fitness with every last detail optimized, an intricate web of support and logistics must work invisibly and seamlessly behind the scenes to cover every eventuality. As the opening ceremonies approach, we look at some of the considerations involved in planning and the people at US Equestrian (USEF) who help make it all happen.

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Dear Friends,

With only a handful of weeks before the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, the excitement is starting to crescendo. The Olympics is a sporting spectacle like no other, and in this newsletter we celebrate the enormous efforts by many people that go into making sure our athletes — both humans and horses — arrive at the Games in tiptop shape. It really does take a village, and in our lead feature, we are proud to shine a spotlight on a few of the individuals who help to make it all happen.

We can't thank these dedicated members of the extended community that make up our teams enough. These often unsung heroes — the veterinarians, farriers, physiotherapists, grooms, coaches, owners, chefs d'equipe, team leaders, and horse transport companies — deserve all the recognition we can provide. Their service and dedication to our cause truly can make the difference between our athletes standing on podiums or going home without medals.

I want to give a special mention to all of our incredible donors, whose steadfast support is yet another critical component of the U.S. team machine. Your generosity allows us to continue to pursue excellence on the international stage and boast one of the most comprehensive High Performance programs of any nation in the world.

These essential elements, in turn, help boost wider fan engagement with our wonderful sport, and help secure its place in future Olympic Games. Every horse lover has a part to play in the success of our athletes. Supporters past and present represent indispensable pieces of the intricate puzzle that is success on the world stage for our U.S. riders and teams.

This spring, we said goodbye to a long-time supporter of equestrianism, Fran Steinwedell. She was an Honorary Life Trustee and friend of the USET Foundation for 50 years and gave so much to the sport, as a rider, organizer, owner, and mentor. We also bid farewell to USET Honorary Life Trustee and USEA Hall of Fame member Trish Gilbert, whose passion for equestrianism and groundbreaking achievements in eventing will never be forgotten. She wore many hats over her storied career, including team selector, event director and licensed eventing official. Both extraordinary women leave remarkable legacies and will be deeply missed.

It is in no small part thanks to you — our readers and donors — that our U.S. team will be supremely well prepared for these Games held at the stunning grounds of Versailles, and I hope you enjoy reading about the organization and planning that has led to this point, as well as details of the athletes and their horses in the running for coveted team spots.

I know we will all be cheering them on wholeheartedly this summer.

Sincerely,

Bonnie B. 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.

Cover photos by Taylor Pence Incanto Sports Group and Kenneth Kraus

Planning Ahead

While the rest of us were still applauding the athletes' achievements as the Tokyo Olympics wrapped up in the summer of 2021, the team behind the team at USEF was already busy exhaustively planning to ensure smooth passage to the next Games in Versailles.

Steven Morrissey, USEF's Managing Director of Sport Logistics, explained: "Years ahead of every Games we plan site visits to the venues and surrounding area to become familiar with the area, scout out hotels, transport routes, hospitals, useful stores, and restaurants.

"In terms of preparation, we work with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee [USOPC] for the Olympic and Paralympic Games on logistics, accreditation, and athlete and team staff selection."

Meticulous planning is key to success at a "closed" venue like an Olympic Games, where it is no simple task to run out to source something that has been broken, forgotten, or misplaced.

USEF's Equestrian Chef de Mission Hallye Griffin said: "We send a 20-foot shipping container of supplies to each Olympics and Paralympics that will be placed at the venue to provide storage and availability of supplies for the stabling, grooms' housing, and team hotel.

"We know the security restrictions ahead of time and work to have our sea container arrive before the lock-down period, which begins around a week before the first horses arrive. Following that, we only bring in the permitted equipment with the horses and permitted supplies through the pedestrian entrances."



Meticulous planning includes shipping a sea container to each Olympics and Paralympics to provide storage and availability of supplies for the stabling, grooms' housing, and team hotel.

The container and equipment are stored at the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. The container departed in early June 2024 and will take about a month to reach Versailles. It contains tools, mucking out equipment, freezers, fans, horse blankets, saddle pads, ice coolers, chairs, stable decorations, veterinary fluids, physio equipment, and many other necessities. During the Games, the container becomes a location for food and for rest, so it is also equipped with electricity, refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee machines.

The USEF advance teams also scout local facilities to use as training camp locations — this year in France they secured different locations for dressage, eventing, and para dressage, as well as numerous bases for the jumpers — ahead of the start of the Games, as well as for layovers to break up the horses' journeys on their way to European competitions and camps during the months before the Olympics.

Collaboration with the USOPC is daily in the lead-up to the Games, and involves accreditation, selection of the teams, hotel accommodations, venue details, ticketing, air and ground transportation, sports medicine, and plans for team processing — the day when athletes are given their team uniforms and branded Olympic and Paralympic gear — to name but a few of the critical details required to ensure everything runs like clockwork when it is go time. It's a herculean task.

continued next page



(above) Emma Ford and Courtney Carson set about organizing the U.S. stabling area at the Tokyo Olympics.

Photo by Taylor Pence//US Equestrian

(left) The stables at the 2023 Strzegom CCI0 are a hive of activity.

Photo by Libby Law



Photo by Taylor Pence/US Equestrian

Groom Jose Alaniz and dressage horse Don John relax at the Tokyo Olympics

Teamwork

The U.S. team contingent will send an extensive network of staff to Paris to ensure a smooth and safe experience, as well as provide our teams with a performance-enhancing environment for the horses and athletes. USEF representatives on the ground include:

- Equestrian Chef de Mission – Hallye Griffin
- Equestrian Assistant Chef de Mission – Steven Morrissey
- Eventing Team Leader – Gemma Stobbs
- Dressage Team Leader – Laura Roberts
- Jumping Team Leader – Lizzy Chesson
- Para Dressage Team Leader – Laureen Johnson
- Eventing Chef d’Equipe – Bobby Costello
- Dressage Chef d’Equipe – Christine Traurig
- Jumping Chef d’Equipe – Robert Ridland
- Para Dressage Chef d’Equipe – Michel Assouline
- Eventing Team Veterinarian – Dr. Susan Johns
- Dressage Team Veterinarian – Dr. Laura Faulkner
- Jumping Team Veterinarian – Dr. Heather Sherman
- Para Dressage Team Veterinarian – Dr. Kim Snyder
- Eventing Team Farrier – Beck Ratte
- Dressage and Jumping Team Farrier – Chuck Jones
- Eventing Equine Physio – Linda Vegher
- Jumping Equine Physio – Janus Marquis
- Team Doctor – Dr. Mark Hart
- Olympic Human Physio – Jennifer Mitchell
- Para Dressage Human Physio – Joanna Frantz
- Para Dressage Lead Personal Care Assistant – Tina Wentz
- Press Officer – Carly Weilminster
- Social Media Manager – Devyn Trethewey

Many other people assist the athletes along the way, ranging from their home teams of grooms, owners, sponsors, and shippers to USET donors, and additional USEF staff. Athletes may also bring personal coaches/trainers and personal equine physios to the Games.



Photo by US Equestrian

Meaghan O’Donoghue (riding Palm Crescent) gives U.S. Eventing Team Veterinarian Susan Johns a high five at the 2022 CHIO Aachen alongside (L-R) Emma Truit, Kendyl Tracy, and Kelty O’Donoghue.

Hotels

“One of the most important tasks on the preliminary site visits is identifying appropriate housing for our group,” says Morrissey. “USEF staff have completed over half a dozen different site visits to Versailles. We send different combinations of staff members each time — some only visiting once and others up to four times ahead of the Games. The rooms per night change depending on the date due to the schedule, but we are housing more than 75 individuals in Versailles.”

Contracts are made with the hotels, which are selected on a balance between appropriate amenities and location, and rooms are allocated to specific individuals after selection.

Equestrian Logistics

The horses based in the U.S. will all travel by trailer to a port of departure (usually Miami International or JFK in New York), then fly to Europe and take another trailer ride from the airport to their training location. From the training location, they will travel by trailer to Versailles. Some of the horses will arrive in Europe early in the summer, while some will arrive just before the training camps.

The eventing, dressage, and para dressage athletes and horses will meet at their training camps in France ahead of travel to Versailles. The jumping athletes and horses will travel to Versailles from various training locations in Europe.

Discipline-Specific Needs

U.S. teams consist of four separate squads across the Olympic and Paralympic Games, so many elements are custom tailored for each discipline. For example, it doesn’t work for dressage horses to be schooling around jumps in a square arena. Although there is an over-arching plan, each discipline’s needs must be carefully considered and accommodated.

“We organize anything cross-discipline,” explained Griffin, “and collaborate with the Team Leaders who organize any discipline-specific details. It’s complicated, and there’s no one-size-fits-all approach because the plan must be optimal for each team. The Team Leaders are the individuals with the direct athlete and groom interface, and they feed the information back to us so we can put together a comprehensive plan.”

Nutrition

Given that the Olympics is a closed competition, the types of feed and hay available at the venue are usually limited. USEF encourages athletes to source feed for their horses ahead of time to avoid a forced change of diet right before the Games. Carrots are sometimes available to purchase at the venue, but team staff often clean out the carrots section of local grocery stores.

Flights

Anyone who has ever booked a flight online is familiar with the pitfalls of choosing the wrong date or accidentally spelling a name incorrectly. So how does the USEF team go about booking flights well in advance when they still don't know the names — or even the numbers — of everyone flying?

Morrissey explained: “For some flights, we will work with the USOPC which has blocks on some flights where we can input a person’s name once the team is selected. Other times we work directly with an airline for a group booking, and they allow us to provide a name at a later date.”

The dressage and jumping horses will be in Europe ahead of the Games and will travel by truck to their pre-Games bases. Most of the eventing horses are expected to travel from the U.S., flying out of JFK. The para dressage horses are almost all based in Florida, so will depart from Miami, and berths



Photo by Taylor Pence/US Equestrian

on the horse flights are booked ahead of team selection.

“The horse flights and ground transport are a bit easier [than booking hotel rooms] because we know the number of horses who will travel and can provide their names following selection. Our team veterinarians ensure that all potential horses have the correct health requirements for travel, so there is not a concern following selection,” added Morrissey.



Grooms at the 2022 FEI World Championships: Eddie Garcia (Steffen Peters/Suppenkasper), Morgan Klingensmith (Adrienne Lyle/Salvino), Emily Bender (Katie Duerrhammer/Quartett) and Nate Tucker (Ashley Holzer/Valentine)

Photo by Matt Turer/US Equestrian

Looking to the Future

Meanwhile, performance and logistics planning is already well underway for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028. The USEF team has begun looking into accommodation options, understanding the venue plan, and started to determine ground transport for the staff, athletes, and horses.

“We look as far ahead as possible — with Brisbane 2032 on the further horizon for our pathway programs,” concluded Morrissey.

Much of the preparation for an Olympic and Paralympic Games is bolstered by the support given by USET Foundation to USEF to help fund planning expenses for these and other major championships. Creating a true high performance experience for the U.S. horses and riders is critical to produce peak performances and the ability to stand on the podium and hear our national anthem. Here's to a summer of top-drawer competitive equestrian action with the stunning backdrop of Versailles. – by Alice Collins



Photo by Matt Turer/US Equestrian

DRESSAGE



U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM SHORT LIST FOR PARIS 2024

Eight athlete-and-horse combinations have been selected to the U.S. dressage team Olympic short list for continued observation ahead of team selection for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Athletes and horses must compete in a minimum of two CDIs between May 8 - June 25, 2024, and must compete in at least one of the following observation events: Le Mans CDI4*, Hagen CDI3*, and Rotterdam CDIO5*. In the CDIO5* team competition, the combinations will be led by Chef d'Equipe Christine Traurig. Final team selection will be announced by June 25, 2024.



KATHERINE BATESON-CHANDLER (Wellington, FL), 49, and **Haute Couture**, a 2012 Dutch Warmblood (Connaisseur x Destiney) mare owned by Jennifer Huber and Katherine Bateson-Chandler.

Bateson-Chandler represented the U.S. on home turf at the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Lexington, Kentucky, riding Jane Forbes Clark's KWPN gelding, Nartan. She went on to partner another Forbes Clark-owned horse, Alcazar, at top level for eight years. They were part of the team that won silver at the 2021 Nations Cup CDIO3* at the Global Dressage Festival (GDF).



ANNA BUFFINI (Rancho Santa Fe, CA), 30, and **Fiontini**, her own 2010 Danish Warmblood (Fassbinder x Rapitala) mare.

In 2023, Buffini and FRH Davinia La Douce won the Grand Prix and Freestyle at the Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI and finished sixth in the Freestyle of the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in Omaha, Nebraska. The pair then won the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3* at the Spring Benefit CDI. With newer ride Fiontini, Buffini has placed first or second in all six of their grand prix starts together.



ADRIENNE LYLE (Wellington, FL), 39, and **Helix**, a 2012 Dutch Warmblood (Apache x Zeester T) gelding owned by Zen Elite Equestrian Center; and **Lars Van De Hoenderheide**, a 2011 Belgian Warmblood (Negro x Taaika) gelding owned by Zen Elite Equestrian Center.

In 2012 Lyle rode at her first Olympics with Wizard in London, and competed at the 2014 WEG in Normandy. With Salvino, Lyle won team silver at the 2018 Tryon WEG, and helped the team to claim the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics. She has had the ride on both Helix and Lars Van De Hoenderheide since the start of 2024.



ANNA MAREK (Dunnellon, FL), 35, and **Fire Fly**, a 2020 KWPN (Briar Junior x Arieka) gelding owned by Janet Simile.

With Dee Clair, Marek earned top three finishes at Grand Prix level at the GDF every year from 2017 to 2021. In 2020, the pair made their Nations Cup debut and helped the U.S. team secure gold. Marek began developing Duvel and Fire Fly in 2022. In 2023, Marek and Fire Fly earned team gold and individual bronze at the Santiago Pan American Games. She finished ninth at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final with Fayvel in April 2024.



MARCUS ORLOB (Loxahatchee, FL), 42, and **Jane**, a 2014 Dutch Warmblood (Desperado x Zandra) mare owned by Alice Tarjan.

Orlob was born in Dusseldorf, Germany, and spent his youth training under Hubertus Schmidt. He competed across Europe and debuted at Grand Prix at age 21. After earning his Bereiter FN title from the German Riding School in Warendorf, he moved to the U.S. and began his own training operation. Orlob has successfully competed across all young horse levels, including wins at U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions in the five-year-old, six-year-old, and Developing Grand Prix divisions. Jane is the first horse he has competed at Grand Prix level since 2019, with personal best scores recorded at the level.



ENDEL OTS (Wellington, FL), 38, and **Bohemian**, a 2010 Westphalian (Bordeaux x Sunshine) gelding owned by Zen Elite Equestrian Center.

Ots made his debut at the CDI Grand Prix level in 2024 with Bohemian. He grew up on a farm in De Pere, Wisconsin, and began riding at age eight. He started his early career in Germany before relocating to Wellington full-time in 2011. He was named a reserve rider for the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Ots has earned top honors at the national U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions and represented the U.S. at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses in 2015 and 2016.



STEFFEN PETERS (San Diego, CA), 59, and **Suppenkasper**, a 2008 KWPN (Spielberg x Upanoeska) gelding owned by Four Winds Farm and Akiko Yamazaki.

Born in Germany, Peters came to the U.S. in 1984 and has since represented the U.S. at five Olympic Games, four WEGs, and two Pan American Games. Peters and Suppenkasper were part of the silver medal-winning team at the Tokyo Olympic Games, adding to the team bronze he earned at the 2016 Rio Olympics riding Legolas 92. With his longtime mount, Ravel, Peters won the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in 2009.

Follow our Olympic athletes with USET.org for daily results, news and photos!

All times are Paris Standard Time which is six hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Please note the competition schedule is subject to change until the conclusion of the Olympic Games.

Olympic updates and the Paralympic schedule can be found through the QR code below.

Saturday, July 27, 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM

09:30 AM Eventing Team Dressage
09:30 AM Eventing Individual Dressage

Sunday, July 28, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

10:30 AM Eventing Team Cross Country
1:00 PM Eventing Individual Cross Country

Monday, July 29, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

11:00 AM Eventing Individual Jumping Qualifier
12:15 PM Eventing Team Jumping Final
3:00 PM Eventing Individual Jumping Final

Tuesday, July 30, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

11:00 AM Dressage Team Grand Prix Day 1
1:45 PM Dressage Individual Grand Prix Day 1

Wednesday, July 31, 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

10:00 AM Dressage Team Grand Prix Day 2
12:45 PM Dressage Individual Grand Prix Day 2

Thursday, August 1, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

11:00 AM Jumping Team Qualifier

Friday, August 2, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

2:00 PM Jumping Team Final

Saturday, August 3, 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

10:00 AM Dressage Team Grand Prix Special

Sunday, August 4, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

10:00 AM Dressage Individual Grand Prix Freestyle

Monday, August 5, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

2:00 PM Jumping Individual Qualifier

Tuesday, August 6, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

10:00 AM Jumping Individual Final



JUMPING



U.S. JUMPING TEAM SHORT LIST FOR PARIS 2024

Ten athletes and their horses have been selected to the U.S. Jumping Team Olympic Short List for continued observation ahead of team selection for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Athletes and horses will compete in designated observation events, such as the League of Nations™ Rotterdam CSIO5*-LLN, and the World Equestrian Festival CHIO Aachen.



KARL COOK (Rancho Santa Fe, CA), 34, and **Caracole De La Roque**, a 2012 Selle Français (Zandor Z x Pocahontas d'Amaury) mare owned by Signe Ostby; and **Kalinka Van't Zorgvliet**, a 2010 Belgian Warmblood (Thunder VD Zuuthoeve x Goldfee Van't Zorgvliet) mare owned by Signe Ostby.

Cook has competed in three FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals and made his senior Nations Cup™ debut at Langley (CAN) in 2016, with a second appearance in 2022. In May 2024, he and Caracole De La Roque won the Rolex Grand Prix of Rome. In 2023, Cook was on the winning U.S. team at the Nations Cup™ in San Juan Capistrano (USA) and helped secure third-place finishes in Langley (CAN) and Falsterbo (SWE) riding Kalinka Van't Zorgvliet.



NATALIE DEAN (Palo Alto, CA), 25, and **Acota M**, a 2013 Oldenburg (Toulon x Aquinora) mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses, LLC.

In 2021, Dean made her debut with the U.S. Jumping Team at the Spruce Meadows BMO Nations Cup™ CSIO5* and helped secure a second-place finish. In 2022, Dean rode on the third-place team in the \$150,000 Nations Cup™ Wellington CSIO4*. The following year, Dean competed in her first FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Omaha, Nebraska, riding Acota M and won a class at the San Miguel de Allende CSIO5* in Mexico.



KATIE DINAN (Wellington, FL), 30, and **Out Of The Blue SCF**, a 2014 Belgian Warmblood (Verdi x Casa Blanca La Silla) mare owned by Grant Road Partners LLC.

Katie Dinan won young rider individual gold and was named to the 2012 London Olympic Games long list before the age of 20. She has competed in two FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals and earned gold in the Nations Cup™ CSIO5* Dublin. Dinan began 2024 with a string of podium finishes in CSI3*, CSI4*, and CSIO4* events.



KENT FARRINGTON (Wellington, FL), 43, and **Greya**, a 2014 Oldenburg mare (Colestus x Contessa) owned by Kent Farrington LLC; **Landon**, a 2013 Zangersheide (Comilfo Plus Z x Indigo Van De Muelenburg) gelding owned by Haity McNerney; **Myla**, a 2015 Holsteiner (Crunch 3 x Dinara 1) mare owned by Haity McNerney; and **Toulayna**, a 2014 Warmblood mare (Toulon x Vuelta) owned by Rabbit Root Stables, LLC and Kent Farrington LLC.

Kent Farrington was part of the silver medal-winning team at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and the bronze medal-winning team at the 2014 FEI WEG in Normandy, France. He won two team gold medals and one team bronze at the Pan American Games, adding individual silver in 2023. Farrington began 2024 with CSI4* and CSI5* wins in Wellington, Florida, and helped the U.S. team take the bronze medal at the League of Nations™ in Ocala, Florida.



LILLIE KEENAN (New York, NY), 27, and **Argan De Beliard**, a 2010 Selle Français (Mylord Carthago x La Belle Normande) gelding owned by Chansonette Farm LLC; and **Kick On**, a 2014 Warmblood (Warrior x Sussex Caretino) stallion owned by Chansonette Farm LLC.

Lillie Keenan has represented the U.S. around the world, including the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona in 2016 and 2021, at CHIO Aachen in Germany, at the 2022 FEI World Championships, and more. She has notched four wins at CSI2* and CSI4* competitions in 2024.



LAURA KRAUT (Royal Palm Beach, FL), 58, and **Baloutinue**, a 2010 Hanoverian (Balou Du Rouet x Utika) gelding owned by St. Bride's Farm; **Bisquetta**, a 2014 Zangersheide (Bisquet Blaou VD Mispelaere x I-Squalls Esta Ioletta) mare owned by Cherry Knoll Farm, Inc.; and **Dorado 212**, a 2013 Oldenburg (Diarado's Boy x Cary Blue) gelding owned by St. Bride's Farm.

Kraut was named the alternate to the U.S. team for the 1992 Olympic Games and eight years later made her Olympic debut in Sydney, Australia. In 2008, she was part of the gold medal-winning U.S. team at the Beijing Olympic Games. In 2021, Kraut was a part of the silver medal-winning U.S. team at the Olympic Games in Tokyo with Baloutinue. She was named to her third WEG in 2018, where she won team gold in Tryon. Kraut has been part of the U.S. team at five FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Finals.



CALLIE SCHOTT (Wellington, FL), 38, and **Garant**, a 2011 KWPN (Warrant x C'est La Vie) gelding owned by Southern Arches, LLC.

In 2024, Callie Schott made her senior team debut at the League of Nations™ Abu Dhabi with Garant. The pair was second in the \$62,500 Grand Prix Qualifier CSI4* and earned a third-place finish in the \$330,000 Grand Prix CSIO5* during the League of Nations™ in Ocala, Florida. She came up the ranks under the tutelage of John and Bezie Madden.



JESSICA SPRINGSTEEN (Los Angeles, CA), 32, and **Don Juan Van De Donkhoeve**, a 2009 Belgian Warmblood (Bamako De Muze x Diva VD Donkhoeve) stallion owned by Stone Hill Farm.

Jessica Springsteen won the team silver medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games riding Don Juan Van De Donkhoeve. In 2021, Springsteen helped the team win the Nations Cup™ Wellington CSIO4*. She has ridden on winning teams in Dublin, Ireland; Aachen, Germany; and Wellington, Florida. In 2023 she helped the U.S. team win at San Miguel De Allende CSIO5* and then won the Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of London CSI5*.



AARON VALE (Williston, FL), 55, and **Carissimo 25**, a 2013 Holsteiner (Cascadello I x T-Clintissima) gelding owned by Debbie Smith.

Aaron Vale has hundreds of grand prix wins to his name and represented the U.S. in Nations Cups™ and FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final. In 2024, Vale competed at the League of Nations™ Abu Dhabi, won a CSI3* grand prix, and assisted in a bronze-medal finish at the League of Nations™ in Ocala, Florida. Vale and Carissimo 25 contributed two clear rounds to help the U.S. place third in the 2024 Piazza di Siena Nations Cup CSIO5* in Rome, Italy.



MCLAIN WARD (Brewster, NY), 48, and **Callas**, a 2008 Holsteiner (Casall x Noblesse I) mare owned by Beechwood Stables LLC; **Contagious**, a 2009 Deutches Sportpferd (Contagio x For Mary) gelding owned by Beechwood Stables LLC; **Ilex**, a 2013 KWPN (Baltic VDL x Calendula) gelding owned by Bonne Chance Farm, **Gilberto Sayão da Silva**, and McLain Ward; and **Quimi Del Maset**, a 2014 Spanish Sport Horse (Quasimodo Z x Incretta Del Maset) gelding owned by Sport Four USA LLC.

Ward is a five-time Olympian, including as a member of the gold-medal-winning U.S. teams in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 and part of the U.S. team that took silver at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and the Tokyo Olympic Games. He was a member of the gold-medal winning team for the Tryon 2018 WEG, a team bronze medalist at the Normandy 2014 WEG, and clinched team silver at the Aachen 2006 WEG. Individually, he won the 2017 FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final.

EVENTING



U.S. EVENTING TEAM FOR PARIS 2024

These athlete-and-horse combinations have been selected to represent the U.S. Olympic Eventing Team at Paris 2024. They will be led by Chef d'Equipe Bobby Costello.



WILLIAM COLEMAN (Ocala, FL), 41, and **Off The Record**, a 2009 Irish Sport Horse gelding (Arkansas x Ard Ohio) owned by the Off The Record Syndicate. Direct Reserve: **Diabolo**, a 2012 Holsteiner gelding (Diarado x Aljano 2) owned by the Diabolo Group.

In 2012, Coleman was part of the U.S. Eventing Team at the London Olympics, and he had his first WEG outing in 2018 in Tryon, North Carolina. Coleman made history in 2021, riding Off The Record to victory at the CCIO4*-S at CHIO Aachen, the first American to do so. The following year, the pair won team silver at the Eventing World Championships in Pratoni, Italy.



BOYD MARTIN (Cochranville, PA), 44, and **Fedarman B**, a 2010 KWPN gelding (Eurocommerce Washington x Fedor) owned by the Annie Goodwin Syndicate. Direct Reserve: **Commando 3**, a 2013 Holsteiner gelding (Conner 48 x Amigo xx) owned by Yankee Creek Ranch LLC.

Martin is a three-time Olympian, having represented the U.S. in London 2012, Rio 2016, and Tokyo 2020. He is a four-time U.S. Eventing Team member for the Eventing World Championships, including on the silver medal-winning team in 2022 in Pratoni, Italy. He was a member of the gold medal-winning team at the 2015 Pan American Games, and he won team and individual gold at the 2019 Pan American Games.



CAROLINE PAMUKCU (Springtown, PA), 30, and **HSH Blake**, a 2015 Irish Sport Horse gelding (Tolan R x Kannan) owned by Mollie Hoff, Sherrie Martin, Caroline Pamukcu, and Deniz Pamukcu.

Olympic debutant Pamukcu has represented the U.S. Eventing Team internationally, including on the second-place teams at the 2022 Houghton Hall (GBR) CCIO4*-NC-S and the 2023 Strzegom (POL) CCIO4*-NC-S. In 2023, she and HSH Blake won individual gold and led the U.S. team to silver at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile.

Traveling reserve:



ELISABETH HALLIDAY (Lexington, KY), 45, and **Cooley Nutcracker**, a 2014 Irish Sport Horse gelding (Tolan R x Cobra) owned by Chris Desino, Rob Desino, Deborah Halliday, Liz Halliday, and Renee Lane.

Halliday has represented the U.S. Eventing Team in several Nations Cup™ competitions, including the 2022 CCIO4*-S at Bromont, Canada, where she claimed individual and team wins. She was part of the silver medal-winning team at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Halliday has brought numerous horses to top-10 finishes at the level since, including Deniro Z, Cooley Quicksilver, and Cooley Nutcracker. In 2023, she finished third in the CCI5*-L at Kentucky Three-Day Event.

First alternate:



SYDNEY ELLIOTT (Hoffman, NC) and **QC Diamantaire**, a 2010 Oldenburg gelding (Diarado x Sandro Hit) owned by Carol Stephens.

Team alternates (listed in alphabetical order):

James Alliston (San Ramon, CA) and **Karma**, a 2014 Oldenburg mare owned by Alliston Equestrian and Ric Plummer.

Jennie Brannigan (West Grove, PA) and **FE Lifestyle**, 2010 Deutches Sportferd gelding owned by Nina and Timothy Gardner.

Will Faudree (Southern Pines, NC) and **Mama's Magic Way**, 2011 Hanoverian gelding owned by Jennifer Mosing and Sterling Silver Stables.

Elisabeth Halliday (Lexington, KY) and **Miks Master C**, 2012 Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties and Deborah Palmer and Shanroe Cooley, a 2015 Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties.

PARA DRESSAGE



U.S. PARA DRESSAGE TEAM LONG LIST FOR PARIS 2024

The following athletes and their horses have earned scores close to or above 70%, an outlined requirement in the U.S. Para Dressage Team selection procedure criteria and are currently in the observation period ahead of team selection for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. They are led by Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline. Final team selection will be announced after June 19, 2024.



SYDNEY COLLIER (Ann Arbor, MI), 26, and **Bell Bottoms**, a 2014 Oldenburg mare (Benetton Dream x Fidertanz) owned by Diamante Farms and Going For Gold LLC.

Grade I rider Collier, who suffers from Wyburn-Mason Syndrome and survived a stroke in 2009, rode Western Rose at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. She competed at the World Equestrian Games™ in Normandy in 2014 on Willi Wesley, the same year she was named USEF Junior Equestrian of the Year. In 2020, Collier rode All In One to the top of the Grade I division at the USEF Para Dressage National Championships in Tryon, NC.



BEATRICE DE LAVALETTE (Lake Worth Beach, FL), 25, and **Sixth Sense**, a 2010 Oldenburg gelding (Sir Donnerhall I x Florencio I) owned by Nicolas and Elizabeth de Lavalette.

De Lavalette lost both of her lower legs in the 2016 bombing at the Brussels Airport, and returned to the saddle five months later. She has since represented the U.S. at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, riding Clarc. In the summer of 2022, de Lavalette made her international debut with Sixth Sense, and went on to win all three Grade II tests they entered at the Tryon Summer Dressage CPEDI. She and Sixth Sense also helped the team to the bronze medal at the 2022 FEI World Championships in Herning, Denmark.



REBECCA HART (Loxahatchee, FL), 39, and **Floratina**, a 2008 Hanoverian mare (Fidertanz x Rubin Royal OLD) owned by Rowan O'Riley and **El Corona Texel**, a 2009 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Wynton x Goodtimes) owned by Rowan O'Riley.

Hart, a Grade III athlete, was born with a rare genetic disease called hereditary spastic paraplegia, a progressive impairment that causes muscle wasting and paralysis. She is a four-time Paralympian, and was a member of the bronze medal-winning team at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, riding El Corona Texel. The duo was named to the team for the Tryon CPEDI3* in October 2020, where they were also crowned the national champions of the USEF Para Dressage National Championship.



FIONA HOWARD (Boston, MA), 25, and **Diamond Dunes**, a 2013 Hanoverian gelding (De l'Or x Wolkentanz) owned by Dressage Family LLC and Hof Kassermann; **Fleuresse 4**, a 2017 Oldenburg mare (For Romance OLD x Hardenberg Donnerschwee) owned by Elizabeth Bagsby, Sharon Day, Fiona Howard, and Julian Howard; **Ferguston**, a 2018 Hanoverian gelding (Finnigan x Wolkentanz) owned by Fiona Howard; and **Jagger**, a 2012 Westphalian gelding (Johnson TN x Sandro Hit) owned by Fiona Howard.

Howard was on the British FEI reining team before immigrating to the U.S. in 2016. The Grade II rider began para dressage in 2021, and trains with Kate Shoemaker. She has Dystonia, a neuromuscular condition that causes involuntary muscle contractions and twisting. Howard has competed extensively around the world during the past few years, clocking up wins and placings, and a top score of 79.9%, achieved with Diamond Dunes in the spring of 2024.

Para Dressage Team Long List continued next page

PARA DRESSAGE TEAM LONG LIST

continued



CYNTHIA SCRENCI (Boca Raton, FL), 57, and **For Memory 4**, a 2017 Hanoverian gelding (For Dance x Destano) owned by Cynthia Screnci and **Sir Chipoli**, a 2007 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Sir Donnerhall x Carabas) owned by Cynthia Screnci and Volado Farms.

Grade V athlete “Cindy” Screnci transitioned from the jumper ring to para dressage following a broken ankle from a riding accident and a bone infection complication called osteomyelitis. At the 2020 USEF Para Dressage National Championship, Screnci was the Grade V National Champion and received the Lloyd Landkamer Memorial Sportsmanship Award. Since February 2022, Screnci has finished first or second in all 36 FEI classes entered with For Memory 4 and Sir Chipoli.



KATE SHOEMAKER (Hagen, GER), 36, and **Colijn**, a 2007 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Son de Niro x Ulster) owned by Fiona Howard; **Quiana**, a 2014 Rheinlander mare (Quaterstern x Rubinstern Noir) owned by Craig, Deena, and Kate Shoemaker; and **Vianne**, a 2016 Hanoverian mare (Vitalis x Ramiro’s Bube) owned by Norcordia USA.

Shoemaker was on the bronze medal-winning team at the Tokyo Paralympics riding Solitaer 40, with whom she also contested the 2018 WEG in Tryon. She suffers from white matter lesions that cause motor control dysfunction, muscle weakness, and spasms on her right side. She has won 19 of her last 21 international starts — covering shows in Britain, Germany, France, and, Qatar — with her scores never dipping below 70%.



ROXANNE TRUNNELL (Royal Palm Beach, FL), 39, and **Dolton**, a 2012 Hanoverian gelding (Danone I x Londonderry) owned by Karin Flint and Flintwoode Farms LLC; **Fan Tastico H**, a 2017 Oldenburg gelding (Fuerstenball OLD x Weltmeyer) owned by Karin Flint; and **Fortunato H20**, a 2016 Oldenburg stallion (Floriscout x Rascalino) owned by Lehua Custer.

“Roxie” Trunnell is a Grade I Paralympic individual gold medalist and team bronze medalist. She is a two-time Paralympian (Tokyo 2020 and Rio 2016) and two-time WEG team member, at Normandy 2014 and Tryon 2018, where she and Dolton scooped the freestyle. She contracted a virus in 2009 that caused swelling in her brain and has left her with impairments. Trunnell was ranked No. 1 in the world for 26 months through 2022 and has broken a number of records, including receiving numerous scores over 80%.

Somerset Hills Pony Club Gives Back

The USET Foundation is a special place for the members of the Somerset Hills Pony Club (SHPC). Each summer for over a decade, children have moved their ponies into the stalls that bear the names of the sport’s greats at the USET headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. During camp, they enjoy lessons, activities, and lectures to widen their equestrian skills and broaden their knowledge.

In order to give back to the USET Foundation, in April SHPC partnered with two local nurseries, The Todd Group and Plant Detectives, who generously donated trees for the project. Members of the SHPC planted four new trees — including two cherry trees — in the front of the historic stable.


The trees represent the children’s growth at camp over the years, as well as the Pony Club’s role in the broader



(l-r) Ella Casey, Rebecca Casey, Colin Casey, Adelaide Reist, Caelyn Casey, Elisabeth Tansey, Doug Tansey, Kate Pierro, Amethyst Tunnermann-Gyecsek, Colette Shovlin, and Brita Tansey

equestrian pathway: many Olympic riders started out in Pony Club.

The USET Foundation would like

to thank SHPC, The Todd Group, and Plant Detectives for their thoughtful donation. 

Tributes Pour In for Equestrian Icon Frances Blunt Steinwedell

Frances B. Steinwedell, a beloved figure in the world of show jumping, passed away on April 8, 2024, leaving behind a remarkable legacy. Born in 1933, Steinwedell dedicated her life to equestrian sport, impacting riders, horses, and the community in profound ways.

Steinwedell schooled, hunted, and showed horses during her junior years in Chicago. Throughout her riding career, she consistently won many Amateur Owner Hunter awards. As an owner of several top grand prix horses, Steinwedell played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of talented riders. U.S. Olympic medalist Anne Kursinski and Steinwedell's daughter, Francie Steinwedell-Carvin, both benefited from her support.

Steinwedell's involvement extended to the West Coast where she and her daughter rode at the Flintridge Riding Club. As both an active board member and President, Steinwedell helped create one of the first FEI World Cup

qualifiers in the West, The Grand Prix of Flintridge. Steinwedell was a founding member of the American Grand Prix Association and served on various boards, including The United States Equestrian Team (USET), and the USET Foundation. She was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 2017.


Steinwedell owned or part-owned horses that went on to represent the United States, including Livius, and the Olympic team silver medalists Eros and Starman, who was The Chronicle of the Horse's 1990 Show Jumping Horse of the Year.

As a donating member of the USET Gold Medal Club, she was the first person ever to reach 35 consecutive years in the club and went on to amass a 45-year record. She was a trustee of the USET and USET Foundation for 50 years.

She will be greatly missed by her surviving family members: sister, Carlene Blunt; children Bill, Jim, and Francie and their spouses; Steve Scott



Photo courtesy of the Steinwedell Family

(the fourth Steinwedell) and his wife; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

Farewell to USEA Hall of Fame Member Patricia Gilbert

Patricia “Trish” D. Gilbert, of Churchville, Maryland, passed away on May 16, 2024, at the age of 83. Born in Winchester, Virginia, Trish was a USET Foundation Honorary Life Trustee and a USEA Hall of Fame member whose life was marked by her profound passion for the equine world.

Gilbert was one of the first women to break the barriers facing women competing in the sport of eventing. She had considerable success in the early years of eventing amongst non-military competitors. Gilbert held many titles throughout her years of involvement in the sport; team selector, young rider chairman, event director, licensed eventing official, and more.

Licensed by both the USEA and the USEF, she was a distinguished course designer official and organizer. Trish was a fervent supporter of three-day eventing and began her journey

with horses as part of the U.S. Pony Club (USPC). Her dedication and contributions to the equestrian community left an indelible mark on many, most recently as the founding member of Fair Hill International, which has evolved into the Maryland 5 Star.

Trish is survived by her loving family: daughters Mary Elizabeth Looney, Rumsey Gilbert Keefe, and Samantha Gilbert Brennan; son Raymond Richard Guest; and stepson William Pepper Gilbert. She is also survived by her brother David Donovan, sister Deirdre Donovan and numerous grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

“The eventing community was Mom’s second family,” said Gilbert’s daughter Rumsey Keefe. “She embodied the spirit of a team player and fostered the growth of developing riders to represent the USA. She truly enjoyed the travel that came with the job which


gave her many friends and memories all across the country and internationally. Mom will be greatly missed by her children, family, friends, and the overall horse community.” – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo provided by the Gilbert family

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD CUP™ FINALS, DRESSAGE

Anna Marek and Cynthia Davila's Fayvel were the highest-placed U.S. combination at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, earning a 74.518% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle for ninth place. Ben Ebeling and Indeed earned 13th with 72.511%, while Kevin Kohmann and Duenensee took 14th with 72.364%. All three riders were World Cup™ first-timers.



Photo by Dirk Caremans

WORLD CUP™ FINALS, JUMPING

Kent Farrington and Greya jumped to a fourth place overall finish at the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The pair finished behind Henrik von Eckermann (SWE) and King Edward, who secured their second consecutive champion's sash, with France's Julien Epailard second, and Peder Fredricson (SWE) in third. U.S. athlete Devin Ryan finished 17th, and Sophia Siegel filled 30th position.



Photo by Dirk Caremans

EVENTING NATIONS CUP™ MILLSTREET IRELAND



Photo by Libby Law

The Defender U.S. Eventing Team secured a team second-place finish at the FEI Eventing Nations Cup CCIO4*-NC-S – Millstreet, Ireland. Millstreet is part of the European Development Tour, which is intended to give up-and-coming combinations experience competing overseas in a team environment. The team included Caroline Pamukcu with King's Especial and groom Chloe Teahan, Team Leader Christina Vaughn, Alyssa Phillips with Oskar and groom Addi Mommsen, Emily Hamel with Corvett and groom Jeanna Epping, Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law, Molly Duda with Disco Traveler and groom Alyssa Dobrotin, European Tour athlete Cassie Sanger, and Jenny Caras with Sommersby and groom Max Corcoran.

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

KENTUCKY THREE-DAY EVENT

As the top American pair in the CCI5*-L at the 2024 Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, Lauren Nicholson (The Plains, VA) and Jacqueline Mars's Vermiculus won the Defender/USEF CCI5*-L Eventing National Championship presented by MARS Equestrian, and with it the Pinnacle Trophy. This was Nicholson's third CCI5*-L national champion title. The pair had one rail down to finish fifth overall and win the national champion title with 39 penalties. In the Cosequin Lexington CCI4*-S, Will Coleman and Diabolo moved up from second place to take the win. The Jacqueline B. Mars National Grant was awarded to Mia Farley, who finished 13th in the CCI5*-L.



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

MANNHEIM CPEDI3

The team crowned a superb week at Mannheim CPEDI3* in Germany, taking gold. The combinations of Beatrice de Lavalette and Sixth Sense, Rebecca Hart with Floratina, Fiona Howard aboard Diamond Dunes, and Kate Shoemaker and Vianne were led by Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline. The team victory was hot on the heels of another podium-topping performance at Fontainebleau CPEDI3* in France.



Photo by Stefan Lafrenz

JUMPING NATIONS CUP™ ROME

With an extraordinary round as the last to jump in the class, Karl Cook became just the sixth American to win the Rolex Grand Prix at CSIO5* Rome. He flew to victory riding Signe Ostby's 12-year-old Selle Français mare Caracole De La Roque. Cook also helped the NetJets U.S. Jumping team finish third in the Nations Cup™, riding alongside Lillie Keenan with Argan de Beliard, Alise Oken on Gelvesa, and Aaron Vale riding Carissimo 25.

DRIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

After three phases of competition, Raymond Helmuth (Cambridge, IA) and Kendro were victorious in the USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Single Horses at the Katydid Combined Driving Event. Helmuth has trained his Dutch Warmblood Kendro (by Globetrotter x Genderose) since he was three.



Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Photo by Mackenzie Clark



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