



U.S. PARALYMPIC DRESSAGE TEAM STRIKES **GOLD** IN PARIS



Photo by Devyn Hatheway/US Equestrian

Fiona Howard, Rebecca Hart, and Roxanne Trunnell

In a landmark result, the U.S. Paralympic dressage team stamped their place in the history books by earning the gold medal at the conclusion of team competition at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France. This marked the first-ever team gold for the U.S. Para Dressage Team at a Paralympic Games and the second consecutive Paralympic team medal following its team bronze at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

The three team athletes laid down impressive scores to top the silver-medal-winning team from The Netherlands.

Roxanne Trunnell and Karin Flint's Fan Tastico H scored a 77.000%, Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes owned by Dressage Family LLC and Hof Kasselmann scored a stellar personal best of 80.000%, and Rebecca Hart with Rowan O'Riley's Floratina scored a 78.567% for a cumulative score of 235.567% — the highest Paralympic team score ever recorded.

Rebecca Hart and Floratina (Grade III), Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes (Grade II), and Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H (Grade I) each produced top performances scoring 77% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix Test B.

continued on page 3



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers

W. James McNerney, Jr.
Chairman

Kristi Mitchem
President & CEO

William H. Weeks
Vice President

Akiko Yamazaki
Secretary

Philip Ernst Richter
Treasurer

Trustees

Georgina Bloomberg

Shelby Bonnie

Alex Boone

Gloria Callen

Jane Forbes Clark

Toni Cupal

George H. Davis, Jr.

Lisa T. Deslauriers

William Craig Dobbs

Margaret H. Duprey

Elizabeth Fath

Jennifer Gates Nassar

Clay Green

Louis M. Jacobs

Elizabeth L. Johnson

Elizabeth B. Juliano

Howard Keenan

Fritz Kundrun

Anne Kursinski

Beezie Madden

Frank G. Merrill

Elizabeth Meyer

Elizabeth Miller

Misdee Wrigley Miller

Karen O'Connor

Thomas F.X. O'Mara

Signe Ostby

Robin Cleary Parsky

Suzanne Thomas Porter

Juliet Reid

Rebecca Reno

Christa B. Schmidt

Michael A. Smith

Patti Scialfa Springsteen

Diane Thomas

Ann Thompson

Zacharie Vinius

Laura Z. Wasserman

Chester C. Weber

USET Foundation Staff

908-234-1251

Bonnie B. Jenkins

Executive Director, ext. 215

Mark P. Piwowar

Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200

Lisa Munro

Director of Development, ext. 209

Kaki Meyer

Executive Assistant, ext. 208

Michele Cotter

Director of Annual Support, ext. 205

Mary-Ellen Milesnick

*Campaign Manager
& Data Base Manager, ext. 204*

Catherine Pane

*Accounting Supervisor
& Office Manager, ext. 203*

Maureen Pethick

*Communications & Facilities
Coordinator, ext. 207*

Clifton J. Cotter, Jr.

Director of Facilities, ext. 202

Eric Cohan

Facilities, ext. 206

Jump Media

Newsletter Editor

Miriam Morgan

Graphic Design

Dear Friends,

This year was momentous in so many ways, and the success of our teams and athletes at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France, was the headline. It had been eight years since many of us were able to travel to the Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so I was thrilled that the USET Foundation could once again host many of our supporters to cheer on our teams in person. The equestrian venue in Versailles was outstanding, but it was the incredible group of people who joined us that made the experience so memorable.

Indeed, we have to extend tremendous kudos to our athletes, coaches, owners, grooms, US Equestrian (USEF) discipline directors, and support staff for preparing our teams for the most significant world stage in sports. Our Paralympic dressage team of Rebecca Hart, Fiona Howard, and Roxanne Trunnell took home a historic first-ever team gold medal in addition to four individual gold medals — two each for Rebecca and Fiona — an individual silver medal for Roxanne, and an individual bronze medal for Kate Shoemaker.

Similarly, our jumping team impressed again with its third consecutive Olympic team silver medal. Olympic medal veterans Laura Kraut and McLain Ward delivered the consistent performances for which they're known, while Karl Cook made an outstanding Olympic debut with two clean rounds in team competition.

Though our dressage and eventing teams did not make it to the podium at this Games, it's evident that our athletes are competitive against the best in the world, and there are undoubtedly many successes to come.

Notably, in this newsletter, you'll hear from several of our Olympic and Paralympic owners who are integral to our teams' successes. These owners have a like-minded goal of achieving podium finishes in international competition, and I know our community is incredibly appreciative of their contributions and involvement. Without the unwavering dedication of owners, excellence at the highest levels of the sport would not be possible.

The growth and depth of U.S. equestrian programs in Olympic and Paralympic disciplines continue to improve, and we're consistently building for the future with an eye toward the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games on home soil in Los Angeles, California. This newsletter highlights USEF Pathway Programs that provide developing athletes with training and competition experiences to further foster their potential. These USEF Pathway Programs include the FEI Dressage and Jumping North American Youth Championships and the FEI Nations Cup™ Youth Final. We also showcase our dressage, driving, eventing, jumping, and vaulting athletes at CHIO Aachen, the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, as well as additional international competitions, including the FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses and the FEI Vaulting World Championship.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Kristi Mitchem, a member of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees, to her new position as President and CEO. I look forward to continuing to work with her and our Chairman, Jim McNerney, and the incredible USET Foundation Board of Trustees, to further our mission of providing the resources necessary to maintain the U.S. equestrian team's international prominence.

As we reflect on this exceptionally successful year and prepare for 2025, I want to express my gratitude for your role in our country's equestrian team successes. Our collective efforts continue to propel our athletes to the top, and I'm thankful to be on this journey with you.

If we don't connect before, I wish you and yours a happy, healthy, and restful holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



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

Paralympic Gold

continued from page 1

“This is the completion of a long-time, well-planned dream, going back to the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, where we started to actually make changes. Back in Tokyo, when we got the team bronze medal, I had a clear plan and strategy in place to get that medal, and I knew that it had to be gold in Paris for us,” said Chef d’Equipe Michel Assouline. “It took an additional three years of very hard work of planning, logistics, and competition strategies, both in Europe and in the U.S., [to ensure we had] the horsepower and the coaching necessary. The whole program had to really be revamped to get to that point. It’s a funny thing to think that this is the result I expected, but you never want to talk about it openly before it happens. But, it’s what I had in mind, and here we are. It feels like such an amazing accomplishment for everyone who has been involved with this program over the years.”

The competition marked the fifth Paralympic appearance for Hart, of Wellington, Florida. Having represented the U.S. at the Games since 2008, Hart acknowledged the time and determination it took to finally land a team gold medal. “It feels surreal. It was the culmination of years and years and years of work, and I am so wildly proud of all these girls because it’s been a group effort to get this done,” said Hart. “It wouldn’t have happened without each one of us putting our best foot forward. I really hope that this success and these medals bring recognition for para equestrian and demonstrate the equality of the multiple disciplines within our federations. [I also want people to recognize] that we are valuable, and we can deliver when we need to.”

Howard, of Boston, Massachusetts, made her Paralympic debut and scored over 80% twice in her three Paralympic tests aboard Diamond Dunes. “As soon as we started the first trot — even just around the ring — I thought, ‘He feels really good.’ I went in there, and I remembered my team said to trust him,” she explained. “What a feeling when you can just trust your horse, and he kept giving and giving. At the end,

continued next page



Rebecca Hart and Floratina

(Below) Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes



All photos by Devyn Trethewey/US Equestrian



Kate Shoemaker

my muscles were really tired, and I was thinking, ‘Keep going, buddy!’ and he was like, ‘I’ve got you.’ He’s incredible.”

Trunnell, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, who recently partnered with Fan Tastico H in early 2024, expressed gratitude for Assouline’s coaching that prepared the combination for the greatest international stage. “I really concentrated on Fan Tastico H marching,” said Trunnell. “He’s so cool at only seven years of age; it’s just going to get better and better. I think this success is all thanks to Michel [Assouline]. He got us in shape. He’s very strict. I think all his experience has helped us.”

A GOLD RUSH IN INDIVIDUAL AND FEI GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE COMPETITION

On the first day of competition, the U.S. Paralympic Dressage Team captured three individual medals in their respective grades. Rebecca Hart aboard Floratina scored 77.900% in Grade III to earn gold, Fiona Howard with Diamond Dunes scored 76.931% in Grade II to take gold, while Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H scored 78.000% to finish with individual silver in Grade I.

The next day, Paralympian Kate Shoemaker and Vianne owned by NorCordia USA finished fifth out of 15

international combinations in the competitive Grade IV FEI Grand Prix Test A with a score of 72.222%.

On the final day of competition, the U.S. Paralympic Dressage Team captured three more individual medals in their respective grades in the freestyle competition.

Kate Shoemaker and Vianne earned their first individual medal of the 2024 Paralympic Games taking bronze in the Grade IV FEI Grand Prix Freestyle with a personal-best score of 80.170%.

Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes secured their third consecutive gold medal of the 2024 Paralympic Games in the Grade II FEI Grand Prix Freestyle with a personal-best score of 81.994%.

Rebecca Hart and Floratina concluded competition at the 2024 Paralympic Games earning an incredible personal-best score of 83.534% to stand atop the podium in the Grade III FEI Grand Prix Freestyle.

Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H also completed the Grade I FEI Grand Prix Freestyle with a fifth-place finish in a competitive field.

Shoemaker, of Wellington, Florida, made her international debut with Vianne in February 2024 in Doha, Qatar, where they earned three first-place finishes in Grade IV competition. “After my first show with Vianne in Doha, I knew that our partnership was so incredibly special,” shared Shoemaker. “She just kept proving that to me show after show, so it was a clear decision to bring her to Paris.” – *Adapted from US Equestrian press release* 🇺🇸



Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H

All photos by Deann Tretheuwy/US Equestrian



Kate Shoemaker and Vianne



Rebecca Hart



Fiona Howard

U.S. JUMPING SHINES IN SILVER AT PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Karl Cook, Laura Kraut, and McLain Ward



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

The U.S. Olympic jumping team finished on the podium at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games making this the jumping team's third consecutive silver medal since 2016. The team of Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque, Laura Kraut and Baloutinue, and McLain Ward and Ilex, finished on a total of four faults to clinch the silver medal. Great Britain took gold on a total of two faults, while host nation France finished with the bronze medal on seven faults.

Cook, initially selected as the traveling alternate for the U.S. Olympic jumping team, was called into the team with Caracole de La Roque prior to the team qualifier as Kent Farrington's mount, Greya, began to show signs of a minor allergy-related concern. The team, in agreement with Farrington, felt it was not in her best interest to compete.

(Left) McLain Ward and Ilex



Laura Kraut and Baloutinue



Karl Cook and Caracole de la Roque

“That is one of the hardest things to do — to get a last-minute call, two hours before the event and say, ‘Oh, can you bring your white breeches? You’re on,’” explained Chef d’Equipe Robert Ridland of Cook’s stellar clear-round performances in the team qualifier and team final. “Hats off to Karl. Of course, we’re very proud of our other combinations, too. It really came together for us, and these guys delivered when it mattered most.”


Kraut, of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Baloutinue, her silver-medal partner from the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, were the first to go in the team final for the U.S. With their second-place finish in the team qualifier, the team returned second-to-last in the first two rounds of team final competition. The track, designed by Gregory Bodo of France, was technical, massive, and fast, with combinations across nations struggling with the time allowed of 79 seconds. Kraut and Baloutinue, a 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by St. Bride’s Farm, produced a strong, quick round but had a rail down at the A element of the triple combination.

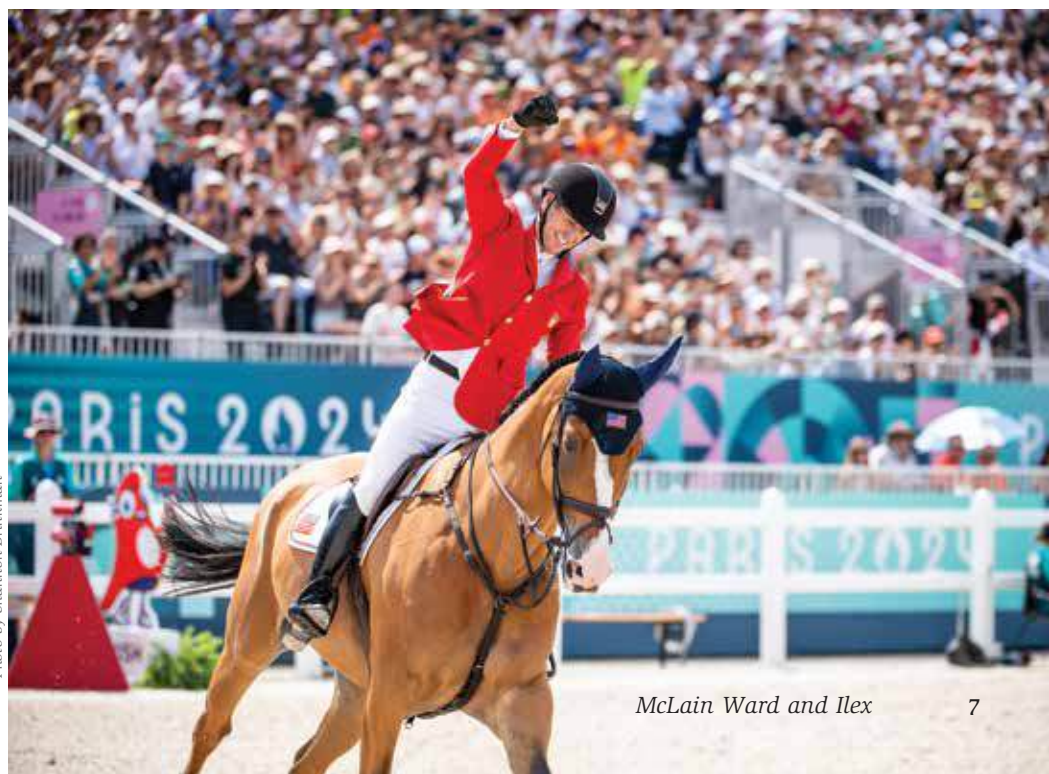
After jumping an impressive clear round in the team qualifier, Cook, of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Caracole de la Roque, a 12-year-old Selle Français mare owned by Signe Ostby, delivered another clear, fast round in the team final.

As the anchor combination, Ward, of Brewster, New York, and Ilex, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Bonne Chance Farm and Ward, produced the clear round the U.S. jumping team needed to definitively secure a podium position.

“Obviously this format is a real pressure cooker,” said Ward of the three-person-team format that does not allow for a drop score. “The first time we did this format was in Tokyo. The second time around here in Paris, we knew how it was going to go.

“I thought Ilex felt great; I thought he felt brilliant,” he continued. “In the team qualifier, I was in a situation to protect against a bad day and make sure we qualified for the team final. In the team final, I believed in Ilex, and my team put me in a great position to try to deliver, and everybody behind me made my job a little bit easier.”

In the individual final, Kraut finished inside the top 10 in eighth place, while Cook finished in 16th place overall. — Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



McLain Ward and Ilex

EVENTING

at the Olympic Games

The U.S. Olympic Eventing Team finished seventh overall out of 16 competing teams at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. The team completed on a final total score of 133.70 after all three phases.

“I really truly believe there were more positives than negatives and signs we are here competing with the rest of the world,” said Chef d’Equipe Bobby Costello. “We didn’t compete in this three-person format to a level that was going to get us a medal this weekend, and that is really disappointing for everyone.

“We need to get better at this Olympic format because it is unique,” he continued. “We have to think about the things we can improve upon that are going to make us more competitive against the world’s best. I’m heartened when I look at the quality of the riders we have here and the quality of horses. Each of these riders has a deep bench of horses coming along, but we still have much work to do if we have the expectation of ourselves to be on the podium at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in four years.”

Boyd Martin and Fedarman B, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by the Annie Goodwin Syndicate, finished in 10th place, nearly ending on their original dressage score. The pair added only 1.6 time penalties on cross country and jumped two clear rounds in stadium jumping to end on a total of 32.10.

Originally the traveling reserves, Liz Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker, a 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Chris Desino, Rob Desino, Deborah Halliday, Liz Halliday, and Renee Lane were called up to the team and made their first Olympic appearance. The pair finished on a final individual score of 40 for 19th place individually.

In their Olympic debut, Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake, a 9-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Mollie Hoff, Sherrie Martin, Caroline Pamukcu, and Deniz Pamukcu, began the dressage phase with a solid score of 30.40. In cross country, an unfortunate slip at the 16th fence ultimately added 20 penalties to their score. The pair delivered an excellent stadium jumping round adding only four jumping and .4 time penalties to the total.



Liz Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker

Photo by Poya Brinkman for Shannon Brinkman Photo



Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Boyd Martin and Fedarman B

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

DRESSAGE

at the Olympic Games

Adrienne Lyle, Marcus Orlob, and Steffen Peters are commended for the many achievements that led to their selection to the Olympic Games. With preparations beginning for a home Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, in 2028, there is excitement building about the upcoming talent and growing depth within the U.S. dressage program.

At the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the combination of Adrienne Lyle and Helix, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Zen Elite Equestrian Center, produced a strong test in the FEI Grand Prix, which earned them a 72.593%.

In their Olympic debut, Marcus Orlob and Jane, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Alice Tarjan looked to be settling fantastically into their test after cantering down the centerline, trending at around a 74% before the bell was rung by the judge at C. Unfortunately, as Jane entered the arena, she spooked at the crowd, stepping on herself in the process, nicking her right hind fetlock. The judges saw the trace amount of blood and were forced to eliminate the combination due to the FEI Blood Rules for Dressage.

In the FEI Grand Prix, Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper finished with a 66.491% after a few uncharacteristic difficulties during their test. 🐾



Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper



Marcus Orlob and Jane



Adrienne Lyle and Helix

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

Why own for Laura in particular?

Laura has always had an amazing support team from the back office to the barn. Competing at the highest level is definitely a group effort. All of the best riders have a terrific and stable supporting cast from the business manager through to grooms. Not only does Laura do a great job of recruiting talent, she is a great mentor and manager. This helps keep the team together and operating efficiently. Laura is also a great communicator — prompt, pithy, and unflinchingly honest. She does a great job of sharing credit, but always takes full responsibility for whatever happens on her watch and never makes excuses or casts blame elsewhere. Laura is the boss and is always fully accountable for team results. I have complete confidence in how she manages my horses, including their performance, health, and safety.

Tell me about your experience as an owner at the Olympic Games in Paris. A second team silver for Laura and Baloutinue!

The Paris experience was fantastic. USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins and her staff very conveniently put together hospitality that was well planned and thoughtfully managed during the competition. USEF Managing Director of Show Jumping Lizzy Chesson made sure that owners had their credentials, their team apparel, and were always included in updates and activities. The USET Foundation is the best in the world at taking care of national team owners.

What is the most rewarding or special part about owning horses for U.S. athletes?

There is nothing better than hearing the national anthem played for your rider and horse. It's always a special experience to be part of an Olympic, Pan American, or Nations Cup team. I always feel proud to support my country.

What challenges come with being an owner of a horse competing at the highest levels? How do you handle or manage those challenges?

There are many challenges to competing at the highest level — everything from logistics to lodging, practice times, to performance goals. When a problem arises, we talk about key dimensions, bring in other experts if appropriate, and do our best as to resolve the issue. I have complete trust in Laura to manage each horse as an individual athlete with individual needs. When she walks into the stable there is always a chorus of nickers, and horses watch her with love and respect. What more could you want?

What would you say to fans or those interested in supporting U.S. equestrian sport?

The USET Foundation is a tremendous resource for our sport. I encourage anyone interested in supporting U.S. equestrian teams to learn more about the Foundation and get involved.

In your opinion, how can we ensure our U.S. equestrian teams sustain success as we march toward the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles?

In my opinion, our United States equestrian teams need to continue to have a strong, stable, and well-funded development program. This allows high-potential younger riders to participate in quality training programs, regardless of their personal means. We should also make sure our best riders get a fair shot to compete by providing scholarship aid, when needed, to support their development. In addition to providing capable horses and riding instruction, the development program should include horsemanship, stable management, business essentials, communication skills, and how to source sponsors. Our continued success on the world stage depends on developing the next generation of riders. Let's start preparing now for the next Olympics in Los Angeles, California. 🐾



Laura Kraut with Baloutinue and Barbara and David Roux at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Roux



KARIN FLINT WELLINGTON, FLORIDA

Owner of Roxanne “Roxie” Trunnell’s
2020 Paralympic mount Dolton and
2024 Paralympic mount Fan Tastico H

What inspired you to own horses for U.S. equestrian athletes?

My neighbor in Wellington, Florida, Becky Reno, introduced me to para dressage through her daughter Annie Peavy. At the time, Annie was preparing to compete at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Once I got to know them, I became excited about what they were doing within the para dressage community.

They told me that Roxie needed a horse, and they knew of one named Dolton that they thought would be a good fit.

They asked if I would consider sponsoring this horse for her, and I was happy to give it a try. I purchased the horse from Kate Shoemaker, and after that, I fell in love with the whole thing. Ultimately, Dolton became Roxie’s 2020 Paralympic gold-medal-winning mount.

During my first year of horse ownership, I think I cried during every ride. I couldn’t believe that all of these para dressage athletes got on their horses and gave it everything they had. It was so beautiful.

Why own for Roxanne Trunnell in particular?

Becky and Annie encouraged me to own for Roxie because she didn’t have a sponsor or a horse. I didn’t know her, and we didn’t have a trainer. Our partnership started from scratch.

When I met Roxie and talked to her, I recognized that she had a strong competitive desire. I saw it as an opportunity to help someone achieve their dream. It’s really my dream, too, although back then I wasn’t thinking about medals. It evolved into that once Dolton and Roxie hit it off.

Several years later, we started looking for a new horse. It took a year and a half to find Fan Tastico H. It takes time finding these horses that have the right brain for the para dressage job. I found him in Germany through Mette Assouline, but I didn’t tell Roxie that we were going to purchase him.

The day Fan Tastico arrived, Roxie turned up at the barn, and it was a total surprise for her. His brain is so good that Roxie was able to get right on. Our trainer,



Photo by Jump Media

Karin Flint and Roxanne Trunnell

Andrea Woodard — who is a critical part of our team — trains the horses to what they will need and coaches Roxie to ride them.

Congratulations on a team gold medal and an individual silver medal for Roxie and Fan Tastico H! What was your experience like as an owner at the Paris Olympic Games?

I kept saying, “Pinch me! Is this real?” It was so special and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The venue was wonderful, and the experience will be in my heart for the rest of my life. I was proud to be there for my country, for my trainer, and for my rider. I’m blessed that I can do this.

In the stables, it was such a loving, warm, and happy environment. It was a great atmosphere for everyone and very encouraging because all the riders understand the hard work it takes to get there. When the athletes had fabulous rides, the other athletes shared in the celebrations.

What is the most rewarding or special part about owning horses for U.S. athletes?

The pride in being able to contribute to my country is wonderful. I always wanted to represent my country — I’m very patriotic — so ownership is a fulfilling dream. The riders are a group of people striving to represent their country in the best way, and they have all



Photo by Devyn Trethewey/US Equestrian

Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H

worked so hard. I've seen the ups and downs and tears. When it doesn't go right, you feel it with them.

In the team competition in Paris, when the last team score was tallied, and we knew the U.S. had won the gold medal, the joy we felt was so fabulous. It was really wonderful. I love seeing other people happy. We were sad when the Paralympics ended.

What would you say to fans or those interested in supporting U.S. equestrian sport?

The USET Foundation provides funding for the para dressage program. Everyone knows it takes a lot of money to run a program like this, so if you love horses and love what you see, then I hope you will contribute whatever you can. We couldn't have done what we did in Paris without the USET Foundation's support. If you're a participant in any of the wonderful USET Foundation or US Equestrian (USEF) programs, it's great to support them.

In your opinion, how can we ensure our U.S. equestrian teams sustain success as we march toward the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles?

Pray a lot! The struggle with para dressage is that because, in most cases, the riders have a lot of day-to-day expenses — with therapy or medications or extra care — that it can be tough for their families to also fund their participation as elite athletes. We can't ensure that we'll win, but we can ensure we have good teams by supporting programs or volunteering our time and positivity.

We also need to make sure that we have young riders coming along in each discipline. We must encourage and support them through the USET Foundation and USEF programs.

We are particularly blessed to have our U.S. Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline. He is wonderful and has great technical knowledge. He knows so much about the training and coaching of the para dressage athletes. We have the best coach in the world, and he is a critical part of our success.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Go USA! We love seeing that flag go up the pole. It's really fabulous. It's everything that you think it's going to be. 🇺🇸



Photo by Luxécité

Roxanne Trunnell and Karin Flint



Roxanne Trunnell and Fan Tastico H

Photo by Devyn Trethewey/US Equestrian

ROWAN O'RILEY

FAIR SKY FARM

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Owner of "Becca" Hart's Paralympic mount, Floratina

What inspired you to own horses for U.S. equestrian athletes?

I was a regional dressage competitor and worked my way up the ranks to the grand prix level. I didn't have the skills to be an international athlete, but I wanted to participate at the elite level. So, it became my dream to get to the Olympics, which is why I chose to become an owner.

I became interested in para dressage in 2016. I began attending CPEDI competitions along with para athlete Annie Peavy, who was training with my coach at the time. Annie's athleticism piqued my interest because my oldest daughter was born with a physical disability similar to Annie's. I admired that Annie was able to express herself in a physically athletic way and I thought it was amazing that para dressage riders excelled through athletics.

Why own for Rebecca Hart in particular?

By the time I met Becca, she had already been to four Paralympic Games and many World Championships. I knew she was highly regarded, an excellent horsewoman, and an elite athlete who always put the horse first. She embodied the qualities I wanted to support.

She invited me to lunch and prepared a very professional proposal with spreadsheets, calendars, and costs for different scenarios. She presented the plans and potential expenses involved — she had already thought about things like transport, stabling, and a groom. She did a great job, and I decided to come in as a sponsor and support her goals by buying her next horse.

We bought El Corona Texel and Becca went on to win a silver and a bronze medal on him at the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina.

This success got us thinking about the Paralympic Games. Becca had heard about Floratina because the mare had been on the gold-medal-winning Canadian dressage team at the 2019 Pan American Games with rider Lindsay Kellock. We decided to lease her from owner Chloe Gazierowski.



Rebecca Hart and Rowan O'Riley

Photo courtesy of Rowan O'Riley

What was your experience like as an owner at the Paris Paralympic Games?

It was amazing. The venue was incredible because it was very horse friendly. Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline and the team had begun planning years in advance. They kept everyone apprised about preparations and accommodations during training camp and at the Paralympic Games in Versailles, France.

I was on the kiss-and-cry holding my flag and wearing our Team USA regalia. I stood alongside our groom Mackenzie Young, our trainer Kjersten Elliot, and the rest of the team. In Becca's individual tests, we watched her running scores trending upward, and finally they came out really high, and she won gold both times. It was very emotional. We knew she was capable of it, and we were hoping it would turn out this way.

What is the most rewarding part about owning horses for U.S. athletes?

It's so rewarding to represent our country, and I'm so proud to wear the team jackets and be together with the team contingent. It's such a thrill to see the U.S. flag go up the pole. We also have a friendly and competitive relationship with our counterparts in other countries.

Sometimes people ask why I decided to own horses for our U.S. equestrian teams because it is an extremely time-consuming and expensive task. The flip side is that it's an incredibly rewarding passion project. I love the travel, and I love the whole experience. It has added a lot to my life.

What challenges come with being an owner of a horse competing at the highest levels? How do you handle or manage those challenges?

The logistics are a major challenge, but Becca is my secret weapon because she's a highly skilled organizer. For trips to Europe, she'll pick shows, talk to the para dressage program directors at US Equestrian (USEF), and then work out all of the logistics. She manages all of the details herself, and she's great at it.

What would you say to fans or those interested in supporting U.S. equestrian sport?

I am a donor to the USET Foundation as well as a private sponsor for Becca. USEF's para dressage program receives funding from the USET Foundation, and that's helped the program grow and improve.

Over the past five years in particular, the USET Foundation has helped fund training for emerging and elite athletes, and Michel [Assouline] has produced a handbook for trainers to learn about training para athletes. The para dressage program now has a high performance pathway that helps guide emerging athletes toward the elite level. That didn't exist before. This is a direct result of funding from the USET Foundation and vision and insight from Michel, who saw what was missing in this young sport in the U.S.

In your opinion, how can we ensure our U.S. equestrian teams sustain success as we march toward the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles?

In dressage and jumping, European countries have long-standing traditions and programs focused on breeding and training top horses. In the U.S., we're now recognizing that we need similar programs that enable us to breed and train top horses on home soil rather than sourcing them from other countries.

We also need to support emerging athletes and young riders and cultivate the up-and-coming horses to ensure a deeper field of potential elite competitors and to add to the depth of horsepower. 🇺🇸



Rebecca Hart and Floratina

Photo by Deyn Tredaway/US Equestrian

Owners



continued

SHERRIE MARTIN **SPRINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Owner of her daughter Caroline Pamukcu's Olympic mount, HSH Blake, in partnership with Caroline Pamukcu, Deniz Pamukcu, and Mollie Hoff

What inspired you to own horses for U.S. equestrian athletes?

I first began owning horses for Buck Davidson. He had trained out of our farm for several years, and he approached me about buying a potential U.S. team horse. In partnership with Buck, we owned two horses that competed in Nations Cup competitions — The Apprentice and Copper Beech who was also owned in partnership with Carl Segal.

Why own a horse for a U.S. equestrian team athlete?

Being an owner of a team horse brings a whole new level of involvement within the eventing community. As an owner, there are opportunities to travel to many different countries and venues, to get to know the other riders and owners, and, of course, there is great excitement in competing as a team rather than as an individual.

I think there should be more publicity about entry-level ownership. There may be people such as adult amateurs or parents of young riders who may be interested in becoming involved as partial owners or giving to the USET Foundation to help support the future of U.S. eventing. Some of Caroline's other owners have been involved in the sport for years but had never considered ownership until they were asked. In the end, they were thrilled to participate.

What was your experience like as an owner at the Paris Olympic Games?

The Olympic Games in Paris were epic, and we were thrilled to take part. I attended the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, so I had some idea what to expect. I felt we were well informed about the selection process, the training schedules, and the logistics. The hotel, transportation, and hospitality were top notch.

What is the most rewarding part about owning horses for U.S. athletes?

Participating in international team events is incredible. The countries and venues are unique, and I love continuing to meet new owners and riders from other countries who share the same passion.



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake

What would you say to fans or those interested in supporting U.S. equestrian sport?

The USET Foundation is the backbone that enables the sport to grow. The grants provided by the organization offer critical opportunities for our athletes to travel abroad to gain the experience necessary to improve with the goal of being on the podium at major international competitions.


We need to continue connecting with people who are already active in the sport. There are so many ways — including ownership — for people to become more involved in eventing and other equestrian disciplines. Getting in touch with the USET Foundation is a great place to start. 



Photo by Devyn Thretheuwy/US Equestrian

Caroline Pamukcu and HSH Blake

HEIDI HUMPHRIES

ZEN ELITE EQUESTRIAN CENTER SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA

Owner of Adrienne Lyle's Olympic
mount Helix and U.S. team alternate
Endel Ots' Olympic mount Bohemian

What inspired you to own horses for U.S. equestrian athletes?

My love for horses began in childhood, nurtured by supportive parents who encouraged my passion. While my dreams evolved, my deep connection to horses remained constant. So, when the chance to own horses for U.S. equestrian athletes came my way, it was the perfect opportunity to combine my lifelong love for these incredible animals with the chance to support athletes at the highest level.

Why own for Adrienne and Endel in particular?

Owning horses for Adrienne and Endel was a natural decision because they each bring unique qualities to the sport. Adrienne possesses an extraordinary talent combined with a focused, kind, and gentle approach to training, which resonates deeply with my values. From the start, I felt a connection with her, and I knew she was the right person to help these horses reach their full potential.

Endel has a playful and joyful style that allows horses to thrive. He has a big heart and a true understanding of our horses, making him the perfect match for the kind of program I want to build. He and Bohemian are not only talented but a really special unit. You can feel their bond every time they go into the arena.

Tell me about your experience as an owner at the Paris Olympic Games.

It was an unforgettable experience. The venue was breathtaking, and the camaraderie among our U.S. riders and support staff was truly inspiring. Although our team faced some challenges this year, the enduring Olympic spirit was alive and well. Adrienne's valiant performance was incredible. She entered the Olympic arena after a significant setback for the U.S. dressage team, delivering an error-free ride and earning an impressive score.

One of the most emotional and memorable moments was walking behind Adrienne and Helix as they made their way to the stunning arena. Alongside my partner, Danielle, with my family in the stadium, and surrounded by our U.S. supporters, the experience was overwhelming in the best possible way. It was the culmination of hard work. Seeing it all come together on the world stage was the realization of a lifelong dream.



Heidi Humphries and Helix

Photo courtesy of Heidi Humphries



Endel Ots and Bohemian

Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Owners

HEIDI HUMPHRIES *continued*

What challenges come with owning a horse competing at the highest levels?

Horses are living, breathing creatures, and with that comes unpredictability. The key to managing challenges is to hold tight to the belief in your team's path, stay committed, and be patient. Resilience and unwavering support are what ultimately lead to success. Setbacks are learning opportunities and stepping stones toward achieving the ultimate goal — seeing your horse and rider succeed on the world stage.

What would you say to fans or those interested in supporting U.S. equestrian sport?

As an owner, I've seen the USET Foundation's critical role in the success of U.S. equestrian teams on the world stage. The USET Foundation supports the vital programs designed to develop the top athletes in our sport, and these programs are the backbone of success, offering the resources, training, and opportunities our riders and horses need to compete at the highest levels.

What is most rewarding about owning horses for U.S. athletes?

There's something extraordinary about watching a horse you've supported compete on the international stage, knowing the hard work, dedication, and passion that have gone into getting there. It's not just about the victories but about being part of a team that shares a deep love for the sport and the horses. It is very special to see the bond between the horse and rider develop and know I've helped facilitate that.

How can we ensure our U.S. equestrian teams sustain success as we march toward the 2028 Olympics?

As we set our sights on the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, it's more critical than ever to continue investing in developing our riders and horses. Achieving excellence on the world stage requires a sustained commitment to providing the necessary resources, training, and support. Programs like those offered by the USET Foundation and US Equestrian's (USEF) high performance pathway programs are essential in this effort.

However, the journey to success in equestrian sport goes beyond just resources and training. It's about fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration among everyone involved — riders, owners, trainers, and support staff alike. We also need to applaud the effort, not only when a trophy, ribbon, or medal is involved but also when the blood, sweat, and tears culminate without any of the above. For young athletes

who dream of becoming a top rider, this type of backing demonstrates the unwavering support that's available to them along their paths.

Success at the top levels is undeniably a team effort. By building a culture of mutual respect, trust, and shared goals, we create an environment where both horses and riders can thrive. Not all owners' strategies will align, but as long as we support each other, we will all achieve our shared goal. It's the unity in our purpose, even with different approaches, that drives us forward together. This collective approach not only strengthens our chances of success at the Olympics but also enriches the sport as a whole, ensuring a brighter future for U.S. equestrians. We must unite and continue showing the world how beautiful our sport really is.

– By Kara Pinato Scro and Alice Collins



Adrienne Lyle and Zaunkonig, with Heidi Humphries and Danielle Linders

Photo courtesy of Heidi Humphries



Philanthropic Partner of US Equestrian

**Mark Your Calendars:
Giving Tuesday 2024**

**GIVING
TUESDAY
★ 12.03.24 ★**

Your gift fuels the training, resources, and competition opportunities U.S. equestrian athletes need to excel at the highest levels. Give early today and play a vital role in their continued success.



Give Now!

(Top to bottom) Adrienne Lyle and Helix, 2024 TerraNova © Susan J. Stickle, Boyd Martin and Luke 140, 2021 Tryon © Shannon Brinkman McLain Ward and Ilex, Aachen 2024 © Shannon Brinkman





NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team Wins FEI Jumping Nations Cup of Ireland CSIO5*

On August 16, after two rounds of competition, the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team stepped to the top of the podium at the conclusion of the FEI Jumping Nations Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy at the Dublin Horse Show in Dublin, Ireland. The team finished on a final team total of four faults, while Ireland finished in second on eight faults, and Great Britain took third on a team total of 12. This is the U.S. Jumping Team's third win in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup of Ireland CSIO5* and their first victory in Dublin since 2017.

In the initial round, Spencer Smith of Wellington, Florida, was the pathfinder around the track designed by Alan Wade of Ireland. With Keeneland, an 11-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Ashland Farms, Smith notched the first clear round for the team. Next, Lucy Davis of Brooklyn, New York, aboard Ben 341, a 13-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Old Oak Group, tallied the second clear round. In their fourth appearance for the U.S. jumping team in the European Nations Cup schedule, Aaron Vale of Williston, Florida, and Carissimo 25, an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by The Carissimo Group, continued with the team's momentum, producing another careful, clear round. Finally, McLain Ward of Brewster, New York, and Callas, a 16-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Beechwood Stables LLC, executed the team's fourth consecutive clear round.


In the second round, Smith and Keeneland jumped clear once again in 70.33 seconds. Davis and Ben 341 rode an excellent, fast round in 69.61 seconds but nudged the top rail of the final vertical on course to add four faults to the team score. Vale and Carissimo 25 rode the course in 72.13 seconds and, with a rail down on course, became the team's drop score. As the final combination to enter the ring, Ward and Callas secured the clear round the team



Lucy Davis, Aaron Vale, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, McLain Ward, and Spencer Smith

needed to take the win over Ireland. Smith and Ward finished the class as two of the six pairs that jumped clear in both rounds out of 32 total combinations.

"They were unbelievable, no question," said Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland of the team's outstanding performance. "Spencer led off, McLain wrapped it up, and the other two were fantastic. Spencer's double clear right from the get-go took the pressure off everyone, which is a positive when it's so competitive. Lucy was riding like she was before she took a break from

the sport, and Aaron is so close to having everything perfect with Carissimo 25. And McLain is McLain. He always comes through for us when we need him. There was significant momentum coming here after the Olympic Games in Paris, and everyone really stepped up to the plate. This is a special event, and it's a Nations Cup like no other, so it feels good to win this again. The crowd is amazing, and they're so supportive of the U.S. team – it's really one of the best competitions in the world." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



McLain Ward and Callas



Lucy Davis and Ben 341



Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25



Spencer Smith and Keeneland

All photos by Morgan Froment

CHESTER WEBER WINS BRONZE

at 2024 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses

Chester Weber of Ocala, Florida, earned an individual podium finish for the Defender U.S. Driving Team at the 2024 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses, clinching the bronze medal.

The competition, held at Hungary's State Stud Farm at Szilvásvárad September 4-8, 2024, started out with a bang for Weber whose test with his Dutch Warmblood geldings First Edition, Julius V, Kadora, and Kasper D, earned a score of 31.06. Not only was that score good enough to put Weber in first place, it was also an international record-setting score for this test.

"This whole season, we've been dominating the dressage phase, and it just kept getting better and better," said Weber. "The horses were in really good form leading up to the show, and we made some magic on the day."

Weber's commanding dressage score helped to keep him in podium position after a challenging marathon phase. With the team of his own First Edition, Kadora, Kasper D, and Reno, Weber completed eight clean obstacles to finish 11th for the phase, then turned in a fast round on Sunday's cones course to finish in third place overall.


"It was a very different track from a lot of the Dutch-style tracks, but I was very pleased with how the horses handled it and their performance," Weber said of the marathon course.

Weber highlighted the work of his support team and his horses in reaching the podium at the sport's top competition.

"None of this is possible without the tireless efforts of many people working together to create excellence in horse sport," he said. "I couldn't be prouder of the horses and their performance and how they showed up every day in a positive, willing way."

U.S. driving athlete Jim Fairclough of Newton, New Jersey, completed successful dressage and marathon phases but opted to retire ahead of the cones phase after one of his horses sustained a minor injury in the stall overnight.

Australia's Boyd Exell won individual gold with a final score of 146.93, while The Netherland's Bram Chardon earned silver with a 157.74, narrowly edging out Weber's 159.13.

- Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



CELEBRATING U.S. EQUESTRIAN SPORT

Parisian Style

On Saturday, August 3, the USET Foundation hosted a garden party for U.S. equestrian team supporters at the Waldorf Astoria Triannon Palace Gardens in Versailles, France, to celebrate our U.S. Olympic athletes.



U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and USET Foundation Chairman W. James McNerney



Camille Branca, Nick Skelton, U.S. Show Jumping Olympic gold and silver medalist Laura Kraut, Myrteel Ward, and USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Margaret Duprey



Gilberto Sayão Da Silva, U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, and U.S. Show Jumping Olympic gold and silver medalist McLain Ward



Scott Cook, USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Signe Ostby, USET Foundation President and CEO Kristi Mitchem, and USET Foundation Treasurer Akiko Yamazaki



Lou Vinios and USET Foundation Board of Trustees member Zacharie Vinios, USEF Dressage Development Coach Charlotte Bredahl, and USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins

All photos by Shannon Brinkman



Philanthropic Partner of US Equestrian

KRISTI MITCHEM ELECTED AS PRESIDENT AND CEO

At its mid-year meeting, the USET Foundation Board of Trustees elected Kristi Mitchem to serve as its President and CEO effective September 1, 2024. She replaced W. James McNerney in these roles while McNerney, following seven years in the President and CEO positions, remains Chairman of the USET Foundation Board of Trustees, a position he's held since 2019.

As the philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF), the USET Foundation is responsible for helping provide the necessary resources to maintain U.S. equestrian competitive excellence on the world stage. In the President and CEO roles, Mitchem is responsible for furthering support of this mission.

"Kristi [Mitchem] brings a remarkable blend of passion for high performance sport and a proven track record in business and financial leadership," said McNerney. "Her appointment marks an exciting generational shift that will engage a new wave of donors and enthusiasts who share our dedication to the development of talented, hard-working athletes through the pathway programs. As we look ahead to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, I have every confidence that Kristi's vision and expertise will propel the USET Foundation and our United States equestrian teams to new heights, ensuring our athletes are supported at every level in this country's quest for sustained competitive excellence on the world stage."

Mitchem was elected to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees in June 2022 and the Executive Committee in January 2024. She has also been an active member of its Finance and Investment Committees since 2022.

Professionally, Mitchem is one of three Managing Partners at &Partners. She was previously the CEO and head of the Bank of Montreal (BMO) Global Asset Management (BMO GAM), BMO's asset management division. Prior to that, she served as the CEO of Wells Fargo Asset Management and has more



than 20 years of experience in related roles at State Street Corporation, BlackRock, and Goldman Sachs.

Mitchem's passion for high performance equestrian sport stems from her daughter Caroline Mawhinney's riding career. A talented up-and-coming show jumping athlete, Mawhinney has participated in several USEF High Performance Pathway Programs including the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) where she earned several podium finishes. In addition, she has twice represented the U.S. at the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final in Kronenberg, The Netherlands, taking home gold medals.

"Kristi's knowledge of the sport coupled with her business acumen have demonstrated that she is prepared to propel the organization forward, particularly as we look toward a home Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "In the four years Kristi has been on our Board of Trustees, she has gained a keen understanding of the USET Foundation's important role in the sport and the expenses associated with competing at the highest levels. Through her daughter, she has also experienced the thrill of riding for the team. She understands firsthand that our athletes and U.S. equestrian teams require significant


resources to maintain competitive excellence now and in the future. I'm very much looking forward to working with her to bolster and extend our mission."

"As an avid supporter of U.S. equestrian teams and athletes, I'm thrilled to take on the role of President and CEO of the USET Foundation and excited to leverage my work experience in a way that will contribute to the sport," stated Mitchem. "I'm extremely grateful for everything that the USET Foundation has provided to my daughter Caroline, and I'm delighted that I can give back.

"I aim to continue Jim [McNerney]'s legacy," added Mitchem. "He's done an amazing job serving the Foundation and promoting the sport in an inclusive way that binds people to the organization's mission."

Mitchem is looking forward to increasing awareness of and access to USEF Pathway Programs and to grow the endowment to ensure long-term support for U.S. equestrian athletes and teams.

"The Pathway is what initially piqued my interest in supporting the USET Foundation," explained Mitchem. "I thought it was fantastic that there were groups of individuals that would help young riders like Caroline progress from the junior levels to the senior teams. Ultimately, thanks to the guidance of the Pathway, some of the most talented riders go on to represent the U.S. on the world stage, whether that is in Nations Cup competitions or at Olympic and Paralympic events."

Mitchem earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Davidson College and a master's degree in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where she was an Arjay Miller Scholar. She is also a Fulbright Scholar and an Aspen Financial Fellow. Mitchem and her husband, Tom Mawhinney, reside in Woodside, California, and have three daughters. She spends winters in Wellington, Florida, at their Triple M Farm. – by Kara Pinato Scro 

Cocktails, Course Walk, and Canapés

THE EVENT AT REBECCA FARM

Hosted by the USET Foundation, US Equestrian, and Montana Equestrian Events, owners of U.S. horses entered in CCI3 or CCI4* competition at The Event at Rebecca Farm in Kalispell, Montana, toured the cross-country course while listening and learning from U.S. Olympic eventing athlete Tamie Smith and U.S. international eventing athlete Sharon White, and the course designers Ian Stark and Jay Hambly.*



Course designer Ian Stark



Norma and Brian Murray



Beth Lendrum



U.S. Olympic eventing athlete Tamie Smith



International eventing athlete Sharon White and Andrew Temkin



Tim Gardner and Jerome Broussard

All photos by Lendrum Photography

U.S. JUNIOR JUMPING TEAM

Tops 2024 FEI Nations Cup™ Youth Jumping Final

The U.S. Young Rider and Junior Jumping Teams contested the best young teams from around the world at the FEI Nations Cup™ Youth Jumping Final, which took place September 11-15, 2024, in Lier, Belgium. Both teams were led by Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski and Team Leader Erin Keating.

The U.S. Junior Jumping Team took the coveted top honors on the final day of competition with a total of zero faults.

"I'm so excited about the future of our sport. When you work with these younger athletes, the first-timers, it is such an awakening for them. It sounds corny, but it really is life-changing," said Kursinski. "By the end, when it's all over, they're much more aware of their own potential. They gain the understanding of how their support teams, trainers, and parents work together and it provides insight into how it feels to compete at the highest levels. They are starstruck when they first start because they realize they're the only Americans, and this is a big deal, and once they settle in and get into the week, you start to see the talent and drive come through. They're dealing with pressure when it really counts. It's a huge stepping-stone experience for our program."

The U.S. Jumping Junior Team featured four up-and-coming combinations. Clara Propp of New York, New York, and Cocolina, a 13-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses, were the trailblazers for the team and produced an efficient clear round. Alexa Elle Lignelli of New York, New York, and Helium, an 11-year-old Belgian Sport Horse gelding owned by Skyline Sport Horses LLC, alongside anchor combination Elise Stephens of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and O'Mega H & DB, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Rendezvous, contributed impressive clear efforts in the final round of competition. Avery Griffin of Austin, Texas, and Bodega Semilly, a 13-year-old Selle Français mare owned by PBC Equine Investments LLC, finished the final



Clara Propp, Alexa Elle Lignelli, Elise Stephens, Reese Merna, Avery Griffin, and Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski

Photo by Pegasus Photo Creations

round with eight faults. The alternate athlete was Reese Merna of Mendham, New Jersey.

"It was an amazing event. It was put on well, and being there with the whole U.S. team and being a part of the program with Anne [Kursinski] is very motivating," said Stephens. "Learning how to ride under pressure and for a team is a huge part of moving to the next step. We all contributed to our team result, and everyone put in a clear at least one of the days, which showed it was really a team effort. The experiences provided by the USEF high performance pathway allow us to feel more comfortable competing in a format and atmosphere like this. National championships like the USEF Junior Jumper National Championships and Prix de States as well as the FEI Jumping North American Youth Championship are incredibly helpful in giving us the experience to build toward a final like this."

Sweden finished in second on four faults, while the Czech Republic finished in third on eight faults.

U.S. YOUNG RIDER JUMPING TEAM EARNS FIFTH-PLACE FINISH

The U.S. Young Rider Jumping Team of Mia Bagnato of Fishkill, New York, and Ballyoskill Big Bucks, an 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Elan Farm; Laurel Walker of Copper Canyon, Texas, and her own Armani, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding; Hunter Champey of Far Hills, New Jersey, and High Hopes SFN, a 12-year old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by MDHT Equestrian, LLC; and Stephanie Garrett of New York, New York, and Darius de Kezeg Z, a 13-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Postage Stamp Farm, LLC, completed the final round with 12 faults for a fifth-place finish. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

2024 FEI Vaulting World Championship

The U.S. Vaulting Team took on the world's best July 16-21 at the 2024 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Seniors in Bern, Switzerland. The team finished fourth overall, with individual competitors turning in solid performances over four days of competition.

Kimberly Palmer of Half Moon Bay, California, earned a strong fifth-place finish from the 28 competitors in the Individual Senior Female division. Vaulting on Club Ippico Monzese's 17-year-old Rheinlander gelding Rosenstolz 99 with Italian lungier Laura Carnabuci, Palmer placed sixth in the compulsory and technical tests, then earned an impressive 8.803 in her freestyle to finish fifth with an overall score of 8.349.

Fellow Californian and Senior World Championship first-timer Caroline Morse earned a top-10 finish overall, vaulting on Grasshoper AF to a personal best score. Morse, from Los Gatos, is co-owner with Jana Morse of the 15-year-old American warmblood gelding. Morse finished eighth individually with 8.156 and was lunged by Samantha Matson.

Paula Hampshire, who has represented the U.S. Vaulting Team at past championships as part of the squad, made her international senior debut as an individual. Hampshire, of Kaysville, Utah, vaulted with Bellmiro, an 18-year-old Swiss Sporthorse gelding owned and lunged by Dimitri Suhner of Switzerland. She finished on 6.822, logging valuable championship experience to finish 23rd.



Kimberly Palmer and Rosenstolz 99



INDIVIDUAL SENIOR MALE

Daniel Janes from Stanwood, Washington, with the 15-year-old Caretes Auhoern, who is owned by his lungier Jana Leib of Germany, turned in the top performances for the American contingent in the individual division, finishing 11th in a competitive group.



SQUAD

The Pacific Coast Vaulters represented the U.S. team in the squad competition and finished in fifth place. Pictured here are Squad members, Francesca Foster, Emma Milito, and Emily Rose with Eldoctro, the 2009 KWPN gelding co-owned by lungier Carolyn Bland and Emily Rose.



PAS DE DEUX

Shaina Hammond and Alyssa Stoddard, both from Eagle Mountain, Utah, along with with owner and lungier Gudrun Lenz's German Sport Horse nine-year-old Corocoro 2, finished in eighth place in the Pas de Deux competition.

All photos by Kaiser Impressions

U.S. DRESSAGE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

AUGUST 19-25, 2024 – WAYNE, ILLINOIS



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Adalynn Nelson and her own Custom Made took the win in the USEF Children Dressage National Championship.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Alicia Berger and her own Aqua Marin took home the Horshareware Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship.



Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter

Ellie Brimmer and Annette Grant's My Moment won the USEF Para Dressage National Championship.

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian



Virginia Woodcock and her own Mollegardens Sans-Souci were victorious in the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship.

Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter



Sabine Schut-Kery and Sonnenberg's Jersey, owned by Sonnenberg Farms, LLC, won the USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship.

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian



Amy Bradley and her own Quileute CCW secured top honors in the Neue Schule/USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.

Photo by US Equestrian/Leslie Potter



Christian Simonson and Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson's Son of a Lady earned the coveted Brentina Cup title.

JUMPING

at the 2024 Gotham North FEI North American
Youth Jumping Championships

Presented by USHJA

JULY 30-AUGUST 4, 2024 — TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



Zone 2's Emily Dehoff and The Sporty Game, LLC's Manou de Muze; Kaitlyn Kiely and Kiely Equestrian's Mystic C van T Heyveld; Hunter Champey and MDHT Equestrian, LLC's High Hopes SFN; and Mia Bagnato with Elan Farm's Ballyoskill Big Bucks took home the gold medal in the Young Rider Team Final.



Clara Propp and Marigold Sporthorses, LLC's Cocolina won the FEI Junior Individual Championship after also taking home the silver medal as part of Zone 2 in the Junior Team Final.



JJ Torano rode Jet Show Stables' Kybalia SMH/SVN to the gold medal in the Pre-Junior Individual Final.



Photo by Avery Wallace/°US Equestrian

Stephanie Garrett rode Darius de Kezeg Z owned by Postage Stamp Farm to the gold medal in the FEI Young Rider Individual Championship.



Photo by Avery Wallace/°US Equestrian

Agatha Lignelli and her own Girl Scout topped the podium in the Children's Individual Final.



Photo by Avery Wallace/°US Equestrian

Zone 4's Isabelle Ehman and Double E LLC's Magnolia; Lilly Geitner and Fazou owned by Oak Ledge Farms; Amy Krebs and her own Jabantos; and Christian Hacker and CSH Equine LLC's Cocaine de Riverland were victorious in the Junior Team Final.



Photo by Avery Wallace/°US Equestrian

The combined Zone 1, 2, and 10 of Eva Mackenzie with her own Debbie Harry; Agatha Lignelli and her own Girl Scout; Kaitlyn Linck and her own Don Touch De Tiji Z; and Naomi Cates and her own L'Air Visto Meershoven Z rode to a fault-free score over two rounds to win the Children's Team Final.



Photo by Cary L. Houe-TCHS

The Zone 2 junior team of Clara Propp, Maison McIntyre, James Leone, and Alexa Lignelli earned the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. Team Spirit Award.

DRESSAGE

at the 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships

JULY 30-AUGUST 4, 2024 — TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN



Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Region 3's Alice Burley and Grace Burley's *S. Classic Conversion Cav-I*; Alexis Troutman and *Happy Feet* owned by Alexis, Kevin, and Nina Troutman; Virginia Woodcock with her own *Mollegardens Sans-Souci*; and Justine Boyer and Hampton Green Farms' *Campanero HGF* won the Junior Team Final to top the podium.



Photo by Cary L. Houe-TCHS

The Region 4/5/7 junior team of Claire Tucker, Catherine Burlew, and Carmen Stephens earned the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. Team Spirit Award.



Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Kat Fuqua and her own *Dreamgirl* became a triple gold medalist at NAYC 2024 after taking top honors in the FEI NAYC Young Rider Individual Championship and the FEI Young Rider Freestyle.



Christian Simonson with Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson's Son of a Lady topped the podium of the FEI U25 Grand Prix Freestyle with a score of 73.845%.



The Region 3/5 team of Kat Fuqua and her own Dreamgirl; Alicia Berger and her and Marianne Berger's Aqua Marin; Jessica Nordqvist and Paula Nelson's First Date; and Allison Berger and Alicia and Marianne Berger's Floriano HB took home gold in the Young Rider division.



Josh Albrecht and Coalcyn Equestrian LLC's Goldenboy Vinckenburgh earned a personal-best score of 69.103% and the gold medal in the FEI CDIU25.



Virginia Woodcock and her own Mollegardens Sans-Souci took home three gold medals at NAYC 2024 after winning the FEI Junior Individual Championship and FEI Junior Freestyle.

All photos this page by Avery Wallace/© US Equestrian

Defender U.S. Eventing Team Takes Second in 2024 SAP-Cup CCIO4*-S

@ CHIO AACHEN

The Defender U.S. Eventing Team moved up nearly five places on the leaderboard in the SAP-Cup CCIO4*-S at CHIO Aachen in Aachen, Germany, throughout its three phases to clinch a second-place finish. The team had a final combined score of 123.7, behind the British team that secured first on a 112.8. Ireland finished in third with a final score of 138. This is the second consecutive year the team has landed in second place in the CCIO4*-S at CHIO Aachen.

“Overall, I’m really impressed with this team and how they handled the atmosphere and stepped up to the challenge of this event,” said Chef d’Equipe Bobby Costello. “There’s a lot to take away from the results. We have several athletes who have been a part of the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Development Program, and to me,

that was the cool thing. As the USEF Eventing Developing and Emerging Coach, Leslie Law has a vision and commitment to this program, and it’s working. We have athletes climbing the ranks and producing results.”

The team of James Alliston of San Ramon, California; Hallie Coon of Ocala, Florida; Alyssa Phillips of Fort Worth, Texas; and Liz Halliday of Lexington, Kentucky, sat on a team total of 102.1 after the dressage phase. All combinations delivered clear jumping rounds in the main stadium to move them into third place going into the final round of the competition, the cross-country phase.

Alliston and Karma, a 10-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Alliston Equestrian and Ric Plummer, crossed through the timers with 2.4-time penalties to finish on a final score of 38.4, earning ninth individually.

“She’s an exciting horse, a good athlete, and a good jumper with a lot of energy,” said Alliston. “She’s a very exciting horse, and I’m really thrilled with everything we’re taking away from this event.”

Halliday and Shanroe Cooley, a nine-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties, added 7.6-time penalties to finish on a three-phase score of 43.3.

Phillips and Oskar, a 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Alyssa and Julie Phillips, added 8.8-time penalties to their original dressage score for a total of 42.

Coon and Cute Girl, a 10-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Hallie and Helen Coon, finished with 66.8 penalties total, which served as the drop score for the team. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Alyssa Phillips, Hallie Coon, Liz Halliday, and James Alliston

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



Laura Kraut and Baloutinue

Jumping @ CHIO AACHEN

In the first round, Ward and Callas, a 16-year-old Holsteiner mare owned by Beechwood Stables LLC, set the pace early over the 1.60m-track built by Frank Rothenberger (GER). They jumped a clear round in 82.07 seconds, punching their ticket to the jump-off.

“I think the courses here are always very challenging, and amongst the riders, we always say this is the second hardest class of the show. It was a good course tonight for my horse because she’s experienced, and there were a few bold jumps early that made her focus and kick into gear, which was great,” explained Ward. “I’m thrilled with my horse, and it was a great night of sport. I think I came to Aachen for the first time 30 years ago, not to date myself, and it never gets old.”

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾

The NetJets U.S. Jumping Team finished ninth in the Mercedes-Benz Nations Cup CSIO5*. Laura Kraut of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and Baloutinue, a 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by St. Bride’s Farm, finished on a zero-fault score. Katie Dinan of Wellington, Florida, and Out of the Blue SCF, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Grant Road Partners, LLC; Natalie Dean of Palo Alto, California, and Acota M, an 11-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Marigold Sporthorses, LLC; and McLain Ward of Brewster, New York, and Ilex, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Bonne Chance Farm, Gilberto Sayão da Silva, and McLain Ward, each had a rail for a team total of eight faults once the drop score was factored in.

MCLAIN WARD AND CALLAS TAKE SECOND PLACE IN TURKISH AIRLINES – PRIZE OF EUROPE

McLain Ward and Callas were nearly unbeatable in the opening evening class of CHIO Aachen, the Turkish Airlines – Prize of Europe. Ward and Callas bested 10 other combinations in the jump-off to take second place. The pair jumped clear and stopped the jump-off timers in 44.06 seconds, while Richard Vogel (GER) and Cepano Baloubet jumped clear in 42.44 seconds for the win. Jana Wargers (GER) and Dorette took third overall in 44.07 seconds.

“You’re always trying to win, but when the top horses perform the way we saw tonight, it’s going to be difficult,” said Ward. “But, for my mare, she jumped spectacularly and has been having a great summer. I’m not disappointed, but when you’re second you always want to do one place better. Richie [Vogel] is a super-fast rider, and he had a very fast horse, and I think I made it difficult for him tonight.”



McLain Ward and Callas

All photos this page by Shannon Brinkman



Vaulting

@ CHIO

AACHEN

The U.S. Vaulting Team finished fourth overall in team competition to conclude the CHIO Aachen Vaulting CVIO4*, with a team total of 23.322. U.S. vaulting athletes competed in both the individual female and individual male divisions as well as the squad division.

In the individual female events, Kylynn Ghafouri of Murrieta, California, was the highest-placed U.S. athlete, earning 7.466 in the Compulsory Test, and finishing in seventh. She partnered with San Felice Z lunged by Christina Ender (GER). The pair then earned 7.137 in their Technical Test to finish eighth overall.

Emily Rose of Santa Cruz, California, scored 6.833 for 16th place in the Compulsory Test. She then scored 6.026 in the Technical Test, earning 20th place with Fynjaro lunged by Sebastian Klemme (GER).

Emma Milito of Brighton, Colorado, and Southern Comfort 13, lunged by Anke Granow (GER), rebounded from their Compulsory Test score of 5.45 to earn 6.375 in the Technical Test, taking 13th place overall.

Daniel Janes of Standood, Washington, was the only U.S. male vaulter to compete at CHIO Aachen. He earned a 7.148 in the Compulsory Test with Caretes Auhoern, lunged by Jana Leib (GER), for 10th place overall. The pair scored 6.862 in the Technical Test, finishing in seventh place.

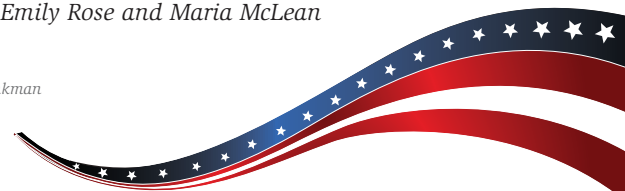
U.S. vaulters competing in the squad division earned an overall total of 6.830 in their Compulsory Test with Fynjaro, lunged by Sebastian Klemme (GER). The team finished the Squad Free Test with a score of 7.205 before their impressive performance in the Nations Team competition, where they earned a total score of 7.205. The squad featured Francesca Foster of Las Vegas, Nevada; Daniel Janes; Maria McLean of Cedar Spring, Michigan; Emma Milito; Naomi Morgenthaler of Menlo Park, California; and Emily Rose. With the team's squad score, combined with both Ghafouri and Janes' individual scores, they secured fourth place in the Prize of Sparkasse Squad Competition. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

(Top photo) Daniel Janes with Caretes Auhoern

(Center photo) Kylynn Ghafouri with San Felice Z

(Bottom photo) Emily Rose and Maria McLean with Fynjaro

Photos by Shannon Brinkman



The Dutta Corp. U.S. Dressage Team finished fourth overall in the FEI Dressage Nations Cup Aachen CDIO5* at CHIO Aachen in Aachen, Germany. The team of Anna Buffini of Rancho Santa Fe, California; Anna Marek of Williston, Florida; Marcus Orlob of Wellington, Florida; and Endel Ots of Wellington, Florida, scored a total of 214.283. Germany finished in first place with 228.173, while the Netherlands took second on a 215.674, and Denmark was third on a 214.544.

Marek and Fire Fly, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Janet Simile, were the first in the ring for the U.S. team, and the combination earned a 69.522%. Buffini and her own Fiontini, a 14-year-old Danish Warmblood mare, were reserved in their work with a very strong trot tour. A miscommunication in their one-tempis impacted their overall scores, but Fiontini's piaffe passage down the centerline was a highlight ahead of their final salute.

Next, Ots and Zen Elite Equestrian Center's Bohemian, a 14-year-old Westphalian gelding, earned a 71.435% to help push the team further up in the overall standings. Finally, Orlob and Alice Tarjan's Jane, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, earned a 73.326%.

"Overall, I'm pleased with our performances today," said Chef d'Equipe Christine Traurig.

"Anna Marek delivered exactly what I expected. They gave us a solid test produced by such good riding and setting the tone for our team. Anna Buffini showed us her talent as she guided her powerful mare through the test with feel and focus.

"Endel Ots did a super job with Bohemian," Traurig continued. "They are riding clean tests, and Endel has formed a remarkable relationship with 'Bo' in such a short time. Marcus Orlob and Jane continue to draw the attention of riders, trainers, and judges. They are a combination that has been together for less than six months and only continues to improve with every test together. What makes us all especially proud is that Jane was 'made in the USA,' and we love that. I am so proud of our riders at this competition."

"I have never ridden in an atmosphere like CHIO Aachen," shared Ots.


Dressage

@ CHIO AACHEN



Marcus Orlob and Jane

"It was very cool and fun. I wanted to produce a clean, consistent, and solid ride. Normally, I'm shaky and nervous when I come out, but I was confident in there. Each test, I learn something new with Bohemian. We've only been together for six months, and there are

so many positive aspects to our rides and also so much to continue to work on together. Riding in front of a crowd like that on the Fourth of July and representing our country is really an unmatched feeling." - Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Endel Ots and Bohemian

Photos by Shannon Brinkman

Driving @ CHIO AACHEN

With a score of 35.59, Chester Weber of Ocala, Florida, and his team topped 25 entries for the victory in the dressage phase of the CAIO4* at CHIO Aachen in Aachen, Germany. Boyd Exell (AUS) scored 38.79 for second place while Mareike Harm (GER) scored 40.99 for third place.

Weber's team of First Edition, Julius V, Kadora, and Nico Teusje C, received top marks across the judging panel, including a class-high score of 191.00 from the judge at C, Pia (DEN).

"There were no obvious mistakes, and I was really pleased with the horses," said Weber. "This is one of the best teams of dressage horses in the world. We won here last year, and they've been dominant so far this year, but you still have to go in and get it done."

Of the team, Nico Teusje C is the newest addition to the foursome, having come into his own over the past few years in Weber's program. As the youngest horse on the team at just six years old, "Nico" has steadily improved during Weber's summer campaign. Weber noted that Nico continued to please him thanks to the gelding's willingness and can-do mindset.


"Nico has done a lot of shows with us this year, and he just keeps stepping up. We were using him in training last week to help one of our other horses who is a bit hotter. Nico kept impressing me and not making any mistakes, and he has done a really good job in the team," shared Weber. – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

HAGEN CPEDI3*

Led by Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, the team of Fiona Howard and Diamond Dunes owned by Hof Kasselmann GMBH & Co.KG and Dressage Family LLC; Rebecca Hart and Rowan O'Riley's Floratina; Beatrice de Lavalette and Elizabeth and Nicolas de Lavalette's Sixth Sense; and Kate Shoemaker and Vianne owned by NorCordia USA topped the podium in the Hagen CPEDI3* in Hagen, Germany.



Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

Sydney Collier, Roxanne Trunnell, Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, and Cynthia Screnci

TRYON SUMMER DRESSAGE CPEDI3*

The Perrigo U.S. Para Dressage Team of Sydney Collier and Bell Bottoms owned by Diamante Farms and Going for Gold LLC; Cynthia Screnci and her own For Memory 4; Kate Shoemaker and Fiona Howard's Cojin; and Roxanne Trunnell and Karin Flint's Fan Tastico H took top honors.



Photo by Foto Richeil

Rebecca Hart, Kate Shoemaker, Fiona Howard, Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, Beatrice de Lavalette, and ringmaster Pedro Cebulka

LA BAULE CSIO5*

Led by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, the team of Karl Cook and Signe Ostby's Caracole de la Roque; Kent Farrington and Haity McNerney's Landon; Lillie Keenan and Argan de Beliard owned by Chansonette Farm; and Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25 owned by Debbie Smith had a sixth-place finish in the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ La Baule CSIO5* in La Baule, France.

FUTURE CHAMPIONS CDIOY

Every year, up-and-coming U.S. dressage athletes and their horses are selected to travel to Hagen, Germany, for the Future Champions CDIOY competition. This year, USEF Dressage High Performance Pathway Development Advisor and Youth Coach George Williams led the team of Alicia Berger and Aqua Marin owned by Berger and Marianne Berger; Kat Fuqua and her own Dreamgirl; and Nash Gagnon and his own Happy Texas Moonlight to fifth place, only two points behind the bronze medal-winning team.



Photo by Roya Brinkman for Sharon Brinkman Photo

Kat Fuqua and Dreamgirl

SWEDEN CSIO5*

In Falsterbo, Sweden, the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team of Spencer Smith and Keeneland owned by Ashland Farms; Aaron Vale and Debbie Smith's Carissimo 25; Adrienne Sternlicht and Origa V/H Zuid-Pajottenland owned by Starlight Farms; and Mimi Gochman and Gochman Sport Horse LLC's Cosmos BH finished in fourth place.



Photo by Morgan Froment

Lillie Keenan and Argan de Beliard



Photo by Rolf Stenberg/Picture Bank

Spencer Smith and Keeneland



USET Foundation News

United States Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc.
1040 Pottersville Road
P.O. Box 355
Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. postage
PAID
New Brunswick, NJ
Permit #928

Address Service Requested

2024 COMPETITION PARTNERS

The USET Foundation thanks its competition partners for their support of our mission and our U.S. equestrian teams and athletes.



Dressage at Devon

September 24 - 29, 2024

501 (c)(3) non-profit organization

