

August 18, 2005

Hello, West Coast Active Riders!

Greeting to those of you at the Oaks this week...last week's amazing weather reminded us just how lucky we are to live and show in Southern California- wow! **Big congratulations to Joie Gatlin and Canyon Capital Inc.'s wonderful Mogharebi's Luna, winners of the Oaks Summer Classic I Grand Prix.** Congratulations as well to runner-up **Heidi Stosser, brand new to the Grand Prix ranks with her own Skipper 44.**...That's the best way to start! Cheers to **Duncan McFarlane** and **Santiago Rickard** also, first and second in the **Menlo Charity Horse Show Grand Prix**- we hear that this was a fantastic class!

+++++

Last Friday, Californians welcomed the new **U.S. Chef d'Equipe George Morris** and **USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins** to the West Coast with a "Cocktails and Conversation" hour **generously hosted by Mr. R.J. Brandes.** Californian Grand Prix riders, trainers and owners, along with many up-and-coming stars hoping to represent their country attended this get-together at beautiful Arden Cottage to discuss issues pertaining to the **USET's High Performance** Program for the next Olympic cycle (2005-2008).

For those of you who aren't exactly sure of what the High Performance program is, here's the **cliff-notes version:**

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation supports the competition, training, coaching, travel and educational needs of America's elite horses and athletes. These athletes participate at the **top level of international sport** in the world, forming the **championship-level teams** that compete in the four major international competitions: the **Olympics**, held every four years, the **World Equestrian Games (WEG)**, also held every four years two years *after* each Olympics, the **Pan American Games**, held every four years the year *before* each Olympics, and the **World Cup Finals**, held every year and the only international championship event that occurs indoors.

In addition to these four biggies, the **US also sends teams to eight "Super League" Nations Cup (CSIO) shows: La Baule (FRA), Rome (ITA), St. Gallen (SUI), Rotterdam (NED), Hickstead (IRL), Dublin (IRL), Aachen (GER) and Barcelona (ESP).** The Super League Nations Cup shows represent the top level of international team competition outside of the four championship level events (Olympics, WEG, Pan Am Games and WC Finals). Countries have to "**win their way**" into the Super League, and only a limited number of countries can compete in this exclusive league. Currently, the **US is in third place overall IN THE WORLD**, which is an amazing accomplishment!

In addition to the four championship level events and the Super League Shows, the USET also sends teams to our two terrific **North American CSIO (Nations Cup/ Team) shows: the Spruce Meadows Masters** (coming soon!) and **CSIO Wellington.**

Finally, the US fields teams to compete at smaller Nations Cup shows all over the world. This is where our **Developing Riders Tours** and **WCAR European Tours** compete, gaining valuable experience to prepare them for the High Performance program, and accruing Nations Cup wins that keep the US solidly in the big international picture. These tours are where many elite athletes get their feet wet for the first time in Europe, and provide an **invaluable step between North American and European competition.**

Whew! That's a lot, right?

As U.S. Chef d'Equipe, Mr. Morris was recently chosen to lead our country's High Performance Program, as described above, through the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He is **strongly committed to galvanizing all American riders** to pursue their dreams of riding on an Olympic team. Praising the Californians as a whole for their participation and interest in the sport, and specifically their ability to be "**great under pressure**", Mr. Morris outlined his plan for all elite athletes: "We have to participate with the rest of the world on a regular basis...There are consequences for not winning, great consequences for lack of success, including losing owners and sponsors. **Californians have it all: the weather, the athletes, the horses...but you have to find it.**" He encouraged all riders to stay true to their sport by not "getting soft" in their training and competitive standards.

Mr. Morris also spoke about the influence of **Bertalan DeNemethy, "a man of the greatest class and a horseman of the greatest class"**. "He gave us a blue-print and we cannot forget his blue-print," he said, emphasizing the importance of the US remaining in the Super League in order to **compete at the top international level on a year-round basis**. He commented briefly on the **Computer List**, our national ranking list, which is still under heavy discussion, mentioning his strong conviction that the computer list **emphasize fairness in terms of medication and controlled stabling** to reduce the possibility of poling horses. By focusing on these two points, US riders will be able to compete with Europeans, who have these rules at all of their competitions. Mr. Morris also spoke briefly about the **upcoming WEG Selections** in 2006.

With Mr. Morris was Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the USET Foundation, who spoke about the **Quadrennium Campaign** to raise funds to support the High Performance program. This campaign is of **utmost importance to the future** of our teams in Europe, as the Foundation receives no direct or indirect government subsidy. Contributions made to the USET Foundation **directly support the grants** that the Foundation makes to the US Federation (the National Governing Body for American equestrian sport)...these are the grants that make it possible for our athletes to compete in Europe and at all international championship events.

If you are interested in contributing to this great cause, please contact the USET Foundation at 908-234-1251.

Stay tuned for more international news....

+++++

How about a big hand for **our returning 2005 North American Young Riders?!!!!** Let's have a round of applause for our A-Team, **Elizabeth Easton, Shelby Walter, Lauren Hester, Adria Mashburn and Katherine Bardis**...and our B-Team, **Morgan Taylor, Torie Immel, Paige Beal-Andros and Sophie Benjamin**. Great job, ladies! We hear that you were professional, tough, team-spirited competitors who did Zone Ten proud.

+++++

If it's getting to be that "oh my, where have all the barn supplies gone?!!!" time of year again...let our friends at **Country Supply** help you out! Country Supply is THE **definitive online supply source**, with lots of options, brands and discounts for all of you! And, for a limited time, when you place your orders online at www.countrysupply.com, Country Supply **will donate five percent to West Coast Active Riders**. How cool is THAT? Just remember to enter your 'Country Code': **WCAR**. Big thanks to Board Member Jenni Martin for getting this arranged for us. And hey- if you see Jenni, wish her luck on her European adventure. Jenni's off to compete at Zangersheide in the Young Horse Championship, and we'll be cheering for her the whole way.

+++++

For those of you who witnessed the **absolutely run-away success** of the Oaks Sport Horse Auction this past weekend (I'm STILL mad about getting outbid on that two-year old...), don't fear! There's still a chance to **buy or sell the next super-star!** That's right- on **Saturday, October 1st**, during the **Del Mar International Horse Show**, all breeders, trainers and owners of sport horses are invited to participate in the EquiFuture **Sport Horse Sale**. *Come on guys...we all got warmed up last week- let's sell some horses!* The deadline for the catalog (which will be available online at www.jumpdelmar.com) is **August 22**, so if you're interested, please contact **Heather Fogarty** (858-759-8051) or **Sandy Aston** (760-806-0022) right away.

+++++

Finally, who could forget the **WCAR Prix de Nations** at the upcoming **Del Mar International**? This is where we practice those team skills and get a chance to compete under the lights at the site of the **1992 World Cup Finals**. How great is that? If you are interested in supporting this class, please contact either Gaby (917-743-5527) or Dale Harvey (949-496-4064) for more information. Thank you!!!!

+++++

Great luck to all our competitors this week....

Yours,
Gaby