

A full-page photograph of a rider on a brown horse. The rider is wearing a dark blue jacket, white breeches, black boots, and a dark helmet. The horse is wearing a black fly sheet and a dark halter. They are in a city square with ornate street lamps and a building with a golden dome in the background.

THE *Equestrian* CATALOG

HARCOUR
RIDE &
WEAR WITH
PASSION!

YOUNG AMATEURS
GOING PRO
THE POPULARITY OF
THIS, WHO AND WHY

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Coastal Valley Ranch

Olivenhain | \$5,050,000

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RSF Meadows Estate

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Caminito De Las Palmas

Santa Fe Hills | \$4,750,000

Beautiful facility on 5.4 usable acres just southeast of Rancho Santa Fe. Located just 10 minutes from Del Mar Horsepark or village of RSF. Property includes 38 stalls, large arena with footing for top grand prix jumpers, longing arena, 4 turn outs and a manufactured home suitable for caretaker housing. The Mediterranean style main barn houses 16 horses with a luxurious office and two 2 bed 1 bath apartments. A second T-shaped barn houses 20 horses with an office/lounge, wash racks, tack/feed room and large storage room. A third prep barn contains multiple cross ties, wash rack, feed room and tack room. Private, peaceful setting with gated access overlooking the Crosby Estates.



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Caren Kelley

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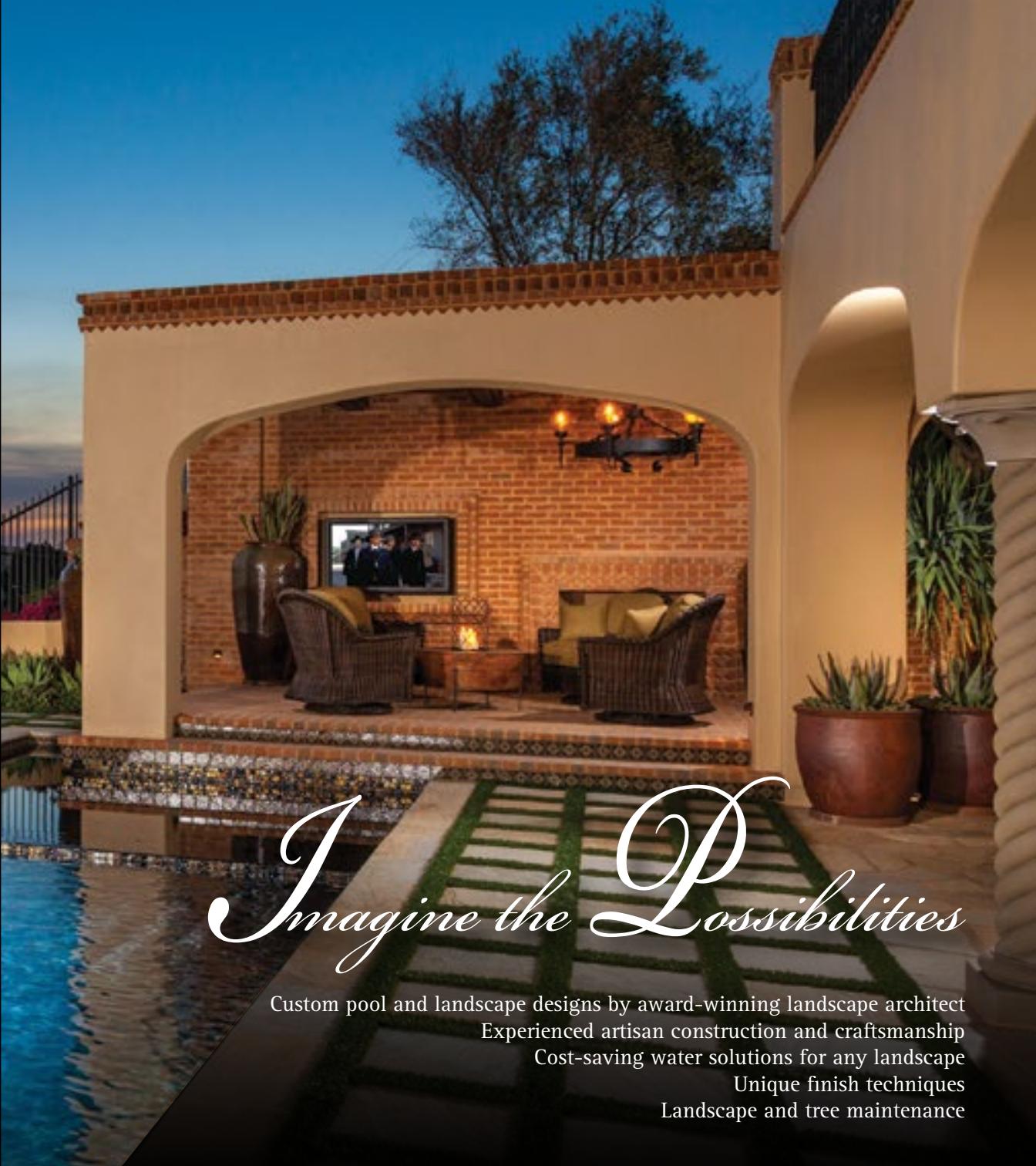
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HELLO!

This is an exciting time in the horse show world, and there have been some important changes that have taken place. With the previously-named HITS Thermal circuit now called the Desert Circuit, and the facility itself now the Desert International Horse Park, the reviews thus far have been hugely positive. There have been many improvements made in important areas, particularly the footing.

Of course, there is a lot happening on the other side of the country, with the Winter Equestrian Festival at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, running for 12 weeks. Their great horse shows and amazing weather make this a popular venue as well, and we will be following along with the action.

In this issue, learn more about the other interests of one of the most sought-after judges around, Jimmy Lee. To say he is diversified is an understatement. There is an interview with Mexico's Gerardo Tazzer, and Grand Prix rider Laura Hite discusses her recent involvement with Harcour. There are many other articles that we hope you will enjoy!

We have a lot to look forward to in April, when two important showjumping events will take place. Two weeks after the Desert Circuit ends, on April 7th, there will be a unique event called Ante Up, which offers up a \$1,500,000! Besides all that money, the specifications are quite different as well, and we also touch base on that in this issue.

A week after Ante Up, the World Cup Finals will once again touch down in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is always an honor to get to watch these great horses and riders compete. Finally, for one week in April and three weeks in May, there is the awesome Temecula Valley National Horse Show circuit. Exhibitors wait all year to attend these shows, which are put on by Nilforushan Equisport Events.

This year they have added something else exciting – a low-cost horse show which will take place in April at Galway Downs, the same place where his wonderful big shows are held. This is a super idea, and we look forward to bringing the coverage of all of these splendid events to you in our next issue.

We love to interact with our readers, and would love to hear from you. If there is anything you would like us to cover, any favorite rider you might want to know more about for an in-depth interview, or any other subjects that you think might be fun reading, please don't hesitate to let us know. Feel free to email the Editor-in-Chief, Barbara Pinnella, at coyotemoon8@yahoo.com with suggestions.

Enjoy the shows, and good luck to all!

Annie Tame
Founder, CEO

**"Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally
but from what you do consistently"**

heartequineacademy.com



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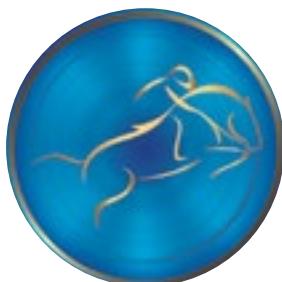
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Please contact Lagerlof's equine law specialist, David Yoshida, Esq., at dyoshida@lagerlof.com or 626-683-7234. You can also contact him on his Instagram legal blog @CaliHorseLawyer.

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RIDE &
WEAR WITH
PASSION!

“Harcour is not just riding apparel, but a lifestyle brand for the rider, on and off the horse.”

Laura Hite



Elegance, innovation and passion are the cornerstones of the Harcour brand, a premier designer of equestrian fashion for rider and horse.

A commitment to creativity and functionality has fueled the growth of this French equestrian lifestyle brand since 1989. Motivating its customers to “Ride and Wear with Passion,” Harcour has outfitted the French Equestrian Teams for the past three years and was recently selected to

supply the Swiss Equestrian Team.

This fashion-forward brand is now preparing to enter the North American market through HF Equestrian and the efforts of Laura Hite.



“The goal for Harcour was really to create a lifestyle around the equestrian world. We are really focused on the target of the brand, which is to have iconic and responsible identifying products.”

*William Benguigui
Owner of Harcour*

Harcour is not just riding apparel, but a lifestyle brand for the rider, on and off the horse,” shares Hite, an astute businesswoman who has specialized in sales, marketing and importing throughout her career. “I personally discovered the brand while competing in Europe this summer and have been so impressed by the number of people who consistently compliment the style.

In addition to her business acumen, Hite is an accomplished amateur Grand Prix rider. For years, she has juggled work and riding. Finding a way to blend her passion for both horses and business was only a matter of time.

“Harcour’s creativity and elegance was unlike other brands I had worn. I was compelled to find out more so I booked a flight to France to meet with the design team,” shares Hite. “Once I had the opportunity to experience the showroom and understand the vision for the brand, I knew I could distribute in North America.”

A marriage was created between Harcour and Hite’s HF Equestrian, a U.S. distributor of equestrian products which currently sells Boo+Boo Balm, a natural healing balm for riders, horses and dogs.

Harcour presents three collections each year, including The Essentials permanent collection, as well as two seasonal, limited-edition collections intended to keep the brand fresh. According to Hite, several aspects of the apparel make this fashion line appealing to experienced riders.

"I was initially attracted to the silicon fix grip. When I jump big jumps, the fix system grip keeps me secure with my horse. I think it is the best grip available. This is a must for me and gives me more stability in the saddle. The knee fix system is made with 16 layers of silicon.

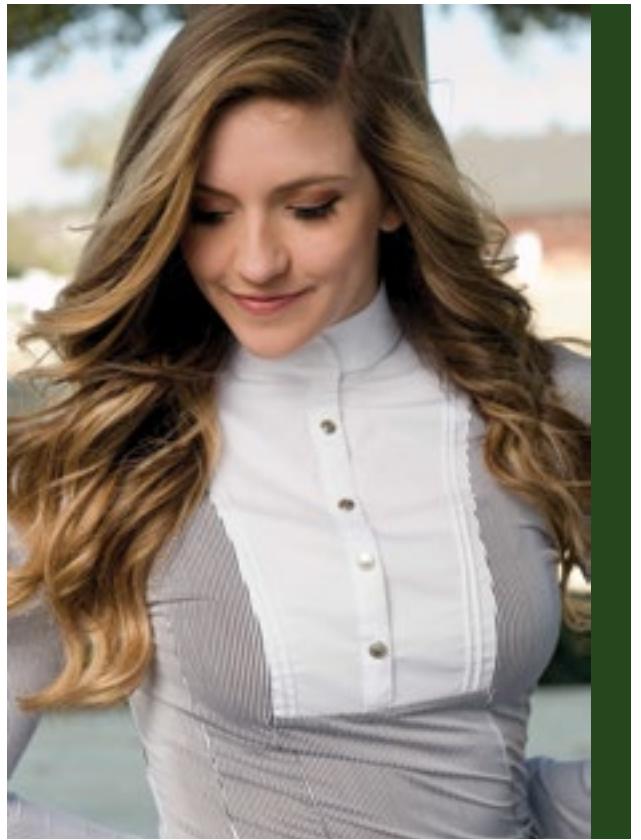


“ The 4-way rider stretch fabric is wonderful. On the horse, the material is functional and flexible for the athlete. Off the horse, the material is breathable, as well as water- and dirt-resistant. The breeches are flattering and fit well. The higher elastic waist doesn't gap in the back like many other breeches, which is essential for horsemen, considering the amount of bending involved in working around horses. ”





This French brand understands design. In addition to functional pieces, Harcour makes flattering competition shirts and jackets that are lightweight and flexible for the comfort of the athlete. All pieces are designed to be worn at home, at the barn, at shows, and even out on the town.



Hite explains that all ridewear pieces can be complimented with the lifestyle collection, a collection designed for the "après" rider as well as the non-equestrian horse fan.



“ They even have clothing that my husband and non-riding friends and family would love to wear. I am very excited to be introducing the Harcour brand to a new audience of riders in North America! ”



For more information visit their website at
www.harcourusa.com



SOLD // Wildflower Estates Olivenhain

Was listed at
\$3,495,000 - \$3,695,000

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NEW PROFESSIONALS SPEAK OUT ABOUT THEIR DECISIONS TO TURN PRO

By Barbara Pinnella



New Professional

Adam Edgar

Adam came from an equestrian family, as his mom grew up riding jumpers in England, so he always had that connection. But that is not what actually started him riding in the first place.

“My mom won a free riding lesson in a school raffle,” he told us. “That’s when I really got hooked on it. I actually started in eventing; that’s what I wanted to do. I began on that route, but it didn’t really work out. So I moved to a hunter pony, riding with a local trainer, and worked my way up.”

From there, at the age of 16, he had the opportunity to become a working student with Bill Schaub. He trained with him as a junior, and Ken and Emily Smith of Ashland Farms helped him in the equitation as well.

“It was amazing and everything I ever dreamed of as a kid. Coming from a smaller town and not having as much of the finances as a lot of other people – it was just a dream come true.”

Adam attends the Savannah School of Art and Design and competes on the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team there. The rules are a bit different there than for some other school teams, which led to Edgar choosing to turn professional at this time.

“They had just passed a new rule that the school competitions are a collegiate division rather than an amateur division, so it’s for college athletes. Therefore, there are no restrictions on that. When I found that out, since I had always wanted to be a professional, I made the change. I never really liked being an amateur.

“I like riding the horses in the ring in the morning, I like helping out around the barn. I like working! It just made more sense to me to turn professional. So, it just seemed like the right choice, and now I ride for Ashland Farms.”

One win that he is extremely proud of is came this year in the USEF/Cacchione Cup at the IHSA National Championship. The horses are drawn, and Adam was fortunate to draw good horses each time.





“It was amazing and everything I ever dreamed of as a kid. Coming from a smaller town and not having as much of the finances as a lot of other people – it was just a dream come true.”

“It is the top class for collegiate riders in the country, so it means a lot to me. It was a big achievement. And I love getting to ride different horses, but it was definitely challenging, because you never know. Some of them can be very much your ride, but others not. But this college program has taught me so much; you have to be versatile.”

Adam is not riding as much as he might like right now, since he is back in school, (he graduates in 2021), but he does have one horse with him that he is preparing for the school competitions

called Hennessy. For the National derbies he has Quatrain. That horse is located in Savannah.

“Right now I’m just trying to learn everything I can and help in any way. I go to Florida, and I’m just lucky that I get to go down when I’m on my breaks. So, while I’m in college, now is the time to learn everything, so that when I graduate I can just dive right in. For now it is perfect, because I major in Equestrian Studies. I believe I’m doing something that will help me out in the long term. It’s really nice to have this amazing program.”



“I started him in the 1.0m in Thermal three years ago and we have won a lot of U25 classes. We have done well in several 3* Grand Prix, and I am really lucky to have him.”

Growing up in Utah, 19-year-old Delaney Flynn acknowledged that there were not a lot of trainers in her part of the country to work with as a junior. But she did not lack for good instruction, since she had Judy Martin on the ground to help her at shows. Her Grand Prix experience began very early.

“I did my first Grand Prix when I was 12. That was in Sonoma. I won my first Grand Prix in Colorado on my mare, Quite

Quick, when I was 15. She was the horse that really got me up to that level; I did my first Grand Prix on her, won my first one, and qualified for the \$1 Million with her.

“In 2016 when I was 16 years old, I went to Young Riders, and was on the Young Riders Team,” Flynn continued. “I got a silver medal in team competition and an individual medal as well. Right after that I went to work for Will Simpson, and was with him until I turned 18.”

New Professional

Delaney Flynn



Delaney did not compete as an amateur at all, opting instead to turn professional when she turned 18 years of age. She never had any second thoughts about that decision.

"It was just something that I had always wanted to do. I did not have the opportunity to remain an amateur and ride for fun, since I had to support myself. If I went to school or got a job, I wouldn't be able to keep riding. That is why I took the job with Will; to keep riding. My parents are very supportive of my decision, but they are not the kind of family that can financially support me showing horses."

Right now, Delaney works for the Dello Joio's and Ken Dickey. The Dello Joio's are based in Florida and Ken is based in Arizona. He is one of their main clients.

"I help Ken with all his horses. I am so lucky. I have a couple of nice ones to do in the Grand Prix right now, which I never really expected, especially being this young. Ken owns one that I just started showing recently, a horse named Ekarlus.

"The other horse is one that I own with a lady named Grace Jacobson. It's actually kind of a funny story. She is Will's accountant. When I was working for him I really didn't have a lot to show. She asked if I would like to start riding her horse, Milan IV. He was just coming back from an injury, and I really didn't know what he would turn out to be.

"I started him in the 1.0m in Thermal three years ago and we have won a lot of U25 classes. We have done well in several 3* Grand Prix, and I am really lucky to have him."

Flynn is very conscious of the fact that she is in what might be described as an enviable position. She has the opportunity to sit on some very nice horses, has the support of her family, and is surrounded by people helping her achieve her goal of being a successful professional.

"I am really grateful for everything that Ken and the Dello Joio's have done for me, especially in the last few months. Things are going really well for me right now."

New Professional

Jef Lauwers

At 29 years of age, Jef Lauwers has a different story than the others mentioned here. He was born and grew up in Belgium, and lived there for about 24 years. He rode a little from the time he was about 12 until he was 18. He did not ride while he attended college in Belgium.

“My dad wanted me to have a real job and degree, so I studied Engineering, and got a degree. I worked for two years, and then told my dad that I didn’t really know if I wanted to do that. He asked what I was going to do, and I told him I was going to Florida. I said I was just gonna go to the horse show and check it out. Once here, I met some really interesting people, such as Peter (Pletcher).”

When Jef had to go back home, he told his dad that he wanted to give horses a try. He started riding again in Belgium, and upon his return to the States things really snowballed for the better for him. He and Peter got together and eventually married. Jef competed very successfully as an amateur from 2017 until the beginning of 2019.

“I did everything from the adults, to the 3’6” Amateur/Owner hunters. I had a really great A/O hunter, his name was Sutherland. In the adults we won throughout the entire Indoors, and I moved him to the big A/Os and he just kept winning. He won in the Hamptons, Florida, the Indoors, Washington, Pennsylvania National – he won a lot of classes.

“I decided to retire him. He was very healthy and nothing was hard for him, but we had such a great career together I just thought it was time for me to do something else. That’s when I decided to be a professional. Right now, I’m really glad that I turned professional.”

And while Lauwers was ready, that transition still happened rather unexpectedly. Due to a family emergency, Peter had to go home during Pony Finals and there was no rider. Jef stepped up and volunteered. When Pletcher told him he felt he was ready, but wondered if that was really what Lauwers wanted, Jef said yes. A professional career was born.

He did acknowledge the differences that make it harder. As an amateur you can have a bad class and just move on to the next day. As a professional, you are sitting on something that is often expected to do well, and that is an entirely different type of pressure. But it is one that he was happy to take on.

“You have to ride a lot of horses to be a better rider and you have to train a lot of people to be a better trainer, and it’s all about experience and getting opportunities. It’s getting up in the morning and striving to be better.



Lauwers firmly believes that it all begins at home. Practice, practice, practice.



"But remember, I come from a whole different system. In Europe we all have a very strong dressage background, and are more heavy-seated with a lot of contact and leg. And then you come to the States and everything is soft, and two-point and three-point. I had to grow into that a little bit. With Peter I had the opportunity to stand next to him and see him train all the adults and pony kids. So it was a different world.

"It's a different approach to riding," Jef continued. "But I feel that with my background in Europe and all the dressage, that I have a good foundation. The most challenging thing is making people feel better about their riding and to feel confident. I watch the clients and try to explain to them how to feel what is going on."

Jef did admit that he is a bit of a perfectionist, so he does go into detail when explaining things to his riders. He wants to make sure that they understand everything he said during their lessons. He had a great descrip-

tive word when mentioning an important part of learning – gears.

"Some people are really pretty and they want to sit on their horse and jump around, but they don't know how to use their gears properly. They don't know how to ride with connection to the mouth without pulling, how to go faster without kicking. That is the part of training that I really enjoy; trying to make people understand and create a sense of what they are doing, such as feeling a rhythm when riding."

Lauwers firmly believes that it all begins at home. Practice, practice, practice.

"This sport is all about your brain. Anybody can sit on a horse, but it is how you manage yourself and be quiet and confident about yourself. I'm not meaning it's easy for everyone, but normally eight jumps are not that hard to find. It's just how you deal with stress, and how your horse was prepared, and how you feel about yourself. As a trainer those kinds of things are challenging, but that's what makes it fun."

"I am 25 now, and turned professional three years ago,"



It is not as if Savannah Jenkins' family was into horses; quite the opposite was true. They had nothing whatsoever to do with horses. But when she was about five years old her father would take her for pony rides at what could be best described as a Farmers Market. And at that early age, Savannah knew she wanted riding lessons.

But growing up in Virginia Beach there were not a lot of options for lessons. They did find one barn with trainer Chris Wynne, and that ended up being the place where Jenkins rode until she moved to California. Only one small problem; they did not give lessons to anyone under six years of age. This was an experience in patience for young Savannah. But the lessons began as soon as Jenkins was old enough.

"I rode with Chris until I was about 15 years old, and told him I wanted to go to Indoors, and all those types of shows. He told me he couldn't really get me there, but he had judged with

Karen Healey and Fred Bauer a bit, so he called Karen to ask her if she would take a working student. At that point, my Sophomore year of high school, I started classes online, and ended up flying to the Oaks in California so Karen could watch me ride and see if she could do anything with me," Savannah said with a laugh.

Healey knew that she could, and Jenkins made the move a more permanent one right away, actually living with Karen for a while. She rode with Karen and Tasha (Visokay) for her last two junior years of competition. She did a lot of catch riding with the hunters and rode in the equitation; jumpers had not yet entered the picture.

"My current boss, Georgy Maskrey-Segesman, actually owned a few of the hunters and equitation horses that I showed back then,"

Savannah Jenkins



Savannah said. "But I can't say I knew her well. When I was showing those horses, Georgy was something like a ghost. For a junior, that was so unbelievable, because you don't feel any pressure. She was supportive, but she wasn't around, asking me questions. It was a blessing having her as owner, and to me, it felt as if they were my horses."

Savannah attended Baylor University, and credits Karen for encouraging her to stay in college, because Jenkins would have left. Healey told her, "The horses, the shows, and the barns that the people are in at the shows are all going to be the same in 10 years, but once you don't go to college, you're not going to go back."

Six months later, Savannah became very involved with the equestrian team there, and spent all her time working with and around the horses. So, it was the pull of the horses that was instrumental in her college degree. By her own admission, it was 100% the horses

that kept her in college. She now has a degree in Entrepreneurship in Corporate Innovation.

"I am 25 now, and turned professional three years ago," Savannah told us. "That was right after I graduated from college. Things right now are great. It might sound cheesy to say, but I am really living my dream. Who gets to ride horses and travel the world? Right now, I am doing the top level in FEI, which is unbelievable to me, but I have a boss who, if I have some rails down in a World Cup Qualifier, will tell me, 'Who cares? We have tomorrow! It's just another class.'

"I am very hard on myself," Jenkins continued, "so we will talk about the bad parts, but also what the horse did well. Recently I had one fence down, second-to-the-last jump, and of course I got hard on myself. But then again, he's sound, he's 18 years old, he jumped great and it was my fault, so at the end of the day, who cares? He's sound and happy, and Georgy was happy."

The horse she was riding in the above-mentioned class was Rahmannshof's Bamiro. Georgy actually bought this horse for Savannah when Jenkins was still in college. Riding in the big divisions was always something she wanted to do. But the huge gelding proved to be a difficult partner.

"I couldn't ride him at all in the beginning. He was strong, and he's just about 18 hands. You can't warm him up much, pretty much get on and go. I might jump one little jump. I have had him three years and am just now starting to figure him out and jumping bigger classes. He is the scopiast horse I have ever ridden in my life, but he is very sensitive emotionally. He is my top horse at the moment.

"My other really good horse is Castelissimo. He is nine years old this year. Hopefully he will step up to the Grand Prix during Thermal this circuit. So those are my two right now. We are keeping our eyes out for another one."

But Savannah was quick to sing the praises of the mare who taught her how to ride the jumpers in the first place, Quitana 11. Not only was she quite successful with the bay mare, but she credits the Holsteiner for all of the knowledge she gave Jenkins.

"She has moved on to teach another kid what she taught me. That horse did everything for me. She was a huge part of my career."

New Professional

Daisy Farish



As owners of the famed Lane's End Farm, both of Daisy Farish's parents were involved in the thoroughbred race horse business, and her mom had also shown hunters and jumpers a bit growing up.

"I have seven siblings, and three of my older sisters showed as kids. So, I was around horses all my life. We lived on our thoroughbred breeding farm in Kentucky, so there were paddocks literally surrounding our house. There was a pony barn at the back of the farm where my sisters rode and where I always hung out as a kid, so I sort of always rode. I started showing when I was five or six in the short stirrup."

Daisy had an extremely successful junior career, and gave us her top three list of wins. They were the USEF Talent Search Finals riding Arsouille des Etangs, the North American Young Riders Championship (gold medal) with her own Great White, and the Prix des States was on Alberto II. For almost her entire junior career she rode with Andre Dignelli.

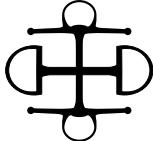
"In my senior year of high school I was sort of thinking about going to college, and where I might want to go. All of the situations that I had built up in my head did not leave me enough time to pursue riding like I wanted to. So I knew I wanted to do this full time, and made the decision that I wanted to start right away."

Currently, Farish shows both hunters and jumpers, and rides for Ashland Farms. She still shows her own Great White, and the others that she shows are sale horses for Ken and Emily Smith of Ashland Farms.

"It is not easy to try to break out as a young professional in this business, but I think it's possible for anyone with enough passion and work ethic in this sport, to make it happen. You have to love all of it and not just what seems to be the glamour side of things."



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MAGICAL HORSE/RIDER TEAMS

Before anyone gets angry that their favorite team is not listed here, let us say that there are SO many to choose from, we might have to do this again. In fact, feel free to contact us with your choices and we will try to include them in the next issue! Also, we are aware that each of these riders have had other wonderful horses. Again, perhaps you would like to read about another of their mounts – just let us know!

JOHN & MILTON

COMPETED FOR GREAT BRITAIN

For those of you who never got to witness the great pair of John and Milton compete in person, you missed one of the super showjumping teams of all time. After the untimely death of Milton's owner and rider Carolyn Bradley, Whitaker took over the reins in 1985 and the two quickly made their presence known. But make no mistake, John did not just get on and win. He had to adjust his riding style a bit and make sure that Milton had room off the ground, as he was slow with his front end. That job done, the victories began.

Some of their major achievements were winning the du Maurier Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows in Calgary 1986, at the time the biggest event in showjumping. They were a part of the Gold medal-winning team at the European Championships in 1987 and 1989, and also in 1989 they captured the Silver individual medal. Then there was the "Horse of the Year" show in 1988, 1989, and 1990. Milton and John jumped 15 clear rounds to win each year.





Two years in succession, first in Dortmund, Germany in 1990 and then in Gothenburg, Germany in 1991, they won the World Cup Final, and were the individual silver medalists at the 1990 World Championships.

One major disappointment for this pair was his lack of participation in the 1988 Olympic Games. Milton was at his prime at that time, but the Bradley's did not want Milton competing in the Olympics, since they felt that Carolyn was never given the opportunity to be a part of the Games. They changed their mind in 1992, saying that they would send the great pair to Barcelona. Things did not go as hoped for them, but he returned to form, and in their last competition at Hickstead in the Nations Cup in 1993, Milton jumped two clear rounds and, along with brother Michael and Midnight Madness who were also double clear, led their team to the gold.

Milton was the first show jumper to ever win more than 1 million pounds.

That had increased to almost 1,130,000 pounds at the time of his retirement at the Olympia Horse Show in London in 1994. He had also won what was reported to be at least 10 cars. All of these amazing accomplishments came with John's superb riding and understanding of what Milton needed to make him the superstar he became.

He lived out his days at the Whitakers' Yorkshire farm. He unfortunately succumbed to his second bout of colic in 1999 at the age of 22. The magnificent grey gelding had his own fan club, and made many public appearances after his retirement. He seemed to enjoy all of the attention equally as much as his many fans enjoyed seeing him. Anyone who saw this beautiful grey gelding would never forget him, and he and John are legends in our sport.

RICH & FLEXIBLE

COMPETED FOR UNITED STATES

This California-based team had a brilliant career that lasted more than a decade and a half. Throughout that time his owners have been Harrie and Molly Chapman, and they stood behind the flashy chestnut stallion every step of the way.

Rich officially retired the 21-year-old Flexible on May 6, 2017 at the Del Mar National Horse Show. After that formal retirement, Flexible was given to Rich by the Chapmans to live out his days at their facility. Fellers admitted that it was hard to retire his great partner.



Photo Credit:
Jana Kay Carter

"I wanted to continue to show him," he said. "He had more to give, but age was catching up with him and I had to listen to that."

During his illustrious career, Flexible suffered three injuries which might very well have put an end to him ever walking into the show ring again. In 2004 he had an unusual problem; a blocked vein in his right front leg. It took a very long time to even diagnose this issue, and it was doubtful that he would jump again.

He did recover from that, but two years later he incurred a very serious injury to his left shoulder, breaking his scapula and involving the nerves. Again, his return to the ring was in question, but he returned once more. Then in 2013, Flexible came up lame in his right hind leg. Three weeks later he was diagnosed with blood clots in four arteries.



Once again, it was rehab and medication time for the feisty Flexible, with yet another big possibility that he would not compete again.

But nobody told the durable chestnut stallion that. After his first two major setbacks, Flexible and Rich competed in their first FEI World Cup Final in 2008 held in Gothenburg, Sweden, and finished second. In 2012 in the Netherlands, the pair won the FEI World Cup Final.

Also that same year, they finished eighth at the Olympic Games in London, and Flexible was named Overall Horse of the Year by The Chronicle of the Horse. Amazingly, between that World Cup Final victory in s-Hertogenbosch, winning a round in the London Olympics, and showing in Del Mar in California, Vancouver, B.C., and Spruce Meadows in Calgary, they won 10 CSI classes. And just when you thought these two couldn't get more impressive, eight of those wins were consecutive! In all,

*The duo won an incredible
34 International FEI competitions.*

A photograph of Eric Lamaze, a Canadian equestrian, riding his horse Hickstead. Eric is wearing a red jacket with a Canadian flag patch and white breeches. He is smiling broadly and holding a blue ribbon. Hickstead is a dark brown horse wearing a black fly sheet with a red and white trim and a blue ribbon. The background is a blurred outdoor arena.

ERIC LAMAZE & HICKSTEAD

COMPETED FOR CANADA

Hickstead might have been small in stature, but he had a heart as big as any Grand Prix field he might have stepped onto. Together they were winning machines, but things were not always perfect, far from it. Hickstead was difficult, and Eric admits to almost sending him off.

He was not the only one who had doubts, as Michael Whitaker and Mac Cone had also passed on the stallion. Lamaze was quoted as saying that Hickstead, who was owned by Torrey Pines and Ashland Stables, Inc., is his horse of a lifetime, but he was close to being a horse he returned.

“There were so many things that he was doing wrong, but so many things he was doing right, that I couldn’t get him out of my mind,” Eric said. So, the little bay left Belgium for Canada. But once home, things did not go as planned.

“He came to the Masters to go back with the European horses that were here, that was the plan. I had tried all I could to jump the water fences with him, which he stopped so many times at. He was difficult at the in-gate; was just really unrideable. I really thought I made a mistake buying him.”

Since the horse was at the show, Eric decided to put him in some smaller classes. To his surprise, the horse jumped beautifully, was nice to ride and was very careful. Eric made the choice to keep Hickstead.

That was a super decision, and the duo went on to compete in the biggest competitions offered up to them. They competed in the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, and helped their team win a silver medal, then jumped their way to the individual bronze.

They won the individual gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and were part of the silver medal-winning team. That gold medal was the first individual gold ever won in equestrian competition for Canada, and the second overall gold ever won by Canada. In 2010 at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky, they won the bronze in the individual.

Hickstead was crowned the Best Horse in the World at that WEG competition. That was due to his jumping four clear rounds with four different riders. That same year they won the very prestigious CHIO Aachen CSI5* Grand Prix.

But those certainly were not the only big victories. They won the \$1 million CN International at the Spruce Meadows Masters twice, once in 2007, and again in 2011. Also at the Masters, Eric and Hickstead won the ATCO Power Queen Elizabeth Cup an incredible four times!

They had a total of 77 FEI starts, won 50 medals, and 20 wins.

But while there are many other major victories, the way their career ended is unfortunately also part of their story. On November 6, 2011, while competing in Verona, Italy, Hickstead collapsed after completing his round, and died of an aortic rupture. At the time of his death, Hickstead had jumped his rider into the number one spot in the world. This is a team that will never be forgotten.

SUSAN “SUSIE” HUTCHISON & CANTANO

COMPETED FOR UNITED STATES

What makes this one of the more unusual teams that have been mentioned here is that this duo did not spend a very long time in the ring together, when compared to the others.





Susie and Cantano were paired up together in 2006, and Susie and her quality ground person Sandy Aston took their time and prepared him perfectly.

The duo first stepped into the Grand Prix ring in the Oaks Blenheim Spring Classic II in 2008. Owned by Pat and Jim Iverson, who Hutchison made a point of saying were great owners, the talented, handsome stallion jumped a double clear round, and bested 39 others to get his first Grand Prix victory.

That was just the start, and the three of them; Susie, Sandy, and Cantano, became a force to be reckoned with from then on. The formidable team ended up winning a total of 16 Grand Prix together, with a number of second and third-place results as well.

Their great showings not only captured the PCHA 2010 Grand Prix Horse of the Year title for Cantano, but pushed Susie into the top 25 Rider Status in the United States as well. But unfortunately for Hutchison, the partnership between she and Cantano was over. The horse was sold to Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum in 2011.

Those two did not show a lot before Cantano was injured and spent about a year off before returning to the ring. Upon his comeback, he did win some Grand Prix with Meredith, then was injured again. Shortly thereafter he left the Beerbaum stable.

But that was not the end for Susie and Cantano. Back in 2015 Susie made several trips to Holland to ride with Danielle Goldstein, and on one of those trips they went to Portugal. It was there that Hutchison was reunited with Cantano.

“It was really fun; I got to talk with the boy who was riding him, and watch them go there. I watched him hack in the mornings and Cantano was just being a stupid little ass,” she laughed. “He was just being rude, but he looked good. I went into his stall and all he wanted was his carrots and sugar. He could care less about me!”

But there is no doubt that Susan will always care about Cantano and the time they spent together.

IAN MILLAR & BIG BEN

COMPETED FOR CANADA

The ultra-consistent Ian Millar has been known as “Captain Canada” for decades

A big reason for that nickname is due to all of the success he has had with his wonderful partner, Big Ben. Ian heard about Ben through Emile Hendrix, and



knew right away there was something special about him. He once said that they looked at each other, and Ian was just captivated. And he was right; Millar and his gentle giant have set and broken records around the world.

Much like Flexible, the career of Ben was not without obstacles. He had to undergo colic surgery not once but twice, and survived a trailer accident. Despite it all, nothing could stop them from winning, not rains, wind, small indoor arenas, or huge, open fields. It seemed obvious that he would be able to be successful on the big outside courses, but the fact that he was quick and agile enough to win in those tiny arenas that World Cup Finals are held in was amazing.

It is hard to know just where to begin when talking about this pair. They rode into arenas together for more than a decade. They competed in three Olympic Games, 1984, 1988, and 1992, helping Team Canada to two fourth-place finishes. They competed in six World Cup Finals, winning a silver medal in 1986, and two gold medals, one in 1988 in Gothenburg and the other a year later in Tampa – the first horse to win two consecutive Finals. In 1987 they picked

up two more gold medals, this time at the Pan American Games. Ben and Ian won the individual, and Canada captured team gold, aided of course, by Millar and Ben.

There seems to be no end to the list of their accomplishments. They represented Canada in more than 30 Nation's Cups. They won SIX derbies in their eight tries at the Spruce Meadows National. They won the coveted du Maurier International Grand Prix twice. They have 40 Grand Prix victories, and were the Canadian National Show Jumping Champion in 1988, 1991, and 1993. Because of that illustrious record, Ben were elected into Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. He is only one of two horses bestowed that honor, the other being the great racehorse, Northern Dancer.

It is no surprise that many offers were made on Ben over the years, but Millar refused to sell his partner and friend. After 11 years of competition, Ben was retired to Millar's Millar Brooke Farm in 1994. Five years later, colic reared its ugly head again, but this time Ben could not fight hard enough. After consulting with two veterinarians, Big Ben was euthanized at the farm. He was buried on a small hill overlooking the farm. He was 23 years old.



KENT & GAZELLE FARRINGTON

COMPETES FOR UNITED STATES

Kent and his speedy 13-year-old mare Gazelle have been together for six years now. Owned in partnership with Robin Parsky, this duo has been and continues to be a huge force to be reckoned with every time they walk through the gate. They began their winning ways in the middle of the 2015, winning the CSI5* Scotiabank Cup at the Spruce Meadows Continental.

They were on fire the following year, winning eight major events, including the CSI5* \$500,000 ATCO Queen Elizabeth II Cup, the CSI5* Scotiabank Cup for the second time, and the CSI5* \$375,000 Pan American Cup, all held at Spruce Meadows. Farrington and Gazelle also grabbed the CSI4*W \$216,000 American Gold Cup in North Salem.

Photo Credit:
Camille Gentil



In 2017 they won that very prestigious QE II Cup for the second consecutive year. (Kent won it three times, the first on Voyeur in 2014). Besides winning other big classes at Spruce Meadows, these two also won at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, the LGCT Grand Prix of Madrid in, obviously, Spain, the Grand Prix of Valence in France, the Rolex Grand Prix in Tryon, and closed out their year by winning the Rolex Grand Prix in Geneva, Switzerland. All of these wins were CSI5* events.

It was early on in 2018 when Kent had to face what no rider wants to deal with. While showing at the WEC, he suffered a seriously broken leg in a fall.

The compound fracture of his lower leg required surgery and several months of healing and rehab. At the time of the accident, Farrington was ranked number one in the Longines FEI World Rankings, which he had held for 10 months. He was also leading the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking list.

Kent and Gazelle went back on their winning track in June, winning three big Grand Prix. This year and as of this writing, they grabbed victories in two huge competitions; the CSIO5* Loro Piana Grand Prix in Rome, and the CSIO5* Rolex Grand Prix in CHIO, Aachen.

Farrington gave most of the credit to his strong return to his equine partner, saying that

Gazelle was the main thing that enabled him to fight his way back to the top.

One thing that makes the bay mare special is that she is so very careful; obviously an extremely important component in a Grand Prix horse. But with that carefulness comes some quirks. One of those is that she can also be very spooky. Kent admitted that sometimes he doesn't know what she sees or just how she will react.

For example, after racing through the timers on their way to victory in the American Gold Cup, Gazelle chose that moment to evoke the 'flight' response to fight or flight, spooking at something that caught her eye, and spun back towards the gate. Kent kept going straight however, falling off. He displayed his sense of humor, catching the mare and taking a bow. At least his unplanned dismount came after they crossed through the timers!



NAYEL & LORDAN NASSAR

COMPETES FOR EGYPT

Even though Nayel Nassar has many lovely horses in his stable, his mainstay for several years has been the reliable Lordan. He first laid eyes on the Hanoverian gelding in Hungary in 2010 and even though he looked at about 20 horses that day, Nassar saw something special in him. Although quite green and a bit spooky when Nayel first took over the reins, as the years ticked by Lordan has proven again and again that Nayel's first impression of his talent was right.



Photo Credit:
Jana Kay Carter

What Lordan lacks in stride length he more than makes up for in agility and quickness. Even if the pair have to add a stride from time to time, Lordan is so fast across the ground and in the air that they are usually able to make up any time lost in the process. It doesn't hurt that the little gelding is also super careful.

"That's just the bond that we have at this point. Anything that I lack he makes up for, and it's also the other way around, so I think we work together very strongly as a team.

"He's a fast horse, and in a jump-off with just the right ratio of long gallops and tight turns, he's hard to beat as long as he leaves the jumps up. And being so careful, he usually does so."



"Anytime you think that maybe this isn't quite his day, he comes out and shows that it can be his day as long as you trust it," Nayel said.

Perhaps Nayel is being a bit more cautious now with just how many events his 15-year-old gelding competes in, but his partner is still hitting the boards in a big way. They were a strong second in a CSI5* in Stockholm back in June. In November of last year, they won a CSI4* event in Las Vegas, and also during that month they won two CSI3* events in back-to-back weeks in Thermal.

Thermal was also really good to them the beginning of the year, as they won one of their biggest victories; the AIG \$1 Million at HITS Thermal in 2018. They have competed across the globe in almost every venue, and over the years this pair has risen to the top time and time again. While Nassar might be a bit pickier about where he shows Lordan, one can rest assured that this team will continue with their winning ways wherever they go.



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SOME PROFESSIONALS' TAKE ON EQUIPMENT THE WHAT'S AND WHY'S

By Barbara Pinnella



It is often interesting to see what trainers agree on, or not, as the case may be. That includes equipment for their horses. We reached out to five trainers, Tommi Clark, Mandy Porter, Archie Cox, Kristin Hardin and Peter Pletcher. Some show primarily hunters, others jumpers. We then touched base with Desiree Johnson. Originally from Canada, Desiree has a very successful sales barn in Germany, and we got preferences from herself and her two main riders, Daniel Meech and Sarah Jane Franklin.

A bit of bio on Daniel and Sarah Jane – Meech competes for his home country of New Zealand, and rode in both the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and the 2004 Olympics in Athens. He was also nominated for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and competed in the 2019 World Games. He and his team have qualified for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. He has been with Desiree since 2017.

After competing successfully prior to joining the Johnson team, Canadian Sarah Jane has now been with them for a little more than a year. She loves to bring along the young horses, and her enthusiasm for that job shows in her results.

The Equestrian Catalog – As a general rule, do you have one brand of saddle that you prefer, or do you like different ones for different horses?

Tommi Clark – I like the Voltaire saddles. I have a different one for the hunters then I do the jumpers, but both are Voltaire's.

Mandy Porter – My favorite saddle is the Voltaire Stuttgart with Buffalo leather. My saddles fit a variety of horses and for the rider, they are like sitting on a couch. And the customer service is absolutely superb!

Archie Cox – I prefer Butet saddles and feel comfortable on all horses in them. A horse's conformation may necessitate a different pad with possibly a lift or riser in the seat.

Kristin Hardin – I ride in Stubben saddles. They fit all my horses, and are durable and comfortable, and last a lifetime.

Peter Pletcher – I like the CWD saddle for all my horses.

Desiree Johnson – We have a nice arrangement with Voltaire Saddlery. Voltaire make a good durable saddle and will custom make one to fit the horse. Sarah always rides in Voltaire and Daniel will most of the time; with some special occasions he may use Peter Menet.



protection boots



TEC – Keeping with the saddle theme, do you steer your clients to one brand of saddle, or leave a lot of it up to them?

TC – I tend to have people that ride with me ride in a Voltaire, mainly because I can tell the company what I like and want for that horse and rider, and I know they can make exactly what I'm looking for.

MP – I encourage the riders in my barn to ride in what is most comfortable for them. However, I invite them to sit in one of my saddles from time to time (especially if they are in need of a new saddle) and they like my Voltaire's so much that I have a hard time getting my saddles back!

AC – It's a rider's choice, as well as what will put them in the best position for success.

KH – I think each person should ride in whatever they are comfortable in, and what suits their horse in their division.

PP – Most of them use CWD but I'm all for what feels the best to each person.

DJ – A lot of our clients ride in the Voltaire, so naturally it is nice to have that arrangement with them, since our customers are already comfortable in their saddles.



Mandy Porter

Photo Credit: Jana Kay Carter



Sara Jane Franklin



Archie Cox

TEC – Stirrups have certainly undergone some changes. What is your preference and why? Colors or no colors?

TC – I like light stirrups. It is easier to walk through airports with the saddle, and believe it or not, it makes a huge difference! LOL! But no color, not even for the jumpers.

MP – Flex-On stirrups are my favorite. They have a few different options in terms of material and style. I prefer the Aluminum, inclined, Ultra Grip stirrup - the incline is more comfortable on my knees and feet and never lose a stirrup with the Ultra Grip. To top it all off, they can be customized with magnetic stickers - I love my American Flag stickers!!

AC – Traditional stirrups are the best. I like solid standard stirrups which give you the correct leg position. Most gimmicks are usually wrong.

KH – I love my Lineage stirrups! They are the best lightweight aluminum stirrups, and have a wide bear claw foot bed that I prefer. They also come in many colors.

PP – I use the FREE JUMP stirrups. I do not like the colors!

DJ – Especially with stirrup, I'm afraid we really don't follow fashion, no colors, no magnets. I really dislike this for us. Riding should stay a classic sport. Daniel and Sarah prefer the black royal riders with the cheese grater grip or the silver metal Jin stirrup.

TEC – Assuming the horse you are showing has no back issues, do you like to see quite a bit of pad under the saddle, or the minimum?

TC – A minimum pad. I like to be able to feel my horse.

MP – I don't ride hunters, so my saddle pad preference is an Ogilvy Friction Free square pad coupled with the Ogilvy gummy half pad. With better fitting saddles these days, I don't feel as though I need too much padding. The gummy half pad is not quite as thick as the original memory foam half pad and provides a comfortable fit. I have an occasional horse or two that I use the original memory foam pad on though, depending on how a saddle fits a specific horse.

AC – Plain white Wilker's saddle pads are my choice, and sized correctly to the saddle.

KH – I like a memory foam riser or a lift wedge pad if the back is low.

PP – I feel this is more for hunters, and a minimum pad is my preference.

DJ – For hunters always less is more. Daniel and Sarah Jane often put Gel-Eze pad under the saddle pad to keep the saddle in place. We really like the Ogilvy hunter pad and jumper pad in custom colors.

TEC – As for your headstalls, do you prefer a cleaner look or a bit more splash? Any favorite brands for your bridles?

TC – I LOVE fat, padded nose bands, but otherwise simple and classy. I only use Edgewood. They are beautiful and last forever.

MP – I like a traditional, cleaner headstall. Not too much bling. I do not have a particular favorite brand of bridle. Leather quality is important to me, and I find that good quality bridles are out there, but harder to find these days. EquuSport always has very good, quality leather.

AC – Simple, well-fitted tack is ideal. A slightly wider noseband generally makes horses look good; the noseband adjusted just below the side cheek bones.

KH – I like to get fancy with my tack! Have fun, enjoy, but at the same time the headstall must be durable and suit the horse's needs.

PP – The cleaner look is better to me.

DJ – For bridles we prefer Dyon hunter bridles and jumper bridles. They make a comfortable head stall and they are pretty bridles. And let me add that we really like the custom bonnets made by Equistar. She does a beautiful job and makes a great sound proof model.



Daniel Meech



Tommi Clark
Photo Credit: Shawn McMillen

TEC – With regard to a martingale, do you feel less is more? If the horse does not really need one, do you think it finishes off the look, or do you prefer to just leave it off?

TC – I tend not to use a martingale, but sometimes if the horse is bigger, I think it can finish the look, so depends on the look of the horse. But I tend to not use one.

MP – I can say for the jumper world I prefer a minimalistic approach. I do not care for breastplates unless absolutely necessary as I feel they can be too restricting

AC – Most horses and riders benefit from a standing martingale until jumping above 1.30. I like seeing a well-fitted martingale on all horses. Loose, long martingales are a distraction and do not help horse or rider.

KH – I think it all depends on the horse and their style of jumping. I think martingales are a great tool but should be used for that purpose, not just for a look.

PP – For me a martingale is much better. It finishes the look to me.

DJ – We use a medium to long standing martingale, I really dislike the look of a short standing and I find the standing completes the look. Daniel prefers the simple running martingale and a breast plate only when really necessary, and as constrictive as possible. He wants the horses to have as much freedom as possible.

TEC – Bling or no bling? Fancy spur straps, things on the brow band, and the like.

TC – For hunters less is more. In the jumpers, I like a little color on my brow bands for a bit of fun.

MP – Not much bling. Maybe a little on my spur straps, very subtle (if any) on a brow-band. I like classic, traditional hunt coats with a little accent color but no true bling. My helmetwell I broke out of my shell this year when Samshield made a somewhat

blingy recommendation. It took me a bit to get used to, but I actually LOVE it. And I get more compliments on my Miss Shield at every show than anything else...

AC – Personal choice. I like plain tack.

KH - I enjoy bling, but be careful with the decorated straps. Those thick buckles can get hooked on the spur.

PP – NO bling in the Hunters!!!!

DJ – In general we steer away from bling, we go for a classic, understated look. Hopefully our horses speak for us. While this isn't bling, let me say that our secret weapon is the Silverado Face Glo. It comes in three colors; pink for chestnuts, black for bays, and clear for greys. It's made with Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, and it has sunscreen to protect the jumper's noses. Daniel really likes it as well. It really makes the eyes and nose of the horse look more beautiful and it smells wonderful.

TEC – Are you a bit collector?

TC – I have a bit problem; I have so many, it's crazy! But each horse is different, so I like having whatever they might need or like.

MP – Isn't it an unwritten rule for trainers to be bit collectors??? However, I don't use 95% of them. I tend to go to a small pool that I use regularly.

AC – So many horses so many bits! Keep trying until the horse can perform happily and safely.

KH – I think I own over 300 bits!

PP – Yes love all bits. I am a collector for sure!

DJ – Yes, we are bit collectors, but in general our daily go-to is a very light hollow loose ring with bit guards, loose single noseband

and the bit low in the mouth. That was a favorite of Jaime Guerra. It gets good results with a lot of horses and it has carried over with Daniel and Sarah Jane. Of course, for the show or with clients we often go to more bit, but both of Daniel's Grand Prix horses go the best in this system. Sarah Jane does use a lot the leather D ring snaffles or small Pelham made by Beris. We really like these with a leather mouth piece.

Some of the older horses she uses the Peter Pletcher bit.

TEC – Do you prefer to warm up your hunters in polos or boots, and why that decision?

TC – My hunters wear polos all the time when not showing. I like the look as well as the little extra protection. (White on darker horses, black on grey and light chestnuts.) But I ride my jumpers in boots even at home.

MP – Once again, jumpers, but the majority go in boots. I don't typically care for traditional polos. My boots are EquiFit D-Teq. They provide very good protection and I like that they can be customized (even though I am generally very traditional). I LOVE my EquiFit T-Sport Wraps for a horse that I feel requires the extra support of a bandage

AC – Hunters generally wear polo wraps. The wraps give some support and the soft material is easy on their legs. In hot or humid conditions boots can irritate the legs and the legs become sensitive.

KH – Polos are designed to support the ligaments; boots protect against hard impact. Therefore, it depends on the horse.

PP – I do not use boot or polos when warming up for the classes.

DJ – For our hunters, we train them and show them to clients in polos; as close to the horses' color as possible. They are neatly put on nose to tail unrolling to the back with a V in the front of the ankle, ending at the top. For the jumpers we use either sheepskin Zandona boots, CWD, or custom boots made by Jan Snellen.



Kristin Hardin

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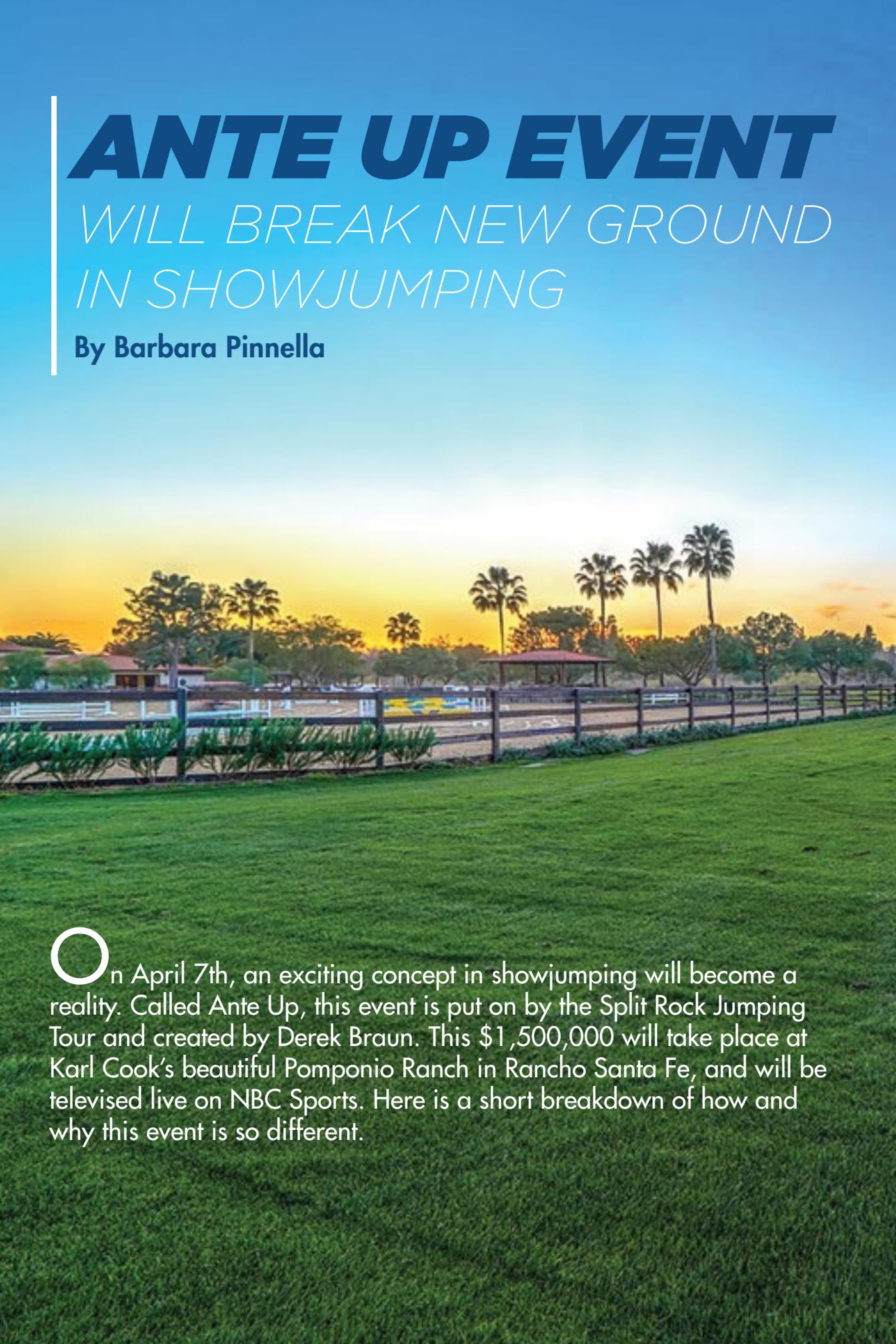
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ANTE UP EVENT

*WILL BREAK NEW GROUND
IN SHOWJUMPING*

By Barbara Pinnella



On April 7th, an exciting concept in showjumping will become a reality. Called Ante Up, this event is put on by the Split Rock Jumping Tour and created by Derek Braun. This \$1,500,000 will take place at Karl Cook's beautiful Pomponio Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe, and will be televised live on NBC Sports. Here is a short breakdown of how and why this event is so different.



The Grand Prix will consist of 15 riders only. For this first year, each rider/owner/sponsor would enter into the Grand Prix at \$125,000 each. The purse for the first year is \$1,500,000. First place is \$1,000,000, second place wins \$350,000, and \$150,000 goes to third.

But a qualified rider does not have to 'Ante Up' their own money to enter. They may have someone else or a group pay that entry fee. In that case, however, rather than get all of the purse they may win, they get only 25% of it, with the remaining 75% going to their investor(s).

Entries are by invitation only, with the top five coming from foreign riders, based on the Longines FEI World Ranking, the top five U.S. riders, also based on that Longines ranking, and five Organizing Committee Wild Cards. There will also be two onsite reserves.

The first round will be against the clock, with the top five competitors returning. They come back in reverse order from round one, regardless of faults, for the second round. Their faults, if any, carry over into round two, and time in that second round will break any ties. The height of the fences will be up to 1.60m.

"I designed the full format for it," Braun told us, "It was designed to definitely bring in more viewership to the sport, and create a totally different dynamic for the highest level of riders. This is an experiment as to how people respond to it, how many riders want to do it, and what our viewership base is. I'm not sure if it's going to be an annual event, or maybe an event that happens every couple of years. It's our first stab at it, so we will just experiment with the concept."

Photocredit: Albert Plattner
fotobrava.com

Derek is hoping that for the owners of riders or the investors of riders in the class, that it will feel as if you have a horse in the Kentucky Derby. That is what they are going for. He also explained why Cook's property was chosen.

"Karl is a good friend of mine, and while I was speaking with him about the concept he expressed an interest in having the event at his property. I think it's set up perfectly for this event. There are only 15 horses, so you don't need a lot of space. He has an absolutely pristine jumping field that I think is the perfect size for this event. We were just interested in working together on it."

The timing of the event was also strategic. It comes on the heels of the Desert Circuit, and also gives those showing elsewhere time to arrive. It is on a Tuesday, so it does not interfere with any other commitments. It is also the week before World Cup Finals. Braun is hoping that the date of this event will play into something good for them.

"I also think that the prize money is one of the biggest things here; it is the single largest prize money offered up in the world at \$1,500,000. Also, it allows a totally different dynamic. People who have nothing to do with these riders can invest in a rider to compete in this class."

Derek concluded by pointing out that it's hard to get money back in this sport, and this is a good way to do it. Not to mention that it will be a very entertaining and exciting event!



SPLITROCK

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”Anybody who owns any business, or wants to get involved and take a bit of a gamble would enjoy this format. Let’s say they want to invest in Margie Engle; they can pay for her entry into the class, and reap the rewards if she wins. “

-Derek Braun



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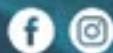
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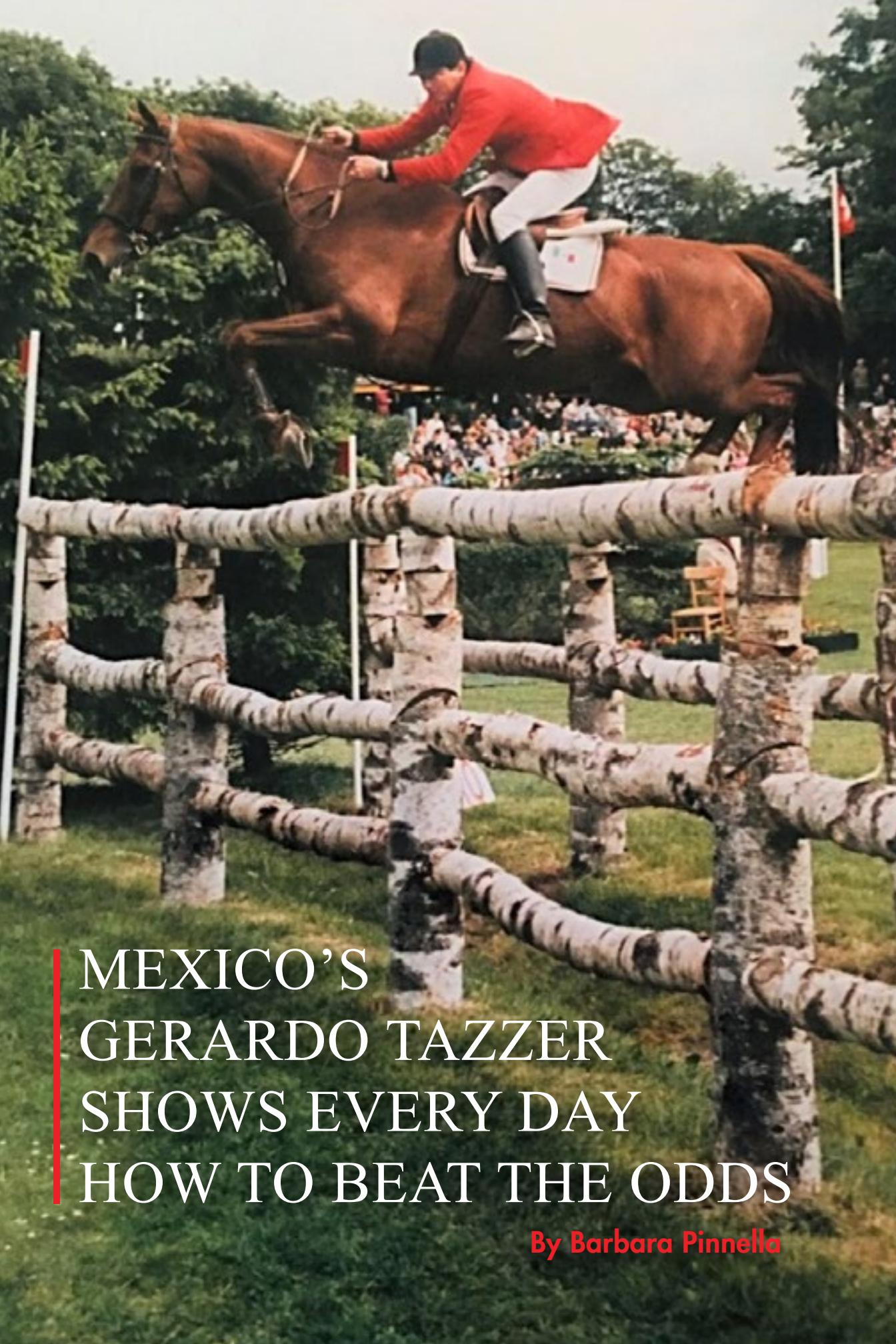
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MEXICO'S
GERARDO TAZZER
SHOWS EVERY DAY
HOW TO BEAT THE ODDS

By Barbara Pinnella

Gerardo "Gerry" Tazzer was a mainstay for most of the bigger competitions that Mexico participated in for years. His riding record is long, but he has also faced huge challenges. And while he has not been seen here in the States for quite some time, it is hard to forget his talent, his wit, and his humble demeanor. We hope you enjoy getting to meet this man, one whom many of you might not know anything about.

Gerry's father, Virgilio Tazzer, owned a ranch called La Teja, and Tazzer told us that since he was very young, his favorite thing to do was to go there.

"When I started school, every morning at 5:00 I used to wait for my father in the stairs with my riding boots on, wishing to go riding with him before being dropped off at school. I was almost nine years old when I started riding and 10 years old when I began competing in horse shows."

Also around that time, Gerry was given a nickname.

"I was very skinny at that time, so my friends at school named me "Mosco" because of my very long skinny legs. It has been my nickname ever since."

At Gerry's very first horse show he had to go alone, as his father could not accompany him. Tazzer admits to not really knowing anyone, and not knowing much about horse shows, either. He made friends with another young boy who told him all about the shows, and was very helpful to Gerry. That boy was the now-famous Carlos Aguirre, and the two grew up together, competed together, and became great friends.



"I won my first International competition at the age of 14 in Puerto Rico," Gerry said. "I was invited to participate in a Junior team there. The Mexican team was good, and brought some of the best horses we had in Mexico at that time, so the young riders were privileged to be able to compete on their horses. I got a very good one from Rafael Jimenez called Gaylor, and won the class on Sunday. The best teams from all America were there, as well as from Canada, Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, and others. I keep such a nice memory of it."

Gerry recalled that his first very good mare was Canica. She was a small pinto, and he referred to her as the smartest, quickest little mare you have ever seen. He won almost every class on her. About that same time, he began riding other horses, among them Fili and Pajarito.

"A dear friend of my father, a famous architect named Luis Barragan, loaned me his mare Arjala. At that time, I was 16 years old and I started competing her. I had such a good time riding her in the big classes, competing with the best horses and riders that there were at that time. We were an excellent couple, but at 16 and 17 years old I was too young to participate in the Mexico Olympic Games."

He might have been too young then, but he made up for lost time as soon as he could. Tazzer rode in the Olympics five times, has ridden in four World Cups, four World Championships, and seven times in the Pan American Games. He has one Olympic Bronze medal, one Silver medal and six Bronze medals from the Pan American Games, and four Heraldos.

Those Heraldos used to be a very important prize in Mexico, and are very special ones for Gerry. He also has been awarded the National Prize of Sports, was the rider for the Mexican President, and has been a Chef d'Equipe for both the Seoul Olympics and Team Scappino.



I mentioned that he has definitely faced his challenges, and he discussed one of those with us.

"February 2, 2007. It was a Friday morning. I was in a very nice place called Valle de Bravo, waiting for my wife and daughter to spend a nice weekend together. The

Scappino Triple Crown, which features showjumping, golf, and sailing was going to be held there, and I was the Scappino Chef d'Equipe.

"The horse I was riding was very good, confident and clean," Gerry continued, "but tended to twist at the jump. Friday, we did a

small class at 1.35m. I jumped a vertical, he got to twisting a little so I lost my stirrup and my balance, and unfortunately fell off."

There was one big problem with the lovely setting for this event; it is in the middle of a forest outside of Mexico City, and Gerry was seriously injured.

"Medical help took some time. A dear friend sent his helicopter in order to bring me to a Mexico City hospital, but it was impossible getting me in; the helicopter door size was too little. Then a second helicopter came and we faced the same problem.

"Finally, at around 7:00 p.m. a good friend called the Governor and he immediately sent a big helicopter that opened up the back door so I could travel. I had a very long but excellent spinal cord surgery by Dr. Guy Broc and Dr. Francisco Montalvo; they both saved my life."

I'm sure that is true, but Gerry is a bit modest. His lovely wife Anna told us a bit more about Gerry's recovery and the doctors that were there for him.

"Gerry did not mention this, but February 2nd will be 13 years since the accident. It has been hard, but...HE HAS NOT BEEN ABSENT TO ANY REHAB THERAPY ONE SINGLE DAY. Some days he feels exhausted and painful, or some he is not in a good mood. Other days it is very cold or raining, but he has never, ever quit one day!"

The aforementioned Dr. Broc was the principal surgeon. Dr. Montalvo, who has been the Tazzer's family doctor in Mexico and a close family friend, helped Dr. Broc in Gerry's surgery. Dr. Montalvo's son Mauricio is also a doctor, and while still young at that time, was assistant for his father. But there was one other doctor who was very instrumental in Gerry's recovery.



"Dr Barth Green took care of Gerry's rehab for a year since we flew to Jackson Hospital after surgery, and we became very dear friends. The last day in Miami, right before going to the airport, Dr Green came to visit us to say good bye. The last thing he said to Gerry, staring into his eyes was, 'Gerardo, don't let anybody tell you your limits, because no one really knows. It will take time, but you keep on trying.' Those words made a difference in our lives. Thank you forever, dear Dr. Green!"

Gerry feels that the rise of the quality of the horses and riders in Mexico today has a lot to do with the horse shows in Mexico that are available to them. He believes that Mexican riders have put a lot of energy and enthusiasm in horse shows.

"Today we have very many beautiful and well-organized horse shows here. We have so many good horse shows around the city as well as outside it. Show organizers are also bringing in the best course designers from around the world to build the courses. Also, we have been buying and breeding good, quality horses."

It is probably no surprise that Gerry is still around horses. He continues to share his knowledge by giving some lessons and clinics. To assure those nice horses will remain in Mexico, he is also involved in a

breeding program with Fernando Senderos. While he is a quadriplegic, his outlook on life is a great one, and he was happy to share it.

"Although I am handicapped, I am blessed with full health, and the unconditional support of my family and friends both here and around the world. The most important thing is that I have not lost my faith.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife Anna Rita, my daughter Anna, and



every dear friend that has helped me in so many ways. It is their kindness and love that keeps me motivated.

"I thank God that He put horses in my path. A life without them is no life at all!"

Gerry is a special man and we are pleased to introduce him to a lot of you who never had the pleasure. We would like to also extend thanks to his wife Anna for all of her help for this article. It couldn't have been written without her!

HORSE SHOWING

Congratulations! This is just a very small representation of some of those horses and riders that have achieved that big victory. Whether mentioned here or not, congratulations, everybody!



Alex Granato and Carlchen W

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, October 31
\$135,000 International Jumper Classic, CSI4*

Photocredit: Elaine Wessel / Phelps Sports



Amanda Steege and Lafitte De Muze

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, November 1
\$50,000 National Horse Show Hunter Classic

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Brian Moggre and Vivre La Reve

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, November 2
\$225,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup, CSI4*

Photocredit: Emma Miller / Phelps Sports



Charlie Jayne and Tou La Moon

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, November 3
\$100,000 Coachella Grand Prix

Photocredit: Jana Kay



Captain Brian Cournane and Penelope Cruz

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, November 7
\$40,000 Desert Classic FEI

Photocredit: Jana Kay



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Adrienne Sternlicht and Bennys Legacy

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, November 9
\$100,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup, CSI3* &
South Point Arena, Las Vegas, NV, November 16
\$100,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup, CSI3*

Photocredit: Jana Kay



Ali Ramsey and Lutz

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, January 19
\$100,000 Horseflight Grand Prix

Photocredit: Jana Kay



Kaitlin Campbell and Palina De L'Escout

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, January 26
\$200,000 Go Rental Grand Prix

Photocredit: Jana Kay



Nicole Shahinian-Simpson and Akuna Mattata

Palm Beach Masters, Wellington, FL, February 11
\$36,600 Turkish Airlines Classic, CSI4* W

Photocredit: Kathy Russell Photography



Laura Hite and Calypso VD Zuuthoeve

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, February 2
\$100,000 Ariat Grand Prix

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Darragh Kenny and Classic Dream

Palm Beach Masters, Wellington, FL, February 2
\$213,300 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup, CSI4*

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Lisa Carlsen and Livestream 2

Desert International Horse Park, Thermal, CA, February 9
\$200,000 Valencia Saddlery Grand Prix

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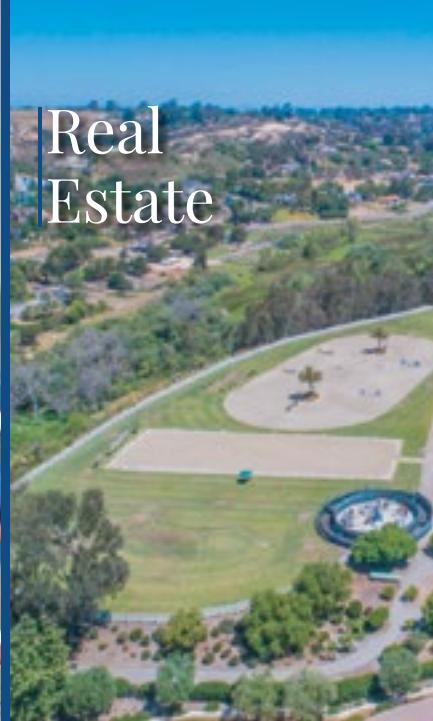
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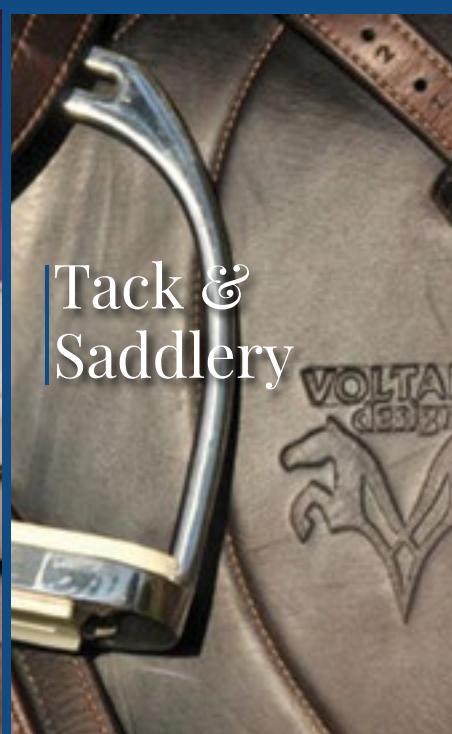
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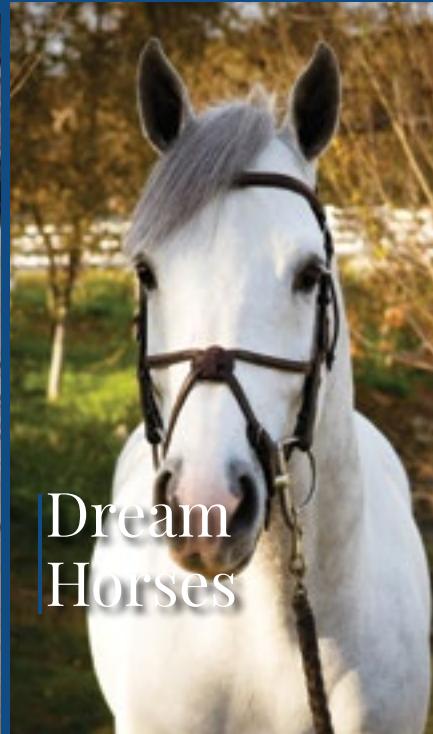
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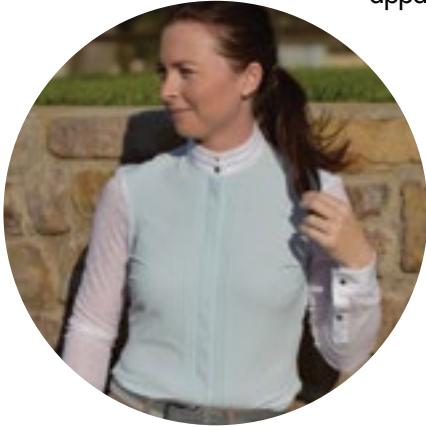
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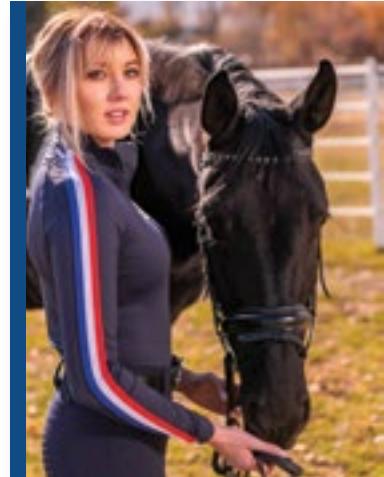
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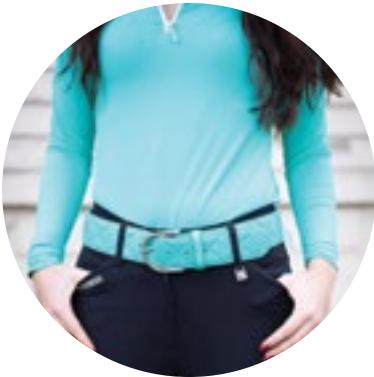
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