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United States Para-Equestrian Association



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Lauren Barwick (CAN) and Donna Ponessa (USA) Earn High Point Awards at Houston Dressage Society CPEDI3*

Katy, TX - April 29, 2012 - The final day of the Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Spring Classic I & II CPEDI3* concluded with the Freestyle Test competition and presentation of the Para-Equestrian accolades. The HDS Spring Classic I & II CPEDI3* was sponsored by The COR Group and ran concurrently with the CDI3* and CDI1* sponsored by the North Texas Equestrian Center. Over three days Para-Dressage athletes from the United States and Canada displayed dynamite FEI Para-Dressage Tests in front of international judges Kathy Amos-Jacob (FRA),

David Schmutz (USA), Kristi Wysocki (USA), and Carlos Lopes (POR). Lauren Barwick (CAN) of Reddick, FL obtained the HDS Spring Classic I & II CPEDI3* Champion High Point Award and the Arbor Gate CPEDI3* award for the highest average score across the Team, Individual, and Freestyle Tests. Donna Ponessa (USA) garnered the Reserve Champion High Point Award for her stellar performance over the weekend. For the United States, the HDS CPEDI3* was the last individual qualifier before the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) 2012 London Paralympics Selection Trials in June.



*Lauren Barwick (CAN) and Off To Paris Champion High Point Rider at HDS CPEDI3**



*Donna Ponessa (USA) and Silvano Reserve Champion High Point Rider
at HDS CPEDI3**

For Canada the HDS CPEDI3* was an additional environment where they could polish their three tests before heading to Canada to prepare for the 2012 London Paralympics. As the High Point Champion of the HDS CPEDI3* Lauren Barwick dominated the Grade II division with her elegant mare, Off To Paris. The duo consistently achieved scores over 71% to earn the High Point Champion award. As of January 31, 2012, Barwick was ranked 5th on the FEI World Para-Equestrian Individual Ranking List. Her accomplishments as a Gold and Silver Medalist and Four-Star Parelli Professional have given her the confidence and determination to continue to work hard as a Para-Dressage athlete.

Donna Ponessa (New Windsor, NY) solidified her partnership with Dr. Michele Miles' horse Silvano over three days. Silvano is an ideal match for Grade Ia rider, Ponessa, due to his expressive walk and elasticity of his steps. Ponessa secured the Reserve Champion High Point award with her top scores in the Team and Individual Tests.

For Jonathan Wentz (Grade Ib), Silvano was also an asset over the weekend to achieving superior scores. Wentz and Silvano continued to earn leading scores over Wentz's other horse NTEC Jabriel, owned by Rachel Zent. Wentz noted, "The entire weekend was great. For the Freestyle competition on Silvano I used Richter's music. I improvised a little bit since Silvano and Richter's pace are so

different. I also made sure not to incorporate any high level movements and play it safe with Silvano. I did do a lot of extensions, but in a 20 X 40 ring performing an extension on a horse with a large stride like Silvano is difficult. Even the 10-meter circle was more challenging since Silvano is about the diameter of a 10-meter circle. As for Gabe (NTEC Jabriel), we worked on using different techniques. We decided to switch to a snaffle to work on control. I was happy with Jabriel but I know we still have some items to work on. During our Individual Test on Saturday Gabe had all 7's and 8's on the first half of the test. I know he is capable of top scores and I know that I also have Richter to earn great scores. Richter is the steadiest rock in the world; I love Richter and I know him. As soon as I sit in that saddle I know I don't have to worry about the horse I just have to focus on myself. With Richter I can control every foot fall and that assurance, especially this close to the Paralympics, is a great plan. Of course I would have loved to bring Richter but we needed to look at what we have in the pipeline and see what changes need to be made before Selection Trials. I am looking forward to the Trials, we have been working Richter constantly and I don't know if even the judges are going to recognize the new Richter. Finally, I am excited for the United States Team, we really have a chance to earn a medal this year."



Donna Ponessa and Trainer Wes Dunham



Jonathan Wentz and NTEC Jabriel

Wentz is currently ranked 10th on the FEI World Rankings and continues to climb the charts. For the next month, Wentz will be working with NTEC Richter Scale, NTEC Jabriel, Silvano and his coach Kai Handt as they prepare for the 2012 Paralympics Selection Trials.

With her recent Selection Trials qualification on Andrea Hart's Nicolai, Olympian Courtney King-Dye will also be making the trip to Gladstone. The duo achieved their highest score of the weekend in Sunday's Freestyle with a 69.415%. Courtney expressed, "I was thrilled this weekend; Each day I rode him progressed from the day before and I continued to get to know Nicolai better."



She continued, "The Freestyle I rode on Nicolai is designed for my new horse at home because it contains a lot of lateral work and zig-zag patterns. I had a lot of fun riding my freestyle on Nicolai. After the first day I figured out that my reins were too short which inhibited his movement. I noticed that adding the longer rein, although it may look a little sloppy, gives Nicolai a better top line, a better frame, and it makes him relax. I am now looking forward to taking what I learned in Houston and applying it to my work with



my new horse, Buddy."

After Houston Courtney will head back East where she will begin working with Buddy in preparation for Selection Trials. Courtney noted, "This whole journey has been amazing. I know it is unrealistic to have only one goal in mind to go to the Olympics because only four riders can go. With ever competition the stars have to align, the horse has to wake up on the right side of the stall, and I just have to do the best I can do and hope that is good enough to earn a spot."

Courtney continues to express how thankful she has been to everyone including Andrea Hart, Koryn Staehling, Rebekah Wesatzke of Hearthstone Stables, Lendon Grey, Kathy Jones, and the multiple people that have continued to support Courtney throughout her journey.

Andrea Hart responded, "There were so many people involved who pulled together in the community of Houston to make this dream happen for both Courtney and Sydney, especially Rebekah who wanted these girls to have this opportunity. I really enjoyed watching the girls ride this weekend, I am impressed by their athleticism, and I was happy to be a part of it."



Courtney King-Dye and Nicolai

In Grade III Wendy Fryke (Parker, CO) and her Stallion Lateran maintained harmony between horse and rider as they navigated their carefully choreographed musical freestyle earning them a score of 69.915%. In Grade IV Jennifer Baker (Loveland, OH) once again piloted Rondo Del Rey, owned by Kathy Jones, to achieve an excellent score for their musical interpretation and wonderful half-passes. Both Fryke and Baker are looking forward to their next goal to compete at the USEF Paralympics Selection Trials and 2012 Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship.

As a high performance athlete the financial burden to compete and travel can be extensive. With support from sponsors like Leslie Rohrer of The COR Group, Para-Equestrians are able to earn their scores to qualify for the Paralympics or World Equestrian Games. Hope Hand of the United States Para-Equestrian Association expressed, "I am very thankful to Leslie Roher and The COR Group for Sponsoring the CPEDI3*. I am also grateful to the sponsors of each individual class. The rewards were beautiful that were presented to the riders including two fabulous coolers, a large basket of gifts, and monetary awards. Supporters continue to help grow the Para-Equestrian discipline and create awareness about the high performance discipline Para-Equestrian Dressage. I would also like to thank the volunteers at the horse show, the entire management including Kathy Jones, and the multiple sponsors who made the Houston Dressage Society CPEDI3* a wonderful venue for Para-Equestrian competitions. We look forward to

working with the Houston Dressage Society in the future."

The United States Para-Equestrian Association and riders would like to thank the sponsors of the Houston Dressage Society CPEDI3*:

North Texas Equestrian Center, The COR Group, Arbor Gate Farm, The Reserve at, Lake Travis Equestrian Center, Cavalor, Charles Saltzer, Windy Knoll Farm, Jody, Wilson Dressage, Back on Track, Yellow Rose Dressage, Cynthia Ruiz, Bruce Buskirk, Steinhausers, Equestrian Portraits, The Bridal Suite, Campbell Family, Roseate Dressage

The United States Para-Equestrians Association and riders would like to thank the following horse owners for their contributions to the Para-Equestrians at the Houston Dressage Society CPEDI3*:

Andrea Hart for Nicolai ; Kathleen Jones for Rondo Del Rey; Dr. Michele Miles for Silvano; Rachel Zent for NTEC Jabriel; Raul Armendariz for Isleno Arm and Farol; Kai Handt for NTEC Manchada; Nancy Hinz for Madoc Dylan; and Patrick Truxillo for VPRH Pegasus vom Niehaus - HOF

Scheduled for June 10-13, 2012 are the USEF London Paralympics Selection Trials and USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships. Since the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games the number of United States Para-Equestrian riders has grown exponentially. At Gladstone, NJ in June the competition is expected to be tough and exciting.

About the Para-Equestrian Discipline:

Each of the Para-Equestrian athletes have amazing stories to tell and have achieved much success despite the many physical challenges they incur in



Wendy Fryke and Coach Sharon Schneidman

everyday life. The range of disabilities and diagnoses include Multiple Sclerosis, limb loss, Lupus, Cerebral Palsy, brain and spinal cord injuries, and many other diagnoses. Due to the range of disabilities, Para-Equestrians are divided into five grade levels including Grade Ia, Ib, II, III, and IV. Grade Ia is the most severely impaired while Grade IV is the least impaired. Each grade competes alongside riders that have comparable inabilities. The Grades are not determined on skill level but are determined by an international classification process. Classifications are performed at each international competition by trained physical therapists or physicians who perform strength, range of motion and/or coordination tests on the athletes to assess their functional ability and approve them for adaptive equipment. Adaptive equipment is allowed as needed such as modified saddles, additional whips, rubber bands, looped reins and other aids to help compensate for a rider's disability.

To compare each Para-Equestrian Test to able-bodied Dressage levels Grade 1a is equivalent to Introductory Level, Grade 1b is equivalent to Training Level, Grade II is equivalent to First Level, Grade III is equivalent to Second Level and Grade IV is equivalent to Third Level. Competitions continue to be made possible for riders in each of the Grades through sponsorship and large financial dedication.

Results Team Test Competition Saturday April 29, 2012

C: Lopes-POR B: Amos Jacob-FRA H: Schmutz-USA

Grade Ia:

Name, Horse, Owner, Country, Score%

1. Courtney King-Dye, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, USA, 69.415%
2. Jody Schloss, Inspector Rebus, owned by Jody Schloss, CAN, 68.915%
3. Laura Goldman, VPRH Pegasus Vom Niehaus-HOF, owned by Patrick Truxillo, USA, 64.585%
4. Donna Ponessa, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA 64.415%
5. Laura Goldman, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 62.085%



Jody Schloss (CAN) and Inspector Rebus



Laura Goldman and VPRH Pegasus com Niehaus-HOF

Grade Ib:

1. Jonathan Wentz, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA, 72.415%
2. Jonathan Wentz, NTEC Jabriel, owned by Rachel Zent, USA, 66%



Jonathan Wentz and Silvano

Grade II:

1. Lauren Barwick, Off To Paris, owned by Equine Canada, CAN, 73.5%
2. Kim Jones, Madoc Dylan, owned by Nancy Hinz, USA, 66.415%
3. Barbara Adside, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 65.415%
4. Sydney Collier, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, 56.25%



Kim Jones and Madoc Dylan



Barbara Adside and NTEC Manchada



Sydney Collier and Nicolai



Wendy Fryke and Lateran

Grade III

1. Wendy Fryke, Lateran, owned by Wendy Fryke, USA, 69.915%

Grade IV

1. Jennifer Baker, Rondo Del Ray, owned by Kathy Jones, USA, 64.835%
2. Iana Gonzalez, Isleno Arm, owned by Raul Armendariz, USA, 61.335%



Jennifer Baker and Iana Gonzalez



Jennifer Baker and Rondo Del Ray

Results Team Test Competition Saturday April 28, 2012

H: Lopes-POR C: Amos Jacob-FRA B: Wysocki-USA

Grade Ia:

Name, Horse, Owner, Country, Score%

1. Donna Ponessa, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA 74.585%
2. Jody Schloss, Inspector Rebus, owned by Jody Schloss, CAN, 67.665%
3. Courtney King-Dye, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, USA, 65.665%
4. Laura Goldman, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 64.915%
5. Laura Goldman, VPRH Pegasus Vom Niehaus-HOF, owned by Patrick Truxillo, USA, 61.75%

Grade Ib:

1. Jonathan Wentz, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA, 69.639%
2. Jonathan Wentz, NTEC Jabriel, owned by Rachel Zent, USA, 61.013%

Grade II:

1. Lauren Barwick, Off To Paris, owned by Equine Canada, CAN, 71.586%
2. Kim Jones, Madoc Dylan, owned by Nancy Hinz, USA, 62.7%
3. Sydney Collier, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, USA, 60.714%
4. Barbara Adside, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 59.681%

Grade III

1. Wendy Fryke, Lateran, owned by Wendy Fryke, USA, 65.833%

Grade IV

1. Jennifer Baker, Rondo Del Ray, owned by Kathy Jones, USA, 61.559%
2. Iana Gonzalez, Farol, owned by Raul Armendariz, USA, 56.398%
3. Iana Gonzalez, Isleno Arm, owned by Raul Armendariz, USA, 50.914%

Results Team Test Competition Friday April 27, 2012

H: Amos Jacob-FRA C: Schmutz-USA M: - B: Lopes-POR

Grade Ia:

Name, Horse, Owner, Country, Score%

1. Donna Ponessa, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA 69.706%
2. Laura Goldman, VPRH Pegasus Vom Niehaus-HOF, owned by Patrick Truxillo, USA, 68.235%
3. Jody Schloss, Inspector Rebus, owned by Jody Schloss, CAN, 67.941%
4. Courtney King-Dye, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, USA, 62.747%,
5. Laura Goldman, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 62.159%

Grade Ib:

1. Jonathan Wentz, Silvano, owned by Dr. Michele Miles, USA, 69.241%
2. Jonathan Wentz, NTEC Jabriel, owned by Rachel Zent, USA, 68.409%

Grade II:

1. Lauren Barwick, Off To Paris, owned by Equine Canada, CAN, 72.776%
2. Kim Jones, Madoc Dylan, owned by Nancy Hinz, USA, 65.319%
3. Sydney Collier, Nicolai, owned by Andrea Hart, USA, 63.81%
4. Barbara Adside, NTEC Manchada, owned by Kai Handt, USA, 61.033%

Grade III

1. Wendy Fryke, Lateran, owned by Wendy Fryke, USA, 64.259%

Grade IV

1. Jennifer Baker, Rondo Del Ray, owned by Kathy Jones, USA, 59.791%
2. Iana Gonzalez, Farol, owned by Raul Armendariz, USA, 59.375%
3. Iana Gonzalez, Isleno Arm, owned by Raul Armendariz, USA, 57.397%

For more information about the Spring Classic I and II CPEDI3* Hosted by Houston Dressage Society please visit www.HoustonDressageSociety.org. To view the prize list or show results please visit www.ShowSecretary.com or contact the Show Secretary Susan Peacock phone (405) 749-9777 or email susan@showsecretary.com.

Fast Facts: Spring Classic I CPEDI3* Hosted by Houston Dressage Society

What: Spring Classic I and II CPEDI3* Hosted by Houston Dressage Society

CPEDI3* Name Sponsor: The COR Group - Leslie Rohrer

Where: Great Southwest Equestrian Center
2501 South Mason Rd.
Katy, TX 77450
281-578-7669
www.gswec.com

Contacts at Show:

Show Secretary: Susan Peacock, 837 Glenlake Drive, Edmond, OK 73013, Phone: (405) 749-9777, susan@showsecretary.com, Fax: 866-487-6624

Assistant Secretary: Chris Federer, (513) 833-5081, chrisfederer10@gmail.com

Show Manager: Ed Lavalley, 300 Cedar Ridge St., Wylie, TX 75098, (214) 336-7125, ejlava@sprynet.com

Licensee Contact: Kathleen Jones, Houston Dressage Society, kkj3156@sbcglobal.net

About United States Para-Equestrian Association:

The USPEA is a network of riders, judges, national federation board members, and equestrian enthusiasts. The association gives athletes the ability to get involved and expand their knowledge and experience in the Para-Equestrian sport. The USPEA encourages para-athletes to participate in all disciplines under the para-equestrian umbrella.

The USPEA is a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) which serves as the National Governing Body for the equestrian sport. This relationship between the USPEA and USEF is to encourage para-equestrian competitors, leisure riders, coaches, fans and enthusiasts to network and get involved with the entire equestrian sport.

Ultimately the goal of the USPEA is to foster growth in the para-equestrian discipline. From growth in the number of participants to growth as a team, and growth in the experience and knowledge of all involved. From local horse shows to international Olympic Games, the USPEA will provide para-equestrians the knowledge of what they need to succeed. The USPEA connects with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), and USEF which provides Para-Equestrians the top equestrian resources.

In June 2010, the USPEA earned its 501 (c)(3) status which has encouraged supporters to help supply funding to the Para-Equestrian Team as a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation(USEF).

For more information about the USPEA please visit www.USPEA.org or contact USPEA President: Hope Hand by e-mail: Wheeler966@aol.com or by phone: (610)356-6481.

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