



LAND ROVER U.S. EVENTING TEAM SILVER AT PRATONI 2022

*U.S. Eventing Qualifies for Paris 2024 Olympic Games
at 2022 FEI Eventing World Championship*

The Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team claimed the silver medal to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, at the FEI Eventing World Championship held September 14-18, 2022, at Pratoni del Vivaro in Rome, Italy. This was the first team world championship medal for the U.S. eventing program since 2002. The veteran team of Will Coleman, Boyd Martin, Lauren Nicholson, and Tamie Smith earned their podium finish with a final score of 100.3 behind the German team who took gold with a score of 95.2. New Zealand rounded out the top three with a combined total score of 100.7.

Though the U.S. team, led by Chef d'Equipe Bobby Costello, sat in second place heading into the final phase on a combined team score of 77.4 after all team members finished clear in cross country, they kept their celebrations at bay and stayed composed and focused for show jumping.

"[The cross-country phase] absolutely met my expectations and I think everyone leading up to [this event] had a really good feeling about where we were heading," said Chef d'Equipe Bobby Costello of the team's stellar performance and ultimate finishes over the hills of Pratoni. "The feeling in training camp and everyone's attitude [at Pratoni 2022] has been exactly what we wanted, but we haven't had a day like this in a really long time for the U.S. It's really gratifying and I'm happy for everyone here, but having said that, we've already stopped celebrating. We're one hundred percent focused on



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Chef d'Equipe Bobby Costello, Will Coleman, Lauren Nicholson,
Tamie Smith, and Boyd Martin

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Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe we are nearing the end of another year. As I reflect back and look ahead to 2023, I'm both grateful and optimistic. Our high performance U.S. equestrian teams have put in the work — and with support from friends and fans — it's paid off at some of the most impressive international competitions.

I had the honor of attending the FEI World Championships at Pratoni del Vivaro in Rome, Italy, where our U.S. eventing team had a banner week earning the silver medal and securing their qualification for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France.

At the FEI World Championships in Herning, Denmark, the U.S. dressage and para dressage teams also qualified for Paris 2024 with the latter bringing home three medals including team bronze. The U.S. eventing team was also gold in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ – Canada CCIO4*-S at the Bromont CCI in Quebec, Canada, with a group of newer and developing horse and rider combinations.

While we have our near-term goals in view with the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, coming up in October 2023, and Paris 2024 soon after, it's equally important to keep our eyes on the long game. Thanks in large part to your steadfast support of the USET Foundation, we are able to nurture the growth and development of our athletes and horses in order to maintain our prominence on the world stage.

The high performance pathway programs put in place by US Equestrian (USEF) are critical to this development and to ensuring we have depth as we look toward championship events in years to come. Programs such as the FEI North American Youth Jumping Championships (NAYC) in dressage and jumping are case in point. The athletes that participated in this year's NAYC may very well be in contention to compete at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Similarly, the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search program helps prepare up-and-coming jumping riders for the next level of the sport. It was exciting to see the strength of all of these athletes so early in their careers.

International team competition is also imperative to the U.S. equestrian teams' success, and I was proud to see a number of developing jumping and eventing athletes gain valuable experiences at the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final, the Nations Cup during the Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament CSIO5*, and the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Netherlands CCIO4*-L at Military Boekelo-Enschede.

In this issue, we also celebrate national champions from the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions and Maryland 5 Star event. Finally, we welcome the appointment of two new USEF leaders, David O'Connor and Graeme Thom. I look forward to seeing their vision for the future of U.S. equestrian sport come to life.

With Thanksgiving upon us, there is no better time to express my utmost appreciation for your ongoing support and generosity. Thank you for helping our athletes do our country proud. Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jenkins
Executive Director



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

U.S. EVENTING TEAM

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the job [in the show jumping phase] and aren't thinking about anything other than finishing this competition and doing what we came here to do."

On the final day of competition, the technical show jumping track designed by Italy's Uliano Vezzani proved challenging with rails coming down throughout the course. The phase was incredibly important, changing the team standings multiple times. All five U.S. combinations finished the cross-country phase in the top 25 and jumped in the second session of competition on the grass field at Centro Equestre Federale. Of the team's overall performance, Costello elaborated on the work and commitment from the wider support team that helped produce a historic result for the U.S.

"It was just such a crazy day," Costello said of the final phase. "I had a feeling when I walked the course that it was going to be very influential. I'd never seen such a consistently big and very technical track — three lines, all single jumps to combinations, with three completely different distances. It was a really important phase, and no team went unscathed. You had to keep fighting to the end."

"I hope this means great things for the future," he continued. "My top priority when I took this interim position was to try and change the culture by really making sure that everyone had each other's backs and [that we were] building trust among the riders," he added. "The riders, the owners, the staff have never given up on the sport and I'm so happy for everyone, even those at home, who get to watch and get to be proud."

Will Coleman of Gordonsville, Virginia, and Off The Record produced the only clear show jumping round for the team, managing the questions asked throughout the difficult track with poise and demonstrating the scope, rideability, and talent of the 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by The Off The Record Syndicate. The pair finished as the highest-placed U.S. combination, taking seventh place overall on a score of 27.2. Coleman purchased the gelding



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

Will Coleman and Off The Record

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Lauren Nicholson and Vermiculus

as a four-year-old and has developed him throughout his career, noting that the progress and accomplishments of their partnership is something he continues to cherish.

"It was great. I'm so thrilled," Coleman stated. "It was par for the course for this entire week for us to be honest. I feel like he's punched above his weight in every phase and I'm just so happy with him. I'm so proud of my horse and my team and everyone involved with this program. It's cool to see him go in there and rise to the moment."

Lauren Nicholson of The Plains Virginia, and Vermiculus, a 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Jacqueline B. Mars, finished in 19th place overall on a final individual score of 41.1. The pair had two down in show jumping and finished slightly over the time allowed to add 8.4 to their score following their sharp cross-country round.

"He tried his heart out for me out there," Nicholson shared of the gelding's performance on the final day. "We had the two down that have caused loads of people problems at the end of the course, but he's come out of this week feeling good. This was a really tough track. It's super technical and a real show jumping track. He jumped well and feels great, so I'm really happy with him overall."

In a notoriously challenging phase for Boyd Martin of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, and Tsetserleg TSF, a 15-year-old Trakehner gelding owned by Christine Turner, Tommie Turner, and Thomas Turner, the pair dropped four rails for a total of 16 faults, for a final score of 41.2 to finish in 20th place overall. Of the team camaraderie, Martin spoke of the drought the U.S. program has had since their last team podium at a World Championship and how much energy and excitement he can feel as the program looks ahead to the future.

"I'm very proud to be an American today. Having five clear rounds yesterday in the cross-country was awesome," said Martin. "I've been on many of these teams, and we've been so close over and over again, and it's a massive sigh of relief. I'm really thankful for this team and proud to be here with these guys sitting next to me."

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

As the last combination to contest the course, Tamie Smith of Murrieta, California, and Mai Baum, a 16-year-old German Sport Horse gelding owned by Alex Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn, and Eric Markell, added eight faults to their original score of 24.0 to finish on a 32.0, to take ninth place individually. Smith, while disappointed to be out of the individual medal running after her round, said the focus was always on the team result and that their overall performance throughout the week meant more than an individual medal.



Tamie Smith and Mai Baum

"We came here to do our best and I have to say, we all knew that potentially we could medal, and I think we're pleasantly surprised. We're less than a point away from third [which] speaks to the quality of the field and the riding [at the event]," said Smith. "It's impressive and I'm just so honored to be here. I'm very proud of my horse. We're here and we got the silver medal and that's what we came here [to do]. This isn't about my individual performance, it's about the team performance, and I'm ecstatic with our result."

Ariel Gald of Southern Pines, North Carolina, competed as an individual and noted that her goal was to finish the championship on her dressage score of 32.5, which is exactly what she did. Aboard Leamore Master Plan, a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Annie Eldridge, Gald laid down a masterful clear round inside of the time. While Gald — who was a recipient of the USET Foundation's 2021 Jacqueline B. Mars




Boyd Martin and Tsetserleg TSF

Competition and Training Grant that enabled her to compete as part of the historic silver-medal-winning team in the 2021 FEI Eventing Nations Cup at CHIO Aachen — has competed in international team competition, this was her first championship appearance for the stars and stripes. Gald felt it was her moment to prove she deserved to be on the world stage and that it ultimately helped better prepare her for the future.

"I was a bit nervous going in and he's such a great show jumper," Gald shared of her mount about heading

into the final phase. "I just have to trust him and trust that he's going to go in and try, and I knew after the first fence that he was good. The combinations can be hard for him because he has such a huge step, but all credit to my horse. I really have to mess up as a jockey for him to not jump clear, so it's a lot of pressure on me to give him a good ride. He's absolutely brilliant. I wanted to finish on my dressage score, and we did, so I couldn't be happier for him and that's all you can ask for."

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Ariel Gald and Leamore Master Plan

All photos by Shannon Brinkman

PARA DRESSAGE TEAM BRONZE

*Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team Claim Bronze Medal
in Orifarm Healthcare FEI World Para Dressage Championships at Herning 2022*



Photo by Arnd Bronkhurst

*Back row, L-R: Kate Shoemaker, Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline, and Rebecca Hart
Front row, L-R: Roxanne Trunnell and Beatrice de Lavalette*

The Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team earned a spot on the podium and took home the bronze medal in the Orifarm Healthcare Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) World Para Dressage Championships at the ECCO FEI World Championships Herning 2022. The event took place August 6-14, in Herning, Denmark. The U.S. team finished on a final score of 225.335 behind Denmark who took silver with a score of 229.751. The Dutch team won their second consecutive FEI World Championship gold, finishing with a team total of 230.225.

Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline commented on the U.S. team's ability to overcome challenges and bring new, young horses into the spotlight while continuing to deliver top performances at the highest level — another building block to the program's success after the team took home the team bronze medal at last year's 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

"What we have done really affirms our position on the

world stage. We got the bronze in Tokyo and to get this bronze again here means that it wasn't a fluke, and the level of performance is great," said Assouline. "I'm absolutely ecstatic with what they've done as a team here, and very proud of this team, and these girls."

The four team combinations included: Beatrice de Lavalette of Loxahatchee, Florida, riding Sixth Sense, a 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Elizabeth de Lavalette; Rebecca Hart of Wellington, Florida, and El Corona Texel, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Rowan O'Riley; Kate Shoemaker of Wellington, Florida, and Quiana, her own eight-year-old Rhineland mare; and Roxanne Trunnell of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, aboard Fortunato H2O, a six-year-old Oldenburg stallion owned by Lehua Custer.

"We had expectations, absolutely, but to get the medal was above my vision and we wanted to get the qualification for the Paralympic Games in Paris, France, [in 2024] and we

did more; that's what this is all about," he said. With the Paralympic qualification secured, the team can now focus on maintaining their excellence on the international stage in the lead up to the 2024 Games.

"We've had incredible support from our sponsors, of course, and all the riders have great backup," added Assouline. "Three of the horses were new here and one of the horses was loaned by another coach, which is the horse Roxanne is riding. It's a six-year-old stallion who isn't very experienced and to see what she could do on the world stage with that horse is really amazing. The other horses [were also amazing]. Most of them are young horses, new partnerships with at the most six months together, and I think that's a very positive and bright trajectory for our future."

REBECCA HART AND EL CORONA TEXEL TEXEL SECURE INDIVIDUAL BRONZE

Rebecca Hart and El Corona Texel, known as Tex in the barn, also earned the individual bronze medal in the Individual Grade III Championship presented by Elsass Fonden. The pair earned a 73.147 percent for third place and the first medal for the U.S. at the competition.


The horse-and-athlete combination put on a harmonious display in their Grade III Individual Test, receiving strong marks in their trot work. The pair are the most veteran combination on the Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team for this championship and Hart was pleased with their overall performance on the first day of competition.

"I felt really good about that test," explained Hart. "Tex can be a little bit spicy sometimes and we've been working a lot on his relaxation and getting what we have in the warm up and bringing that loveliness into the competition arena. I really enjoyed the comeback today. He stayed there and I took a breath in, and he was right there. I could really just enjoy [the ride] and not micromanage things. It was a really nice feeling. He was so much happier out there, and it's nice to have a happy athlete and happy horse."

KATE SHOEMAKER AND QUIANA TAKE INDIVIDUAL SILVER

The Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team ended their successful week at Herning 2022 on a high note when Kate Shoemaker took home an individual silver medal in the in the FEI Para Dressage Grade IV Freestyle.

Kate Shoemaker and Quiana also earned a personal best in the class, receiving an 80.275 percent from the judging panel. Shoemaker acquired the mare late in 2021 and is already thrilled with the momentum they've built as a combination.

"This is a personal best score for us," said Shoemaker. "We had so many goals coming into this, and a lot of the goals are out of your control because they involve what other people do, but we really wanted this 80 and I'm just so ecstatic we got it. I have to give all of the credit to my horse and my team. Without them, I wouldn't have the opportunity to sit up there and get to experience that. They all work so hard on my behalf, and we did it together." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Rebecca Hart and El Corona Texel

(below) Kate Shoemaker and Quiana



All photos by Shannon Brinkman

ELLA DYSON

TOPS PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS – WEST

Ella Dyson, of San Luis Obispo, California, piloted Cetello through four phases to the top of the podium in the 2022 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West at Blenheim EquiSports in San Juan Capistrano, California, held September 23- 25.

The USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Program is an important stepping stone for younger riders eager to progress up the high performance show jumping pathway with the aim of representing the United States in international team competition in the future. As philanthropic partner to US Equestrian (USEF), the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation supports numerous pathway programs including Talent Search Finals.

With the goal of helping riders develop and hone skills needed to become an effective jumper rider, Talent Search Finals comprises four phases: flatwork, in which riders are evaluated on the rail in smaller groups; gymnastics, with a course that requires quick turns and lengthening and shortening of stride while maintaining rhythm and balance; show jumping over a grand prix-style course that includes a liverpool and



Ella Dyson and Cetello

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

water jump; and a ride-off where the top four competitors complete a course with their own horse, then switch mounts to ride the same course on each of the other three top horses.

Dyson and Cetello, a 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Constance and Elisa Broz, earned good scores in the first three phases to earn a spot in the top four for the final round. Dyson's tactful riding on four different horses helped secure her top spot, according to judges U.S. Olympic gold medalist Beezie Madden and Patricia Griffith.

"Seeing the way all four horses went for Ella was impressive," said Madden. "She looked like she was able to click with them right away and they even looked a little bit happier with her."

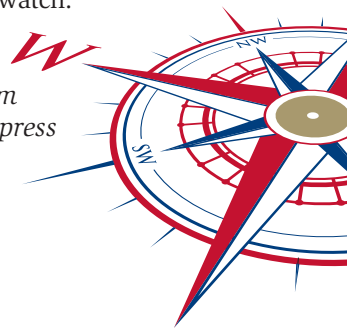
Jake Endicott was reserve champion, Nicole McMillion took third, and Lauren Kolbe was fourth.

U.S. Jumping Youth Chef d'Equipe DiAnn Langer and U.S. Jumping Chef d'Equipe and Technical Advisor Robert Ridland were on-site to support the pathway program and its athletes.

"I'm always excited to see the top four and what they can accomplish," said Langer. "I think all of our riders here are riders to keep an eye on for the future."

"What makes Talent Search so special is that it's not just another equitation class," said Ridland. "It's a jumper class where the riders are judged. The time allowed and the open water, those are real issues when you get to the next level. My advice to these riders is we've got a judge here who was the best of all time getting the time allowed and the water jumps and everything else in between — find some video and emulate Beezie. It's a huge honor to have her and Patricia here. I think we're in good stead with our future, and this was really exciting to watch."

– Adapted from
US Equestrian press
release



Ella Dyson and Cetello

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

AUGUSTA IWASAKI

WINS PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINAL – EAST

After three days of competition from October 7-9, 2022, Augusta Iwasaki of Calabasas, California, masterly guided Ali Nilforushan's 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding Freedom to the top prize in the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Final – East at the historic United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation headquarters at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, New Jersey. The standings came down to the influential final round where the top four riders returned for the ride off.

The flatwork test in Phase I proved to be the most challenging for Iwasaki, and she found herself in a tie for 16th place out of 53 entries after the first day, 12 points behind the leader. That changed on Saturday, when she scored an impressive 94.0 in the gymnastics phase helping her move up to the third-place position.

"I knew [the flat phase] was probably going to be the hardest thing of the week," said Iwasaki. "I've always struggled with lateral work with this horse. He's very hot. He's very bouncy. But I can say he's definitely gotten better after this week."

Iwasaki said that Freedom had never done equitation before this final; his background is in the jumpers. But the pair have an extensive history together, which made the Talent Search Finals experience that much sweeter.

"I've been riding [Freedom] for a year and a half. He's the first jumper I ever called mine," she said. "I've shown him from the [low junior jumpers] to my first grand prix, and he's honestly one of my favorite horses of all time and it was super special to be able to do this with him."

"I'd never been to this venue before, and it's so prestigious," continued Iwasaki of the storied facility.

"It's so special to get to come here and ride my favorite horse in this class. I just want to say thank you



Augusta Iwasaki and Freedom

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

to everyone who has been part of this journey."

Iwasaki currently attends Southern Methodist University and competes on the equestrian team there. Her ultimate goal is to become a professional rider after graduation.

Luke Jensen of Denton, Texas, secured the reserve champion title thanks to his top performances across the first three phases with Missy Clark's 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, Jamaica.

Hailing from Wellington, Florida,

Taylor Madden took third place riding her own Mac One III. The 13-year-old Anglo European gelding was recognized by the judges as the best horse in the competition earning him the Grappa Trophy.

Alex Alston of Gahanna, Ohio, led the standings through the first three phases, riding Ferry Van Den Hoogeweg, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Plain Bay Sales. He had the top scores for the flat and gymnastics phases and had the second-best score in the jumping phase, but some tricky rides in the final four dropped him down the leaderboard.

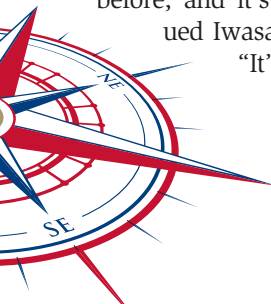
Judges Alex Jayne and Michael Morrissey along with Technical Delegate Anthony D'Ambrosio put together tests that aimed to show how riders would prepare for and execute some questions similar to those seen at the senior championship level.

"The future is very bright for the USA with these young riders coming up," said Jayne. "I've judged plenty across the country, and I've seen most of these riders several times throughout the year. I knew we had a very strong group." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Augusta Iwasaki and Freedom

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian



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EVENTING GOLD

Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team Wins Gold at 2022 FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ – Canada CCIO4*-S At Bromont CCI

The Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team took home the gold medal in the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ – Canada CCIO4*-S at the Bromont CCI in Quebec, Canada, on August 20, 2022. Under the direction of Chef d'Equipe Leslie Law, the team of Liz Halliday-Sharp, Lillian Heard, Andrew McConnon, and Colleen Rutledge finished with a total score of 138.6 to secure victory in the first-ever eventing Nations Cup competition at Bromont.

"I was very pleased with our team's performance," said Law. "It was mainly a developing team of both horses and riders, and they put up a strong performance in all three phases to win very convincingly. I thought there was very good team spirit amongst everyone, and it was a promising result as far as developing pairs for our future, which is what my program is all about. I'm very pleased both for our riders and our program."

Halliday-Sharp, of Lexington, Kentucky, added only a few time penalties on cross-country to her dressage score with Miks Master C, a ten-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties LLC and Deborah Palmer. Their final score of 37.6 lead the U.S. team to gold and earned the individual win as well.

"He's an incredible horse," stated Halliday-Sharp. "I've only been with him three months now, so we're still getting to know each other, but I really think he's completely world-class. He's very special. He's very brave. He's powerful. He moves beautifully. He's the whole thing. It's just been a matter of putting our partnership together and getting to know him."

U.S. team trailblazer Lillian Heard, of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, and Dasset Olympus, a nine-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding she owns with Deborah Greenspan, also only added time to their dressage score of 33.0. They finished in fourth place overall with a score of 49.4.




Andrew McConnon, Colleen Rutledge, Lillian Heard, and Liz Halliday-Sharp, with Bromont jury member Peter Gray.

Photo by Coaly Tetley

Making his Nations Cup debut, Andrew McConnon, of Southern Pines, North Carolina, rode Ferrie's Cello, a 10-year-old Warmblood gelding owned by Caroline Martin and Jeanne Shigo. With only cross-country time faults to add to their score, they moved up from 18th place after dressage to finish in seventh.

Colleen Rutledge, of Frederick, Maryland, and her long-time partner, Covert Rights, a 16-year-old Thoroughbred cross gelding she co-owns with FSG Inc., had an unfortunate runout on cross-country, but were able to finish and add a Nations Cup completion to their long list of accomplishments together.

The Bromont CCIO4*-S was the only FEI Eventing Nations Cup held outside of Europe during the 2022 season, and it provided an invaluable experience for U.S. athletes looking toward championships competition.

"I've competed on multiple Nations Cup teams over in Europe, but it's awesome to have one over here," said Halliday-Sharp. "I think it was a very true track as well. Derek [di Grazia] built a strong four-star that was a tough track and took some riding. I think that's another opportunity — when you see it as a Nations Cup, you can build up quite a challenging four-star, and we need more of that in [North America]. We need to make sure we're all being challenged. It also gives everybody a chance to compete in a team environment without having to go to Europe, so that's a great opportunity for all of us, really, and for the up-and-coming riders." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C



Andrew McConnon and Ferrie's Cello



Colleen Rutledge and Covert Rights



Lillian Heard and Dasset Olympus

All photos by Cathy Tetley

NEW LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

AT USEF

In September 2022, US Equestrian (USEF) announced the appointment of David O'Connor to the newly created position of Chief of Sport and Graeme Thom to the role of Director of Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI)/High-Performance Sport Programs.

DAVID O'CONNOR

O'Connor is decorated U.S. Olympian, having earned individual gold and team bronze medals in eventing at the 2000 Olympic Games, and a team silver medal at the 1996 Olympic Games. He served as the USEF President from 2004 to 2012 and is currently a member of the FEI Board of Directors. In 2021, he was presented with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee's (USOPC) General Douglas MacArthur Exemplary Service Award in recognition of his continued service and commitment to equestrian sport.

As Chief of Sport, O'Connor works with USEF's Executive Team in support of the USEF Strategic Plan and its initiatives. Additionally, he provides oversight of the international and national sport operations, ensuring that the Sport Department's plans align with USEF's priorities. He also is focused on strengthening relationships with stakeholder groups such as the USOPC, FEI, and USEF's Recognized Affiliates.

"I very much look forward to the opportunities afforded by this new role within the USEF," stated O'Connor. "The chance to perform a 365-degree view of equestrian sport from a national and a global perspective and share strategies to ensure safety, welfare, and enjoyment while growing the sport across all breeds and disciplines will be an exciting prospect. My passion has always been horses and promoting equestrian sport both within and outside of our equine community."

GRAEME THOM

With a background in financial investment management, Thom successfully competed at the FEI three-star level in eventing. Based on his results, the Canadian competitor was short listed for the Canadian Eventing Team in the early 2000s. He later served as Chair of the Canadian Eventing High Performance Committee and, as Chef d'Equipe, led the Canadian Eventing Team to team silver medals at the 2007 and 2011 Pan American Games as well as the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Most recently, Thom served as Chef d'Equipe for the New Zealand Eventing Team where he was instrumental at major championships, including the 2020 Olympic Games.

While O'Connor is focused on the higher-level strategic vision, Thom's responsibilities are primarily focused on sport operations across disciplines. Thom supervises each international discipline recognized by the FEI in order to develop and implement the Strategic High-Performance plan and programs. He also manages the administration of sport programming and pathways and serves as the staff liaison to the USEF International Disciplines Council and the Athlete Advisory Committee. He'll fill the role of Chef de Mission at the World Equestrian Games, Pan American Games, and Olympic Games, and is the primary sport contact to the USOPC and the FEI.

"I am very appreciative of being offered this exciting role," said Thom. "I will do my best to move up the curve as quickly as possible and hope my ten plus years as a Chef d'Equipe in eventing will act as a springboard for continued success in the future across all FEI disciplines."

"We are pleased to have David as a key member of the executive leadership team, providing thought leadership and innovative solutions for the organization's success," stated USEF CEO Bill Moroney. "In addition, Graeme's extensive experience in high performance sports operations and management coupled with his leadership and organizational skills makes him a great asset to the Federation."

USEF President Tom O'Mara added, "David's substantial equestrian and governance experience will be instrumental in the continued implementation of the USEF Strategic Plan and the growth of equestrian sport nationally and internationally. We are also excited that Graeme has joined our team and look forward to his contributions to USEF and equestrian sport."


– Adapted from US Equestrian press release 

Photo by Matt Turey/US Equestrian



David O'Connor

Photo by Matt Turey/US Equestrian



Graeme Thom

Riding Toward the Olympics

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Boyd Martin with Tsetserleg TSF, Lauren Nicholson with Vermiculus, Tamie Smith with Mai Baum, and Will Coleman with Off The Record, claimed the silver medal at the 2022 FEI Eventing World Championship at Pratoni del Vivaro in Rome, Italy. This was the first team world championship medal for the U.S. eventing program since 2002.



Dressage, Driving, Jumping, and Vaulting

Athletes Contested the 2022 FEI World Championships

DRESSAGE, JUMPING, AND VAULTING

August 6–15, 2022 — Herning, Denmark

DRIVING

September 15–25, 2022 — Rome, Italy

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



(above) Adrienne Lyle, aboard her 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games mount Salvino, helped the U.S. qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, and finished sixth overall as a team. Lyle and the stallion owned by Betsy Juliano LLC also finished sixth individually in the Blue Hors FEI World Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle Championship presented by Helgstrand.

(below) Steffen Peters and his 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games mount Suppenkasper, owned by Akiko Yamazaki and Four Winds Farm, finished as part the sixth-placed U.S. team, helping the U.S. punch its ticket to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France.



Photo by Shannon Brinkman



(left) Taylor Bradish and Katydid Duchess, a mare she owns with Jennifer Matheson, finished 15th individually in the FEI Driving World Championship for Single Horses.

Photo by M. Guilmot

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



(left) Brian Moggre and his 2021 CHIO Aachen mount Balou du Reventon, owned by Ann Thompson, finished 11th with the U.S. team.

Photo by Shannon Brinkman



(right) McLain Ward, aboard his 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games mount Contagious, owned by Beechwood Stables LLC, finished as part the 11th-placed U.S. team.

Photo by Matt Turner/US Equestrian



(left) Kimberly Palmer and Rosenstolz 99, owned by Club Ippico Monzese A.S.D., finished fifth individually in the FEI Vaulting Individual Female Technical Test at Herning 2022.

Photo by Matt Turner/US Equestrian



(right) Chester Weber and his four Dutch Warmblood geldings finished eighth individually in the FEI Driving World Championships for Four-in-Hand.



Rising Stars Show Promise

FEI North American Youth Dressage Championships (NAYC) Presented by USDF

August 10-14, 2022 — Traverse City, Michigan



Region 4's (L-R) Lexie Kment and Laureen Van Norman's Montagny von der Heide, Ella Fruchterman and her own Holts Le'mans, and Kylee Kment with Jami Kment's Honor have now all earned the distinction of being two-time NAYC team gold medalists after winning the Junior Team Final for the second consecutive year.



Ella Fruchterman (Region 4) and her own Holts Le'Mans claimed gold in the Junior Dressage Freestyle at NAYC.



Erin Nichols (Region 7) and her own Handsome Rob AR were victorious in the Young Rider Dressage Freestyle at NAYC.

(photo right) The combined team of Regions 3 and 9 comprised of (L-R) Sydney Lipar (Region 9) and Denise Lipar's Zerragmo, Sydney Schultz (Region 9) and Vicky Busch's Dunkirk, Mary Claire Piller (Region 3) and Elaine Cole's Oreo, and Sophia Schults and her own Conocido HGF won the Young Rider Team Final at NAYC. The team is pictured with Region 9 Chef D'Equipe Becky Brown (left) and Betsy Steiner (right).



Talented Young Riders Shine

Gotham North FEI North American Youth Jumping Championships (NAYC) Presented by USHJA

August 10-14, 2022 — Traverse City, Michigan



Riders from three different zones claimed individual medals in the Young Rider Individual Final at NAYC. (L-R) Silver medalist Audrey Schulze (Zone 2) rode Riverbrook Sport Horses LLC's Lord Up, gold medalist Zayna Rizvi (Zone 4) rode Peacock Ridge LLC's Excellent, Alexander Alston (Zone 5) rode Alston Alliance LLC's Prestigious.



Zayna Rizvi (Zone 4) claimed her second individual gold medal at NAYC, this time in the Young Rider Individual Final, aboard Peacock Ridge LLC's Excellent.



A combined team of athletes from Zones 5 and 7 that included (L-R) Sofia Cady (Zone 7) and her and Sara Cady's Deleyn, Alexander Alston (Zone 5) and Alston Alliance LLC's Prestigious, Charlise Casas (Zone 5) and Always Faithful Equine LLC's Mustique VZ, and Alexandra Pielet (Zone 5) and Co-Pielet LLC's Hyperbolics earned top honors in the Young Rider Team Final at NAYC.



Zone 4's (L-R) Caroline Mawhinney on her own Stella Levista, Mia Albelo and her own MHS Cardenta, Hailey Royce and Double Clear LLC's Sonic Boom, and Ella Duffy and Crooks Show Jumping's Vajra du Blay, took gold in the Junior Team Final at NAYC.

All photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team Takes Seventh at Spruce Meadows BMO Nations Cup CSIO5*

The NetJets® U.S. Jumping Team finished seventh in the \$600,000 BMO Nations Cup during the 2022 Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament CSIO5* on September 10 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland led the team of Kent Farrington, Nicholas Dello Joio, Giavanna Rinaldi, and McLain Ward.

Kent Farrington, of Wellington, Florida, was the pathfinder for the team aboard Landon, Haity McNerny's nine-year-old Zangersheide gelding. They picked up four jumping faults and added two time penalties, finishing just over the 72 second time allowed in 73.41 seconds for a six-fault score.

Making his senior team debut was Nicholas Dello Joio, of Wellington, Florida, aboard Cornet's Cambridge. Dello Joio and the ten-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by The Berry Group LLC crossed the timers in an efficient 69.67 seconds but picked up eight jumping faults along the way.

Giavanna Rinaldi, of Wellington, Florida, rode Anton Marano's 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare Cosmona in her second-ever senior team appearance tallying four jumping faults and a single time fault.

In a familiar position, anchor rider McLain Ward, of Brewster, New York, was under pressure to deliver a clear performance for the U.S. to advance to the second round of competition. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be for Ward and Kasper van het Hellehof, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion owned by The Kasper Group LLC. After the second fence, in the interest of the horse, Ward made the decision to retire. That left the team on a total score of 19 and outside of the top six teams advancing to the second round.

While it was not a podium finish for the U.S. team, Ridland commented on the importance of providing international team experiences for up-and-coming athletes.

"Gia [Rinaldi] and Nick [Dello Joio] are new to this, but they did not ride like rookies," said Ridland. "They really rode well. Their slight mistakes were at the end of the course in the last line. It was great experience for them, and they really held themselves up well." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 🐾



Photo by Jump Media

Giavanna Rinaldi and Cosmona

Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team Finishes Fifth in FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ Netherlands CCIO4*-L


The Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team finished fifth out of 10 nations at the FEI Eventing Nations Cup Netherlands CCIO4*-L at Military Boekelo-Enschede which ran October 5-9, 2022. Chef d'Equipe Bobby Costello, led the team consisting of veteran athletes with newer mounts and up-and-coming riders including James Alliston, Liz Halliday-Sharp, Boyd Martin, and Alyssa Phillips.

Liz Halliday-Sharp, of Lexington, Kentucky, and Miks Master C partnered this year and have quickly turned into a successful pair. Halliday-Sharp and the 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding owned by Ocala Horse Properties and Deborah Palmer earned a score of 26.2 in the dressage phase and tallied just 3.2 time penalties over the cross-country course designed by Adrian Ditcham (GER). With a double-clear show jumping round over Kris van Gelder's (NED) track, they finished on a score of 29.4 for fifth place.

Boyd Martin, of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, and Federman B are also a newer partnership that have shown promise this year. Martin and the Annie Goodwin Syndicate's 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding scored 29.8 in their dressage test and ultimately finished on that score for seventh place overall after clear performances on the cross-country course and in the show jumping phase.

In her Nations Cup debut, Alyssa Phillips, of Fort Worth, Texas, rode Oskar, a 13-year-old Holsteiner gelding she owns with Julie Phillips, to a score of 31.2 in dressage. They had an unlucky runout on cross-country for 20 jump penalties, which also resulted in 18.4 additional time penalties. In the show jumping phase, Phillips and Oskar added two time penalties to finish on a score of 71.6.

Also making his first Nations Cup start was James Alliston, of San Ramon, California, who rode Nemesis, Alliston Equestrian's eight-year-old Canadian Warmblood gelding. They scored 37.4 in the dressage phase and added only two time penalties following their cross-country run. While Alliston did not continue after the second horse inspection, ultimately dropping the team's overall standing to fifth, Costello commented on the bright future for the nation's eventing program.

"The future of U.S. eventing continues to look very bright with both human and equine talent showing positive potential this weekend," said Costello. "It was an honor leading a great team of athletes, grooms, owners, and support staff at this fantastic competition. Thank you to the USEF, USET Foundation, and Land Rover." – Adapted from US Equestrian press release 



Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C

Photo by Libby Lam

Winners Crowned at U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

August 22-28, 2022 — Wayne, Illinois



Averii Allen and Superman took home the Horsecare Ireland/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship.



Alice Tarjan and Serenade MF came out on top in the USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.



Laura Graves and SenSation HW captured top honors in the USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship.



Quinn Iverson and Beckham 19 won the prestigious Adequan®/USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship.



Mia Rodier-Dawallo and Jayden won the USEF Para Dressage National Championship.



Ella Fruchterman and Holts Le'Mans were victorious in the Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Championship.



Autumn Varick and Dante took the win in the USEF Children Dressage National Championship.

All photos by Susan J Stickle

U.S. RIDERS RISE TO THE OCCASION

MARS MARYLAND 5 STAR AT FAIR HILL PRESENTED BY BROWN ADVISORY



October 13-16, 2022
Elkton, Maryland

(right) Philip Dutton rode his 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games mount Z, owned by Evie Dutton, Ann Jones, Suzanne Lacy, Caroline Moran, Simon Roosevelt, and Thomas Tierney, to fourth place in the CCI5-L division at Maryland 5 Star.*



(left) Will Coleman and DonDante, owned by Team Rebecca LLC, placed sixth in the CCI5-L division at Maryland 5 Star.*



(above) Jennie Brannigan and Nina and Tim Gardner's FE Lifestyle took home fifth place in the CCI5-L division at Maryland 5 Star.*



(above) Tamie Smith and Ruth Bley's Danito both overcame injuries earlier in the year to place a respectable second at Maryland 5 Star in the horse's first-ever CCI5*-L competition.



(left) Doug Payne and Quantum Leap, owned by Doug and Jessica Payne, placed ninth in the CCI5*-L division at Maryland 5 Star.

(right) After three phases, Elisa Wallace and her mount Renkum Corsair, owned by Wallace and the Corsair Syndicate, LLC, sat atop the leaderboard to win the USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship.



All photos by Shannon Brinkman

Young Athletes Compete on World Stage at 2022 FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final



Photo by Sportfot

Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski with Della White, Caroline Mawhinney, Hailey Royce, Elisa Broz, and Alexa Leong stand atop the CSIOJ Challenge Cup Podium at the 2022 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final.

The U.S. Young Rider and Junior Teams gained experience on the international level during the 2022 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final in Kronenberg, the Netherlands, on September 20-25. The up-and-coming athletes competed alongside their peers from around the globe in Nations Cup-style classes. Both teams were guided by Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski who also holds the title of Development Technical Advisor for the U.S. Jumping Program. In this role Kursinski is integral in helping U.S. jumping athletes progress along the high performance pathway.

"It's an unbelievable experience for the riders. They really need it if they want to get on three-star teams and eventually five-star and big championship teams. We had some great rounds, won other classes, and earned great ribbons," said Kursinski. "There are so many variables that are different. You can talk to them about it, you can tell them about it, but to go and experience it, that is what it's all about. It was a wonderful experience for them. I hope

they can come again next year as Young Riders or get on the three-star teams when they're ready. It is an invaluable team experience for them."

For the U.S. Young Rider Team in the CSIOY competition, Zayna Rizvi of Wellington, Florida, and Exquise du Pachis, Optimus Agro NV's 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, started the team off with a clear round. Alex Alston of Gahanna, Ohio, and Prestigious, Alston Alliance, LLC's 15-year-old Westphalian gelding, followed suit with another clear round. Charlise Casas of Kenilworth, Illinois, and Mustique VZ, Always Faithful Equine LLC's 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare, had an eight-fault round, which served as the drop score. Audrey Schulze of Saddle River, New Jersey, and Darquito, Andrew Bourns and QBS Equestrian LLC's 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding, were the team's anchor and tallied four faults. The U.S. Young Rider Team sat in second place on four faults out of 13 teams, moving them on to CSIOY Final.

For the U.S. Junior Team in the CSIOJ first competition, Hailey Royce of Wellington, Florida, and Sonic Boom, Double Clear LLC's 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, were the pathfinders with four faults. Next, Alexa Leong of Sacramento, California, and Carlsson 72, her own 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding, had a 13-fault round that served as the drop score. Elisa Broz of Freedom, California, and Tinkerbell, Hidalgo, LLC's 12-year-old Warmblood mare, got the team back on track with a clear round. Caroline Mawhinney of Wellington, Florida, and Stella Levista, her own 14-year-old Hanoverian mare, closed out the team's effort with four faults. The U.S. Junior Team finished the first competition with 12 faults and sat in a three-way tie for seventh place. Since the U.S. Junior Team finished outside the top six that qualified for the final round by only three faults, they competed in the CSIOJ Challenge Cup.

The U.S. Junior Team members tackled the CSIOJ Challenge Cup with an eye on a top result. Royce and Sonic Boom were the pathfinders again, starting things off with a clear round. Leong and Carlsson 72 continued the trend with a clear round. Broz and Tinkerbell had an unlucky four-fault round. Mawhinney and Stella Levista delivered a clear round. The U.S. Junior Team finished tied on zero faults with the Czech Republic, resulting in a jump-off. Each U.S. combination came back and delivered speedy, clear rounds to clinch the CSIOJ Challenge Cup win.

The U.S. Young Rider Team returned to the ring for the CSIOY Final against strong European teams including Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. A tough track proved challenging for the field of competitors, with the U.S. finishing fifth on 24 faults and gathering experience for the future. Rizvi and Exquise du Pachis delivered another clear round as the pathfinders. Alston and Prestigious had two unfortunate stops, resulting in their round serving as the drop score. Casas and Mustique VZ and Schulze and Darquito both had 12-fault rounds to close out the team's efforts.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Zayna Rizvi and Exquise du Pachis



Hailey Royce and Sonic Boom



Elisa Broz and Tinkerbell

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