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United States Para-Equestrian Association Re Para-Equestrian Horse Owners of 2010 Alltec World Equestrian Games™

Written by: Lindsay McCall

Client: *United States Para-Equestrian Association*

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Thousand Oaks, CA-August 23, 2010- The United States Para-Equestrian Association would like to thank the owners of each horse that has been the nominated entry for the 2010 United States Para-Equestrian Dressage Team. These horses will have a chance to compete at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ (2010 WEG).

As September approaches many equestrians are making their last preparations before their trip to Lexington, KY. One of the Para-Equestrian Team members is Becca Hart who has been riding her own horse Norteassa and Kerri Sowers' talented gelding Kazan over the last year. Both horses have led Hart to USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championship and reserve titles. At this point, the horse that Hart will be riding at the 2010 WEG has not been decided. Hart and Kerri Sowers' friendship began at Blue Hill Farm under Jessica and Missy Ranshousen. Not long ago Hart was given the opportunity to ride Sowers' horse Kazan while Norteassa was resting. Hart and Kazan have made a great team. Sowers noted, "I have been proud of Becca and Kazan. Kazan has proven himself in competition time after time over the years and always has his best performances when the competition pressure is the greatest! I would like to wish Becca the best of luck at the 2010 WEG regardless of which horse will be chosen."

Robin Brueckmann was also a top competitor at the USEF Para-Dressage Championships. Brueckmann will be riding Raison d'Étre during the competition who is owned by Elly Schobel. Brueckmann and Schobel met at Annapolis barn years ago where they were both training. From that point on they worked together benefiting from the other's point of view. In the fall of 2009 Brueckmann told Schobel she was interested in qualifying Raison d'Étre for the Para-Dressage team for the 2010 WEG. "Ralee is a confident show horse," said Schobel. "He is convinced that everyone comes to the show to see him. He is an exceptional intuitive rider which is one of the reasons why she has been so successful as both a rider and trainer. Together they have the 'IT' factor: elegance, confidence and know-how."

Schobel continued, "This is a dream come true for Robin, Ralee's b Dreamtime Farm in Lexington, KY and myself, as his owner, rider, c occasional 'scratching post'. It is also a wonderful example of how friends can breed such an exceptional athlete, train him, and comp

Just a short while ago Jennifer Baker had to withdraw her horse Du 2010 WEG. Akiko Yamazaki, owner of Steffen Peters mount Ravel, word from her coach and trainer Shannon Peters that the Para-Dre was looking for a new mount for Jennifer. Yamazaki knew this woul opportunity for Kranak. "I had made a decision to retire 18-year-ol May from showing," explained Yamazaki. "What I did not realize wa did not enjoy being retired. He still wanted a job to do even though a Grand Prix horse for ten years! When I received word that Jennifi horse, plans were quickly made for her to come out and try him. I immediately tell they were a great match and I could see that Jenr of person who would really take good care of my beloved horse. Kr horse to ride, has excellent manners, has amazing canter pirouette bomb proof."

She continued, "From an owner's perspective I am so excited that add one more thing to his resume. He is a horse that deserves to h such as participating at the 2010 WEG. He has always given so mu rider and always puts a smile on his rider's face. I have no doubt th the same for Jennifer."

Baker responded, "I truly can not believe that this is really happeni have had a lot of heartaches in this journey and this has been a gif I was a little intimidated when I first got on Kranak because I had i horse of this caliber but he was very patient with me. I would like t Shannon Peters for making this happen for me if it was not for her able to have this opportunity. I would also like to thank Akiko for tr precious Kranak with me. I am honored to ride him in September."

Two years ago 19-year-old Jonathon Wentz approached North Texa Center (NTEC) owner and trainer Kai Handt. Handt has always trair has always qualified his juniors at the North American Young Rider Championships, and has earned top accolades including the 2009 U Stirrup Award as Grand Champion FEI Horse of the Year. Wentz hac goal in mind when he approached Handt, to earn a spot on the Uni Para-Dressage Team for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Gan short time at the NTEC Wentz had exemplified his top riding skills a earned a ride on a new mount named NTEC Richter Scale. In June qualified for the 2010 WEG with the Shire Cross and he had earned the USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships.

Handt commented, "Jonathon is a really hard working guy and Rich really responded to him. I am looking forward to Jonathon competi World Equestrian Games."

Wentz noted, "Kai is great. He is probably the most kind-hearted m planet. I am excited to be going to WEG. I started riding at a Thera facility but I always wanted to be competitive in horse back riding. same time the Para-Dressage World was starting to form. Shortly a to the North Texas Equestrian Center."

The whole journey for Wentz has been exciting and to have the opportunity to ride with Handt has been incredible over the last two years.

Mary Jordan will also compete in September at the 2010 WEG. Jordan is riding Paxton Abbey. For Jordan, taking the horse that was born in her own stable is an exciting accomplishment. She said, "I bred Paxton Abbey, raised her myself. There is no other feeling you can describe than bringing a horse along from birth to international FEI competition and riding for your country."

Kim Decker will be riding Dasher's Destiny for two people that are close to her heart, her parents Donna and Paul Decker. Paul commented, "It has been years since Kim's accident and she has worked long and hard to reach this accomplishment. To the best of our knowledge she is the only trauma injury survivor to reach this level of riding for the USA. Kim and Dasher came up three years ago when we found him and bought him from Germany. We are thrilled and delighted that Kim and Dasher are on their way to the Equestrian Games."

Erin Alberda will be showing her Swedish Warmblood Delectari at the 2010 Equestrian Games. "He is my first horse," smiled Alberda. "I bought my first level horse and it has been an incredible honor to be a part of this alongside my trainer Jenny Nell. Before Dylan I only rode schoolmaster was the inexperienced dance partner. Riding Dylan has required me to be more confident in my riding. The best part of Dylan is that he has to laugh when I ride. He has quite a sense of humor! Owning the horse to compete on adds a certain dimension of excitement and a bit of fun. I am definitely proud that Dylan was bred and raised right here in the USA."

Not every owner has been showcased above, but they are all very important to the future of each Para-Equestrian. The United States Para-Equestrian Association would like to thank all of the Para-Dressage equines that have been nominated for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

The Para-Dressage competition for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY begins on October 5. Riders will compete on a world-stage in front of international judges, rules, and top international competition in the Covered Arena. The Team Test will commence on October 5, 2010, and riders will compete on horses for six days ending with the Individual Freestyle Test on October 10.

About the United States Para-Equestrian Association:

The USPEA includes every equestrian discipline that is practiced by riders with physical disabilities. Each rider or driver competes under the eighth discipline, of the United States Equestrian Federation, at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™, the Para-Equestrian discipline will make history. The USEF High Performance Para-Equestrian Dressage team will compete as an FEI sport for the first time at the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games™ held in Lexington, KY.

The USPEA provides programs, clinics, and competition opportunities for its members.

with physical disabilities. Riders compete under the USEF rules during national competitions and FEI rules during international competitions. The athletes compete at the highest level of their sport.

For more information about the USPEA or for donation opportunities contact Hope Hand, President of the USPEA, email Wheeler966@ac phone: (610)356-6481.

To view online information about the USPEA please visit <http://www.uspea.com>

2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ USEF Para-Dressage Team Entries and Horse Owners:

Rider/Age/Hometown/Horse/Age/Breed/Sex/Owner

Rebecca Hart/25/Erie, PA/Kazan/18/Dutch Warmblood/Gelding/Ker

Robin Brueckmann/52/Summerfield, NC/Raison D'Etre/12/American Warmblood/Gelding/Elly Schobel

Laura Goldman/65/Highland Heights, OH/Calingford JD/11/Irish Sport Horse/Gelding/Trudy Phillips

Susan Treabess/33/Winters, CA/Moneypenny/16/Dutch Warmblood/Peterson

Jonathan Wentz/19/Richardson, TX/NTEC Richter Scale/16/Shire Cross/Gelding/Kai Handt

Wendy Fryke/45/Parker, CO/Lateran/13/Westphalian/Stallion/Polly

Jennifer J. Baker/46/Loveland, OH/Kranak/18/KWPN Dutch Warmblood/Akiko Yamazaki

Mary Jordan/44/Wells, ME/Paxton Abbey/12/Hanoverian/Mare/Mary

Kim Decker/42/Centreville, VA/Dashers Destiny/16/Hanoverian/Gelding/Kim Decker

Erin Alberda/30/Woodinville, WA/Delectari/12/Swedish Warmblood/Alberda

Kathy Groves/49/Columbus, NC/Friespruch/ 16/Westphalian/Gelding/Kathy Groves

Barbara Grassmyer/38/Placerville, CA/Mibis/16/Dutch Warmblood/Barbara Grassmyer

Kim Jones/43/Georgetown, SC/Fascination/Dutch Warmblood/Gelding/Jennifer Conour

Elizabeth Pigott/24/Downingtown, PA/Mr. Darcy/Dutch Warmblood

Photo Credit: Kai Handt owner of Jonathon Wentz's horse. Photo is and Contigo at USEF Para-Dressage Selection Trials for 2010 Alltec Equestrian Games™ © 2010 Lindsay McCall/PMG. This photo may be used for charge only in relation to this press release.

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