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United States Para-Equestrian Association Announces Qualified Riders for 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Selection Trials

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Thousand Oaks, CA-June 21, 2010- The United States Para-Equestrian Association would like to announce their qualified riders for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ (WEG) Selection Trials scheduled for June 24-27. The amount of Para-Dressage participants has tripled in one year, which shows that Para-Equestrians are challenging themselves to international competition. The riders making their way to Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, PA for the Para-Dressage Selection Trials include equestrians that, despite their physical challenges, have overcome and adapted to showcase their athletic abilities.

Fifteen United States Para-Equestrians have scores that will allow them to compete at the Selection Trials. Out of those 15, ten of the riders will compete for WEG. Out of the ten riders, four will make the team, and six will be individuals.

Riders qualified for 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ Selection Trials at Lamplight Equestrian Center:

GRADE Ia
Laura Goldman
Kim Decker

GRADE II
Becca Hart
Kim Jones

Elizabeth Pigott
Jonathan Wentz

GRADE III
Erin Alberta
Wendy Fryke
Barb Grassmyer

GRADE IV
Mary Jordan
Robin Brueckmann
Kathy Groves
Jennifer Baker
Holly Bergay
Susan Treabess

Para-Equestrian is considered a high-performance discipline among other disciplines in the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). Para-Dressage riders and horses must meet national and international when competing at sanctioned events. When competing in the United States Para-Equestrians compete under the USEF rules and when competing internationally Para-Equestrians compete under the FEI rules. Ride into Grades, which have been created to allow riders with the same challenge each other. The five Grades include Ia, Ib, II, III, and IV. Grade Ia represents the more severely impaired riders and Grade IV represents the least impaired riders. For a comparison to regular Dressage, FEI Para Equestrian Grades Ia and Ib are equivalent to USDF Intro Level, FEI Para Equestrian Grade II is equivalent to USEF Training level, FEI Para Equestrian Grade III is equivalent to USEF First Level, and FEI Para Grade IV is equivalent to USEF Third Level.

Chef d'Equipe of the Para-Dressage team is Missy Ranshousen. Ranshousen is most famous for being successful on an international level in the sport of Eventing. Ranshousen grew up with her mother being a three-time Olympic legend. Ranshousen has earned top accolades throughout her career including the gold Medal at the 1988 Young Rider Championships. She was awarded the Good Sportsmanship Award, received the Markham Trophy, US Placed Young Rider at Fair Hill CDI*** in 1989 and then eventually embarked on a career as a Three-Day Event rider.

Along with being a top competitor, Missy has made an important contribution to give back to the sport through teaching and coaching. For the last two Olympic Games, Ranshousen has been the coach for the Paralympics and was named 2000 Paralympic Team Coach in Sydney, coached the Pacific Rim Cup in 2006 and served as Olympic coach for Athens in 2004. Becca Hanson's name that Ranshousen has taught who has claimed international titles in the Para-Dressage discipline at top events such as the 2008 Beijing World Cup held in Hong Kong. Ranshousen will continue her grand efforts with the USA Para-Equestrian d'Equipe at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Lexington, Kentucky.

Ranshousen commented, "Since this country is so big I do not get to see all the riders. It will be nice to have everyone together at the Selection Camp so we can see where everyone is in their training program. It will also be interesting to see how the riders are riding under pressure. The riders will be battling for spots and it should be an exciting week. Usually we have as many riders as there are spots, so it will be a little more competitive this year because there are more riders for 10 spots."

She continued, "This is such a big year for us as the Para-Dressage team is included with the other equestrian disciplines is very exciting for us and we look forward to working with the entire team as we make our way toward the Rio 2016 Paralympics."

Equestrian Games.”

Once the selection trials occur, the Para-Equestrians will take a few days to train and rest before traveling to Lexington, Kentucky for the 2010 World Equestrian Games™. The Para-Dressage competitions will take place in the Covered Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park starting on October 5, 2010, ending October 8, 2010. Starting on October 5, 2010, the Individual Freestyle Tests are scheduled, and riders will compete with their horses for four days with Individual Freestyle Tests on October 5, 2010.

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 FEI World Equestrian Games held in Lexington, KY.

The USPEA provides programs, clinics, and competition opportunities for riders with physical disabilities. Riders compete under the USEF rules during competitions and many of the athletes compete at the highest level.

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

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

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