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ParaEquestrians Wrap-Up Incredible Week w Freestyle Performances

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Lexington, KY – October 11, 2010 - Wow describes the quality of the variety of the music, the ambition and the talent displayed in the FEI competition of the first-ever Para-Dressage championships staged at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games at Kentucky Horse Park. The final classes took place during the last three days of the Games, with the award ceremony for all grades taking place around noon on Sunday.

Grade III para-riders put on their dancing shoes Friday morning with Brenner (GER) adding more gold to her collection. In the afternoon Shearborn (GBR) and Purdy's Dream harvested gold in Grade Ia.

Saturday morning competitors classified Grade II kicked off the rescheduled standardized FEI para-tests with Dr. Angelika Trabert (GER) partnering Avanti to capture the gold by .05 over Gert Vollmer (NED) and Triu scored 75.850. Great Britain's Jo Pitt claimed the bronze, scoring 74.850.

"This is very much a great opportunity to finally be a part of the World Equestrian Games," said Dr. Trabert. "I think being here means integration, and that is important. We can finally show what we can do and what we can do in partnership with our horse."

Jonathan Wentz and his Shire, NTEC Richter Scale, fared best of the entries in Grade II and earned 68.550, which put them in 11th place.

"It felt really great – very supple, a little boo-boo at one time," said Wentz. "Jonathan has owned Richter for a year and ridden him in 14 recognized show classes. This is the highlight of the season. It has been an amazing experience to be included with the other athletes. I have gone to everything to do with my coach's first time teaching a Para athlete and my first international competition. We had a quick learning curve."

Rebecca Hart and Norteassa took 14th on a score of 67.200 in the Grade IIs. "It was fun doing it," she said, adding that this marked her first international competition. "I am retiring him – Pippin is 19 years old, and he is going to be a great horse."

life of luxury and enjoy his pasture. I do not have a replacement for yet. Hopefully, London [2012 Olympics] is next. In all honesty, representing equestrian sport has been amazing to finally get included with the

The Grade Ib para-riders took center stage in the afternoon. Lee Pearson, Britain's untitled Para-Equestrian ambassador, staked his claim to champion personable Gentleman with the highest score – 82.500 – during the Para-championships of the Alltech Games, carving yet another bit of

“My horse warmed up a dream,” stated Pearson. “He was beautiful, and really concentrating. Then we entered the arena and he got better. I had to ride every bloody movement! I felt he could have done better for me out a little more. I am more picky than the judges! I was quite happy with the scores – I did not think I did that well.”

Stinna Tange Kaastrup (DEN) bested her own record aboard the Neelboer Labbenhus Snoevs to score 77.000 and the silver medal. Finland's Karjalainen and Rosie earned 72.850 to take the bronze.

“The music fit him so well,” said Kaastrup, 16, who has been riding for two and a half years. “When I first got him, I had to teach him everything which took about a year. This experience has been amazing, especially the medal ceremony when my teammates picked me up. I could not have done without the help of my mother Heidi and my trainer Lotte Strearup who is for the Olympic Games.”

Sunday morning dawned yet again with gorgeous weather for the Freestyle. Sophie Wells (GBR) triumphed for gold on Pinocchio with 78.500, edging out Michele George (BEL) and Rainman, winners of earlier in the week, who earned 78.050. Frank Hosmar (NED) took 77.250 with a knockout performance aboard Tiesto.

Susan Treabess and Moneypenny put in a super freestyle routine to take place on a score of 69.650.

“I am really happy that it ended like that – that was good, just a few more,” said Treabess. “[Moneypenny] was on today, so you can't ask for more. It was great. She's pretty good at everything. Her canter work and typically her highlight, so that's what we kind of designed our frees

Robin Brueckmann and Raison d'Étre finished 14th on 68.500, followed by Jordan and Paxton Abbey on 66.000.

“I really liked my test until I had a little bit of a mind blank,” admit I had to think on my feet and kind of regroup, which is uncharacteristic it happens. She still got a good score. It's just an incredible achievement here, and to get a score over 60% is just great. I am thrilled with how she has pulled through this week. She's a young horse and there's a lot out of this with her.”

Jordan expounded on a sentiment shared by all the Americans: the value of this type of competitive experience. The more they get to show to international judges, the better their chances will be to make names for themselves and to be competitive with the British who led the Euro

para-charge to the medal podiums. At the moment there isn't a US on the forum for para. The American contingent to the Alltech World Games hopes to raise awareness of Para-Equestrian in the USA.

"[Raison d'Étre] is a light and fluffy horse, so I chose light and fluffy Brueckmann. "He has really good suppleness, and I wanted to dismount thought the trot work was quite good. He has an exceptional walk, good too. The canter work – we've been adjusting his tempo a bit, sort of tweak the choreography in midstream a bit, but it all worked the music really well, so I am able to do that and nobody can tell

Jennifer Baker and Kranak finished two places later (17th) on 64.4 of 18. She picked up the ride on Kranak by Total Serendipity after three horses in the last year: her mother used to teach Shannon Peters, World Games dual bronze medalist Steffen Peters, whose great horse owned by Akiko Yamazaki. When an emailed appeal went out, Shar around, and Yamazaki offered her Dutch Warmblood, Kranak, who retired from grand prix level competition.

"It was great, it was a lot of fun," said Baker. "It's my last ride on [the freestyle] made it extra special. I had a great time with it. I love pirouettes and his tempi changes and, of course, his lengthening to always a lot of fun. He listens really well. He's so well-trained that it's a pleasure to learn how to ride him. I had to learn how to ride him – to learn how to train him or fix him or anything. I just needed to learn and where they were, and once I did – he's a real schoolmaster."

For Para-Equestrians in the host country of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Games, this is the beginning. There is a great demand for para-riding grades, and the sky is the limit in terms of international competition support your local therapeutic riding programs.

About the United States Para-Equestrian Association:

The USPEA includes every equestrian discipline that is practiced by physical disabilities. Each rider or driver competes under the eighth The Para-Equestrian discipline, of the United States Equestrian Federation USPEA is a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). The USPEA provides programs, clinics, and competition opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. Riders compete under the USEF in their national competitions and FEI rules during international competitions. Many of 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.org>

Photo Credit: Susan Treabess and Money Penny placed 10th representing the United States during the Freestyle competition for Para-Dressage. Photo by Lauren Giannini. Photo may be used free of charge only in relation to the release.

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