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 Freestyle competition of the first-ever Para-Dressage championships staged at Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games at Kentucky Horse Park. The five Freestyle classes took place during the last three days of the Games, with the medal ceremony for all grades taking place around noon on Sunday.

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

Saturday morning competitors classified Grade II kicked off the standardized FEI para-tests with Dr. Angelika Trabert (GER) partnering with Ariva-Avanti to capture the gold by .05 over Gert Vollmer (NED) and Triumph who scored 75.850. Great Britain’s Jo Pitt claimed the bronze, scoring 74.950 with Estralita.

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

Jonathan Wentz and his Shire, NTEC Richter Scale, fared best of the American 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 Jonathan Wentz, who has owned Richter for a year and ridden him in 14 recognized shows and two CI shows. “This is the highlight of the season. It has been an amazing be included with the other athletes. I have gone to everything to watch. This is my coach’s first time teaching a Para athlete and my first internation 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 competition. “I am retiring him – Pippin is 19 years old, and he is 6.
life of luxury and enjoy his pasture. I do not have a replacement fo
yet. Hopefully, London [2012 Olympics] is next. In all honesty, rep
equestrian sport has been amazing to finally get included with the

The Grade Ib para-riders took center stage in the afternoon. Lee Pe
Britain’s untitled Para-Equestrian ambassador, staked his claim to a
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 be
had to ride every bloody movement! I felt he could have done bett
me out a little more. I am more picky than the judges! I was quite
the scores – I did not think I did that well.”

Stinna Tange Kaastrup (DEN) bested her own record aboard the Ne
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
which took about a year. This experience has been amazing, espe
medal ceremony when my teammates picked me up. I could not ha
without the help of my mother Heidi and my trainer Lotte Strearup. My next hope
is for the Olympic Games.”

Sunday morning dawned yet again with gorgeous weather for the C
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 Money Penny put in a super freestyle routine to
place on a score of 69.650.

“I am really happy that it ended like that – that was good, just a fe
said Treabess. “[Money Penny] was on today, so you can’t ask for m
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’Ette finished 14th on 68.500, follo
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 uncharacter
it happens. She still got a good score. It’s just an incredible achiev
here, and to get a score over 60% is just great. I am thrilled with h
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
of this type of competitive experience. The more they get to show i
international judges, the better their chances will be to make name
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’Etre] is a light and fluffy horse, so I chose light and fluff Brueckmann. “He has really good suppleness, and I wanted to disp 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 t

Jennifer Baker and Kranak finished two places later (17th) on 64.400 in the class of 18. She picked up the ride on Kranak by Total Serendipity after going through three horses in the last year: her mother used to teach Shannon Peterson World Games dual bronze medalist Steffen Peters, whose great horse owned by Akiko Yamazaki. When an emailed appeal went out, Sharron 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 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 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 le 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 Wc Games, this is the beginning. There is a great demand for para-riders in all grades, and the sky is the limit in terms of international competitio 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 Para-Equestrian discipline, of the United States Equestrian Fed USPEA is a recognized affiliated of the United States Equestrian Fed (USEF). The USPEA provides programs, clinics, and competition opportunity for athletes with physical disabilities. Riders compete under the USEF rules during their national competitions and FEI rules during international competition and 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@aol.com or by phone: (610)356-6481.

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

Photo Credit: Susan Treabess and Moneypenny placed 10th representing the United States during the Freestyle competition for Para-Dressage. Photo © 2010 Lauren Giannini. Photo may be used free of charge only in relation to this press release.