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ParaDressage Makes History at 2010 Alltech Equestrian Games

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Client: United States Para-Equestrian Association

Release Date: 2010-10-07

Lexington, KY - October 7, 2010 - ParaDressage participated and crowned champions for the first time in the history of the 2010 Alltech FEI V Equestrian Games. For many of the para-equestrians participating was reward in and of itself, but for the Europeans who came to Ker Park winning was the name of the game. Great Britain emerged victorious with team gold, helped along by their medal sweep in Grade 1a. Germany silver, and the Netherlands prevailed for the bronze.

In the team competition, the USA finished eighth out of 16 participating American para-equestrians gave their best effort but were unable to match the scores of the European riders. The difference between the American score of 197.456 and the British tally of 214.529 did not seem like a small fraction, but the difference between being a medalist or an also-ran is significant.

The Individual tests in Grades II, Ia and Ib concluded just before the medal ceremony. Yesterday, Grades III and IV went under the scrutiny of five judges.

Of the 18 competitors in Grade IV (least disabled), Sophie Wells (GBR) won the gold medal with the top score of 71.677 and Frank Hosmar (NED) second on 70.129 to garner silver, with Henrik Weber Sibbesen (DEN) bronze on 69.419.

Robin Brueckmann scored the best among the Americans for sixth place with a score of 64.839. Susan Treabess (Money Penny) and Jennifer Baker (K) earned scores of 64.839 to tie for ninth place. Mary Jordan (Paxton) finished on 63.419 for 13th place.

The Grade III competition proved pretty fierce with Hannelore Brer (AUS) Women of the World laying down a test good enough for gold with a score of 72.400. Annika Lykke Dalskov (DEN) partnered with Pruessen W (DEN) for silver (71.067) and the bronze went "down under" with Sharon Jar (AUS) Applewood Odorado (68.867). The USA had two in this class: Wendy Lateran placed eighth on 64.067 with Erin Alberda 12th on 60.267.

"It was the first time for me down the centerline, and I am thrilled really hard," said Fryke. "He played at times, but kept it together. I to be here, because it is my first time at an international competition nervous, but once I got in there he asked me to get to business and get to business. It is such an honor to be here."

Feeling honored and humble to be part of the World Equestrian Games theme that ran through both the para-equestrians and able-bodied. The importance of getting para-riding out into the public consciousness is important to everyone involved.

"I hope that it will get the ball rolling in the US and bring [para-riding] to the forefront," said Alberda. "It is great to share a stage with top athletes as part of this. I am very proud of my horse that we have come this far."

Grade II started off the proceedings this morning with 20 para-riders. In the last test of the division, Petra Van Sande and Toscane merited 67.905, topping the lead established a few rides earlier by the 2008 Olympic rider Britte Naepel (GER) and Aquilina (67.905), who had to settle for silver. Naepel staked another claim to bronze, thanks to Caroline Cecilie Nielsen and Hatim-Tinn. Nielsen was bested by the narrowest of margins – 67.238 – score, 67.143, which resulted in a tie for fourth place between Ang (GER), doing the honors on Ariva-Avanti, and Grace Bowman (AUS) with Kirby Park Joy.

"It was a good ride. I'd like a little bit more energy, but I was very happy," said Rebecca Hart who finished 11th in Grade II with Norteassa. "He listened through the whole test. This has been an awesome experience for me that ParaDressage is getting a lot of really good public awareness through WEG, awareness of the kind of horse that's needed. I think that they really get the ball rolling."

The Grade Ia class brought home the importance of a good forward seat for the most disabled group and how each horse-rider duo can perform the test differently. U.S. rider Laura Goldman finished just two points out of 69.900 per cent. "I've got to tell you – I was scared," admitted Harlan. "I was scared. I'm amazed at myself. It's because my horse is fantastic – he just couldn't do it. And my coach is really on the ball. I hope the sport grows in this country, and we get as strong as the Europeans."

This petite para-rider partnered with Carlingford JD, the flashy black and white paint Irish Sport Horse owned by Trudy Phillips, to pull off a hat-trick in the Ashburn CPEDI*** (CAN), taking first place in the team competition in both individual and freestyle. So, perhaps a good consequence of this is a score that moved her up in the ranks just a day or so after getting into WEG, perhaps the Freestyle will see the USA on the podium, after a long wait.

"I think it went pretty well," commented Goldman about her individual test. "I know there were some mistakes, but they were my fault. I still get nervous, but when I get on him it all goes away. I'm going to ride him more often. I put him under my bed. I like my freestyle. I'm looking forward to riding him more."

Goldman's horse, Carlingford JD, happens to be a Prix St. Georges horse. Goldman is the US chef d'équipe Missy Ransehausen's barn. Goldman might just take home a medal.

home: "When I set my mind to do something, I'm going to do it," C admitted. "When I saw the advertisement for WEG, I said, 'I'm goi

Kim Decker (VA) made her debut representing the USA in internati competition, riding Dasher's Destiny to finish 15th place on a score She too dove into the international para-pond and learned what to terms of performance and the competition.

"I thought it was really good. He [Dasher] felt like he was really on "He's a good boy every time I go into the ring."

In the Ia individual test the British demonstrated the standard, sco that claimed the best scores and won all three medals. Sophie Chri and Rivaldo of Berkeley captured the individual gold on a score of ; caused her to scream and cry. Anne Dunham and Teddy received 7 silver and Emma Sheardown and Purdy's Dream earned 71.900 for medal.

"That score is the highest I've ever gotten in the individual test," a Christiensen. "The feeling afterwards is so wonderful. I was so ner morning. I can't wait for my freestyle."

Grade Ib ran right up to the awards ceremony. In this 'most disable severely as Ia, tests included movements at the trot, and British ri the scoring. Lee Pearson has not given up a gold medal since the 2 Olympics, and today's ride on Gentleman proved to be the rule, no as he earned 76.435. Ricky Balshaw and Academy Award earned 7 Silver Medal. Norway's Jens Lasse Dokkan and Lacour and Denmar Targe Kaastrup ended up tied for third on a score of 70.174, but th marks told the tale and Dokkan stood on the podium.

Photo Credit: American Laura Goldman finished fourth aboard Carli the Grade Ia Individual Test for ParaDressage at the 2010 Alltech F Equestrian Games. Photo By: Lauren Giannini. Photo may only be t to this PMG press release.

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