

## ATTACHED PHOTOS



## Interview With United States Para-Equestrian Kai Handt

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Thousand Oaks, CA -September 13, 2010 - In every equestrian calendar summer starts to disappear many national championship competitions occur. This year included the 2010 USEF Pony Finals, the 100,000 : Chronicle of the Horse/USHJA International Hunter Derby Finals Presented by Dietrich Insurance, the Adequan FEI North American Junior and Youth Championships Presented by Gotham North, and each discipline's national championship. Kai Handt owner and trainer of the North Texas Equestrian Center (NTEC) made his way around the country because of this year's national championship that Handt rides and teaches there was a NTEC rider and in Para-Dressage Handt led his rider Jonathan Wentz to qualify for Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™. I had the opportunity to speak about his experience internationally and his accomplishments in an interview that show ring are astounding.

Lindsay McCall: Thank you Kai for taking the time to speak with me and to start from the beginning. How did your equestrian career begin?

Kai Handt: I started riding in 1966 and I have been competing since I began riding in Kassel, Germany where I was trained in the traditional system. I received training in dressage, show jumping, and three-day eventing. I rode on many teams including the junior show jumping team and eventually focused more on dressage. I had the opportunity to train under Heiko Schridde, Eugen Wahler, and Richard Krause. I earned German gold and bronze medals before I was 18 years old and in 1981 I earned my license. (German National Equestrian Federation license). I then spent time at the Prestiges Verein fuer Reitsport, which was one of Germany's most respected training facilities. Then in 1985 I relocated to the United States and purchased the North Texas Equestrian Center in Wylie, Texas.

LM: Tell me about the NTEC.

KH: I make many trips to Europe to purchase top horses for my clients. I specialize in retraining horses, and re-train problem horses we purchase are specific to our riders needs. Along with training and importing we are a boarding and lesson center. We train riders from



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the Grand Prix level. The facility has four barns that can accommodate horses. We have two covered arenas, a large outdoor arena, an outdoor dressage ring, and an outdoor jumping arena. We have nice paddocks, tackroom, storage lockers, and a tack shop on site. I have four great riders including Christian Heineking, Shahram Aminzadeh, Allison Csaki, and Herrick Barrera.

LM: Let's talk about your accolades over the years.

KH: I have done well winning regional championships, national championships and even FEI awards. Last year I earned many championship awards including Dallas Dressage Club Year End Awards, 2009 Houston Dressage Society Awards, 2009 Southwest Dressage Club (SWDC) and GAIG/USDF Finals Championships, United States Dressage Federation 2009 All Breed Awards Recipients, United States Dressage Federation 2009 Rider Awards Recipients including Gold and Silver freestyle bars, and at the 2009 Equestrian Federation Silver Stirrup Awards. My horse NTEC Donar is Champion, 2009 FEI Dressage Horse of the Year and Champion of the Georges, Open Division.

This year I have been focusing on my show jumping grand prix movements and my dressage horse NTEC Donar. So far we have done the beginning of August at Kentucky Summer we won fifth place in the grand prix. I am looking forward to more of these wins.

LM: How did your juniors do this year?

KH: In dressage Julia Handt, my daughter, and Frambeau compete in the American Junior and Young Rider Championship in Lexington, Kentucky as a Region 9 Young Rider team member along with Nathalie Martin and Rachel Campbell and Wandango. Julia also won a gold medal in dressage this year, which was exciting. Anna Campbell and Mai competed at the Seat Medal Finals in Wayne, Illinois and won the 2010 National Dressage Equitation Medal Finals and was National Champion! Twenty-one year old Anna Campbell and 15-year-old Nathalie Martin were invited to compete in the USEF National Dressage Championships held in Gladstone, New Jersey. Rachel and her horse, Wandango, competed in their third USEF National Championship in the Young Rider division and finished 10th overall. Anna Campbell, Royal, competed in their first national championship in the Young Rider division finishing sixth overall. In jumping Jordan Appel and Einstein competed in the North American Junior and Young Rider Championship as a Young Rider individual competitor and was a competitor at the USEF National Jumper Championships in Lexington, KY. At the USEF Pony Jumper Championships in Lexington Alexis Bowen and Kelly competed and won a Silver Medal for team competition and earned eighth place individually.

LM: Wow that's pretty impressive!

KH: Yes, we have been very excited. For the last five years I have competed in the NAYRJC every year and have had multiple equitation winners and even had two National Champions.

LM: Jonathan Wentz did very well this year at the 2010 USEF Para-Para-Dressage National Championships and then qualified for WEG

become involved with Jonathan and sponsoring him?

KH: Two years ago he came to me with a goal in mind. He wanted on the Para-Dressage Team at WEG and even ride in the Olympics. riding a horse at the barn for 6 months. After a short time Jonathan he was a hard working guy and we decided to find a horse for him. Richter for the discipline and then Jonathan began riding him and he doing well ever since.

LM: Tell me about what you are looking forward to in the future?

KH: I am looking forward to Jonathan competing at WEG. Within N like to increase our young rider program. We have three riders that finding horses for and one rider that just aged out. Lastly, I am hoping FEI horse, NTEC Donar, ready to qualify for the 2011 Pan Am Games

LM: Thank you very much for your time. What's your next stop?

KH: Thank you! I am off to Europe to look at some horses.

#### 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 year, 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 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 rules at 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](mailto:Wheeler966@ac) phone: (610)356-6481.

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

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