

LEG Up News

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(818) 563-3250 ext. 6 legupnews@aol.com

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THE STARS WERE OUT FOR THE MID-WINTER DRESSAGE CDI-W/Y *Peters and Morse Battle it Out*

BURBANK, CA - February 19th through the 22nd marked the 2009 Mid-Winter Dressage CDI-W/Y at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, drawing some fierce competitors in their quest to qualify for the 2009 World Cup Finals in Las Vegas.

Olympic rider Steffen Peters was the one to beat—and the one to watch for spectators—easily taking the Grand Prix on Ravel with a score of 73.915%. Peters and the 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding then went on to the Grand Prix Freestyle, earning 78.5% and top honors.

Olympian Leslie Morse was hot on Peters's heels, earning 69.021% with Tip Top 962 for second place and 68.085% with Kingston for third in the Grand Prix. In the Grand Prix Freestyle, she rode Kingston, an Oldenburger stallion by Voltaire, for a score of 74.1% and second place behind Peters. Morse and Tip Top 962, a 15-year-old Swedish Warmblood, ruled the Grand Prix Special with a score of 69%. Some spectators noted that they thought Morse and her horses looked better than ever.

Adrienne Lyle, a newcomer to the top ranks of the dressage world posted strong scores in the CDI Grand Prix with Felix (66.76%) and Wizard (65.61%), good enough for fourth and fifth. Lyle spent time in the Young Rider ranks and works for Debbie McDonald.

Guenter Seidel, an Olympian like Peters, showed the Dutch Warmblood U II (pronounced You Too) to winning scores of 72.018 in the Prix St. George and 68.333% in the Intermediate I.

Amanda Harlan and the Dutch Warmblood Liberte were the stars in the youth division, winning the FEI Young Riders Individual with 66.579% over Mackenzie Pooley with Jonkara. Amanda also won the FEI Young Riders-PSG Team with 66.404%, edging out Brian Hafner and Lombardo LHF.

In the regular part of the Mid-Winter Dressage Show, Jaye Cherry waltzed to the top with Dance With Me. The pair finished as the high percentage champions in the Upper Level with two scores of 70% in Third Level. Lauren Ogden and Ramazotti were reserve champions. The High Score Upper Level Amateur went to Cherie Vetsch for her Third Level test with Sandro Gold.

In the lower levels, Sabine Schut-Kery earned the High Percentage aboard Adora Radiant Heart with a stunning score of 76.4% in Training Level Test 4.

Some competitors were scared off from showing because of the widely conflicting weather reports. Fortunately the weather was mild and sunny, and those in attendance enjoyed a quality show. "The Mid-Winter CDI-W was a wonderful competition this year," said Show Manager

Glenda McElroy. “The weather was beautiful, the footing was wonderful, and the horses were performing at the top of their game. Everyone seemed to be in a wonderful mood, so I was delighted. We lost some riders because of the rainy weather we had had for the past weeks, but the riders who came were very pleased.”

Cornerstone Event Management is one of the top dressage management companies in the United States. For a complete list of results and the schedule of events, please visit their website at: <http://www.cornerstonedressage.com/index.html>

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