

# **LEG Up News**

## *Giving a leg up to horse sport*

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

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### **2009 FLINTRIDGE DRESSAGE**

**BURBANK, CA** - Stars, both up-and-coming and superstars, twinkled at Dressage at Flintridge (May 22-24), which featured the Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage Western Selection Trials, a High Performance Qualifier, and a Young Rider Qualifier. Always known for their great hospitality, Flintridge Riding Club hosted a reception for representatives from the World Equestrian Games and the Kentucky Horse Park who presented information about the 2010 WEG and the upgrades to the Horse Park.

Superstar and the 2009 World Cup Finals champion, Steffen Peters brought four horses and showed why he is a superstar. As could be expected, Peters dominated the classes he entered. With Sancette (Gwen Blake, owner), he was the FEI Cornerstone/Markel High Point Series Champion and FEI High Percentage Champion thanks to a 78.684% in the Prix St. Georges on Saturday. Sancette, an eight-year-old Hanoverian by Sandro Hit, was also second in the High Performance Prix St. Georges behind Peters's ride on Montango (Mary and James Keenan, owners).

Peters kept the wins in the family when Montango, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood by Contango, also won the High Performance Intermediaire, with reserve going to Shannon Peters, Steffen's wife, with Flor de Selva (Laurelyn Browning and Peters, owners). Shannon Peters and Flor de Selva edged out Guenter Seidel and U II in the High Performance Intermediaire Freestyle, winning with 70.167%. Steffen Peters was the Upper Level High Percentage Champion with Santiago, having won the Third Level Test One on Friday. Finally, Lucky Girl BC (Michele Cooper, owner) won the Third Level Test One on Saturday with Peters.

Another World Cup finalist in attendance was Jan Ebeling, who also rode four horses. Rafalca (Ann Romney, Amy Ebeling and Beth Meyer, owners), his World Cup mount won the FEI Freestyle Test of Choice on Saturday night with 73.083% as well as the Grand Prix with 69.574%. "She was really on," Ebeling said of the 12-year-old Oldenburg mare. "The Grand Prix was really good, and the freestyle was even better. She likes the music, plus it was at night with the crowd. She was very expressive."

Ebeling was first in the Intermediaire II with Sandrina (Ann Romney, owner), first in the Intermediaire I with Louis Ferdinand (Barbara Mclean, owner), and first in the Third Level Test Three with Rosenzauber (Amanda Harlan, owner). Harlan will take up the reins on Rosenzauber at the end of this year. She has been riding Liberte and working toward the North American Young Rider Championships. She has competed twice before and will take one more shot at the gold medal this year. At Flintridge, she and Liberte were the FEI Junior/Amateur High Percentage Champions, winning the NAJYRC/USEF Young Rider Team Test with 67.5%, the

NAJYRC/USEF Young Rider Freestyle with 72.667%, and the NAJYRC/USEF Young Rider Individual Test with 72.237%. “She’s very dedicated,” Ebeling said of Harlan, citing her ability to balance school with riding.

As for the show, Ebeling said, “It was a great show. I always really enjoy it. Great setting, well organized, very well run.” Another professional who concurred was Marie Meyers who commented, “The show was run by Cornerstone, who I believe to be the best show manager in the business. Flintridge is a small facility with great ambiance and a lot of detail given to food, which was excellent, and the parties for the riders were lovely along with the WEG organizers coming to talk to us was a treat.”

Meyers showed her horse Fandango, a 13 year old Oldenburg, to a win in the Intermediaire II with 68.947%. “I’ve had him for a little over three years now. Besides being an incredible mover, he has the best temperament ever and loves to work.” She went on to say, “I was thrilled with my ride. It felt easy and confirmed, except for an error in the ‘ones’. The highlights were the piaffe and passage for sure, getting 8s, and my one pirouette got a nine so that was exciting.”

Meyers’s student Suzanne Smith won both her classes at 2nd and 3rd level on Kobe, and Maria Dickerson won the Intermediaire I and was second in the Prix St. Georges on Acajou. Meyers’s assistant trainer, Marisa Festerling, had a great show with Big Tyme, winning the USEF Developing Horse Test with 71% and the Prix St. Georges with 68.421%. She is working toward qualifying him for the Developing Horse Championships later this year. She has owned the eight-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding with Ann-Marie and Dave Walter for the past four years since he was imported from Belgium, and has done almost all of his training.

She considers his extended trot to be his strongest movement, but “his lateral work was really good,” she said. “He was really supple and bendy.” She noted that the Developing Horse Test is very demanding for collection. “He tried really hard,” she said.

In the Lower Level ranks, Karen Ball was the Cornerstone/Markel High Point Series Champion and High Percentage Champion with Chantico, winning the Markel/USEF Four Year Old Qualifying with 75.200% and the Training Level Test 4 with 73.200%. “He had very interesting bloodlines for a Holsteiner. The father is Contender and he is out of the mother who produced Lorentin, who stands as a dressage stallion at the Holsteiner Verband,” said Ball of the gelding. “My highest scores were on Sunday. I was up all night and very ill that morning and had to scratch my early rides. Unfortunately, I needed the scores on him since he has only shown a couple of times and I had the USEF 4-year-old class (which he won with 7.5 on Friday), so I needed to do the Training on Sunday. I was very happy that I rode since the scores were high with a couple of 9s in the canter.”

“Flintridge is always a fun show,” she went on to say. “I have been going to this show consistently for the last seven or eight years. It has a wonderful atmosphere and Cornerstone has always made it into a popular event.”

For complete show results, go to:

<http://www.cornerstonedressage.com/results/2009%20FLINTRIDGE%20MEDIA%20RESULTS.pdf>

The next Cornerstone Dressage event in California will be the Woodside Summer and Breed Show (July 10-12). For more information, visit: <http://www.cornerstonedressage.com/>

## END ##

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