



U.S. SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION WORLD CUP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TO: ALL SADDLE SEAT PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND WEBSITES
FROM: CHRISTY JUDD O'DONNELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, US WORLD CUP
SUBJECT: US SELECTS 2010 WORLD CUP TEAMS
DATE: MARCH 30, 2010

The US Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup is pleased to announce the members of its teams for 2010. Twenty three-gaited and twelve five-gaited finalists competed for positions on the teams at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri over the weekend of March 26-28. Five riders and an alternate were selected for each of the teams.

These outstanding riders will represent the United States at the 2010 International Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup event. The prestigious international competition will be held October 6-8, 2010 in Shelbyville, Kentucky as part of the Kentucky Fall Classic Horse Show.

"The World Cup trials were really exciting. We have such tremendous depth of exceptional saddle seat athletes here in the United States," said Ellen Beard, Executive Director. "The finalists come from multiple breeds, and but they all want to represent the discipline of Saddle Seat Equitation at the highest levels of competition. We have two outstanding teams, and I feel very good about our chances to capture the gold medals and the World Cups in October."

The members of the 2010 US Saddle Seat World Cup Teams are:

THREE-GAITED

Nick Maupin (Sussex, WI)

Brittany McGinnis (Fishers, IN)

Jessica Moctezuma (Hardwick, NJ)

Alexis Muniz (Coconut Creek, FL)

Abby Mutrux (University City, MO)

Taylor Newton (Alternate) (Lizton, IN)

Coach/Manager: Jimmy & Helen Robertson (Shelbyville, KY)

FIVE-GAITED

Brittany Baird (Hinsdale, IL)

Jacqueline Beck (Aliso Viejo, CA)

Drew Taylor Hewitt (Bermuda Run, NC)

Ali Judah (Louisville, KY)

Scooter Scheurich (New Orleans, LA)

Cyndi Simmons (Alternate) (Burlington, KY)

Coach/Manager: Barbe Smith & James Nichols (New Orleans, LA)

(continued)

William Woods University again served as the site for and provided the horses used in the trials. Sandy Sessink, Laura Ward and their staff and students at William Woods continued their outstanding efforts to ensure that the competition was fair and went smoothly. The trials are designed to prepare riders for the unique atmosphere of the International event.

The Team Selection Trials consisted of two days of competition during which riders completed two rail sessions, two individual patterns and one personal interview. Scoring was equally weighted among the riding portions to total 90%, while the interview accounted for the remaining 10% of each rider's total score. A distinguished panel of judges scored the event. The judges included: Michael Craghead, Cecile Hetzel-Dunn, Anne Judd, Gayle Lampe, Cindy Mugnier and Renae Van Zomeren.

Riders from all Saddle Seat breeds were eligible to compete for membership on the 2010 teams. The purpose of the Saddle Seat World Cup is to promote the discipline of Saddle Seat Equitation on an international level. The diversity involved in Saddle Seat Equitation in the United States creates the unique opportunity to draw from an expanded pool of top riders.

For the three-gaited team, five finalists accepted automatic bids to the trials extended to them for winning one of several designated qualifying finals or by virtue of a breed association nomination. The remaining finalists for the three-gaited team were chosen from a pool of applicants. In addition, twelve finalists competed for the honors of Five-Gaited Team membership. One finalist accepted an automatic bid for this team while the remaining eleven five-gaited finalists were chosen from a pool of applicants.

Once again riders were permitted to apply for both the three- and five-gaited teams but had to submit separate application materials and fees for each team. In the event that a rider qualified for both teams, they were assigned to the team of their choice. US rules state that a rider may only represent the US on one team. A total of six finalists competed for membership on both teams.

All finalists were honored at a dinner held on Saturday evening and the teams were announced at an awards luncheon on Sunday, the final day of the trials.

For more information on the US Team Selection process or the 2010 international event—including sponsorships and contributions—please contact Executive Secretary Christy O'Donnell (e-mail at WCEquitation@aol.com or telephone at 813-760-0465).

The mission of the US Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup is to expand the presence of Saddle Seat Equitation on both national and international levels through team-based competition and promotion of the discipline by our athletes and officials. The US Saddle Seat World Cup is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation.

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