

On the Road to Rio

Canadian Teams Ready for Pan Am Games

By Laura Neufeld

Canada's equestrian teams are gearing up to ride for their country this month, as Rio de Janeiro plays host to the Pan American Games (PAG), July 13 to 29. Riders from the three Olympic disciplines of dressage, show jumping, and eventing have set their sites on Brazil and have been working hard to attain the goal of being one of the teammates heading to the southern hemisphere this summer.

The teams are comprised of horse-and-rider pairs including some household names and some less familiar, but each pair promises to give it their personal and team best in Rio. We now present your 2007 Canadian Pan Am Equestrian Teams.

Eventing

Doubts have been swirling as to whether the eventing cross-country course would be ready in time for PAG. Thankfully, on June 15th, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) confirmed that eventing would go ahead as planned.

Despite the confusion, the selection process carried on and the resulting Canadian eventing team heading to Rio represents great promise, though not necessarily a depth of high-level international competition experience. The most experienced member is Michael Winters of Toronto, Ontario, who will be competing with King Pin, an 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding. Winters competed at the last PAG, finishing as the top placed Canadian, and helping to secure Team Silver. He later competed at the 2004 Olympics Games in



Above: Karen Pavicic, of Richmond, BC, and the ten-year-old Hanoverian gelding, Lionheart, will be traveling to Rio as the dressage team alternates. *Photo: Michelle C. Dunn*

Right: Calgaryian Sandra Donnelly and the Canadian Warmblood gelding, Buenos Aires, made Canada's Pan Am eventing team after placing fifth in the Advanced Horse Trials division at the Jersey Fresh CCI***. *Photo: Karen Briggs*

Athens, again proving to be Canada's top contender.

Two Western Canadian riders are on the team: Kyle Carter and Sandra Donnelly, both from Calgary, Alberta. Carter, who does have a significant amount of international experience,





Karen Cudmore, originally from Victoria, BC, will be taking the relatively young Southern Pride to the Pan Ams.

Photo: Mike Sturk

having represented Canada at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba, will be competing on Madison Park, a nine-year-old Thoroughbred gelding. Donnelly is taking Buenos Aires, a ten-year-old Canadian Warmblood gelding she bred herself. Donnelly earned her spot on the team after placing fifth in the Advanced Horse Trials division at the Jersey Fresh CCI*** three-day event in Pennsylvania, May 30 to June 3, the final team selection trial.

At 23 years old, Jessica Phoenix, of Uxbridge, Ontario, is one of the younger members of the Canadian equestrian team heading to Rio. She has been competing at the international level, however, for ten years, and will ride Exploring, a ten-year-old Thoroughbred gelding.

The youngest member of the squad is up-and-coming star Waylon Roberts of Port Perry, Ontario. Just 18 years old, the son of international eventers Ian Roberts and Kelly Plitz has been making a name for himself on the international scene since he was 14. Roberts will be riding Paleface, a 12-year-old Canadian Thoroughbred gelding.





The eventing squad will be led by David O'Connor, International Technical Advisor, and chef d'equipe Graeme

continued on page 28

	<p>TAYLOR Black • 17hh TB Stallion Approved sire for Canadian Warmbloods, Paints, QHs, Pintos & TBs. Live Foal Guarantee Stud Fee \$1000</p> <p>Consistently producing foals with great dispositions, athletic ability & size.</p>	<p>DRAMATIC SHOW Outstanding 17hh • 9 yr old TB Stallion We invite your inquiries! Live Foal Guarantee Stud Fee: \$1200</p> <p>Seattle Slew (1974) — Bold Reasoning My Charmer American Drama (1984) — Danzig Trust Account</p>	
<p>Teresa Davies • Kamloops, BC • 250-851-9771 • www.GoldAirRanch.com</p>			


HUGE BLOWOUT

OF EXISS LIVING QUARTERS & BUMPER PULLS







EXISS SPORT LIVING QUARTERS,
STARTING AT \$33,250

2H BUMPER PULLS,
STARTING AT \$12,500






Model ES 305 LQ shown




DOUGLAS LAKE EQUIPMENT.COM

* Not all products are available at all branches

HEAVY EQUIPMENT • TRAILERS • AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT



See our huge selection at the location nearest you. (800)553-7482

Kamloops • Chilliwack • Quesnel • Williams Lake • Vernon (877)505-2854
 Dawson Creek (800)663-3572 • Grande Prairie (888)532-5344

THE "World Famous"
LIPIZZANER
STALLIONS
 WORLD TOUR



JULY 2007

SURREY, BC
 KAMLOOPS, BC
 CHILLIWACK, BC
 VERNON, BC
 KELOWNA, BC
 WILLIAMS LAKE, BC
 QUESNEL, BC
 PRINCE GEORGE, BC
 FT. ST. JOHN, BC
 GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB
 HINTON, AB
 DRAYTON VALLEY, AB
 HANNA, AB
 LETHBRIDGE, AB
 MEDICINE HAT, SK
 REGINA, SK
 SASKATOON, SK
 SWIFT CURRENT, SK

AUGUST 2007

HUMBOLDT, SK
 YORKTON, SK
 NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK
 MOOSE JAW, SK
 LLOYDMINSTER, AB
 RED DEER, AB
 EDMONTON, AB
 CALGARY, AB
 DAUPHIN, MB
 BRANDON, MB
 WINNIPEG, MB

More Dates and Info at
 407-366-0366 AND LIPIZZANER.COM

continued from page 27

Thom. Four riders have been named as alternates: Hawley Bennett, of Langley, BC, and Livingstone; Selena O'Hanlon, of Elgin, Ontario, and Colombo; Penny Rowland, of Orangeville, Ontario, and Windswept; and Samantha Taylor, of Richmond, BC, and Livewire.

Dressage

Leslie Reid, the individual gold medal winner at the last PAG, with the Dutch Warmblood gelding, Orion, was the clear leader and probable Pan Am team anchor when the top eight pairs were announced on May 23rd. However, there was controversy over Dressage Canada's lack of planning and apparent disregard for the horses' welfare prior to the final dressage selection trials, which were held over five consecutive days in Bethany, Ontario on May 30 and 31, and in Palgrave, Ontario, on June 1 to 3. The situation was described as "nothing short of a debacle" by equestrian journalist, Karen Robinson in her article, *PanAmania!* in our June 2007 issue (page 14). There was also concern over the non-stop shipping arrangements from Toronto to Miami where the team horses would spend the quarantine period prior to their departure for Brazil. Ultimately, in a decision made with the horse's owners, Patricia and George Hatch, Leslie Reid decided to withdraw Orion from the trials. Karen Pavicic of Richmond and her mount, Lionheart, then became the top ranked pair.

After all was said and done, three team members, and one reserve were named to Canada's PAG dressage squad.

Andrea Bresee and Raffles, a 13-year-old Swedish Warmblood, proved strong throughout the trials, earning their berth. Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Bresee now makes her home in Brockville, Ontario. Diane Creech of Caistor Centre, Ontario, will be riding Wiona, a ten-year-old Hanoverian mare, at the Games.

Rounding out the three-person team is Tom Dvorak, of Hillsburgh, Ontario, who was able to compete at the trials after Leslie Reid withdrew. Dvorak put in strong performances over those five days, ending up the top qualifier with Beaumarchais, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding. He is the most internationally experienced member of the team, having competed

previously at World Cup and World Equestrian Games competitions.

Making the trip to Rio in reserve is Karen Pavicic and Lionheart, a ten-year-old Hanoverian gelding. After traveling from BC to Ontario to compete in the trials, they then had to acclimate themselves to the sweltering heat and humidity the competitors faced. "It was an intense competition and I am pleased to be joining the rest of my teammates in Brazil and look forward to cheering them on," she said.

Chef d'equipe of the dressage team is Gwynne Rooke and team coach is Norbert van Laak.

Show Jumping

The show jumpers competing at PAG are by far our most experienced of Canada's Pan Am teams — even though the final group members surprised many. After trials in Palgrave and at the National Tournament at Spruce Meadows, in Calgary, three team members were chosen. The other two were subjectively selected.

Making the cut was Jill Henselwood, of Oxford Mills, Ontario with Special Ed, a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding. Henselwood had Special Ed and Black Ice, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, in the running, but came out on top with the slightly more experienced Ed.

The two surprises of the team were veteran Mac Cone, of King, Ontario, with the talented 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare Melinda, and Karen Cudmore, originally of Victoria, BC, with youngster Southern Pride, a nine-year-old Holsteiner stallion. Cudmore now makes her home in Omaha, Nebraska.

The two discretionary picks were not a big surprise to anyone. Joining the team are Ian Millar with In Style, and Eric Lamaze with Hickstead. Perth, Ontario's Ian Millar had led the first two trials in Ontario, but fell slightly in the standings at Spruce. Like Henselwood, he also had two mounts in contention, 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding In Style, and nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding Redefin, but made the team with the more experienced In Style.

Lamaze, of Schomberg, Ontario, did not compete in the first two qualifiers. However, he was on his game throughout the National, and proved to the selection committee that he