



CHIO AACHEN CDIO5*

AACHEN, GERMANY • June 30 - July 5

Photo Credit: Ken Braddick



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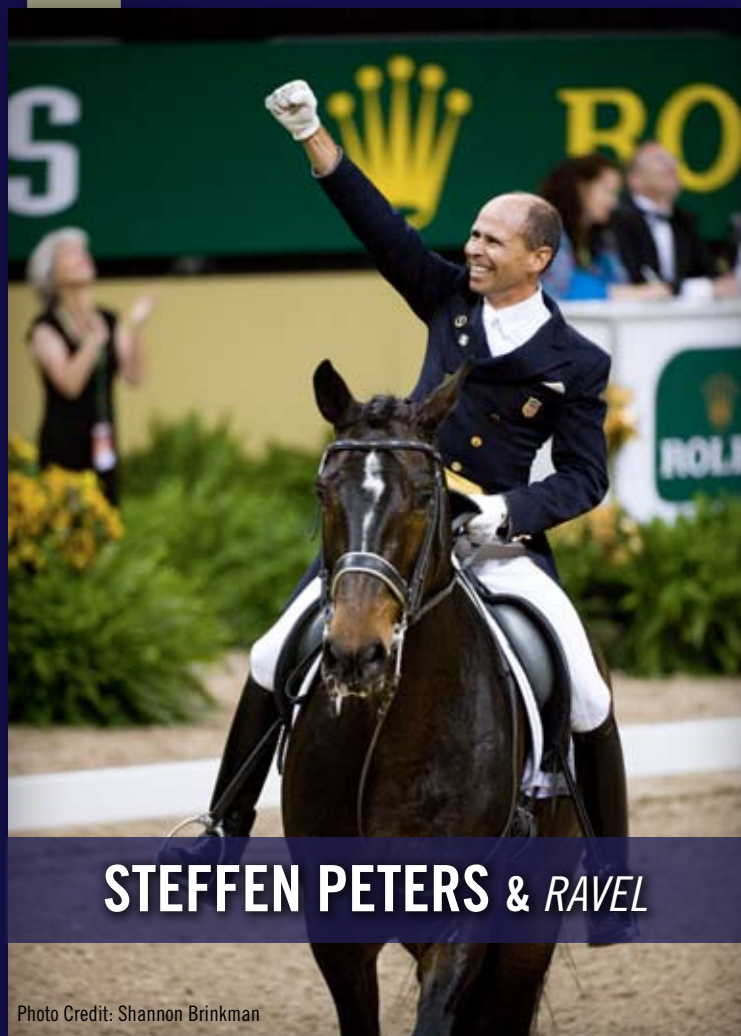
Ravel's record is remarkable. Beaten at only two competitions in his Grand Prix career, the 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood has gone from strength to strength over the last 20 months. Ravel won every single competition he entered leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, including the 2008 USEF Selection Trials for Dressage. At the Olympic Games he ended up fourth by the slimmest of margins, behind horses far more experienced. It was his first competition outside the United States.

Ravel dove into 2009, winning the Grand Prix at the Exquis Dressage World Masters in Wellington, FL with an impressive effort. At the FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas, Ravel re-wrote history, beating out nine-time (and defending) World Cup champion Anky van Grunsven (on IPS Painted Black), and Isabell Werth (on Satchmo), to win both the Grand Prix and the Freestyle. Ravel's 2008 victory at the Festival of Dressage Champions made Steffen the National Grand Prix Champion for the third consecutive year – on three different horses.

2007 was a break out year for Steffen and replacement horse, Lombardi 11. They traveled to New Jersey from California to win the USEF/Collecting Gaits Farm Festival of Champions at the Grand Prix level and traveled to Aachen, Germany to represent the U.S. in the CDIO3*.

In 2006, Steffen and Floriano swept all three phases of competition at the 2006 Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF National Grand Prix Dressage Championship in Gladstone, NJ, landing them the anchor spot on the Bronze Medal winning team at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games. Floriano and Steffen were the alternates on the 2004 Athens Olympic team. He won his first Olympic medal, a Team Bronze, at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games aboard Udon.

Born in Germany, Steffen has been in the United States since 1985 and became a United States citizen in 1992. Steffen and his wife, Shannon, operate a busy training facility in the San Diego area.



STEFFEN PETERS & *RAVEL*

Photo Credit: Shannon Brinkman

STEFFEN PETERS

Born: September 18, 1964

Hometown: San Diego, California

RAVEL

— 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding
by Contango out of Hautain;
Owned by Akiko Yamazaki



CATHERINE HADDAD & CADILLAC 35

Photo Credit: Ken Braddick

CATHERINE HADDAD

Born: March 26, 1964

Hometown: Vechta, Germany

CADILLAC 35

— 12-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding; owned by Catherine Haddad

MAXIMUS JSS (CDI4*)

— 15-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding; owned by the Janet S. Schneider Trust

Catherine Haddad, a native of St. Louis, Michigan, is an American dressage rider who lives and works in Vechta, Germany. She represents the United States in competitions throughout Germany and Europe at both the national and international levels.

With Maximus JSS, her international success includes six top ten placings in 2006 that landed them a position as alternate on the United States team for the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games. In 2007, they placed fourth in the Grand Prix and sixth in the Freestyle at the CDI-W in Goteborg, Sweden. 2008 was a solid year for the pair, competing successfully across Europe. This spring their season was highlighted by a seventh place finish in the Grand Prix at the CDI-W in Neumunster, Germany.

Haddad has also been campaigning Cadillac 35, a 12-year-old Danish Warmblood that she purchased as a six-year-old. Haddad has had tremendous success with Cadillac, consistently placing in the top 10 in 2008. In November of 2008 the pair was honored to receive the Coup de Coeur trophy for their Grand Prix Freestyle at Equita CDI5* in Lyon, France. This trophy is awarded to the horse and rider team that most captures the heart of the crowd. Their 2009 spring season was highlighted by a win in the Grand Prix Special at the CDI4* in Leipzig, Germany.

Haddad moved to Germany in 1993 to train with the world-renowned Willi Schultheis, who along with her parents and trainer Bodo Hangen, she credits as being the most influential people in her life. Later, she established her own training stable in Vechta where she trains and teaches between her busy competition schedules. After receiving sponsorship from the Janet S. Schneider Trust in 2002, Haddad decided to train her top horses under the supervision of Rudolf Zeilinger, former coach of 1996 Olympian Michelle Gibson.

She has also earned a B.A. in International Relations with honors from the James Madison College at Michigan State University and a B.H.S.A.I. certificate of teaching from the British Horse Society in Great Britain. In her life outside of horses, Haddad enjoys skiing, collecting art and playing cards.



JESSICA RANSEHOUSE

JESSICA RANSEHOUSE

Born: October 14, 1938

Hometown: Unionville, Pa

Dressage Chef d'Equipe

One of the founding members of US dressage; her impact on sport spans decades.

Jessica rode one of the first dressage tests ever in the US. She represented the US in three Olympic Games and a Pan American Games. She won a Bronze Medal at the 1993 Olympic Festival. Through her diligence she helped define the sport today in the US through her work on the World Cup Final. She was the first US rider to be the leading rider at the Aachen Horse Show and was the US National Champion in 1956 and 1957.

Jessica was inducted into the US Dressage Federation's Hall of Fame in 2001, she has coached many top dressage and eventing riders. Her daughter Missy is US Chef d'Equipe for Para Equestrian and rode on the Silver Medal winning Eventing Team in Argentina at the 1995 Pan American Games. Jessica served as Chef d'Equipe of Dressage team during the same year.

Jessica also served as Chef d'Equipe at three consecutive Olympic Games: Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000. At the latter two the US Dressage teams brought home Team Bronze medals. She steered the team at the 1999 Pan American Games, her third as Chef d'Equipe, to Team and Individual Gold.

Jessica's attention to detail and perfection driven approach have defined the sport in the US. Her integral understanding of the sport has made her one of the biggest influences in history. Jessica was key in the transformation of dressage from little known sport into one of the most popular equestrian sports in the US.



GIL MERRICK

Photo Credit: USEF Archives

GIL MERRICK

Born: July 3, 1957

Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky

Dressage Team Leader

Gil Merrick began riding at the age of 11 and for the first five years gained a well-rounded education in horsemanship competing actively on hunters, jumpers, eventers and Western pleasure horses. From the age of 16 and throughout his college years, Gil honed his focus to the world of dressage. Thanks to the advanced training Gil had received at an early age and his fluency in German, he was invited to spend his summer breaks from college in Hamburg, Germany, as an apprentice trainer at the estate of Rosemarie Springer. After receiving his MBA, Gil began a 20-year career in corporate management working throughout Europe and Asia while simultaneously advancing his own dressage training. Gil changed course in 2000 and began teaching and training dressage on a full-time basis while facilitating the importation and sale of numerous horses from Germany and assisting clients with the selection of Lusitanos in Portugal.

Gil joined the United States Equestrian Federation® in October 2005 and directs all dressage programs. He served as the team leader at the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany where the United States Dressage Team won the bronze medal, and for the Gold Medal effort at the 2007 Pan American Games. He also served in that role in 2008 at his first Olympic Games. He recently became the Assistant Executive Director of Sport Programs at the USEF.