



2009 ROLEX FEI WORLD CUP™ DRESSAGE FINAL

Photo Credit: Shannon Brinkman



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JAN EBELING AND *RAFALCA*

JAN EBELING

Born: September 14, 1958

Hometown: Moorpark, CA

RAFALCA

— **12-year-old Oldenburg mare by**

Argentinius out of Ratine

Owned by Ann Romney, Beth Meyer

2009 marks a significant milestone for Jan Ebeling and Rafalca. In 2007, Jan and Rafalca made their debut in the Grand Prix arena during the World Cup in Las Vegas where he had been asked to demonstrate the Grand Prix test for a full house before the actual competition began and, after a standing ovation, realized that Rafalca had the talent to become an international Grand Prix horse.

This year they will return to Las Vegas for World Cup, representing the US to contend with the very best from across the globe. They had top finishes on their way to Las Vegas, including three finishes above 70% in the second part of 2008. These included the CDI-Ws at Pebble Beach, Saugerties and Devon. Their success spanned the continental US and their most recent score of 70.200% at the CDI-W Dressage Affaire proved that they continue to be on form heading to the World Cup Final.

2008 was a building year for Jan and the horses but the goal was always the 2009 World Cup Final.

In the fall of 2007, Jan was awarded a USEF training grant and made the decision to return to Germany, taking all three horses. Jan's string was successful in Germany, proving that European experience is invaluable to US dressage competitors.

Rafalca moved to Jan's stable in 2006, further supplementing his powerful string of horses. The two mares, Rafalca and Sandrina, and a young stallion, Louis Ferdinand, all proved to be promising partners. Competing again at the USEF Festival of Champions in Gladstone, NJ, Jan and Rafalca finished third in the Intermediaire I National Championship.

Jan and his wife, Amy, own and operate their own training and sales facility, The Acres, in Moorpark, CA. In the spare time that Jan can find away from the horses, he enjoys playing soccer, biking, and driving the tractor with their son, Ben, now 9 years old. Jan and Rafalca also enjoy relaxing on the trails by their farm with Ben and his Appaloosa pony, Bernie.



LESLIE MORSE AND KINGSTON

LESLIE MORSE

Born: November 25, 1961

Hometown: Beverly Hills, California

KINGSTON

— 17-year-old Royal Dutch Warmblood stallion by Voltaire out of Gisnette;
Owned by Leslie Morse and Laura Petroff

Leslie Morse knew she'd found a lifelong love when her grandparents first took her for pony rides at the age of nine. In the years since then, the Beverly Hills, CA, resident has matured into a world class dressage competitor. Leslie and Kingston were named as the traveling reserve for the 2008 Olympic Games. Leslie also served in this role in 2004 at the Athens Olympic Games. A minor injury to Kingston, prevented him from making his first trip to Asia but he returned with a vengeance shortly after.

They had top finishes at the CDI-W Del Mar in November 2008 and most recently at the CDI-W Burbank in February, scoring over 74% in the Freestyle to finish second after placing third in the Grand Prix.

In 2008, the combination had numerous successful performances including sixth place at the USEF Selection Trials for Dressage, winning CDI-W Burbank and several others.

Leslie had a remarkable year in 2007 with her top two horses: Tip Top and Kingston. The year was highlighted by a Reserve Champion in Grand Prix on Tip Top at CDI-W Pebble Beach, as well as several top-place finishes. She and Tip Top went on to place 10th at the FEI World Cup in Las Vegas. Though Tip Top was Leslie's primary focus in 2007, she also rode Kingston to several top five finishes.

2006 was highlighted by a Team Bronze medal at the FEI World Equestrian Games. On his way to the WEG, Tip Top was named Freestyle Champion at the 2006 CDI3* Loxahatchee; and Kingston was named Champion of the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special at the CDI3* Wellington. Leslie also had an outstanding year in 2005, highlighted by wins at the CDI*** Palm Beach and the CDI*** Wellington in Florida. She secured an admirable sixth-place finish in Las Vegas at the now legendary 2005 FEI World Dressage Final.

Also in 2005, Leslie was part of the Bronze medal-winning U.S. Team at CDIO Aachen. In that year, Kingston was named United States Dressage Federation Freestyle Champion, with Tip Top finishing in third-place.

In 2004, accolades for Leslie included a win at Intermediaire II in Aachen, Germany, and the Grand Prix at the CDI Hagen, Germany. In addition, Leslie claimed her fourth USEF National Championship title and was named U.S. League Champion in 2004.

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 18 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.

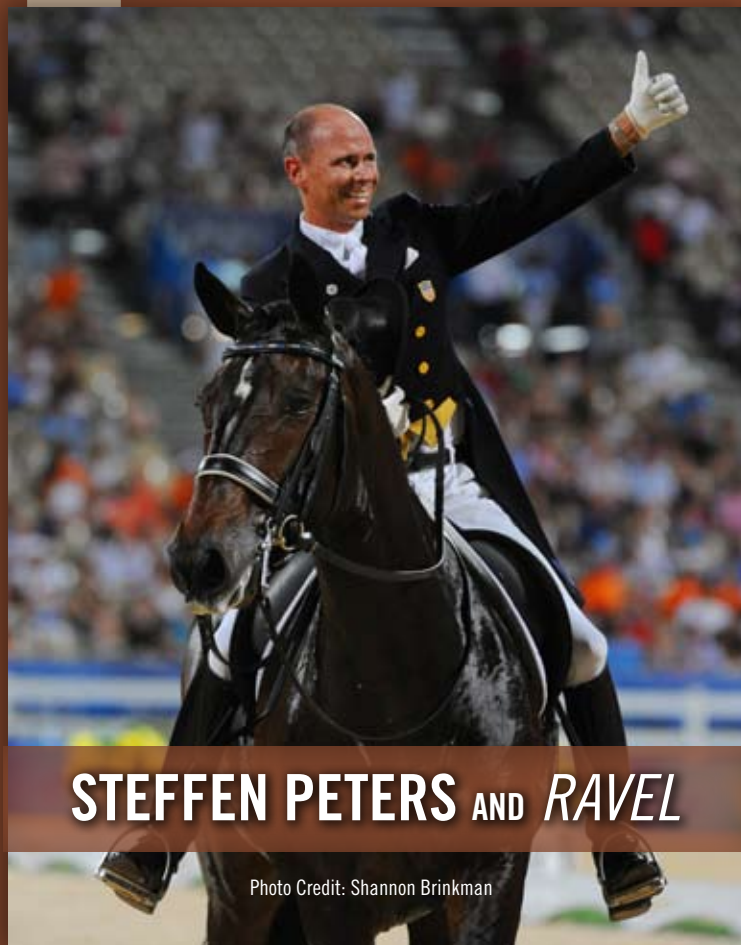
Ravel dove into 2009, winning the Grand Prix at the Equiss Dressage World Masters in Wellington, FL with an impressive effort.

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.

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 AND *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



Photo Credit: USET Archives

JESSICA RANSEHOUSEN

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.