



# MEYDAN FEI NATIONS CUP *TOUR ONE*

LA BAULE, FRANCE • MAY 14-17

ROME, ITALY • MAY 28-31

ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND • JUN 4-7

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## ASHLEE BOND

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**Born:** April 15, 1985

**Hometown:** Hidden Hills, CA

#### *CADETT 7*

— **12-year-old Holsteiner gelding, by Cor de la Bryere out of Ginella I; Owned by Little Valley Farms**

2009 marked Ashlee Bond's first trip to the Rolex FEI World Cup Final. This appearance was on the heels of a remarkable spring season.

Ashlee first represented the US in 2008 at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, she then made her first Nations Cup experience a winning one at CSIO Buenos Aires with Cadett 7. She has continued her winning ways. With Cadett 7 she picked up two wins in World Cup Qualifiers at HITS Thermal in 2009. They won back-to-back classes (the second of which was the \$50,000 World Cup Qualifier) on February 19 and 21, putting in lightning fast performances in each class. They also won on March 7 in the \$50,000 Desert Circuit VI Grand Prix, securing a second place finish in the West Coast League Standings for the World Cup Final.

Ashlee won the Catena Leading Lady Rider Grand Prix Award for the Desert Circuit Championship for her remarkable performances in 2009. Ashlee recently won the Maxine Beard Award for her promise in the future of show jumping, this award is given out annually by the USET Foundation.

The child of a trainer and a movie producer, Ashlee got horse sense from her father and creativity from her mother. Both horse people, her parents had her in the saddle when she was 6 months old, and she was jumping by three.

Ashlee is president and co-founder of a new company called BONDIES which features a sportswear lingerie line. A self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, she loves to hike and ride dirt bikes when she's not on a horse.

Naomi, a consistent performer all winter, has developed into another star in Lauren Hough's talented string of horses. Highlights of the pair's success at the Winter Equestrian Festival include: winning the \$50,000 Braman Motorcars Grand Prix, a runner-up finish in the \$50,000 Equisport Agency Grand Prix and third in the \$150,000 CN Open Grand Prix.

With Casadora, Lauren was a member of the 2007 Pan American Games Bronze medal-winning team. That pair started off 2008 with a victory at the \$75,000 Green Cove Springs CSI-W Grand Prix with the only double clear round. They then went on to win the \$30,000 WEF Challenge Cup Series Round VI at CSI3\* Zada Enterprises Wellington Masters. During the first week of the 2008 Spruce Meadows Summer Series, Hough and Casadora won the ATB Financial Cup. Later that week she was first again in the 1.50 m ATCO Midstream Winning Round with Quick Study.

A member of the 2000 Sydney Olympic squad, Lauren had Olympic aspirations running through her veins at birth. Her father, Champ, was a member of the 1952 Olympic Team in eventing. Lauren was a member of the Gold medal winning Pan American Games Team in 2003, representing the U.S. in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Demonstrating her tenacity, she rode in the selection trials with a broken collar bone.

Originally a Californian, Lauren got her start in the hunter ring and was a very successful junior rider. She won a Gold medal at the North American Young Riders' Championships and at 15-years-old was the Pacific Coast Horseman's Association Rookie of the Year. Most of her show jumping success in the early part of this decade was with two horses, Clasiko and Windy City. She won the National Horse Show Grand Prix back-to-back in 2001-2002.

In 2006, she was fourth overall in the FEI World Equestrian Games Selection Trials, which qualified her for the short list for the games in Aachen, Germany. Earlier in the year, she won the \$60,000 Carlisle Wellington Cup. Over the past three years, she has been a member of the very successful U.S. teams competing in the Samsung Super League. In 2004, the team finished in fourth place; in 2005, the U.S. won medal; and in 2006, they were second.

Casadora had her biggest win in Canada, taking top honors in the \$171,468 CN Reliability Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows in Canada on June 9, 2006. The CSI\*\*\*\*\* was fiercely competitive. The combination has also been a very successful part of the Nations Cup team over the years.

When Lauren isn't riding, she loves to cook and spend time with her friends and family.



## LAUREN HOUGH

**Born:** April 11, 1977

**Hometown:** Wellington, FL

### *NAOMI 152*

— 11-year-old Holsteiner mare by  
Coriano out of Eileen VIII; Owned by  
Quail Run Partnerships



## LAURA KRAUT

Photo Credit: Shannon Brinkman

### LAURA KRAUT

Born: November 14, 1965

Hometown: Wellington, FL

### *CEDRIC*

- 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, breeding unknown; Owned by Peter Wetherill and Happy Hill Farm

Cedric defied gravity and expectation at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong for Laura Kraut. He was foot perfect in the Team portion of the competition and was an integral part of the Gold medal-winning effort for the US.

Standing barely 15.2 hands, Cedric grows wings in the ring. He and Laura jumped two clear rounds at the Samsung Super League finale in Barcelona, Spain last fall and had two top five finishes in major classes in Wellington, FL so far in 2009.

They ran the board at the 2008 USEF Selection Trials for Show Jumping, jumping clear in the first round and never looking back. They made one mistake over the five rounds but were always well clear of the competition. This set them up beautifully for their impressive Olympic performance.

Always a top competitor in grand prix circles, Laura's success began before Cedric. She was an integral part of the U.S. team in the Samsung Super League in 2007. Riding Anthem, she was part of the all-female team that romped to victory at CSIO Hickstead (England) in July and second two weeks later in Dublin, Ireland. Laura had a big European victory in August with Cedric. Together they won the grand prix at the CSI\*\*\* Hachenburg in Germany over a very competitive field of 53 horses and riders from across Europe.

With Miss Independent, Laura was third overall at the World Equestrian Games qualifiers in March 2006 in Wellington, Florida. Laura's placing at the qualifier earned her a spot on the U.S. Show Jumping Team for the 2006 World Equestrian Games. Kraut helped bring home a Team Silver Medal. Laura spent much of the 2005 summer representing the United States in the competitive Samsung Super League series in Europe. Laura helped the U.S. secure wins in Aachen, Germany and LaBaule, France, and second place in Rome and in Hickstead, England, riding both Anthem and Miss Independent.

In 2004, Laura was a member of the second place team in the \$50,000 Samsung Nations Cup in Florida, and helped the United States secure a fourth place overall finish in the Samsung Super League. In 2003, she was the top placed American at the World Cup Final, where she tied for the fifth position out of 41 starting horse and rider combinations. In 2002, she was a member of the U.S. Team which won the first outdoor Nations Cup held in the United States; and at the Samsung Nations Cup Series, she was named Leading Rider after tying for first place on Liberty. Laura was a U.S. team alternate at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Spain, and in the 2000-2001 competition season, she was honored as reserve champion AGA Rider of the Year. Laura was also a member of the U.S. show jumping team at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Laura makes her home in Wellington, FL and enjoys spending time with her young son, Bobby.

Photo Credit: Shannon Brinkman



## CHRISTINE MCCREA

### CHRISTINE MCCREA

**Born:** February 16, 1978

**Hometown:** East Windsor, CT

#### *PROMISED LAND*

— **15-year-old Holsteiner gelding by N. Eingetragen out of Vorr; Owned by Candy Tribble and Windsor Show Stable**

#### *VEGAS*

— **15-year-old Royal Dutch Warmblood; Owned by Candy Tribble and Windsor Show Stables**

Christine McCrea has always been a consistent performer for the US Team and 2009 has certainly been no exception. With Vegas, she has already represented the US at the 2009 Rolex FEI World Cup Final in April of 2009.

With the appropriately named Vegas, Chrissy won the \$100,000 Budweiser FEI World Cup Qualifier of Syracuse in November of 2008; they then represented the US on the Nations Cup team at the CSIO Wellington this spring. With Promised Land, Chrissy was second in the \$150,000 CN Grand Prix on March 1 and third in the Tampa Bay Classic, the final Qualifier for this year's World Cup Final. She finished behind Kent Farrington and Darragh Kerrins who tied for the win.

Chrissy first made her presence known on the International scene when she joined the United States Equestrian Team Developing Rider Tour in 1999, she finished second in the Nations Cup competition at CSIO Lummen, Belgium, riding Caraibe du Moulin.

Chrissy was part of two successful Samsung Super League efforts both in 2005 and 2007. She won a 1.50m class in Lummen in 2005 and in 2006 qualified for the Rolex FEI World Cup Final and was short-listed for the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.

In 2005, Chrissy earned multiple Top 10 finishes at home, including taking second in the \$75,000 Budweiser World Cup of Syracuse, third in the \$50,000 Fidelity Grand Prix of Boston, fourth in the \$25,000 Winter Equestrian Festival Challenge Cup Round 5 and the \$100,000 Lexus National Horse Show Championship, and sixth in the \$40,000 CSI-W Lexington.

Chrissy is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a major in business. She and her husband John, an Irish show jumper, currently train at her family's farm, Windsor Show Stables, in East Windsor, CT.

Photo Credit: Shannon Brinkman



## RICHARD SPOONER

### RICHARD SPOONER

Born: August 2, 1970

Hometown: Agua Dulce, California

### *CRISTALLO*

— 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Carentino out of Cambrina; Owned by Half Moon Bay, Inc

### *ACE*

— 11-year-old Holsteiner stallion by Acrobat II out of Umina; Owned by Show Jumping Syndications

California native Richard Spooner is no stranger to winning. In 2009 he made his eighth World Cup Final appearance. Nicknamed “The Master of Faster” when he first hit the grand prix scene 12 years ago, Spooner surpassed triple digits grand prix wins in 2008. He is one of the busiest West Coast riders on the circuit. Spooner has been the Pacific Coast Horse Show Association Grand Prix Rider of the Year 11 times. On his grey crowd pleasing partner, Robinson, with whom he has over 30 grand prix wins, Spooner finished first in two of the 2004 Olympic Selection Trials, won the 2002 \$200,000 Queen Elizabeth Cup, and earned a spot on the U.S team that won the Silver medal at the 2004 Spruce Meadows Masters.

Early in the season, during the first week of competition at the 2009 HITS Desert Circuit at Thermal, he piloted Quirino 3 to the win in the \$50,000 EMO Grand Prix.

In masterful effort earlier this year, Richard pulled a hat trick in the \$50,000 HITS Grand Prix (Desert Circuit VII) finishing first, second and third. Three of the four jump-off horses were piloted by him.

In 2008, he finished overall in eighth place on the Global Championship Tour, and plans to return in 2009 to improve his standing.

Cristallo has had an illustrious career. The pair has also won the \$200,000 Invitational Grand Prix of the Desert 2008 HITS circuit, and they took the reserve in the \$200,000 Budweiser American Invitational in April. In 2007, the pairing won the \$75,000 HITS Grand Prix in February. Between 2005 and 2006, they also picked up grand prix victories at the \$50,000 Showpark World Cup Grand Prix and the \$50,000 Oaks World Cup Grand Prix.

Not to be outdone by his stablemate, Ace has a sparkling resume of his own.

In 2008, Ace and Spooner won the \$50,000 HITS Grand Prix at HITS Thermal title. The previous year, they won both the \$40,000 Jack Daniels Grand Prix and the \$30,000 Ariat Grand Prix.

Dedicated to his sport, he is a founder of the West Coast Active Riders and has served on several industry committees. Both his wife, Kaylen, and daughter, Taylor, are riders, and the family loves to travel.

Considered one of the most influential riders and trainers in equestrian sport, George Morris's career began as a precocious junior rider winning both the AHSA Hunter Seat Medal Final and the ASPCA Maclay Final at the tender age of 14, the youngest rider ever to do so. In international competition, he represented the United States on the Gold medal-winning Pan American Games team in 1959 and on the Silver medal-winning team at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Between 1958 and 1960, he rode on eight winning Nations Cup teams and in later years served as Chef d'Equipe for numerous Nations Cup teams including as Co-Chef d'Equipe at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada, where the U.S. won both the team and individual Silver medals. George also served as a Director of the former USET and as a member of its Executive and Show Jumping Committees.

In 2005, George took over the Chef d'Equipe duties of the US Show Jumping Team. He instantly proved his outstanding leadership when the U.S. team, the only non-European team competing in the Super League, won the prestigious Samsung Super League championship.

He commanded an excellent performance from his riders at the 2006 World Equestrian Games, where they won a Team Silver medal and Bezie Madden won Individual Silver with the mighty Authentic. In 2007, he guided the US Pan American Games Team to a bronze medal in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

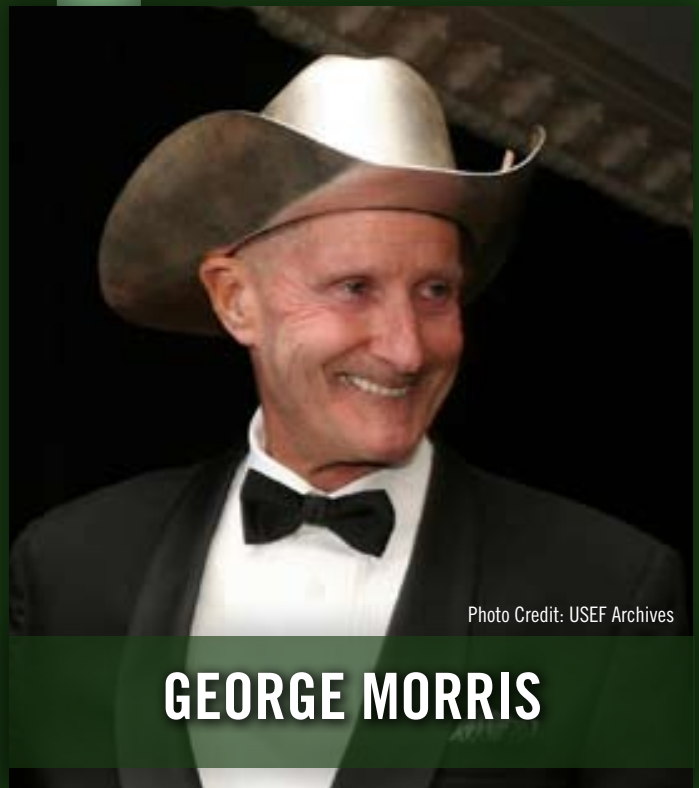
2008 brought the most successful accolades thus far to George's coaching resume. He steered the US show jumpers to another fantastic performance, this time winning Team Gold at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong. The US riders won a jump-off with the Canadians for the gold medal; Madden also won Individual Bronze.

His teams also won the prestigious Nations Cup at the Spruce Meadows Masters on the heels of the 2008 Olympic success, and then he took four inexperienced riders on the international stage and handily won the Nations Cup at the CSIO Buenos Aires in November.

His attention to detail and meticulous preparation of his teams is legendary.

George's individual training successes include a "Who's Who" of the United States' top show jumping riders figuring prominently in U.S. Olympic history. At the 1984 Olympics, the Gold medal winning team included three former students, Conrad Homfeld, Leslie Burr-Howard and Melanie Smith Taylor. The 1992 team included students Lisa Jacquin, Anne Kursinski and Norman Dello Joio. In 1996, George was assistant Chef d'Equipe of the silver medal Olympic team, which included former students Burr-Howard, Kursinski and Peter Leone. At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, former student Chris Kappler won the individual Silver medal and was a member of the Gold medal-winning team.

George is also a well-known author of equestrian books and videos. He currently serves on several USEF committees and holds a Registered Judge's License in the Jumper, Hunter and Hunter Seat Equitation divisions.



## GEORGE MORRIS

### GEORGE MORRIS

**Born:** February 26, 1938

**Hometown:** Wellington, FL

*Chef d'Equipe*



**ELIZABETH CHESSON**

Photo Credit: USEF Archives

## **ELIZABETH CHESSON**

**Born: April 3, 1977**

**Residence: Gladstone, NJ**

*Team Leader*

Lizzy Chesson has been deeply rooted in international equestrian sports for many years. As a groom for her mother she was part of two World Championship Driving Teams. At the age of 22, Chesson was selected to drive a pair of horses in the World Pair Championship in Hungary. She is a graduate of Columbia University where she studied German and Spanish and earned a degree in Art History.

Chesson began working for the United States Equestrian Federation in 2006. Her first position was in the USEF Show Jumping department as an assistant to Managing Director, Sally Ike. Chesson has been a member of the USEF High Performance Driving Committee and the Chairman of the USEF High Performance Eligible Active Pair Driver Committee. In December, Chesson was promoted to USEF Director of Show Jumping High Performance Activities.

Chesson resides in Gladstone, NJ and still rides and drives when she can find the time. She finds herself incredibly fortunate to work with such an experienced and dynamic team.