



## October 22, 2020 – YOUNG PARA-EQUESTRIANS TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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### YOUNG PARA-EQUESTRIANS TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mill Spring, North Carolina – October 22, 2020- U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) will host the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship and CPEDI3\* competition October 22-25, 2020, at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina. Elite athletes will compete for exposure to be selected to the Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team at the now rescheduled Tokyo Summer Paralympic Games in 2021, including medal winners Rebecca Hart and Kate Shoemaker. In addition to high-performance and developing athletes competing in the National Championship, emerging, and young athletes will also ride in the 2020 Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Competition sponsored by the U.S. Para Equestrian Association (USPEA). Young athletes include Veronica, Gogan, Deborah McAlexander, Genevieve Rohner, and Andie Sue Roth.

USPEA is devoted to growing the grass-roots riders in the sport, and is sponsoring an open class, for which prior qualification is not necessary. Among the riders are two young athletes named earlier this year to the U.S. Para-Equestrian Emerging Athletes list (<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/2tcSsiOy6N8/athlete-list-updated-08252020>) by the U.S. Equestrian Federation, both aspiring to higher levels of competition.



Twelve-year old Genevieve Rohner, of Park City, Utah, was born a premature 28-week triplet and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration Disorder, Amblyopia and misaligned right leg bones. One of her brothers had a stroke at birth and also has Cerebral Palsy. Rohner initially began riding for therapy at age four. “I spotted her at age seven and encouraged her to pursue her dreams of the Paralympics”, said USPEA President, Hope Hand, a 2000 Paralympic Equestrian. Currently training with Prestige Dressage and Sydni Peterson in Utah, Rohner has developed into an accomplished rider with her sights set on representing the United States on Team USA at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France.





# United States Para-Equestrian Association

Mill Spring, NC – October 27, 2020 – Unprecedented, dressage riders rode down centerline in the state-of-the-art indoor arena at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) in Mill Spring, NC. Para-Dressage riders competed in front of international judges Elke Ebert (GER), Carlos Lopes (POR) and Adrienne Pot (USA), October 22-25, 2020. After three days of competition top horse and rider combination Rebecca Hart (Wellington, Florida) and El Corona Texel, owned by Rowan O’Riley, earned the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship Award ending the weekend with a 78.478% in her grade III freestyle test. Sydney Collier (Ann Arbor, Mich.) and All in One, owned by Going for Gold LLC, earned the reserve championship award. The pair finalized their competition with a top score of 78.711% in the Grade I freestyle test. Over three days thirteen horse and rider combinations vied for their best percentages in the CPEDI3\*. Equestrians showcased many remarkable tests securing top percentages overall. With the rescheduling of the Tokyo Summer Paralympic Games in 2021, this show was an important step on the way to earning a spot on the Adequan® Paralympic Equestrian Team. During the CPEDI3\* The Adequan®/USEF Team, led by Chef d’equipe Michele Assouline, included Sydney Collier on All in One, Rebecca Hart on El Corona Texel, Cynthia Scenci (Boca Raton, Florida) aboard Eragon VF and Kate Shoemaker (Wellington, Florida) on her new mount Gaborencio. For the emerging athletes including many young riders, this was an opportunity to show in front of international CPEDI judges while competing in the national para-dressage show. The 2020 Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Competition was sponsored by the U.S. Para Equestrian Association (USPEA).

Chef d’Equipe Michele Assouline was thrilled with the team’s results. He explained, “It was quite an exciting show. Our athletes scored in the 70’s showing the world that they are in the top of their game for European competition. We have two athletes in the league of European riders. If we compare last year to now all of our athletes are doing great. As for our future plans it’s even hard to plan short term. We are looking forward to Florida in January, and another show in March, and then I would like to come back to Tryon where Sharon Decker has extended the use of this amazing international facility to train more.”

Over the October 23-25, weekend team member Rebecca Hart went down centerline on El Corona Texel and Fortune 500, both owned by Rowan O’Riley. Hart had outstanding tests with each mount producing exciting results. The duo of Hart and El Corona Texel earned the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Champion. Rebecca Hart has earned multiple National Championship Award over many years of competing in para-dressage.

Hart was thrilled, “Winning the championship was an amazing feeling. Tex gave me the absolute best birthday present ever. It’s been a long journey to have him come together the way he did this weekend. I am so thrilled with both of my guys (Fortune 500 and El Corona Texel) they rose to the occasion and I couldn’t be happier. I have to thank Rowan O’Riley for trusting me with them and for trusting my amazing trainer Melissa MacLaran-Velix who was unable to come with me on this trip. We laid a plan out how to handle everything and the results spoke for themselves.”

Hart was one member of Team USA that helped secure top international scores.”I loved being part of the team, everyone did fantastic on the team and truly every para-dressage rider at this show,” said Hart.”I would also like to thank the Tryon team of officials, show staff, volunteers, US Equestrian, and so many others that helped to produce this amazing show. We are all grateful for the hard work that each person has put in to create this.”

Hart was also proud of the emerging and young athletes that showed for the first time under international judges in the Para-Dressage national show. It was exciting for the brand new athletes when they saw Hart on the ground, lending her expertise and cheering them on when the emerging athletes entered at ‘A’. Following the competition Hart spoke to multiple young riders about their future in the sport. Hart remembered where she was in the beginning and where she is now on the international stage and spent time to talk to the new riders in the discipline.

Hart noted, “I enjoy helping out these young riders and emerging athletes. Veronica Gogan and I had been talking for a while about our disabilities since our bodies are similar. We talk about saddle fit, compensating aids, and much more. I want to give that knowledge that I have experienced to someone else so I can make their path a little less complicated.”

U.S. Team member Sydney Collier and 11 year-old gelding All in One earned the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Reserve Champion award with scores over 75% or more. Collier was thankful her hard work paid off. She explained, “My rides went so well, they were awesome. I am very pleased how I made things come together and how Katie Robicheaux has helped me to learn a lot of things in a short amount of time. It’s so cool to be able to come here and have all of our hard work in quarantine pay off and work in the show ring. To get to go in there and have that partnership with Alle is exciting. Without my horse owner Georgina Bloomberg and without my trainer Katie none of this would be possible for me. They have made this success possible.”