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Formerly Alberta Show Jumpers



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HIGH PERFORMANCE RIDER'S NEEDED TO GIVE BACK

The Jill Irving Mentorship program 2020

Holly Grayton

That was the first thing on Jill Irving's mind when she started the 'Jill Irving Youth Mentor Program'.

Jill is one of Canada's very best in dressage. Recently she won the CDI3* Grand Prix in Wellington, Florida, to start her 2020 campaign with her horse Degas. Not only does she have experience as a high performance athlete, but she has also been a part of the grassroots of a sport when she was a parent-volunteer for her own children's involvement in alpine sports. She knew first-hand that most youth sporting events are supported in large part by the parents. Here Jill saw an opportunity to give back to the next generations of her sport



of dressage, and thus began the program. After a few successful years the program expanded to include youth in jumping as well.

In years past, Jill's children also competed in hunter/jumper disciplines, and her daughter astutely remarked one time, "What other sport can you do your own competition at entry level and then walk across the grounds and watch the very best in the world?" It is so true. From Spruce Meadows to Wellington – and around the world – riders can participate and compete alongside the best of the best.

Having the thought in mind that access to high performance sport and athletes is something Jill can help with, she and her many amazing volunteers bring 12 young aspiring athletes (6 dressage, 6 hunter/jumper) to Wellington for an immersive 5-day tour. This year marks the fifth iteration and the criteria is simple: riders must be aged between 16 and 21, members in good-standing with Equestrian Canada and their provincial association, have a thirst for knowledge and also have some good luck as the winners are drawn out of a hat – lottery style.

Each discipline-specific group is mentored by competitors and show grooms, and take part in educational discussions, barn tours, and networking activities. While in Wellington, accommodations and all ground transportation are generously provided by Jill Irving; participants are responsible for their own airfare, meals, and spending money, but other activities and planned events are included and each group is supervised by a chaperone.

Jill's passion in this area is infectious and she has a strong feeling for the need to offer young grassroots kids a pipeline to develop the sport later on. Even though the program is still young, already two of the participants from previous years have come back to Wellington in working student positions or grooms for Jill and other top-tier athletes.

While the 2020 applicants were already selected and headed south to the sunshine from February 26 to March 2, 2020, more information about the program and process to apply for 2021 can be found at www.IIrvingyouthequinementorprogram.com, or searched on Facebook. Jill invites questions about the program via email: rsvp@jdirving.com

SHOW SCHEDULE

May
 May 2-3 Spruce Meadows
 May 7-10 Ottawa Horse Show
 May 8-10 Spruce Meadows
 May 13-17 Caledon CSI2*
 May 15-17 RMSJ
 May 15-18 Blue Sky Classic
 May 19-24 Tbird
 May 20-24 Caledon CSI2*
 May 21-24 RMSJ
 May 26-31 Tbird

NEW YOUNG RIDER'S DIVISION - PRE-JUNIORS

Cassie Gorsline

The News from the World of Youth Development.

This year the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) is introducing a new division to the program and championship. Historically NAYC consisted of three

divisions: the Children's division for

riders 12-14 years old, with jumps set to 1.20m; the Juniors' division for riders 14-18 years old, jumping 1.40m; and the Young Riders' division for riders 18-21 jumping 1.45-1.50m.

We sat down with Dayton Gorsline, Equestrian Canada's Youth Development Program Advisor, to get some more information about the new division and how it will affect young riders in Canada.

Q: What is the new division and what are the specifications for it?

A: The new division will be known as the "Pre-Junior division"; jumps will be set up to 1.30m, and athletes are eligible to jump in this division in their first two years of being a Junior (riders aged 14-16).

Q: What is the reason to have a new division?

A: The purpose of the new category is to fill the gap between the Children's

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CANADIAN TRIVIA: (See back for answers)

1. Who won the 2019 Canadian Show Jumping Championship at the Royal Winter Fair? a) Amy Millar b) Beth Underhill c) Nicole Walker d) Sam Walker
2. What was the name of Tiffany Foster's first Nations Cup horse? a) Quintender 2 b) Carlos de Noel c) Victor d) Southwind VDL
3. Who was the first Canadian rider to win the World Cup Final? a) Mario Deslauriers b) John Anderson c) Gail Greenough d) Ian Millar
4. In the 1980 Alternate Olympic Games that saw Canada win the team Gold medal, who posted one of only 3 double clear rounds in the team event? a) Michel Vaillancourt - Chivas b) Mark Laskin - Damuraz c) Jim Elder - Volunteer d) Ian Millar - Brother Sam
5. What country's riders have won the Rolex CP International Grand Prix at the Spruce Meadows Masters the most times? a) USA b) Canada c) Great Britain d) Germany

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Continued from front page
New Young Riders Division contd.

division and the Juniors. It is such a large step for athletes to make in a year's time (jumping 1.20m at 14 years old, and 1.40m the very next year). The Pre-Juniors will allow athletes time to develop more gradually and not rush to jump the 1.40m. I think this will benefit both horse and rider in the short- and long-term.

Q: What will you be looking for in athletes

eligible for and interested in this division?

A: Fundamentally I will be looking for the same thing in these athletes that I look for in the other divisions: results, consistency, good riding, attitude, and so on. Every level is a stepping-stone onto the next, which is why I think this division is a positive thing.

Mr Gorsline invites anyone with questions

or inquiries regarding the Youth Development Program or NAYC to contact him via EC.



CanadiansFEI Ranking

The Longines Rider Rankings list is released monthly from the international governing body of equine sport, the FEI. The rankings as of March 1st, 2020 are as follows:

Canada Ranking	World Ranking	Rider
1	21	Eric Lamaze
2	63	Mario Deslauriers
3	84	Erynn Ballard
4	87	Tiffany Foster
5	188	Amy Millar
6	197	Vanessa Mannix
7	242	Ali Ramsay
8	256	Sam Walker
9	281	Beth Underhill
10	342	Jim Ifko



A WORK OUT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM:

30 seconds per exercise - Do each set of exercises 4 times - rest for 10 seconds after completing 1 time thru will take only 15 minutes

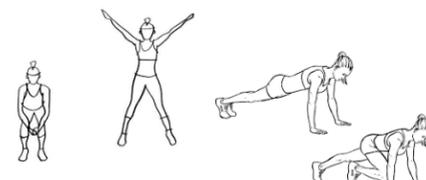


1- Jumping Jacks
Squat

3- Burpee
Pushup

5- Heel tucks
Leg lifts

7- Plank
Super man



2- Mountain climber
Sit ups

4- Russian twist
Forward lunge

6- Jump squat
Side lunges

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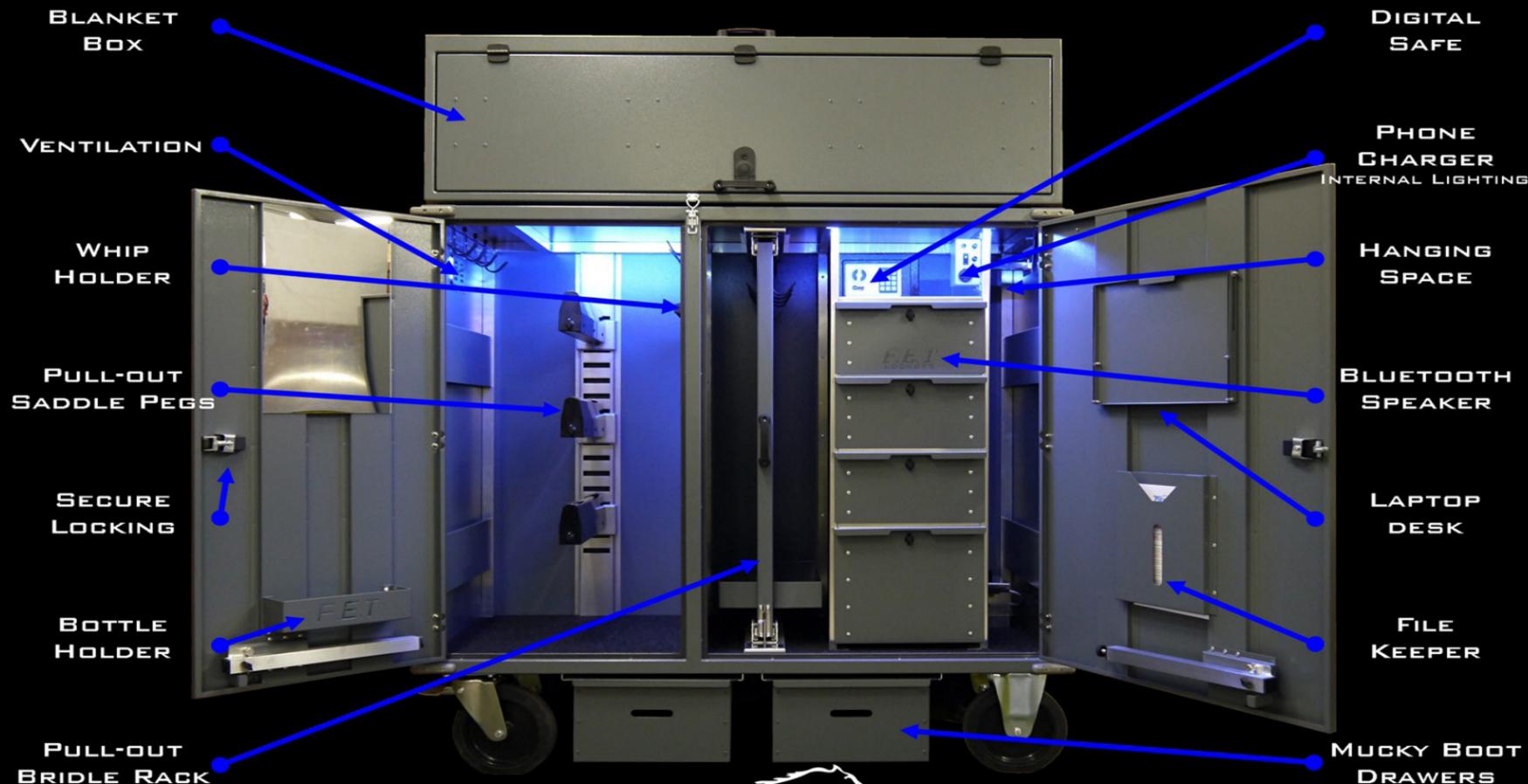
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