

Grayt Times

Formerly Alberta Show Jumpers



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Dear Special Ed,

Is it cliché to say you are the horse of a lifetime?

You came to me from a dressage barn to see if jumping was your forte, and although their critique of your spookiness was valid, it became the catalyst of our connection.

Our first major event was a huge milestone for both of us. We went to Aachen, Germany, to compete at the World Equestrian Games. Jumping in front of a packed stadium was a real eye opener. The jumps were enormous, but we got through it together.

The next year we were off to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the Pan American Games to qualify for the 2008 Olympics. You were brilliant, winning team silver and an individual gold medal, jumping 79 of 80 efforts clear. It was quite something to stand on the podium with Rodrigo Pessoa and Eric Lamaze.

Having qualified for the

Olympics, our journey to Hong Kong was the trip of a lifetime with my horse of a lifetime. Your second round effort to become the first horse to jump clear was one of the most famous rounds in Canadian show jumping history. Your heart contributed to a team silver Olympic medal, the first team medal in 40 years.

Along the way, there have been many notable international competitions including: Madrid, Spain; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Goteborg, Sweden; Las Vegas, USA; and Milan, Italy. With podiums around the globe, it was fitting at age 17, you earned your final 17th Grand Prix victory on home soil at Thunderbird Show Park in British Columbia.



My partner Bob promised you could live out the rest of your life at Juniper Farms, where you enjoy a healthy retirement at age 26. Thank you, Eddie, for realizing my dreams – dreams I knew, and dreams we discovered together.

Forever yours,
Jill Henselwood



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Looking Toward The Future of Show Jumping Fan Engagement

Tim Worden

It is always a fun exercise to look toward the future and to consider where the sport of show jumping is going. The health of a sport is often measured by a sizable and engaged fan base, but how we define a sports fan has undergone a dramatic change in the past decade.

A sports fan is no longer someone who attends a game or watches a full competition on TV. Instead, the majority of fans today will watch 30-second highlights of their favorite league's games or follow athletes through social media.

In show jumping, I anticipate major changes are coming that



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will allow our sport to engage this new type of fan. First, I believe that in addition to the class having a start time, the jump off will begin to have a start time. This would allow fans to tune in at a pre-determined time to watch the exciting jump-off, while skipping the first round that can take upwards of two hours to complete.

Next, data is almost non-existent in show jumping broadcasts, but statistics are one of the key pillars of fan engagement in other sports. If show jumping is going to engage more fans, we need to begin incorporating data into broadcasts.

For example, a few years ago my team analyzed thousands of rounds and followed individual horse-rider combinations across entire seasons. By recording where faults occurred (e.g. off of what lead, jump build, approach angle, etc), we were able to assign rough estimates to the likelihood of a rail around a course. Who wouldn't enjoy seeing this information during a live stream?

Lastly, I foresee national federations and show organizers investing significant resources into growing the sport's social media presence. This will be done through the creation of short competition video highlights and athlete

features that will help fans feel connected with stars of the sport.

SHOW SCHEDULE

October 14-18 Tbird Langley, BC
October 22-25 RMSJ - Calgary, AB
October 29-Nov 1 RMSJ - Calgary, AB

November 5-8 RMSJ - Calgary, AB
November 26-29 Ponoka Series - Ponoka, AB

Canadians FEI Ranking		
The Longines Rider Rankings list is released monthly from the international governing body of equine sport, the FEI. The rankings as of September 1st, 2020 are as follows:		
Canada Ranking	World Ranking	Rider
1	21	Eric Lamaze
2	72	Mario Deslauriers
3	82	Tiffany Foster
4	93	Erynn Ballard
5	200	Amy Millar
6	222	Vanessa Mannix
7	267	Sam Walker
8	273	Ali Ramsay
9	314	Beth Underhill
10	377	Jim Ifko

A Definition; The Half-Halt

The main purpose of the half-halt is to rebalance the horse, asking it to carry its weight slightly more on his hindquarters and less on its forehand. Additionally, it may be used as a warning signal to the horse, calling its attention back to the rider to tell it that it is about to be asked to do something, such as perform a transition between or within a gait, make a turn, perform a difficult movement, or jump an obstacle. It can also be used to encourage the horse to take a lighter contact with the bit. The half-halt should not make the horse break into a different gait; however, repeated half-halts are used to help collect a gait.

Half-halts are universally useful, regardless of riding discipline, although they are used in great abundance in the dressage arena, where perfect control of the horse is required.

"It is unique with each rider and can't be taught. It has to be learned through feeling or from having "aha" moments on several different horses." - Carl Hester

"The half-halt is the miracle of riding" - Crystal Kroetch

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