



April 2008

Cunningham and Ivan Capture Zada Cup In Florida

By Sara Lieser

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Sarah Cunningham learned to like showing because of Ivan. For the past three years he's helped her gain confidence so she can head down centerline with a smile.

"He's an amazing horse," she said. "He's taught me so much. He allows me to learn. I can get nervous at horse shows, and he doesn't care."

Ivan and Cunningham trotted off with two wins at the Zada Cup, Feb. 15-17, Apopka Fla. She took home the Young Rider Team Test victory (65.55%) and the Young Rider Prix St. Georges (65.25%).

Cunningham, 20, acquired the 18-year old Dutch warmblood (Columbus-Fastrona) with the hope of competing in the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. She fulfilled that dream last summer when she rode on the Region 1 team.

"We were in the middle of the pack, and it was a great experience," recalled Cunningham. "It's my last year, and I'd love to be able to go again."

She trains with James Koford, who also had numerous wins (with Maryanna Hayman's Don Principe) at the Zada Cup, and she lives in Raleigh, N.C. where she is a sophomore at Meredith College.

"All the teachers are great with working around the horse shows," said Cunningham. "They're excited to hear about how I do."

.....Now Cunningham looks forward to showing instead of getting quite so nervous. "Every time you come away from a show you have more experience under your belt," she said.

She also has a plan to help her get back to the NAJYRC (held in Colorado this year).



photo by WNCPhotography.com

"We've been studying the tests and practicing some other movements, kind of in the Intermediare II so that some of this will seem easier," she said.

(editor's note: Cunningham is the first Young Rider to win the Zada Cup, awarded to the highest combined score in one of three open and USEF High Performance divisions: Small tour (PSG, I-1), Large tour (I-2, GP), and Young Riders. Prizes included sashes, trophies, cooler, and \$2300 prize money. Ivan, an 18 year old imported Dutch gelding, won the Zada Cup in 2005 with Tami Batts riding for owner Victoria Neave.)

Eventing Corner



The Aiken Event Horse Sale:

A great idea that needs some fine-tuning for next year

By Anita Quinn

Four months prior to the event, folks were already talking about the First Annual Aiken Event Horse Sale, held at Shadow Lane farm in Aiken, S.C. on Feb. 20-21. This sale was the first of its kind, and in the words of sale organizer Craig Thompson it was "an event where like-minded horsemen could gather together to search for the next Eventing star". The premise was simple:

sellers register horses in the sale for \$225 per head (plus a full set of radiographs in hand), and buyers pay a \$125 "buyer's fee" (with a "certificate of available funds" in hand). All entry fees included a catered lunch, an evening cocktail party, and the inclusion of a guest. Admission for spectators was \$25 for both days of the sale. A veterinarian was on site for any pre-purchase exams needed.

The brouhaha was that this was going to be a swank affair, which left eventers everywhere baffled. I mean... swank... us?!?!?

True to promise, a wide variety of horses were present for viewing. Prices ranged from a \$4500 Beginner Novice horse on up to \$150,000 confirmed 3* mount. While I would have loved to have taken a mini vacation from my day job to saunter on down to Aiken (the sale was held on a Wednesday and Thursday: so the banks would be open) and join the other spectators and potential buyers, my pocket-book forbade me to do so. I did, however, live vicariously through a few friends of mine, who not only made it down to watch, but had horses that were represented in the sale as well. A total of 75 horses were entered and presented, four sold at the sale, two sold in the days to follow, with updates on sales status still being posted to the website: (<http://www.aikeneventhorsesale.com/>).

As we all know, inaugural events always have kinks to work out. The comments made by my friends reiterated many of the same points: (1) Horses should have been divided by level as opposed to being grouped by price. (2) A warm up area was needed prior to entering the "show" ring, because the horses went in "cold" for spectators and buyers to view, with only 15 minutes for flatwork prior to the 15 minutes given to demonstrate stadium and cross country. (3) More than 30 minutes was needed to show the horse, considering five horses were shown simultaneously. (4) Free admission for spectators and buyers would encourage a larger turnout. And (5) the lack of stabling on site was a huge disappointment for many, requiring horses to be tied to trailers all day in order for buyers to get a second look at a horse they might be interested in.

From my friends' perspective, there were just not enough buyers present to make the sale successful. Overall, it seems the eventing community felt the sale was a great idea, it just lacked some execution this first year. Despite some of the disappointments voiced, the majority of the eventers I spoke to said they looked forward to improvements made for next year. As with any new event, there is always a learning curve. I'm sure that sale organizers Craig Thompson and Sarah Heffron will take the comments and suggestions made to heart. Here's looking forward to the Second Annual Aiken Event Horse Sale. Maybe I'll catch a cold at work and hike on down South next February myself. The \$25 spectator fee is well worth feeling "swank" for a few days!

The NEWS is an official publication of the North Carolina Dressage & Combined Training Association

All newsletter material must be typed and received by the 10th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Rates

Ads:

\$100 page \$75 half

Show prize lists, entry forms, and clinics:

\$50 page \$40 half

Classifieds:

\$15 per classified

Limit 5 lines

Approx. 50 characters per line.

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Champions Pinned At Pinehurst Series

By Sue Smithson

If there is an upside to drought and global warming, the Pinehurst Dressage Schooling Show series took advantage of it with sunny, mild weather for three big shows at the Harness Track in January and February.

Championship prizes, sponsored by Food Lion, Lob Steer Inn, and Cornerstones, were awarded at the final show February 17 with six different breeds in the tri-color lineup.

CHAMPIONS

Sabine Desper of Raeford and her 8 year old purebred Arabian gelding Midnight at the Oasis claimed the upper level championship in their third level debut. Desper credits her trainer Vicki Kelley of Pinehurst with their success, "She has brought us this far!"

Even though Diana Hoberecht's Dante was sidelined with a minor injury for the final show, no one could top his undefeated record at training level. The 11-year old Thoroughbred cross is adapting well to his career change from the start box to the rectangle. "I have spent hours and hours working on building trust with him," Hoberecht said. "Retraining an older horse is much harder than doing it right from the beginning." Hoberecht, a full time trainer in Southern Pines, also claimed the Event / Intro championship with Kristi Meyer's 11-year old Connemara /TB cross St. Oliver Plunket.

RESERVE CHAMPIONS

Anne Hennessey of Vass was upper level reserve champion with consistent wins at second level with her 6-year old Warmblood gelding Gemini. Hennessey bought a farm next door to eventing trainer Charlie Plumb, and enjoys watching her advanced event horse Benwald campaign under Holly Hepp. Amy Potts of Southern

Pines and her versatile Warmblood mare Absolution claimed the lower level reserve championship with solid wins at first level. Absolution has been successful in the hunters, jumpers, eventing, and dressage. Junior rider Elle Demboski of Biscoe and her flashy pony Rock 'n Roll Roy claimed the reserve championship in the Event/Intro division.

SPORT HORSE VERSATILITY

Sport Horse Versatility, a combined test of dressage and trail obstacles, took off in a big way. When scores were tallied only one point separated the division leaders for the championship. Nancy Piscopo and her Hannoverian mare Dedericka II edged out Megan MacDougal and her Quarter Horse gelding SF Azure Royal Te, with both horses showing confidence and style on the obstacle course throughout the series. "He could not have gone any better," MacDougal beamed. "He was perfect!"

Piscopo's strategy included a lot of practice at the mounting block, which she said was the most challenging for her.

"Most riders take it for granted that they can get on easily," said obstacles judge Linda Hoover. "SHV has made them think more about it. Riders are expected to be able to have the horse get straight to the mounting block, and stand perfectly still while they get on and pick up the stirrups and reins without moving."

Amy Ramsdell won back the \$200 trainer's challenge sponsored by her employer, HyCourt Farm of Texas. Versatility has long been a popular division in the Quarter Horse world, and this inaugural series was an immediate hit with dressage riders. Horses were brought out of retirement just to compete in this series, and the colorful obstacle course attracted spectators and schooling throughout the series.

For complete results, visit www.SportingServices.net.

Spring Dressage Schooling Show

By Vicki Kelley

It was a cool sunny day for the first of this year's series of dressage schooling shows at Antares Dressage. The riders and horses traveled from as far away as Virginia, Wilmington and Winston-Salem to join our Sandhills locals to make the day a big success. Nanci Lindroth judged a full day starting with the eventing dressage tests and ending the day with second and third levels. It was wonderful to see so many fancy horses and a big crowd to watch and enjoy the sunny day. St Andrews Presbyterian College had a big group of rides and horses including the high scoring horse of the day Ben ridden by Jenni Bensen with a 72.173% at Training Level test 1 and a 70% ride at training level test 2. Alyson Resh on Aly's Abram was the best score in the eventing tests scoring a -35.3 at beginner novice A. The winning intro ride was Rebecca Mchaffey on Cookies N Cream scoring a 61%.

Catlin Beazely on Moses from St Andrews won intro B with a 60%. Dr. Robert Sills from Sandford was the winning score with 67.6% riding Noroby at Training Level test 3. Rebecca Vick had a winning streak at first level tests 1 with 64.666% and test 2 with 68.055% riding Bill and Jan Taper's Houdini. Charlotte Brent was the high score at first level test 4 with a 68.421% riding Debbie Hosmer's horse Dovovan. Charlotte Brent also was the high score at third level on her horse Debonaire with a 63.489%. The second level winner was Diana Hoberecht riding Meredith Mannheim's Zanchen with a 62.894%. We look forward to our next show on April 12th at Antares Dressage.

Thank you to everyone for making this show a big success!

NCDCTA Jumper Series Wrap-Up

Whew...what a series. While I'm not going to say, "glad it's over", it will be nice to get back in the saddle myself again at a schooling show instead of working behind the scenes. For those of you who have never hosted a show before, I encourage (maybe dare is a better word?) you to give it a go. The satisfaction of putting on a well run show outweighs the tons of volunteer hours, headaches, and frustration that go on behind the scenes...for the most part. *wink wink* Thank goodness for fantastic friendly competitors though, they really did make the series enjoyable and very satisfying! We hope to see some of those smiling faces back again.

We saw (and hopefully accommodated) almost every type of rider possible. We had professionals accompanying green horses and green riders, we had Hunters, we had Jumpers, and we had a fabulous appendix that normally travels the AQHA circuit jumping around a course as well. We had the young riding the old and the old trying to stay on the young. At the final show we were even graced with the presence of the Black Stallion. Okay, maybe not

"THE" Black Stallion of childhood books, but he was equally as impressive to most of us. All in all, in hindsight, we had a great time, met many friendly faces, and hopefully helped some of these horses and riders prepare for their 2008 season.

I'd like to extend a very warm heartfelt "Thank You" to the folks at Cavallo Ridge Farms for the use of their facility, their hospitality, good food, and tons of volunteer help! I'd also like to thank our photographer at the last show, Annie Goldman. Photos of the show are now available online for purchase at: www.anniegoldman.photorelect.com.

Please frequent the NCDCTA calendar for the latest Eventing Education Activities in planning for 2008. We hope to see you there!

Cheers,
Anita Quinn
NCDCTA Eventing Education Chair

Horse Breeding In North Carolina: *How is the industry weathering the rocky economic times?*

NCDCTA News asked the breeders themselves for an overview of the sport horse breeding industry here. Entries at the annual NCDCTA Sport Horse Breed Show have been slowly declining, but the inaugural Sporthorse Stallion Expo this past January not only produced contracts for stallion owners but focused a bright spotlight on the domestic sport horse breeding industry. What is the true forecast for mare and stallion owners? Prominent breeder Debbie Malinowski of Hillsborough responds:

"The economic outlook for the horse breeding industry in North Carolina has been impacted by the skyrocketing prices of fuel and most goods produced and transported within the country. The negative prospect of the economy for the next 12 months has several important impacts on the horse breeding industry.

"The first impact is that very high importation charges have made the cost of purchasing and/or importing horses from Europe unattractive. The good news is that this makes horses bred and raised in North Carolina more attractive and affordable. However, quality must remain of the utmost importance to breeders. Our breeding programs should focus on quality bloodlines with an emphasis on the pedigree of both mare and stallion to generate quality foals. The ability to use fresh and frozen semen from a variety of stallions in the United States and Europe enables our knowledgeable and dedicated breeders to produce foals of the highest quality, equal to the foals produced in Europe. Breeding programs that offer premium foals will continue to compete well in this economy.

"The second negative factor impacting our horse breeding business is the fact that the market is a buyer's market. With high operating costs, due to skyrocketing feed and fuel prices, we cannot reduce our prices, especially on stock over a year old. It would be wise for buyers looking for a good deal on a quality horse to consider purchasing a foal. We have also seen an interest in breed-

ing sport horse ponies. Many stallion owners are providing significant discounts in breeding contracts as a financial incentive to keep their businesses moving forward.

NCWARMBLOODS.COM

"The North Carolina Warmblood Breeders group (NCWB) is dedicated to the breeding of pedigree warmbloods. Our web site is <http://www.ncwarmbloods.com>. Membership is open to all breeders and you can join by contacting Debbie Malinowski, Eleanor Eltoft or Walker Perry. Coming soon, you will be able to join the NCWB online. To qualify as a breeder, your name must be listed on the horses' papers. NCWB is planning to sponsor "Born in North Carolina Awards." These awards will be given at the top ten dressage shows during the year and will recognize all shows. To do this, we need you to sign up at the shows and bring a copy of your papers.

"Our NC Warmblood group is expecting foals by Fidertanz, Rolling Stone, Stibby Me, Pablito, Wild Card, Landkonig, Balou de Rouet, Sinatra Song, Golfball, Prince Optimus, Donatelli, Staccato, Don Principe, Lullaby, Baccus, Routiner, Lordship, Cordini, Point Maker, and Baltic Sundance. The NCDCTA Sport Horse Breed Show on Labor Day in Raleigh will be a showcase for some of these foals. Come see what we have to offer."

(editor's note: According to USEF rules, the breeder is the owner or lessee of the mare at the time of foaling. Debbie Malinowski has been breeding horses since 1985 at her Wellsmont Farm in Hillsborough. She manages Hannoverian and Oldenburg mares from the bloodlines of Florencio, Fuerst Heinrich, Rolling Stone, Wild card, Pikor and Don Alfredo.)

Breeding Season Takes On New Meaning With Today's Technology

By Sue Smithson

These days we have a new traffic hazard in horse country. When the FedEx truck comes bouncing down the drive and screeching up to the barn, you can bet it's breeding season.

Ah, spring. But wait - foals used to be produced by a stallion and a mare, separated by an inattentive farmer and flimsy paddock fence. Or a pile of rubble that used to be a flimsy paddock fence.

Nowadays, due to advanced technology, we can collect, freeze, and ship semen around the world. And manipulate a mare's cycle with a hormone shot. Economical and efficient, yes, but it all seems so industrial. Think of those poor little swimmers, getting sucked into a straw, frozen, transported, thawed, and implanted. It would like being vacuumed up into an alien spacecraft, then decanted and uploaded with all the tenderness of a cook shooting herb dressing into an equally chilled, equally surprised Cornish hen. Where's the romance in that?

But technology marches on. We can now clone horses. And transfer embryos from one mare to another. Next will be foals forming non-profit support groups to help each other search for their biological parents.

Statistics are consulted and tireless research is done to find the perfect match in today's breeding industry. And thanks to FedEx, proximity is of no consequence, only bloodlines and show records. If you ask the stallion, there is no such thing as the wrong mare. And if you ask a mare in season, there is no such thing as the wrong stallion. But nowadays, they never even see each other. Video, internet, and enhanced digital photography drive the market. But what if the horses themselves could take out personal ads?

"I want a mare whose legs go all the way up to her neck, with a solid derriere, a swiny walk, and a healthy appetite. A lady who can polish off a bale of hay and still whinny when she hears the feed room door open. I'm looking for a mare who loves foals, fools, and children."

"I'm looking for a stallion who enjoys long walks in moonlit pastures, nude co-ed mud rolling, and cozy stolen moments behind the hay shed. No skinny, pointy Thoroughbreds or short, bald Quarter Horses need respond. I prefer imported Warmbloods (love a stud with an accent) and long haired Friesians (Bohemian intrigue)."

The next time you get blown off the trail by the FedEx truck racing past, just think to yourself that's just the next champion in a test tube.

Sponsored Shows for 2008

1. March Magic Dressage, Williamston, NC March 28 - 30, 2008
 2. Dressage in the Sandhills, Pinehurst, NC May 9 - 11, 2008
 3. Capital Classic Dressage, May 30-June 2, 2008
 4. Dressage at Lexington, Lexington, VA July 11 - 13, 2008
 5. Summertime Blues Williamston, NC July 26 & 27, 2008
 6. Summer Mountain Getaway Asheville, NC August 2 & 3, 2008
 7. Made in the Shade, Williamston, NC August 23 & 24, 2008
 8. Labor of Love, Raleigh NC August 30 & 31, 2008
 9. NCDCTA Sport Horse Breeding Show, Raleigh NC September 1, 2008
 10. Pinehurst Fall Pinehurst, NC September 27 & 28, 2008
- The breeder of the horse must be a resident of NC.
 - Riders/Owners must present a copy of their horse's papers to the show secretary to qualify.
 - Riders/Owners must sign up with the show secretary and provide the Horse's name, Registry, Breeder, Class Level, and Score.
 - Winners will be recognized on the NC Warmblood website.
 - Pictures are highly encouraged!
 - Send pictures and/or your story to Mary Messinger at mary.k.messinger@gsk.com or to the NC Warmblood Webmaster at webmaster@ncwarmbloods.com.

Minutes of the NCDCTA Executive Board Meeting

March 4, 2008

The NCDCTA Executive Board met March 4, 2008 by teleconference. Members present were Jennifer Mitchell, Dave Stuckey, Donna Kelly, Lynn Leath, Anita Quinn, Becky Blikslager and Sue Smithson. Excused: Suzanne Mullen.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., outlining her plans to attend the USDF Region 1 meeting in Maryland / Delaware on March 16. A sponsorship solicitation from the 2008 North American Junior and Young Rider Championships was reviewed. Lynn moved that a \$250 sponsorship be approved, Anita seconded, passed unanimously. The new policy regarding volunteer card distribution was officially adopted: Upon receipt of results, NCDCTA recognized dressage shows and combined tests will receive 5 cards per day of competition (horse trials: 10 cards per). NCDCTA sponsored shows will receive as many cards as they need.

VICE PRESIDENT: Donna requested that horse registration forms include a prompt for blanket size for year-end HOY cooler orders. Adding a line for secondary contact phone on the membership form was also approved, Sue will have the forms altered. A question arose regarding listing of family members on the membership roster, Donna will follow up with the membership secretary. The HOY gala committee is looking at the N.C. Art Museum in Raleigh as a potential site for this year. Membership figures are strong: 652 to date with 269 horses registered. Approximately one third of horse registrations opted to pay the \$50, which is earmarked for HOY prizes.

TREASURER: Dave announced that income was underestimated at the initial budget meeting last month, due to the recent distribution of proceeds from the 2007 CDI/CDC, which nearly doubled from previous years. A discussion ensued regarding this unexpected windfall. His recommendation: examine the first quarter numbers before altering funding requests. With the change to multiple show managers for six of our eight annual dressage shows, the estimated risk and/or profit from these shows is difficult to predict. Dave explained that non-profit organizations are allowed to retain earnings, although not indefinitely. The board agreed

to adopt the conservative budget for now, with the understanding that funding requests can be expanded later in the year. Dave announced that insurance filings are up to date, and requested that Anita and Becky have all clinic participants sign a liability waiver and all clinicians submit a W9 form.

COMMUNICATIONS: Sue suggested upgrading our web host when the current contract runs out in June. Some members have expressed difficulty submitting ads, and this may help alleviate the problem. Is the problem with the host, or with the ad program itself which some find confusing? Feedback on the website classifieds is requested: info@NCDCTA.org

Sue and recognition chair Sandie Dennis collaborated on a NCDCTA Licensed Officials list on the website to help show managers. It was agreed that only licensed officials and L grads who are current NCDCTA members will be listed. L grads who have not retained their USDF membership were dropped from the USDF online roster, and the question arose on how those judges' credentials are verified. Sandie is sending individual renewal prompts, and Sue will check with USDF to see if the L grads will be reinstated after they renew.

COMPETITIONS: Lynn reported that the new show managers have submitted budgets, some more detailed than others. They will all be reminded to file 1099 tax forms for paid staff and officials. Lynn agreed to provide storage for two pipe arenas and two sets of letters currently stacked at Latta, and Dave and Jennifer agreed to collect them. Dave recommended that NCDCTA gradually reduce its show equipment inventory, as reliance on professional show managers to provide equipment is more per IRS independent contractor guidelines.

EVENTING: Anita has identified two major groups to support and promote: (a) the competitors who compete at the nationally recognized events and (b) the grass roots. For the former, she has

ordered logo saddle pads and polo shirts for the best scoring NCDCTA members at six recognized events this year. NCDCTA membership forms and flyers will be included in competitor packets. For the latter, Anita moved that in lieu of organizing our own clinics, we offer scholarships to members for existing educational activities. The Rebecca Howard clinic at the Fork in June was discussed, and it was conditionally approved to offer a \$75 scholarship per member. Other clinics and camps will be chosen by the eventing committee for similar scholarships, with the aim to be inclusive and not endorse any one particular trainer. It was agreed that in-state trainers benefiting from these scholarships should be NCDCTA members.

DRESSAGE: Becky announced that all three 2008 dressage clinics have been confirmed, and she has been fielding inquiries from riders. Stabling at Tamarack has been secured for the Neil Ishoy clinic in April. Her committee will design flyers to seek out non-members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. The next meeting will be April 8 at Dave Stuckey's office in Carrboro.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Smithson

2008 Budget

USDF Membership	\$15,000
Newsletter (net loss)	\$10,000
Dressage Education Committee	\$5,000
Eventing Education Committee	\$5,000
Membership Secretary	\$5,000
Annual Banquet, HOY awards (net loss)	\$5,000
Show and Event Insurance	\$4,000
USDF Annual Meeting	\$3,000
USEA Annual Meeting	\$3,000
Postage, Mileage, Phone	\$2,500
Championships Horse Trials	\$2,000
Website (net loss)	\$2,000
Board of Director Insurance	\$1,600
USEA Area II Meeting	\$1,000
USDF Region 1 Meeting	\$1,000
Scholarships	\$1,000
Tax Preparation	\$850
USEA Membership	\$150
NC Horse Council Membership	\$100
Total	\$67,000