

EQUESTRIAN

Official Publication of the American Vaulting Association

VAULTING

**WORLD
EQUESTRIAN
GAMES
ROUNDUP**

MEET TEAM USA

**A GUIDE TO
FEI COMPETITION**

**AVA'S
50-YEAR
HISTORY
PART 3**

**2018
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS**





Photos by Tim Sutherland

Congratulations Mile High Vaulters on an Amazing year!

B Team National Champions - Emma, Melanie, Sydney, Moira, Augusta Rose, Rhianon, Danica

C Team National Champions - Lizie, Jim, Percy, Marshall, Maddie B, Nic, Bryan

Preliminary Pas de Deux Reserve National Champions - Augusta Rose Lewis and Emma Milito

Silver Male National Champion - Jim Roedel

Bronze Male Reserve National Champion - Bryan Sutherland

Copper Male National Champion - Emmanuel Nicola

Novice Trot Female National Champion - Ellie Kadelcek

Tiny Tot Reserve Female National Champion - Josephine Thieler-Johnson

Tiny Tot Barrel Reserve National Champion - Deveri Erfman

Barrel Team Reserve National Champions - Deveri, Ellie, Mary, Matilda, JoJo, Violete

Mile High Vaulters - From Tiny Tot to Gold

Fun, Friends, Excellence and Rewarding Experiences.

milehighvaulters.org

Congratulations on a job well done to our vaulters who competed at the 2018 AVA/USEF National Championships: Courtney Madden, Emma Milito, Melanie Ford, Moira Hampton, Jim Roedel, Bryan Sutherland, Rhianon Hampton, Augusta Rose Lewis, Danica Rinard, Lizie Conrad, Percy Brown, Emmanuel Nicola, Matilda Rinard, Violete Thieler-Johnson, Josephine Thieler-Johnson, Mary Nicola, Ellie Kadelcek, Deveri Erfman.

EQUESTRIAN VAULTING

WINTER 2018

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION

6 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES ROUNDUP

It was all smiles for Tryon competitors.

20 REGION IX PROFILE

This AVA region thrives on volunteerism.

By Sarah Phelps

22 BEAT THE LUNGE-LINE BLUES

Experts Yossi and Noel Martonovich weigh in on common lunging issues.

By Natalie DeFee Mendik

26 SPECTATORS' GUIDE TO VAULTING

The technicalities of international competition

30 CELEBRATING HISTORY PART 3

From 2004 to today, vaulting matures in the U.S.

DEPARTMENTS & COLUMNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Letter from the President | 16 Caught on Camera
National Champions |
| 4 US Equestrian News | 34 Judge's Corner
Deconstructing the Horse Score |
| 10 Meet the Team
Profiles of WEG competitors | |

ON OUR COVER U.S. SQUAD MEMBERS AT THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN TRYON, NC. PHOTO BY DANIEL KAISER



**AMERICAN VAULTING
ASSOCIATION**

1443 E. Washington Blvd. #289, Pasadena, CA 91104
323-654-0800

EQUESTRIAN VAULTING MAGAZINE IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION.

It is published three times a year by E-Squared Editorial Services on behalf of the association.

EDITOR, **Emily Esterson** emily@emilyesterson.com; ART DIRECTOR, **Glenna Stocks** glenna@e-squarededit.com; ASSOCIATE EDITOR, **Ashley M. Biggers**. Send comments, suggestions, questions, ideas to evmcontributions@gmail.com. For information on advertising rates, contact andreaselch@earthlink.net.

For address changes, go to www.americanvaulting.org/members/memberservices and click on Membership Updates to make the change. If you are having problems receiving your copy of the magazine or wish to receive additional copies, contact the AVA National Office (ph. 323-654-0800 or email info@americanvaulting.org).

No part of this publication may be reproduced either in whole or part without written permission.

Copyright by American Vaulting Association 2018.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Emma Seely gave me this beautiful plaque as a thank you. The Hamar family made this one-of-a-kind gift that I will be forever grateful for!

ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE USEF/ AVA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/50TH CELEBRATION – from the class sponsors to the volunteers who worked for days. It took all of us to create this very special event.

I still get chills thinking about Vaulting Under the Stars – what an opportunity for our U.S. vaulters to vault before a full house of more than 600 people! From honoring our Hall of Fame inductee, Sydney Frankel, and our special horses, to acknowledging all the volunteers who have helped to make vaulting what it is today; it was a really special evening. Gilroy Gaits went over and above to make its facility meet our every need. I want to personally thank Emma Seely and the members of my A-Team for all of their unwavering support, work, and encouragement in making this the best Nationals ever.

On to the World Equestrian Games: What a grand experience. It was so exciting to watch the USA Team shine on American soil. I am in awe of the volunteers, parents, athletes, coaches, and lungers who came together to make this vaulting event truly spectacular.

Looking forward to 2019 and beyond!

Katherine Ray, AVA President

AVA VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS Effective January 1, 2018

EDITORIAL BOARD

CHAIR, **Andrea Selch**

DirectorMembership@americanvaulting.org

EDUCATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS, **Carolyn Bland**
vpeducation@americanvaulting.org

AVA HISTORY, **Linda Bibbler**
vpmembership@americanvaulting.org

TECHNICAL, **Kendel Edmunds**
DirectorEducation@americanvaulting.org

AVA VISION, **Katherine Ray**
president@americanvaulting.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT, **Katherine Ray**
president@americanvaulting.org

EXECUTIVE VP, **Kelley Holly**
execvp@americanvaulting.org

GENERAL SECRETARY, **Jen Williams**
generalsecretary@americanvaulting.org

TREASURER, **Jill Hobby**
treasurer@americanvaulting.org

VP COMPETITIONS, **Katherine Ray**,
president@americanvaulting.org

VP DEVELOPMENT, **Connie Geisler**
vpdevelopment@americanvaulting.org

VP EDUCATION, **Carolyn Bland**
vpeducation@americanvaulting.org

VP MEMBERSHIP, **Linda Bibbler**
vpmembership@americanvaulting.org

DIRECTORS

COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR, **Emma Seely**
DirectorCompetitions@americanvaulting.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR, **Kendel Edmunds**
DirectorEducation@americanvaulting.org

FUND RAISING DIRECTOR, **Robin Bowman**
DirectorFundraising@americanvaulting.org

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR, **Kristian Roberts**
DirectorIT@americanvaulting.org

JUDGES PROGRAM/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DIRECTOR,
Kendel Edmunds
DirectorTechnical@americanvaulting.org

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, **Gibran Stout**
DirectorMarkComm@americanvaulting.org

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, **Andrea Selch**
DirectorMembership@americanvaulting.org

SAFETY & INSURANCE DIRECTOR, **Dena Madden**
DirectorInsuranceSafety@americanvaulting.org

VAULTING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, **Mikhail Proctor**
DirectorDevelopment@americanvaulting.org

VOLUNTEERISM DIRECTOR, **Barb Brooks**
DirectorVolunteerism@americanvaulting.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR, **Michelle McLean**
DirectorEducation@americanvaulting.org

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS

Region I, **Brian Winther**
RSI@americanvaulting.org

Region II, **Sue Smith**
RSII@americanvaulting.org

Region III, **Jayne Beebe**
RSIII@americanvaulting.org

REGION IV, **Nicole Collins**
RSIV@americanvaulting.org

Region V, **Beth Whillock**
RSV@americanvaulting.org

Region IX, **Sarah Phelps**
RSIX@americanvaulting.org

Region X, **Jane Egger**
RSX@americanvaulting.org

FEI Vaulting Committee
Member, **Suzanne Detol**
sdetol@aol.com

USEF VAULTING SPORT COMMITTEE

Linda Bibbler
lbibbler@gmail.com

Craig Coburn
craigcoburn@me.com

Congratulations

to all US vaulters, lungers & horses



Photo by Daniel Kaiser

The Pacific Coast Vaulting Club's squad, pas de deux & individual vaulters are

so thankful for

Coach and Lunger Carolyn Bland

Trainer Erica Meitz Trainer Moritz Steffens

Diva 506 Palatine Sir Charles

Family Friends Teammates Everyone who supported us in our journey

with a very special thank you to

The Frankel Family

The United States Equestrian Federation The American Vaulting Association

Chef d'Equipe Emma Seeley Assistant Chef d'Equipe Jen Arnsten

Parker plans new programs and high-tech training options for vaulters.

PARKER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF VAULTING PERFORMANCE

US EQUESTRIAN has a newly created position: director of vaulting performance. Funded by long-time vaulting supporters Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang and their Red Husky Foundation, Isabelle Bibbler Parker took on the job immediately after the World Equestrian Games. Her focus will be putting U.S. vaulting athletes back on the podium and growing the sport in this country.

Parker's first priority will be to listen to, and communicate with, as many of U.S. vaulting's stakeholders as possible. She will work in partnership with the US Equestrian Vaulting Sport Committee and the vaulting director to develop, articulate and implement a pathway to sustained success across all vaulting

disciplines and age categories at the international level. Additionally, this position will put in place a system for athletes, lungers, and horses that tracks and analyzes performance progression, analyzes results and trends, and sets and reviews key performance indicators and milestone targets. "I am excited and honored to take on this new role," Parker said in a press release. "[The position] represents a huge opportunity for vaulting in the U.S. and places a significant expectation on my shoulders."

Parker's detailed plans include strong, reciprocal communication strategies to benefit everyone involved. "... My priority is to analyze, in partnership with the US Equestrian Vaulting Committee, how we can measure and start to roll out programs. I am also very keen



Vaulters are already taking advantage of clinics offered by the USEF Vaulting Pathways Program.

KRISTIAN ROBERTS

USEF VAULTING PATHWAYS PROGRAM DEBUTS

THE VAULTING SPORTS COMMITTEE recently announced the USEF Vaulting Pathways Program. Individual, Squad and Pas de Deux vaulters who qualify for the program will be invited to participate in training camps and will gain access to resources including online templates for setting and assessing goals, coaches' training, regular meetings with the vaulting director of performance, human and equine sports medicine support, and priority access to training grants.

The USEF Pathways Program recently held a training camp for juniors. Nineteen junior individuals and squad vaulters trained in compulsories October 20–21, in Woodside, California. They trained at the Horse Park with Daniel Kaiser, Elizabeth Osborn, Isabelle Parker, Mary McCormick, and Katie Peuvrelle. They focused on technique, drills, fitness, mental preparation, and judging basics. "This clinic was a great jumping off point for the season. I'm feeling refocused as a coach and my vaulters walked away feeling inspired and empowered to meet new goals for the season," says Sam Matson. Instructors repeated the training camp in Denver, Colorado the following weekend.

For information, contact Isabelle Parker at vaultingpathways@gmail.com.

that the work we do with athletes on the pathway trickles down to all vaulters. These are exciting times for vaulting in the U.S.!"

In the short term, the goal is to offer several educational opportunities for developing vaulters around the country. The goal is to help them create realistic training

programs and competitive goals. United States vaulting is uniquely challenged because of the country's size and vaulters' wide geographic distribution. The new director of vaulting performance will also use technology to develop competitors who are not located close to a high-level coach.

Congratulations Triangle Equestrian Vaulters



**Helen Mills-Selch,
National Women's Bronze
Champion, on Gryffindor
lunged by Mary McCormick**



**Allegra Hart, National
Women's Trot Champion,
on Paris lunged by
Christian Ramos**



2018 Personal Bests

Helen Mills-Selch, National Bronze Women's Champion
 ▲ **Allegra Hart**, National Trot Women's Champion ▲
Sarah Booker, Third Overall, Copper Women, GFV-Topaz
 Spring Fest ▲ **Charlotte Brown**, Copper Women's
 Champion, Region IX ▲ **Grace Neathery**, Third Overall
 Women's Trot, Region IX ▲ **Alana Smith**, Preliminary
 Trot, Reserve Champion, Region IX ▲ **Tallulah McDevitt**,
 Novice Trot Champion, Region IX ▲ **Violet Gibbs**, Novice
 Trot, Reserve Champion, GFV-Topaz Fall Fest ▲
Kim Lubbs and **Shari Metzger**: Significant improvement
 in Masters Trot



**Heartfelt thanks
to Coach
Dusti Hausman**



Triangle Equestrian Vaulting ▲ Hillsborough, NC
 Find us on Facebook and Instagram



ALL SMILES

THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES BROUGHT THE VAULTING COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

It was hard to beat the irrepressible enthusiasm and spirit that the US team brought to the 2018 Tryon World Equestrian Games.

There were few surprises in the final standings: The German vaulters dominated. Poised, athletic, artistic, favorite Kristina Boe won the Individual Female and Team Norka des VV Koeln-Duennwald won gold in the Squad competition. In the Nations Team Vaulting Championship, Team Norka, plus Boe and Jannik Heiland won the gold. The extraordinary Italian Pas de Deux team of Silvia Stopazzini and Lorenzo

Lupacchini—vaulting to a samba/salsa choreography—surprised even themselves, they said, with their winning score of 9.027. Standout French star Lambert Leclézio won the Individual Male competition. The United States Nations team, featuring Elizabeth Osborn, Colton Palmer and the Team USA 1 Squad of Emily Rose-Steffens, Margaret Long, Kristian Roberts, Daniel Janes, Haley Smith, and Audrey Kiernan finished in a strong fifth place with a score of 24.521.

The United States squad was on fire the final day of competition. They earned a slate of 9s for techni-



Opposite: The US Squad sees their scores, including some 9s. Top of this page, l-r: The USA 1 Squad and the German Squad.



Left: Tessa Divita, competing in Individual Female; right, U.S. horse Curious George, who competed with the Russian team.

cal scores, finishing in fourth place with an average total of 8.00, off the podium by just 0.198. It was a “personal best” for the squad, they said. In individual competition Mary McCormick also reached a goal: to break 8 for her horse score. Paris, the former circus-performer-turned-international-vaulting-horse was steady and rhythmic. “Paris felt very relaxed and confident. We were really together. She was amazing and perfect. She doesn’t have a lot of suspension in the canter, which doesn’t often qualify her for an 8 score, but because of all of her other

attributes, [the judge] thought she deserved it, I guess. It has been our goal all year to get out of the sixes. So it was a personal best and the last round of WEG, that’s kind of an amazing feeling.” Tessa Divita said that just being at WEG was a thrill—the crowd, the atmosphere, the team spirit. “It was really fun out there,” said Divita, competing for the first time as an individual. “Romeo was really happy doing his job. This whole week, and this whole season, really has been a dream come true. There have been so many people helping me. This is my



DANIEL KAISER

EMILY ESTERSON

first time competing as an individual at this level, and just to be in the warm-up arena with some of these people, it was so cool.”

Emma Seely, chef d’equipe for the United States, was pleased with team USA’s performance given the intensity of the competition. “We had some bumps in the road, but we had 90% good goes, decent scores, and the horses were good. But I also think we have our work cut out for us. The competition was phenomenal. I think we did really well... And that squad finish! Kudos! That was really exciting to come that close.”

American vaulting’s strong community showed up in full force at WEG: From sharing horses with other countries to volunteering all day, every day, to raking the track, serving as grooms, doing demonstrations in the vendor area, and cheering for every competitor no matter the country, it was a vaulting family affair. At least eight American horses carried vaulters from other countries, an element of vaulting that’s unique

in the world of equestrian sports. In no other event does one country provide horses for another: “We had an awesome set of USA horses,” said Seely. “But we also brought horses for South Africa, Australia, Columbia, Russia, Hungary, Canada, and Argentina.” Some teams, Seely said, had just one or two practice sessions before they had to vault in competition.

Although Team USA might not have brought home any medals, the experience itself was a prize to cherish. “It was really great to be at an event like this,” said Kristian Roberts, Individual Male competitor. “There was a moment in the freestyle, where I was performing the choreography, and you take in the music and the moment. And that’s just fantastic. And, of course, landing your dismount and hearing the home crowd go crazy; it’s over the moon.”



DANIEL KAISER



DANIEL KAISER



DANIEL KAISER

DANIEL KAISER



GOLD MEDALISTS

- Individual Female Gold: Kristina Boe (GR)
- Individual Male Gold: Lambert Leclezio (FR)
- Pas de Deux Gold: Silvia Stopazzini / Lorenzo Lupacchini (ITA)
- Nations Team Gold: Germany
- Squad Gold: Norka des VV Koeln-Duennwald Team (GR)

US TEAM RESULTS

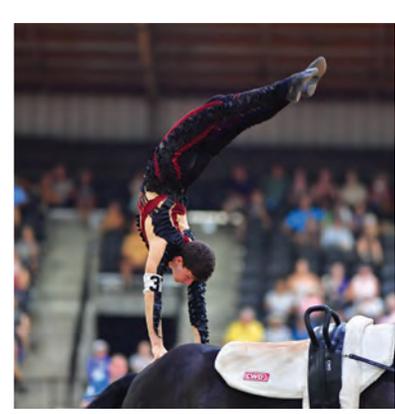
- USA 1 Squad: 4th
- Nations Team: 5th
- PDD: Daniel Janes/Haley Smith: 6th
- PDD: Kathryn Keville/Florence Rubinger: 9th
- Elizabeth Osborn: 11th
- Mary McCormick: 13th
- Tessa Divita: 14th
- Colton Palmer: 14th
- Kristian Roberts: 15th



DANIEL KAISER



Clockwise from left: US spirit; Individual Female gold medalist Kristina Boe (GR); AVA organized a vaulting demo in the vendor fair; Pas de Deux winners Silvia Stopazzini and Lorenzo Lupacchini (ITA); Sue Detol, a judge; Mary and Lunger Christian Ramos see Paris' score; Daniel Janes and Haley Smith. Below, Individual Male gold medalist Lambert Leclezio (FR).



DANIEL KAISER



MEET THE TEAM

Meet the United States Vaulting Team



FEI WORLD
EQUESTRIAN GAMES™

ELIZABETH OSBORN

HOMETOWN:

Menlo Park, California

AGE: 28

YEARS VAULTING:

2000–2008 and 2015–2018

WEG EXPERIENCE:

2006 WEG competition as a Female Individual

HORSE:

Atterupgaards Sting, 17.3 hh, 12-year-old Oldenburg

LUNGER:

Krista Mack



MARY MCCORMICK

HOMETOWN:

Sonoma, California

AGE: 35

YEARS VAULTING: 24

WEG EXPERIENCE:

2006, 2010, and 2014

HORSE:

Paris, 16 hh, 14-year-old Percheron

LUNGER:

Christian Ramos



INDIVIDUAL FEMALE

TESSA DIVITA

HOMETOWN:

Portola Valley, California

AGE: 20

YEARS VAULTING: 15

WEG EXPERIENCE:

Member of the 2014 WEG Squad

HORSE:

Romeo, 18hh, 9-year-old Westfalen

LUNGER:

Christoph Lensing



EMILY ROSE-STEFFENS

Alternate

AGE: 24

HORSE:

Diva 506, 18.1 hh, 14-year-old Oldenburg

LUNGER:

Carolyn Bland





KRISTIAN ROBERTS

HOMETOWN:
Moss Beach, California

AGE: 25

YEARS VAULTING: 12

HORSE:
Sir Charles, 17.1 hh,
13-year-old
Hanoverian

LUNGER:
Carolyn Bland

DANIEL JANES

HOMETOWN:
Monroe, Washington

AGE: 22

YEARS VAULTING: 7

HORSE:
Palatine, 17.2 hh, 20-year-
old Westfalen

LUNGER:
Carolyn Bland



INDIVIDUAL MALE

COLTON PALMER

HOMETOWN:
Half Moon Bay, California

AGE: 20

YEARS VAULTING: 15

HORSE:
Zygo, 17.3 hh,
14-year-old
Dutch Warmblood

LUNGER:
Maurits deVries



GEOFFREY WOOLSON

Alternate

HOMETOWN:
Tujunga, California

AGE: 21

YEARS VAULTING: 12

HORSE:
Maximillion, 17 hh,
11-year-old Irish Draft

LUNGER:
Devon Maitozo



DANIEL JANES

HOMETOWN:
Monroe, Washington
AGE: 22
YEARS VAULTING: 7

HALEY SMITH

HOMETOWN:
Parker, Colorado
AGE: 17
YEARS VAULTING: 7



PAS DE DEUX HORSE:
Diva 506, 18.1 hh, 14-year-old Oldenburg
LUNGER:
Carolyn Bland

PAS DE DEUX

PAS DE DEUX HORSE:
Reylon, 17hh, 20-year-old Hanoverian
LUNGER:
Mary McCormick



KATHRYN KEVILLE

HOMETOWN:
Cotati, California
AGE: 27
YEARS VAULTING: 24

FLORENCE RUBINGER

HOMETOWN:
Santa Rosa, California
AGE: 31
YEARS VAULTING: 26

PACIFIC COAST VAULTERS, THE SEASONS

AUDREY KIERNAN

DANIEL JANES

EMILY ROSE-STEFFENS

HALEY SMITH

KRISTIAN ROBERTS

MARGARET LONG

Alternates:

CAMERON BROWN

GABE ANIELLO

SQUAD HORSE:

Diva 506, 18.1 hh,
14-year-old Oldenburg

LUNGER:

Carolyn Bland

CHEF D'EQUIPE



US EQUESTRIAN

EMMA SEELY

COACH/LUNGER:

2006 WEG "FAME" squad, silver medal; 2006 Megan Benjamin, gold medal; 2015 Junior World Championships, Pas de Deux, gold medal.



DANIEL KASER

Does your horse have an eye injury?

Try Port Cozy



A patented new device for securing sterile injection ports.

andreaselch@earthlink.net

www.portcozy.com



Congratulations to all the WEG competitors!

Thank you to my coach Andrea Brown and the EVX vaulters and horses, Foxy and Ace, along with my horse Hercules, for a great year. And a special thanks to Marshall, the best husband on the planet.

Beyond the Rainbow Vaulters

Thank you Stephanie!



*You are an artist with Gam and Moxie
And an inspiration to all your vaulters.*

Lots of love from your
Great Falls Family



C TEAM
MILE-HIGH VAULTERS, HOGWARTS

Madison Baker,
 Percy Brown,
 Marshall Collins,
 Lizie Conrad,
 Emmanuel Nicola,
 Jim Roedel,
 and Brian Sutherland
 Horses: Dozer
 and Shelby
 Lungers: Nicole Collins
 Jodi Rinard

A TEAM
PACIFIC COAST VAULTERS

Daniel Janes, Audrey
 Kiernan, Margaret Long,
 Kristian Roberts,
 Emily Rose-Steffens,
 and Haley Smith
 Horse: Diva 506
 Lunger: Carolyn Bland

**USEF/AVA National
 Champions**
 August 3–5, 2018
 Gilroy, California

Photos: Primo Ponies

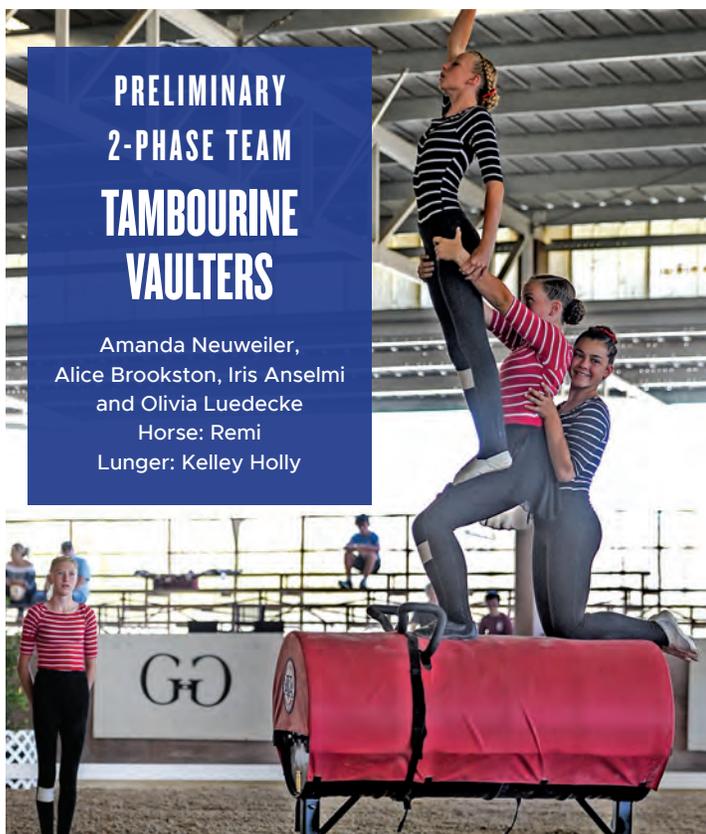


B TEAM
MILE-HIGH VAULTERS, THE GREATEST SHOW

Melanie Ford, Moira Hampton,
 Rhianon Hampton, Augusta Rose Lewis, Emma
 Millito, Danica Rinard, and Sydney Schimack
 Horses: Xena and Shelby
 Lunger: Jodi Rinard

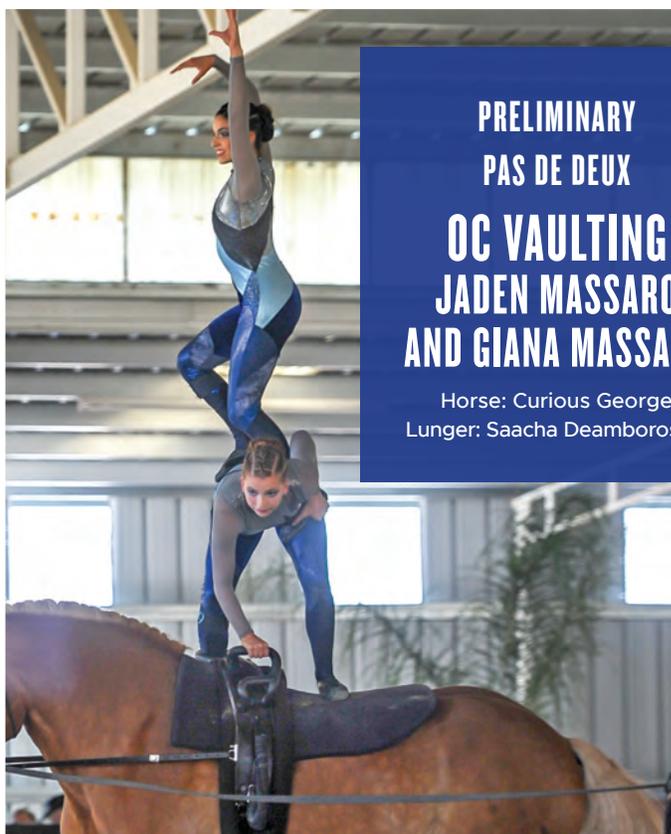
**PRELIMINARY
2-PHASE TEAM
TAMBOURINE
VAULTERS**

Amanda Neuweiler,
Alice Brookston, Iris Anselmi
and Olivia Luedecke
Horse: Remi
Lunger: Kelley Holly



**PRELIMINARY
PAS DE DEUX
OC VAULTING
JADEN MASSARO
AND GIANA MASSARO**

Horse: Curious George
Lunger: Saacha Deamborossio



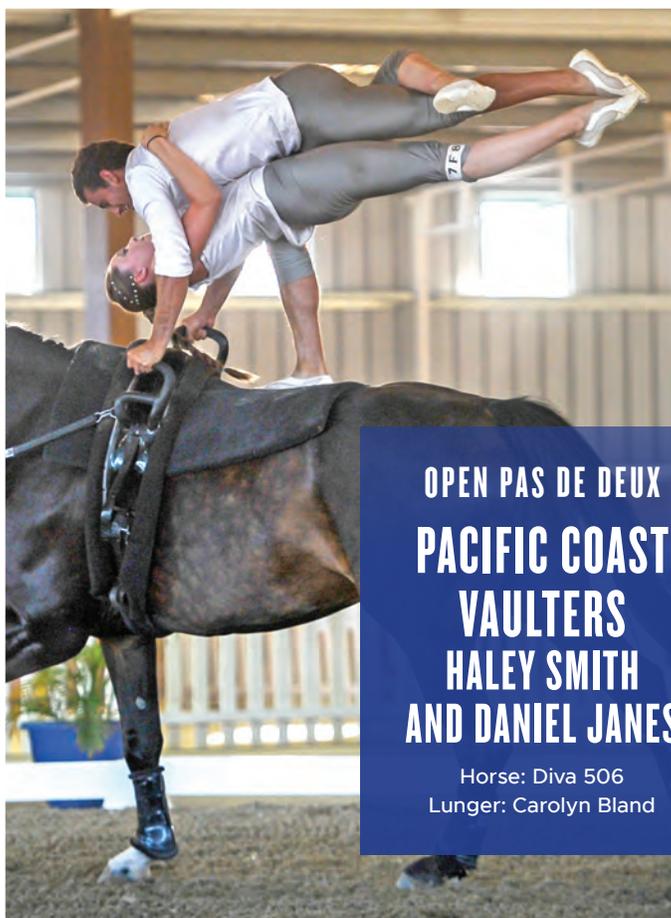
**OPEN 2-PHASE TEAM
LOS ANGELES
EQUESTRIAN
VAULTING CLUB
TEAM CHARLES**

Rachel Herrera, Portia
Jeronimo, Hana Mason
and Mary McCormick
Horse: Charles
Lunger: Saacha
Deamborossio



**OPEN PAS DE DEUX
PACIFIC COAST
VAULTERS
HALEY SMITH
AND DANIEL JANES**

Horse: Diva 506
Lunger: Carolyn Bland





GOLD WOMEN
ELIZABETH OSBORN

WOODSIDE VAULTERS
Horse: Atterupgaards Sting
Lunger: Krista Mack



GOLD MEN
KRISTIAN ROBERTS

PACIFIC COAST VAULTERS
Horse: Sir Charles
Lunger: Carolyn Bland



SILVER WOMEN
SYDNEY SCHIMACK

SUMMIT EQUESTRIAN VAULTERS
Horse: SE Romeo
Lunger: Christoph Lensing



COPPER WOMEN
KYLYNN GHAFOURI

DAVON EQUESTRIAN VAULTING ATHLETES
Horse: Rotary
Lunger: Diana Ghafouri



COPPER MEN
EMMANUEL NICOLA

MILE-HIGH VAULTERS
Horse: Shelby
Lunger: Jodi Rinard



TROT WOMEN
ALLEGRA HART

TRIANGLE EQUESTRIAN VAULTING
Horse: Paris
Lunger: Christian Ramos



SILVER MEN
JIM ROEDEL

MILE-HIGH VAULTERS
Horse: Hampton
Lunger: Jorden Hobbs



BRONZE WOMEN
HELEN MILLS-SELCH

TRIANGLE EQUESTRIAN VAULTING
Horses: Gryffindor and Revlon
Lunger: Mary McCormick



BRONZE MEN
MARTIN VALDEZ

XM EQUESTRIAN
Horse: Paris
Lunger: Christian Ramos



TROT MEN
MATTIAS MUTIS-ROSS

ENCORE EQUESTRIAN VAULTERS
Horse: Vidar
Lunger: Patti Skipton



TROT PAS DE DEUX
REDWING VAULTERS
GRACE DUNKIN
AND GRACIE VENTERS

Horse: Titan
Lunger Jody Campbell



TROT TEAM
ENCORE EQUESTRIAN VAULTERS

Juliette Skipton, Jesse Artau,
Mattias Mutis-Ross, Hailey Thomas,
Naia van Den Bulke,
Sydney Wunderling and Ari Romero
Horses: Renaissance TOF and Vidar
Lunger: Patti Skipton



(L-R) Lucy Rohrer on Nelad's Angela, of Silver Moon Vaulters; Blair Thompson from Volunteer Vaulters; Maurielle Evans, Perfect Impulse Vaulters, on the American Cream horse Keena; Jalene Hensley, also of Volunteer Vaulters, on Pearl; and Rebecca Share of Great Falls Vaulters on Camelito.



PROFILE: AVA REGION IX

BUILDING PARTICIPATION
ONE AREA AT A TIME

BY SARAH PHELPS

In 2011, a handsome 15.3 hand Gypsy Vanner named Chase became involved in a destruction of property incident at a rural convenience store. A girl named Whitney Brown had failed to tie her horse outside before entering the store, and when the animal followed her in, there was a need for clean-up on all aisles. The owner of the store was enraged. Whitney hastily apologized, leapt on her horse and galloped away down a narrow gravel lane, pursued by the store owner in a stolen muscle car.

Implausible? Not if you've seen *The Greening of Whitney Brown*, a 2011 movie starring Brooke Shields and Chase, equine stunt-double-turned-vaulting horse. Unlike the lead actor horse, Chase had no problem careening down the road with a car in hot pursuit. He



ALEX THOMAS



CHRIS JAY PHOTOGRAPHY

is now an integral part of Rolling Hills Equestrian Vaulting in Elysburg, Pennsylvania, where bronze medalist Raelyn Snyder and her mom and coach Sandy have made Chase into a vaulter's favorite. At Perfect Impulse Vaulters, also in Pennsylvania, a rare American Cream Draft mare named Keena was part of the Orlando, Florida dinner show *Arabian Nights*, a themed showcase for horses, acrobats, drill teams, and Roman riding that ran for over 25 years. Keena is now a reliable and beloved member of the Perfect Impulse equine staff.

Despite the glamorous past of some of its horses, Region IX owes its growth to all the work done outside of the spotlight. The region spans the entire length of all the eastern states as well as Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. A few of its pioneers include AVA 2000 Mentor of the Year Merry Cole, who founded Great Falls Pony Club Vaulting Team (now Great Falls Vaulters) in April 1978. Great Falls is the second oldest continuously registered vaulting team in the United States, after Mt. Eden Vaulting Club in Saratoga, California. Jen Williams earned the East Coast's first gold medal—awarded to a vaulter for competing at the highest level. Jen was also the team's coach, an AVA Mentor of the Year in 2008, and “r” vaulting judge.

Falconwood Flyers, now Falconwood Vaulters, was started in 1988 by the Faulkner family, who went on to found the AVA Friendship Vaulting Team in 1995. Conceived as a way to promote vaulting to a wider audience, the Friendship Vaulting Team is comprised of gold- and silver-level vaulters who perform at large horse events and host educational sessions.

Another Region IX founder of note is Chris Appel-Bucierka, who coached Rocking W Vaulters, now Topaz, for decades and was also the recipient of Mentor of the Year in 2005. Others who were instrumental in the early days were

Dorothy Fontana, coach of Sugarloaf Vaulters near Rockville, Maryland, and Bonnie Redding Scribner of Oakland School Vaulters in Troy, Virginia. Scribner later coached Spectrum Vaulters in Charlottesville, Virginia. In Massachusetts, in particular, early pioneers included Anne Howard of Mt. Holyoke Vaulters in Northampton, Amy McCune at Marche Farm in Medway, and Helen Yetman-Bellows of Haymaker Vaulters in Pepperell, who encouraged several barns in greater New England to adopt vaulting into their riding programs.

Great Falls' Merry Cole eventually moved to New Mexico, where she founded Albuquerque Vaulters and met Region IX's Valerie Carter, who was living in New Mexico at the time and looking for vaulting training for her two young daughters. Carter, a dressage rider and now an apprentice in the AVA judge's program, eventually helped Cole with lunging and with training some of her vaulting horses in dressage. Now in residence in Florida, Carter and her daughters continue to ride and show dressage, but also to make vaulting horses “one at a time,” she says. “Region IX has a lot of good horses,” says Carter, “and they can all benefit from good cross training in basic dressage, just like our vaulters benefit from cross training with Pilates or yoga.” Carter sees assisting new and existing clubs with their horse training as the best way for her to make a contribution to the region. At the moment, she is helping a riding school in St. Augustine to start a vaulting program, which will be the only one in that part of Florida.

With 35 teams recognized by the AVA and over 300 members, most of the region's activities are still clustered in the Mid-Atlantic, Georgia, North Carolina and New England; the

Deep South and northern New England have fewer teams. Taking a page from those who originally planted the vaulting flag in the east, nurturing the seeds of interest within existing riding programs will help build participation in areas where vaulting is sparse. Strategic investments in horses and equipment, along with volunteer mentors who are willing to travel, can make this goal a reality.

Rachel Markels Webber, coach of the New England Valkyries in Westford, Massachusetts, as well as dressage rider, trainer, accomplished competitor, and USEF steward is one more who is willing to assist riders who want to start a vaulting program. She says, “I could go on and on about how much I believe in it.”



ALEX THOMAS

BEAT THE LUNGE-LINE BLUES

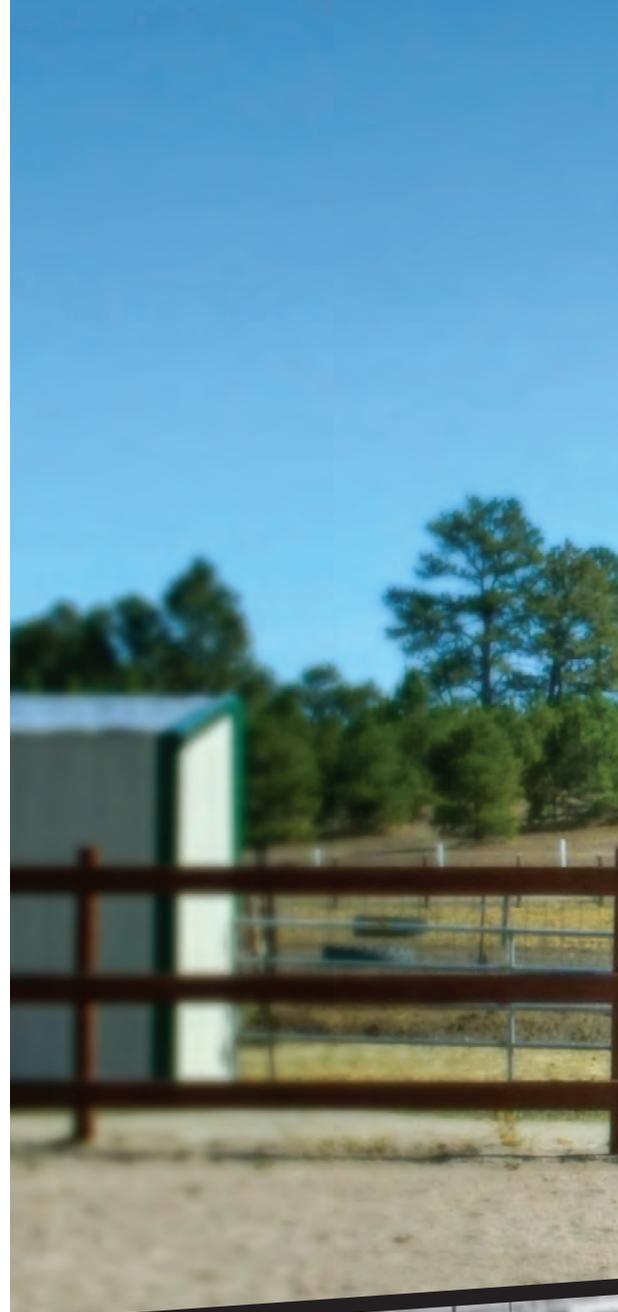
EXPERTS SOLVE COMMON LUNGING PROBLEMS.

BY NATALIE DEFEE MENDIK | PHOTOS BY CAITLYN MENDIK

Whether newbie or seasoned pro, every lunger encounters issues at some point—especially considering every horse is different and new situations can lead to unexpected responses. Maybe your horse breaks from canter to trot on a regular basis. Or maybe your horse is rhythmic at home but too quick at competitions. Whatever your bugaboo, you can be sure another lunger has dealt with it, too.

Founders of Golden Gate Vaulters in Golden, Colorado, Yossi and Noel Martonovich have trained countless vaulters and horses up through the levels. They are now retired on Prince Edward Island in Canada, but Golden Gate horses and vaulters are still competing worldwide. Career highlights include lunging at the World Equestrian Games in 2002 and 2010, among other accomplishments. Here the Martonoviches share how they address some common lunging problems.

Yossi and Noel Martonovich, of Golden Gate Vaulters, have trained countless horses up through the levels.



Developing a balanced, uphill canter requires attention to detail and fixing the bad habits.





Solve pulling by gently familiarizing the horse with the whip.

ISSUE: HORSE PULLING

NOEL'S FIX: There are several reasons for a horse pulling on the circle: one is that the horse is afraid of his lunge and is trying to get away. In this case, you must teach the horse not to be afraid of the whip or the lunge. Handle the horse all over with your hands and the whip until the horse is feeling comfortable.

Another problem could be that the horse is not supple and balanced enough to make it around the circle. In this case, the best thing you can do for this horse is to improve his balance and his suppleness by riding him. Ideally, you should ride figure eights; on a figure eight, you work both sides of your horse equally. Figure eights are two circles with a crossover point in the middle, so they contain no straight lines. In other words, the horse is always bending slightly to the left until he is bending slightly to the right—bending throughout his body around your leg with only a very slight bend in the neck. You want to improve the horse's suppleness by riding very exact and progressively smaller circles on your figure eights. To improve his balance, you want to ask for a progressively slower, but active trot, while doing the figure eights; this improves his ability to carry weight on his haunches so that he strengthens them.

When you feel that the horse is comfortable while being ridden under saddle on the circle, it's time to try it out with the lunge line. If you weigh 125 pounds and you are holding onto a 2,000-pound horse at the end of a 20-foot lunge line, you may need some extra help. If you allow the horse to pull, he learns that he can pull you around, and it's a hard habit to break. Alternatively, you could lunge him in a round pen where he can't pull to the outside until he gets comfortable with working on the prescribed circle.

ISSUE: HORSE TURNING IN TOWARD THE LUNGER WHILE HALTED ON THE CIRCLE

NOEL'S FIX: If your horse turns in to look at you when you stop him, ask for halt next to a fence where he can't throw his haunches out. Stay close to him, and as he is coming to a stop, point your whip at his shoulder. Touch him on the shoulder only if necessary to keep him from coming in. Practice this until he stays out on the circle. Each time you are successful, move back a little farther until you are on a full-sized circle.

ISSUE: HORSE CUTTING IN

NOEL'S FIX: Horses who cut in have never really learned what their job is, so you need to teach them. Go back to the beginning. Start by leading the horse and making sure that he knows to stay beside you—not in front of you and not behind you—without crowding into your space, meaning that when you turn to the right or left, or go straight, the horse maintains an equal distance from you.

After he has learned that lesson, turn towards him and ask him to maintain the same distance away from you as both of you are walking forward. Once you have that established, you can start to push the horse out a little farther from you, but

continue to maintain the distance as you walk along. Slowly, you can start asking the horse to circle around you, still maintaining the same distance, which at this stage is quite close. Because of the short distance between you and the horse, you will need a dressage whip as your lunging whip.

As the horse begins to understand the concept of staying out on the lunge line, you can slowly extend the distance; at the same time, trade in your dressage whip for a driving whip. As the circle gets bigger, you will want to use a longer whip until eventually you are on a vaulting circle with a lunging whip.

To keep your horse tuned up and listening to you, make sure that you not only do circles, but also take the horse along a straight line, just as you did in the beginning, always keeping his attention. Don't let him think he knows more than you or assume he's just traveling a circle. Keep him interested by changing between straight lines, bigger and smaller circles, etc. Remember, you are telling the horse where to go—he is not just following a pattern.

If your horse turns in, try halting him next to a fence. You can gently touch (or point) your whip to his shoulder.



When leading a horse, make sure that he knows to stay beside you, not in front of you and not behind you and not crowding you. This can help him learn to stop cutting in.

ISSUE: DIFFICULTY MANAGING TEMPO

YOSSI'S FIX: When the horse is calm, supple, and obedient under saddle, then managing tempo lunging on the circle shouldn't be an issue, because it is easy for him to go at any speed that the lunger demands.

I like to get my horses very attuned to me as the lunger, so that a very slight move of my lunge whip indicates to the horse exactly at what speed he should go at any given moment. I can't emphasize enough the importance of calmness. A horse that is worried, upset, or uncomfortable will not be consistent in his rhythm.

Noel adds: Rhythm is the key to good horse training. A nervous horse has no rhythm, so the first thing you need to establish with your horse is relaxation while being ridden and also on the lunge line. A relaxed horse is calm and thoughtful, prepared to listen to his rider or his lunger.

ISSUE: HORSE BREAKING GAIT

NOEL'S FIX: I like to teach a horse to move from the walk to the canter and to come down from a canter to a walk. I want my horses to know that trot does not flow into canter and that canter does not slow to trot — it slows to walk. Trot is a completely different gait.

ISSUE: HORSE SWINGING HAUNCHES OUT

YOSSI'S FIX: Again, this is a problem of a horse that is not supple and not carrying weight on his haunches; he swings his haunches out to avoid having the weight of his body directly on his haunches. The remedy is, again, good riding. In addition to the figure eights, exercises such as shoulder-in and haunches-in could be very beneficial for a horse with this problem. You can start by teaching him these exercises at the walk, but spend most of the time at a trot, making sure you exercise both directions.

A good vaulting horse is a horse that canters (or walks, or trots) calmly and rhythmically on a perfect circle, giving vaulters the opportunity to perform to their best. To improve the vaulting horse and correct most issues, the most important thing is good riding every day, thereby improving the horse's suppleness, obedience, and balance.

NATALIE DEFEE MENDIK, M.A., is an award-winning journalist specializing in equine media. Visit her online at www.MendikMedia.com.





SPECTATORS' GUIDE TO VAULTING

THE ROLE OF THE LUNGER

The lunger is responsible for ensuring that the horse performs his best for the competitors and earns a high horse score. While it may look easy, correct lunging takes time, training and discipline.

WHERE ARE THE JUDGES?

COMPULSORY TEST

Judges A & E evaluate the horse.

Judges B, C, D, F, G, H evaluate the exercises.

FREE TEST & TECHNICAL TEST

Judges A & E evaluate the horse.

Judges B, D, F, H evaluate technique (Performance and Degree of Difficulty).

Judges C & G evaluate artistic elements.

Do you have your eyes on international competition or just want to be a more knowledgeable spectator? *Equestrian Vaulting Magazine* published this spectators' guide for the World Equestrian Games, but it's useful to all vaulters to understand the components of international competition at 3*.

Judges at this level evaluate competitors based on their abilities to smoothly execute compulsory movements demonstrating strength, flexibility, balance, and harmony with the horse. Judges also score them on the technical difficulty and artistic expression associated with freestyle routines. Additionally, a portion of every overall score is secured by considering the horse's quality and consistency of gait.

Individuals compete in four different tests for a combined score: compulsory, during which they are judged on the quality of eight prescribed movements as well as a horse score; the freestyle (technically called the Free Test), during which they are judged on technique (difficulty of movements, performance), artistic merit, and the horse. The 15 best vaulters continue to the final round and perform the technical test, which consists of five technical exercises, additional freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter, and a horse score. Technical exercises may be shown in any order in a one-minute freestyle. The fourth and final score is a second performance of the freestyle. There are eight judges—two evaluating the horse and six evaluating the exercises and artistic elements. At the end of the competition, the scores from all tests are added together then divided by the number of tests, for a final, overall score.

INDIVIDUALS

(separate male and female competitions)

First Round: Compulsories and Free Test

The 15 best individuals continue to final round.

Second Round: Technical Test and Free Test (one minute each)

PAS DE DEUX

Two rounds of free test (two minutes)

The 12 best Pas de Deux pairs continue to final.

SQUAD

One round of compulsories, two rounds of freestyle

Free Test is four minutes.

Twelve best Squads continue to final round.

HORSE SCORE

In all tests, the judging of the horse begins with the entrance into the arena and ends with the final dismount.

If more than one individual vaulter or Pas de Deux enter together to vault on the same horse, the score for the entry, salute and trot round will be taken into account for all vaulters on that horse.

The training scale is the most important guideline for trainers, vaulters, lungers, and judges.

The horse score is comprised of five separate scores:

Pace (*Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact*) – 30 percent

Impulsion (*Impulsion, Straightness, Collection*) – 25 percent

Submission (*Submissiveness, Regularity, Circling*) – 25 percent

Lunging – 15 percent

Entry, Salute and Trot round – 5 percent



COMPULSORY TEST

Judged On

- Horse score
- Compulsory exercises (eight exercises)

MOUNT

Height and position of center of gravity; harmony with the horse

10.0: *A handstand position with a straight axis of the body which nearly reaches the vertical. Legs are split with right leg on the vertical line and left leg down. Hips and shoulders are parallel to the shoulder axis of the horse.*

FLAG

Balance and suppleness (particularly shoulder and hip); harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Elevation without broken arc of topline; totally absorbing the canter in the joints.*

MILL

Seat, posture, suppleness, scope, and timing; harmony with the horse.

10.0: Upper body and leg at nearly vertical

SCISSORS FORWARD

Coordination of the scissor movement and height; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Pelvis is turned by a full quarter turn by the point of maximum elevation and nearly a handstand position.*

SCISSORS BACKWARDS

Coordination of the scissor movement and height; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Angle of vertical line to upper body around 90 degrees and with an angle of legs to upper body less than 90 degrees.*

STAND

Balance and posture; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Erect upper body forming a vertical line thorough shoulders, hips, and ankle with knees in optimum extension.*

FLANK, FIRST PART

Height and position of center of gravity; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Straight axis from arms to closed legs with an angle of nearly 90 degrees to the horizontal line of the horse. With maximum arm extension; soft and correct landing to the sideways seat.*

FLANK, SECOND PART

(dismount)
[Individual Compulsories only]
Height and position of center of gravity; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Straight axis from arms to closed legs with an angle of nearly 90 degrees to the horizontal line of the horse, with additional elevation in the flight phase.*

SWING OFF FROM SEAT ASTRIDE TO OUTSIDE

(dismount)
[Squad Compulsories only]
Height and position of center of gravity; harmony with the horse.

10.0: *Straight axis from arms to closed legs with an angle of nearly 90 degrees to the horizontal line of the horse with additional elevation in the flight phase; soft and correct landing outside.*

FREE TEST

The most exciting portion of the competition is undoubtedly the “Free Test” or freestyle. Vaulters choreograph a series of movements in a gymnastic dance on horseback. The heart of a freestyle is presence, poise, a variety of positions, harmony with the horse, engagement with the music, originality, static and dynamic exercises, technical precision, and difficulty of exercises.

Judged On

- Technique (performance and degree of difficulty)
- Artistic
 - Variety of exercises
 - Variety of position
 - Unity of composition
 - Music interpretation
 - Creativity and originality
- Horse score
- Timing
 - Individual: one minute
 - Pas de Deux (two vaulters): two minutes
 - Squad (six vaulters): four minutes

INDIVIDUAL TECHNICAL TEST

These five technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises, chosen by the vaulter, may be shown in any order in a one-minute freestyle.

- *Shoot Up Mount* tests jump force. This mount will be replaced in 2019 by *Mount to Reverse Shoulder Stand*.
- *Kneeling Forward to Stand Backwards* tests balance.
- *Backwards Stand Split* tests suppleness.
- *Roll Forward From Croup to Seat Forward on Neck* tests coordination.
- *Push Up Backward* tests strength. It will be replaced in 2019 by *Lower Arm Stand*.

Judged On

- Each technical exercise receives a score based on very specific criteria
- Performance of additional exercises
 - Artistic score
 - Selection of elements, sequences, transitions
 - Unity of composition
 - Music interpretation
 - Horse score



MOUNT



FLAG



MILL



**FRONT
SCISSORS**



**BACK
SCISSORS**



STAND



STAND SPLIT



FLANK



PUSH UP



**KNEES
TO FEET**

PART III:
2003–PRESENT

CELEBRATING



DANIEL KAISER

BOB WEBER

HISTORY

2004

USA wins bronze in Squad Vaulting at the World Vaulting Championships in Stadl Paura, Austria.

2005

Introduction of the Technical Test in international vaulting.

2006

USA earns gold in Individual Female and silver in Vaulting Team at WEG in Aachen, Germany. Technical Test added to Gold-level vaulting in the US.

The American Vaulting Association celebrates 50 years in 2018. This is the conclusion to the three-part series tracing vaulting in the United States since 1968. This edition chronicles 2003 to the present day.



COURTESY OF DEVON MATOZO



COURTESY OF DEVON MATOZO

Vaulting entered the millennium with renewed energy. The American Vaulting Association marked the addition of its 100th club. In the ensuing years, many new developments and rule changes broadened the scope of vaulting both at home and abroad.

In 2004, Team USA won the bronze in Squad Vaulting at the World Vaulting Championships in Stadl Paura, Austria. The American squad, hailing from Coast Line Vaulters, of Santa Cruz, California, consisted of Katie Bowker, Monique Corralez, Karensa Douglas, Lisa Maxwell, Kalynd Noah, Marina Olivieri, Katie Richie, Rosalind Ross, and Nikki Stoke. The horse was Viktor Leo Burnett, lunged by Monika Bischofberger.

Several major changes in the international vaulting rules made 2005 a significant year. For the first time, a horse score was included in the overall score at the



COURTESY OF DEVON MAITOZO

Left to right: Vaulters Michelle Guo and Bodhi Hall, with lunge Lasse Kristensen, at the first FEI Vaulting Championship for Juniors, 2015, Ermelo, Netherlands; Megan Benjamin, 2nd from left, takes Individual Female gold and Team FAME takes silver in vaulting at the 2006 WEG, Aachen, Germany; Vaulters compete at the selection trials for the first ever US World Equestrian Games to be held in 2010 at Lexington, Kentucky. Bottom left to right: Team USA at the 2008 World Vaulting Championships, Brno, Czech Republic; Blake Dahlgren and Megan Benjamin with lunge Lasse Kristensen win bronze in Pas de Deux debut, 2012 World Championships, Le Mans, France.

World Championships levels. This important development earned vaulting more respect as a horse sport within the equestrian community. As Devon Maitozo put it, “The unfair criticism that we struggled to shake before this development was that vaulting was a human sport that just used horses as an apparatus. Adding the horse score was a way of solidifying the fact (perceptually and practically) that our horse training and care was of equal significance.” Additionally, this was the first national championships and first year internationally when lyrics were allowed in vaulting music. The addition of lyrics opened up a whole new level of musical interpretation for vaulters. According to Maitozo, “It was an artistic opportunity that took some time to be refined, but ultimately it has become quite integral in much of the thematic nature of freestyle choreography.”

Also in 2005, the newly developed Technical Test was included as part of the international vaulting discipline for individuals. Until then, vaulting had consisted of two rounds of Compulsories and two rounds of Freestyle, but now the second round is comprised of a Technical Test and a Freestyle. Also, this was the first year that vaulters above the age of 18 could compete in a squad (still called “team” back then). The year 2005

signaled the final year that teams consisted of eight vaulters plus a ninth alternate; from then on, squads had six members. In 2006, many of these changes were incorporated into the AVA and USEF vaulting rules. Most significantly, the Technical Test was added to the Gold level of vaulting.

On the international front, America prevailed at the 2006 World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Aachen, Germany: Megan Benjamin took the gold in Individual Female on Leonardo, with Lasse Kristensen lunging, and the squad took the silver vaulting on Grand Gaudino, with Silke Bartel lunging. The squad that represented the USA at WEG in Aachen was called “FAME” because it was a combination of FACE and Mount Eden vaulters, from California, and included many senior vaulters who, under the new rules, could now compete in Squad: Blake Dahlgren, Devon Maitozo, Megan Benjamin, Rosalind Ross, Annalise VanVranken, Elizabeth Ioannou and Katherine Richey (alternate). Carolyn Bland lunged Mozart for the Squad at selection trials, and Silke Bartel lunged Grand Gaudino for the silver at WEG.

Two years later, at the 2008 World Vaulting Championships, in Brno, Czech Republic, Team USA took

2008

USA wins bronze in Squad Vaulting at the World Vaulting Championships in Brno, Czech Republic.

2010

USA hosts World Equestrian Games at Lexington, Kentucky. USA wins gold in Squad Vaulting.

2012

Pas de Deux is added to World Championships. USA takes the bronze in this new division.

2014

AVA Hall of Fame created.

2015

First FEI Vaulting Championship for Juniors held in Ermelo, Netherlands.

2017

Rocky Mountain Cup CVI debuts.

2018

USA hosts World Equestrian Games at Tryon, North Carolina. The US Squad, Pacific Coast Vaulters, comes in fourth.



COURTESY OF DEVON MAITOZO

Team USA earns bronze in Squad Vaulting at the 2008 World Vaulting Championships, Brno, Czech Republic.

home the bronze medal. The team, called FACE Dark Side of the Moon, was a composite of vaulters from FACE, Mt. Eden, Woodside and Shooting Stars vaulting clubs. The team members read like a who's who of vaulting: Megan Benjamin, Emily Hogue, Mari Inouye, Devon Maitozo, Elizabeth Osborn, Rosalind Ross, and Annalise VanVranken, on Leonardo lunged by Lasse Kristensen.

In 2010, the US hosted World Equestrian Games for the first time. Held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, it was also the first time an American judge, Suzanne Detol, was president of the Ground Jury. And then, in Squad Vaulting, Team USA took its first gold with the FACE team, composed of vaulters from across California and New Jersey: Blake Dahlgren, Mary Garrett, Emily Hogue, Mari Inouye, Devon Maitozo, Rosalind Ross, and Annalise VanVranken, on Palatine

with Carolyn Bland lunging.

In 2011, Pas de Deux was added as a competitive division in international vaulting. And in 2012, it became an event at the World Championships in LeMans, France, for the first time. Blake Dahlgren and Megan Benjamin took the bronze for their Pas de Deux on Jarl lunged by Lasse Kristensen,

In 2014, in celebration of its 45th anniversary, the American Vaulting Association founded the Hall of Fame. It was established to permanently honor American vaulters, lungers, coaches, and horses who have had significant and extraordinary success at National Championship and World Championship levels over the course of their careers. The goal was to celebrate successes in the sport and guard against the loss of these important memories. At the Hall of Fame's inception, 11 individuals were immediately identified as qualifying under the determined point system. Vaulters Devon Maitozo, Kerith Lemon, Megan Benjamin, Blake Dahlgren, Rosalind Ross, Jeannette Boxall-Krassow, Craig Coburn, Sydney Stang Carey, Kenny Geisler, and David Long were the first inductees. The coaches named that year were Emma Garrod Seely, Nancy Stevens-Brown, Isabelle Bibbler Parker, and Carolyn Bland. In 2015, Kendel Edmunds and Adrienne Stang were added to the Hall of Fame, as well as six horses: Doc, Giovanni, Halali, Sir Anthony Van Dyke, Sundance Tom, and Toby.

In 2015, the first FEI Vaulting Championship for Juniors was held in Ermelo, Netherlands. Creation of the event meant another pathway for young vaulters to advance in the sport. At the first Junior Worlds, Team USA took home three medals: gold in Pas de Deux for Bodhi Hall and Michelle Guo, on Jarl lunged by Lasse Kristensen; bronze in Pas de Deux for Janie Salisbury and Sarah Dunn, on Ghost Alfarvad Z lunged by Lasse Kristensen; and bronze for Squad. The squad, from Woodside, consisted of Tessa Divita, Siddhartha Kreaden, Rachel Polati, Audrey Kiernan, Kristin Kuhn, and Miki Yang, and also vaulted on Ghost Alfarvad Z lunged by Lasse Kristensen.

In 2017, at the second FEI Vaulting World Championship for Juniors in Ebreichsdorf, Austria, Janie Salisbury and her new partner, Bridget Kiernan, took the bronze in Pas de Deux, vaulting on Diva lunged by Carolyn Bland. That same year, the Rocky Mountain Cup debuted; this was the first time a CVI was offered in that area.

In 2018, its 50th year, the AVA has 141 vaulting clubs and more than 1,300 individual members. The sport is flourishing, with more CVIs held in different parts of the country, and more young people getting involved. The future is bright for vaulting.

Liz Osborn

2018 Highlights:

USEF/AVA National
Gold Champion

1st Place
Pacific Cup CVI

1st Place
Rocky Mountain Cup CVI

11th Place
World Equestrian Games

8th Place
FEI Ranking



Photos by Daniel Kaiser

Atterupgaards Sting

2016 and 2017 USEF Vaulting Horse of the Year

Krista Mack, Lunger

Isabelle Parker, Coach

*Congratulations to Liz and "Team Sting"
on a Fabulous Year*

Deconstructing the Horse Score

International and US vaulting score horses differently.

Having just returned from the World Equestrian Games where I saw a variety of horse scores, with sometimes as much as a two-point discrepancy

between two judges' scores, I wanted to explain the criteria for judging in the U.S. versus at CVIs and above.

At any international competition, there is at least one judge dedicated to the horse score. At the recent world championships, there were eight

judges in total and two solely for the horse. In the United States, it's different. Even when we have multiple judges, each judge still gives a score for all aspects of the competitor—Performance, Com-

position and Horse/General Impression—making it more difficult to give an accurate horse score. In the AVA Rule Book, the horse score is broken out into two components—90% for quality of the gaits, behavior, submission, way of going and circle size, and 10% for General Impression. The AVA Rule Book does not define the percentage that makes up the 90 percent—i.e. what each of these criteria is worth; we give one score that reflects all of the

At the recent world championships, there were eight judges in total and two solely for the horse. In the United States, it's different.

I give additional credit or deductions for the five listed elements.

The remaining 10 percent for General Impression (GI) consists of:

- Entry, exit, salute
- Lunging and presentation
- Circle size
- Compartment
- Turn out of lunger/vaulter

While the GI score is only 1/10th of the entire horse score, in my opinion every entrant should be close to a 10 for this score. Competitors who enter the



BY KENDEL EDMUNDS,
USEF/AVAR JUDGE,
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR

QUESTIONS FOR THE JUDGE?
Email Kendel
thejudgescorner@gmail.com

arena with a well-behaved and groomed horse, and a coordinated and professional looking turn out for both lunger and vaulter, will receive the full 10 for this score.

IF YOU ARE CURIOUS AS TO HOW THE HORSE IS SCORED AT AN FEI COMPETITION, reference the FEI Guidelines on **page 27** to see the break down for the Horse Score.

Congratulations to All!

Irish and I love the vaulting kiddos at my barn!
Katie Barton, HomeSmart Realtor in Colorado

303-344-9100

katiebarton@Q.com



I make unique uniforms especially for you



kim@kim-couture.se

www.kim-couture.se



Equestrian Vaulting Unitards since 1948

ervy[®]
JUST SPORTS

Proudly celebrating

70
Years

fitting and servicing
Equestrian Vaulters.

ERVY SPORTS FASHION, LLC
Birmingham, MI 48009
Phone: (1)586 530 9800
sales@ervy.de

Always with
the latest
fashion
& trends

Photo by Sandra Schier

Photo by Kasper Jørgensen, KLMP



Follow us on facebook
to be always up to date!
facebook.com/ERVYSportsFashion

Equestrian Vaulting Unitards • www.ervy.de • Equestrian Vaulting Unitards

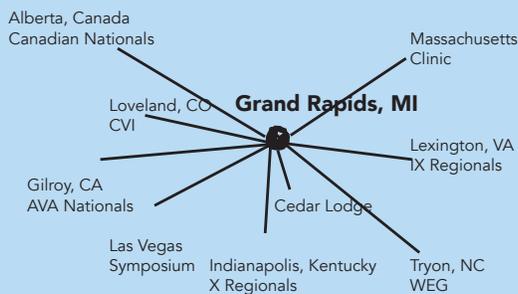


Our easy to use, hand held device offers Myofascial Release at the same time as InfraRed, Red and Full Spectrum light therapy. Combining both therapies for quick, relaxing, painless restoration of normal muscle function!

www.QuadraPoise.com
www.facebook.com/miniPhaser

Congratulations "A Vaulting Connection"

To your diligent journey on becoming a dot on the Global Vaulting Map!



2018 was truly outstanding!

The momentum we built will give us wings for 2019.

A Vaulting Connection/Karin's Horse Connection, Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.KarinsHorses.com



*Let me help you achieve your competition dreams!
 Custom design and sewing for all your athletic apparel needs!*

Kathy Schimack · kfs@rockinradioranch.com · 970.980.7053



Congratulations!
to
Sydney Schimack
AVA Womens Silver
National Champion



*Thank you to
Christoph Lensing,
Angelika Beutel,
and Romeo
for your support
this year!*

Love Mom and Dad



Colton Palmer on Zygo at the 2018 World Equestrian Games

Congratulations Colton!
Best male finish in the USA.

So proud!



Lynne Owen Photography

PROFESSIONAL VAULTING
PHOTOGRAPHY
since 1986

Available by appointment
831-535-3929



American Vaulting Association
1443 E. Washington Blvd. #289
Pasadena CA 91104



2019

MARCH 8-10, 2019
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
SOUTH POINT HOTEL AND CASINO

AVA EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

THREE TRACKS — SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

VAULTING PIONEERS:

The basics of running a vaulting club
Understanding the horse score through the eyes of a vet
Teaching and coaching strategies
Riding the vaulting horse

VAULTERS:

Fitness
Injury prevention
Horsemanship
Compulsory technique
Freestyle choreography and design

COACHES/LUNGERS:

Skill building
Harmony with horses
Coaching technique
Squad building
AND MUCH MORE...

Also featuring the USEF/AVA Open Judges Forum with Kendel Edmunds, USEF R Judge.

Register for the symposium at usavaulting.wixsite.com/vaultingsymposium.