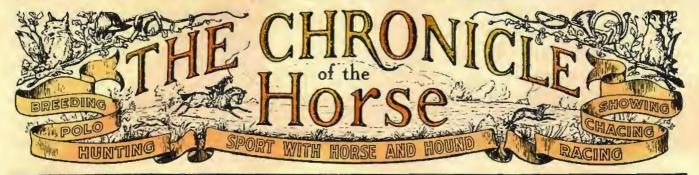
FEI VOLVO SHOW JUMPING WORLD CUP; CVI INTERNATIONAL VAULTING EVENT; PANTANO DRESSAGE FESTIVAL; MIDDLETOWN PONY CLUB HORSE TRIALS; ATLANTA, ELKRIDGE-HARFORD, OATLANDS and LOS ALTOS RACES



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COMBINED TRAINING



MIDDLETOWN PONY CLUB HORSE TRIALS

Marguerite Plank

A tightly organized one-day schedule and an inviting, not-too-hard course signaled the beginning of the combined training season for about 100 horses at the Middletown Pony Club Horse Trials held March 27 at the Pony Club grounds in Middletown, Del.

They should enjoy it while they can. The competition organizers were circulating a petition seeking ways to prevent Delaware Power and Light Company from developing the neighboring land. This land, an electrical line right-of-way, has long been used for trailers and van parking during Pony Club events. The loss of parking would seriously threaten the club's ability to hold competitions, according to secretary Barbara Bandy.

Riders were entered in three preliminary and five training divisions.

Winner of open preliminary was Ann Eldridge on Game Reserve. She started out in front after dressage with 64.2, more than 10 penalty points ahead of the next closest competitor, Anne Dorsey and Rutilante. However, Dorsey picked up 10 points on the stadium course, knocking her back to sixth after a clean cross-country round.

"He put in a nice test," Eldridge said. Eldridge is a member of the U.S. Combined Training Association Board of Governors and rides and teaches full time. Game Reserve, or "George," as she calls him, is an Irish horse she's had since 1985. Eldridge has ridden with Mike Plumb in the past and more recently with Tuny Full—"I give her credit for my dressage."

Eldridge stressed her feelings about Daphne Cronin, a good friend who suffered a bad fall in the Mid-Florida Pony Club Horse Trials in March. Cronin is now paralyzed and being treated in a Florida hospital.

"I was thinking of her every minute. I

was thinking of Daphne all day," she said.

Jane Lippincott, winner of the first preliminary division with Tuppence, took her lead with a dressage score of 61.8 and stayed clean through stadium and crosscountry. She ended up well ahead of the second-place rider, Elizabeth Brien on Finesse. Brien also maintained her dressage score, to end the competition with a score of 72.6. penalties to also move them away from the leaders.

Lippincott said Tuppence, a 7-year-old, 17.3-hand, dark gray Anglo-Trakehner, is at his best on cross-country. "He's very brave, very handy. It's his favorite thing to do," she said. Middletown was "a good course to start in the spring on"—hard enough, but not so tough as to scare the horses.

Beale Wright, daughter of competition organizer Lana Wright, moved up to first in preliminary, div. 2, from her start at second place in dressage (73.2) even though she picked up 5 penalties in stadium. She's had Chill 1½ years, but this was her first preliminary test with him. The 8-year-old, 16-hand dark bay is a Thoroughbred with racing in his bloodlines.

"I'll probably stay preliminary this year than move him up—unless he's fantastic or something. He's starting off pretty good. He might be—I hope he'll be fantastic," Wright said. The horse's best

Winners of preliminary, division 2 at Middletown Pony Club Horse Trials were Chill and Beals Wright.



Brien had started fourth after dressage, but stadium jumping penalties against two competitors allowed her to move up. Grant Schneidmann and Fells Point dropped down from second after pulling two rails in stadium to add 10 points to their score. Mimi Osborn and Cee Cee Ace picked up 15 jump penalties and 4.5 time

attribute is his attitude, she said. "He really likes to be around people and play with them. He'll put his chin on your shoulder. He's very comical."

Karen Holweck and Goldbricker, who had led preliminary, div. 2, with a dressage score of 68.4, had a refusal in stadium and three stops on cross-country. She admitted that while the horse is green and not thoroughly schooled on cross-country, "a lot of rider error" was also to blame for the drop in her placings.

Winner of the only junior training division was 15-year-old Nicole Fulmer on Cortina. She was another rider who put in a good dressage test (53.4) and kept her score clean through two more phases. Fulmer has only had the 16.1-hand, 6-year-old dark bay Anglo-Trakehner mare for four months. "It's nervewracking to start in first place," she said. "She's brave—she's pretty enthusiastic. She loves it," she said.

Winners Peggy Friauf and Shoot The Moon started in senior training, div. 1, at fourth place after dressage. But leaders Sherlock Gillet and Corkadoragha severely abused their dressage score of 49.8 (one of only two in the 40s) by adding



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The Kentucky Network 30 jumping and 17.25 time faults in stadium and were eliminated in cross-

Naomi Pitcairn and Fair Touch moved up to second from fifth place by adding nothing to their dressage score of 58.8. Cindy Mason and Feet Don't Fail Now started and ended at third with 5 jumping faults added to a dressage score of 55.8.

Mimi Bertolet and Shakedown Street started out in front in senior training, div. 2, with the low dressage score of 50.4, holding onto the lead even with 5 jumping faults in stadium. Second-place Paul Tjaden and Lady Hawke finished with their dressage score of 61.2 intact, as did the third-place finishers, Randi Hanson and Kings Reach, with 61.8.

Michael Godfrey and Schimmsham owned the low score of the day with their senior training, div. 3, win of 48.45. And that was after adding 7.5 penalties in stadium. Their dressage score of 43.2 (the lowest that day) was far enough ahead of Jane Beck and Positively that her clean rounds in stadium and cross-country couldn't help her 53.4 dressage score.

Godfrey said that Schimmsham is a young horse on his first training course. "He's a quiet, good-moving horse," he said. Schimmsham is owned by Hickory Corner Farm. Farm owner Jackie Vogle is "supportive to see he gets the right training so he can do the best he can," Godfrey said. He also coached some students, including Naomi Pitcairn.

Perhaps the most delighted winner of the day was Ann Snipes, whose Devil's Advocate lived down his name and



(Christine Tchir Photo)

Blitzkreig and Mary Maetz Lewis won senior training, division 2 at Fort Rucker Horse Trials.

brought home a score of 52.8, including clean stadium and cross-country rounds, to take senior training, div. 4.

"I would like to invite everyone who's ever seen my horse be bad to a big party, Snipes said. "Today was the first time he's won anything." Asked what the horse's best phase is, she quipped, "get here—he trailers well." The 9-year-old dark bay Thoroughbred is a former race horse who has given Snipes some exciting moments. But he "finally figured it out and did what he's supposed to do," she said.

MIDDLETOWN, DE-MAR. 27.
JUDGES: Susie Buchanan, Derl Jeffers, Catherine Tucker-

Slaterbeck, Jill F. Wilcox.
TECHNICAL DELEGATE: Lorna Forbes

TECHNICAL DMLSOATS: Lorna Forbes.

Open Prel. - 1. Game Reserve, A. Eldridge, 64.2; 2. Lyn Les
Tempo. L. Thompson. 78.8; 3. Bugay, H. Merchant. 77.6. Prel.,
Div. 1 - 1. Tuppence, J. Lippincott, 61.8; 2. Finesse, E. Brien,
72.6; 3. Bright Speculation, E. Pritchard, 78.8. Prel., Div. 2 - 1.
Chill. B. Wright, 782; 2. So Far So Good, T. Welch, 52.2; 3.
Master Barnes, D. Riocardi, 89.0. Sr. Trg., Div. 1 - 1. Shoot The Moon, P. Fraiuf, 57.0; 2. Fair Touch, N. Pitcairn, 58.8; 3. Feet Don't Fail Me Now, C. Mason, 60.8. fr. Trg., Div. 2 - 1. Shake-down Street, M. Berriolet, 55.4; 2. Lady Hawke, P. Tjaden, 61. 3. Kinga Reach, R. Hanson, 61.8. Sr. Trg., Div. 3 - 1. Schimmdown Street, M. Dettolet, S. Des, T. E. Day, 1988, 198

FORT RUCKER HORSE TRIALS

FT. HUCKER, AL—MAR. 28-28. TECHNICAL DELEGATE: Sally O'Connor.

Open Prel, Div. 1 - 1. Bentley, Old Salem Farm, 58.2; 2. Easter Parade, J. Graham, 58.65; 3. Perpetual Motion, K. Hoftnan. 62.65. Open Prel., Div. 2 - 1. Midnight Rover, Old Salem Farm, 40.4; 2. The Magic Dragon, M. Viles & S. Howard, 73.8; 3. Knight Bridge, C. Bouckaert, 80.8. Trg., Div. 2 - 1. Blitzkreig, M. M. Leis, 48.6; 2. Newmarket, B. Tweed, 51.6; 3. Blitskreig, M. M. Leis, 48.6; 2. Newmarket, B. Tweed, 51.6; 5. Frank, G. Higgins, 54.2 ft. Teg., Div. 1-1, Junebug, E. Burman, 49.2; 2. Party Skipper, V. Van Anwerp, 55.2; 3. Hickory Beam, B. Hawley, 55.5, Jr. Trg. -1. Escapade, J. Block, 56.4; 2. Cruise Control. C. Foote, 57.0; 3. Autumn Candidate, M. Combs & Winswood Farms, 60.6, Sr. Nev., Div. 1-1, Gila John, B. Livingston, 40.2; 2. Kilcoran, H. Herin, 41.05; 3. Sheridan Country, E. Johnston, 43.2, Sr. Nev., Div. 2-1, Double D Two, L. Webster, 49.6; 2. Easter Bunny H. G. Shaw, 50.6; 3.0 m The Edge M. Friesch, 51.6, 62. New, Thiv. 3. Double D I wo. 1. webster, 48-5; 2. Easter Bulliy II., 0. Shaw, 50.0; 3. On The Edge, M. Friesen, 53.6 Sr. Now, Div. 3 - 1. Adam's Rib, M. J. Colquett, 39.0; 2. Pirol, 6. V. Biron, 40.2; 3. Cleo, D. Kuppinger, 40.2; J. Now, Div. 1 - 1. Stilk Pajamas, J. Heyworth, 40.2; 2. Ricker's Jazzi Star, M. McHargue, 40.8; 3. Covenant, T. Holmsing, 41.0. Jr. Now, Div. 2 - 1. Fritz, D. Bobba, 36.6; 2. Kolita Bee, B. Bailey, 41.3; 3. Canadian Carrot. D. M. Ford. 44.6.



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