Canadian Eventing Team

WINS SILVER MEDAL AT PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - The Canadian Eventing Team of Kyle Carter, Sandra Donnelly, Waylon Roberts and Michael Winter has won the Silver Medal at the XV Pan American Games taking place from July 14 to 29 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In addition to its Silver Medal, the Canadian Eventing Team earned one of two berths for the 2008 Olympic Games through its Pan Am finish.

L’Équipe canadienne de concours complet médaillée d’argent aux Jeux panaméricains


Sandra Donnelly and Buenos Aires.
Sandra Donnelly, member of the Canadian Eventing Team for the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio, Brazil has taken her Canadian Warmblood gelding, her homebred horse – her first foal – to the games! The pair was a very respectable sixth place in the individual standings helping to solidify the Silver Medal win for Canada.

Sandra was the top Canadian after dressage, with a score of 51.70 penalty points. After her performance, she told Eventing News, “Today was a personal best score for us. My horse always does his best, and tries very hard.”

Cross-country day saw Donnelly out as the third Canadian to ride the course of 27 obstacles and 41 jumping efforts. According to Eventing News, Sandra was visibly pleased with her big bay gelding after a round clear of jumping penalties, and only 10 time penalties. Of her accomplishment, and typical of Sandra, she credited her horse: “He was fabulous. A run out just isn’t a question with my horse.”

They finished the stadium jumping, the final phase of eventing, with a sixth place as individuals. Sandra was the second placed Canadian, behind Kyle Carter of Calgary on MADISON PARK, who finished fifth overall. The team also included Mike Winter from Toronto, on his Irish Sport Horse gelding, KINGPIN, and Waylon Roberts of Port Perry, Ontario on his homebred thoroughbred gelding, PALEFACE.

Sandra has been campaigning a few more of her Canadian Warmbloods in the USA. She had DONAVAN her homebred Damiro/Silver Ring (TB) gelding; SURFER GIRL, a Beach Boy/Arkansas mare bred by Touchstone Farm; and FAN MUSIC, a Fantast/Native Uproar (TB) mare bred by Al and Joan Young. Donnelly promotes Canadian breeding with her success in the show ring, and her groom, Marlene Bieri, has also been doing a fantastic job promoting the Canadian Warmblood south of the border. She proudly wears her CWHBA shirts while grooming at the big events, and gets a Canadian Warmblood saddle pad on the horses whenever she can.

BUENOS AIRES, or “B” as he is affectionately known, is a BAJAZZO out of an ARKANSAS/ABRUPT mare, AMPHORA. He grew up, as Sandra did, in the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, west of Calgary, Alberta.

Donnelly, active in the CWHBA, owns and operates Alborak Stable, and has a small breeding program with her barn. ‘B’ is special to Sandra for many reasons, but he represents her first foal out of this program. She did all of the training herself, and has the ultimate goal of the two of them reaching the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

“B and Sandra have an incredible bond”, remarked an Alborak staff member. “Sandra is his herd – he doesn’t really care if other horses are around when he’s at home. He cares where his Sandra is. I think that’s how they trust each other so much to do what they do, especially the cross-country element.”

Other recent accomplishments the duo have had are: a 5th place finish at Jersey Fresh Advanced Horse Trials in June, a 4th place at the MCTA CIC3* Horse Trials at Shawan Downs, and they were the top Canadians at The Fork CIC3*W with a 13th place finish. For more information on Sandra and her quest for the 2008 Olympics on her Canadian Warm-blood, visit her website at www.beijingorbust.com.

In the nearer future, we are excited to announce that Sandra and B are set to compete in September at the Battle of the Breeds for Team Canadian Warmblood, during Spruce Meadows’ Masters Tournament. Way to go, Sandra and Buenos Aires!