

DRESSAGE, EVENTING, HUNTERS, JUMPERS

VOL. 57

PRACTICAL HORSEMAN EXTRA

INSIDE LOOK AT TERRANOVA EQUESTRIAN CENTER



Brought to you by



TERRANOVA
EQUESTRIAN CENTER™

**Road to
the 2024
Paris Olympics**



Discover Florida's premier equestrian destination.

2023-2024 SHOW CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 17-19

The Event at TerraNova
FEI CCI 4*-L/National USEF-USEA National

JANUARY 3-7

Sarasota Winter Classic Week I
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/Level 4 Jumper

JANUARY 10-14

Sarasota Winter Classic Week II
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/Level 4 Jumper

JANUARY 24-28

Split Rock Jumping Tour Sarasota
FEI CSI 2*/Level 6 Jumper

FEBRUARY 14-18

TerraNova Winter Series Week I
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/FEI CSI 2*/Level 5 Jumper

FEBRUARY 21-25

TerraNova Winter Series Week II
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/FEI CSI 2*/Level 5 Jumper

MARCH 13-17

TerraNova Winter Series Week III
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/FEI CSI 2*/Level 5 Jumper

MARCH 20-24

TerraNova Winter Series Week IV
National 'A' Hunter-Equitation/FEI CSI 2*/Level 5 Jumper

MARCH 29-31

The Event at TerraNova
FEI CCI 4*-S/National USEF/USEA National

APRIL 4-7

TerraNova Dressage I
FEI CDI 4*/USEF-USDF

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SEASONAL STALLS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULES NOW AVAILABLE

31625 Clay Gully Rd. Myakka City, FL 34251

Photos by Al Green, EQ Media, Jess Windhurst



TERRANOVA

Equestrian Center

By Melissa Consalvo

A world renowned showground established with your horse at the center of its comprehensive design



Photo Credit Jana Bannan

Discover Florida's premier equestrian destination at TerraNova Equestrian Center. Nestled about an hour south of Tampa, just east of Sarasota, Florida, this state-of-the-art show grounds has taken great care to craft the ultimate competition experience with your horse's comfort and performance taking center stage.

COMPETITION STABLING

To ensure the comfort of your horse during his stay, TerraNova Equestrian Center is equipped with 270 permanent 12' x 12' stalls. Each stall provides an open concept feeling with black iron stall gates and aisleway views for your horse to enjoy. The perimeter stalls have yoked exterior windows, inviting horses to gaze at the natural beauty of the show grounds.

LED lights are mounted in each stall, allowing for easy stall cleaning and late-night braiding. Supportive, cushioned stall mattress systems provide a comfortable place for your horse to rest. Leave your box fans at home – each stall is conveniently equipped with permanent fans so you can spend more time focusing on what really matters. “Horses perform their best when they have comfortable rest,” said TerraNova's co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer, Hannah Herrig-Ketel-

boeter, who was heavily involved in the design and function of the competition barns. “We want the horses to feel like they are in a home environment and not like they're at a busy horse show.”

When it comes to functionality, TerraNova's stabling has broad aisleways for safe passage from stall, to grooming, to wash racks. Covered wash racks are located behind each barn and provide a secure and organized area to wash your horse. Full block walls prevent splashing and provide plenty of room for bathing. For horses in need of extra support to cool down after showing, there are fans in each wash rack to help with refreshing airflow.

At the end of each aisle are large digital displays, so you'll always know what is happening in your arena. The on-site feed store, TerraNova Feed and Fence, offers a range of necessities, such as bedding, feed, premium hay, and miscellaneous supplies.

Ensuring the health and safety of the horses was a key priority in the design and execution of the stabling facilities. The stalls are sanitized with products from Neogen, TerraNova Equestrian Center's official biosecurity partner, between occupancies to prevent the spread of communicable diseases or illnesses.

Form meets function for a luxury stabling experience at TerraNova Equestrian Center. Complete with beautiful wood accents, recessed lighting, black iron stall gates, wide aisle ways, designer-inspired light fixtures, and sun-drenching skylights, this barn is an oasis from the busy competition day.

DOWN TIME

For your horse to perform at his best, moments outside of the stall and competition rings should inspire peace and tranquility. TerraNova Equestrian Center features paddock space for grazing and sunbathing. During hunter-jumper and dressage shows, riders are welcome to explore the countryside scenery. The cross-country course is available for quiet hacks on its well-maintained grass footing. Dedicated lunging areas are set back from the competition and warm-up arenas, offering horses a place to focus on their exercise.

THE MAIN EVENT

Every rider has a different reason for stepping into the show ring. Whether one is chasing top awards and qualifying points or is donning a show coat for the first time, TerraNova Equestrian Center offers the ultimate competition experience to every rider, regardless of their level, discipline, or goals – and it all starts with what's underneath.

Each of the six all-weather arenas are equipped with GGT footing which is dragged throughout the day

to ensure that each trip has a stable and comfortable foundation. Under this carefully designed footing is a specialized base which ensures the footing remains stable and supportive between laser-leveled maintenance. Due to its premium fiber mix, the footing is virtually dust free, but there are watering guns and trucks available to prevent dust on dry days.

The hunter and jumper rings feature inviting fences that are designed with the safety of both horse and rider in mind. All oxers are erected with frangible cups on the back rail, so they collapse in the event of an unfortunate distance.

The cross-country field is designed with similar safety measures. Course designer and Olympic gold-medalist, Captain Mark Phillips, believes that fence design should help the horse complete each obstacle safely. "Equestrian is the only Olympic sport where an animal is involved as opposed to a piece of equipment," said Phillips. "It is therefore vitally important that fence design gives the horse the best possible chance of keeping its legs away from the timber." To that end, TerraNova's cross-country course is an industry leader in the number of fences built with frangible technology. "Frangible technology helps to prevent a rotational fall and therefore reduces the risk of a rider suffering a crush injury if the horse lands on top of them," added Phillips.

"Every year TerraNova makes the footing better and we add more permanent features. This is an



Photo Credit Ruby Tevis

The show office lounge, decorated by Therese Herrig Culotta.



Photo Credit Jana Bannan

ongoing process that I'm privileged to be part of," Phillips said. Developing the land to be what it is today wasn't easy. The land the cross-country course was built on brought its own unique challenges. "When I first visited TerraNova, it [had] a lot of low laying swampy ground. I tried to fashion the cross-country course around the planned arenas and the wetlands. Both the size and scale of the arenas and the cross-country course have expanded in a mega fashion since then."

At The Event at TerraNova CCI 4*-L in November 2023, Alec Lochore will join Captain Mark Phillips to assist in course design with plans to take the reins in the future. "I am extremely grateful to the team at TerraNova for providing me with this wonderful opportunity," Lochore said. "I have been to this venue on a number of occasions, including being the technical delegate at the first events. I recognize there are big boots to fill when one comes to such a role following Captain Mark Phillips, who is one of the great course designers of the generation. I look forward to working with the team at TerraNova and creating courses that riders and horses alike will enjoy."

The excitement of the show is amplified when the audience is there to cheer competitors on. TerraNova Equestrian Center makes spectators' visits easy with free parking, free general admission, and shuttles from the parking area to the competition rings. For the friends, family, and

fans of competing horses and riders, each arena has ringside seating for up-close excitement. Between rounds, be sure to explore boutique shopping, food truck fare, and take the kids to TerraNova Tiny Town, an interactive play village for children.

VIP experiences offer spectators the best seats in the house along with catered meals, craft cocktails, and an electric social atmosphere. VIP tickets can be purchased at the podium or through TerraNova's website—terrannotaequestrian.com.

THE GROUNDS

TerraNova is dedicated to maintaining harmony with nature and the environment. Every effort has been taken to preserve the trees on property. Herrig-Ketelboeter is passionate about maintaining the authenticity of the grounds and protecting the habitat for wildlife. No trees were harmed in the construction of the equestrian center property. Herrig-Ketelboeter explained, "the show barns were rotated in a way to avoid cutting down the large, existing live oak trees."

TerraNova's efficient drainage system leads all water to the on-site lake. Millions of gallons each year are collected there and then transferred to the irrigation system that maintains balanced moisture content in each of the rings and the cross-country course.

Located adjacent to the stabling area sits a quarter acre of picturesque, enclosed playscape for dogs to run, jump, and even try their paw at some permanent agility obstacles. The dog park is a wonderful reprieve for your loyal companions.

THE ESTATES AT TERRANOVA

Experience luxurious living amidst Florida's picturesque countryside at The Estates at TerraNova. Whether you are a casual rider or a serious equestrian athlete, The Estates at TerraNova is the perfect place to call home. Explore natural beauty from dedicated bridle paths. Enjoy the convenience of competing at the world-class TerraNova Equestrian Center and returning to the comfort of your own home each night. Your horses will appreciate the quiet, natural atmosphere that puts them at ease. Equidistant from Florida's other popular equestrian venues, The Estates at TerraNova is ideal for seasonal stays and year-round residency.

Connect with like-minded neighbors at the Community Center, featuring a resort-style pool, tennis courts, fitness center, children's playground and private event space. The Estates at TerraNova offers timeless design, lasting quality and unmatched functionality. A short drive from the amenities of Sarasota and Lakewood Ranch, including top-ranked beaches, resorts and restaurants, The Estates at TerraNova is away from it all and close to everything.

At the heart of TerraNova are three tenants: Purity of Sport, Harmony with Nature, and Commitment to Excellence. TerraNova Equestrian Center stands out with its keen eye toward the horse, and follows through with its elegance, safety, and innovation. You can trust that your horse will be comfortable and ready perform their best. TerraNova is well worth the visit and a spot on your show calendar this season.



Photo Credit Jana Bannan



"FRANGIBLE TECHNOLOGY HELPS TO PREVENT A ROTATIONAL FALL AND THEREFORE REDUCES THE RISK OF A RIDER SUFFERING A CRUSH INJURY IF THE HORSE LANDS ON TOP OF THEM" – CAPTAIN MARK PHILLIPS



Photo Credit EQ Media

Join us for...



The Event AT TERRANOVA



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH AT 11AM

CCI 4*-L CROSS-COUNTRY PHASE

Featuring Olympians and Olympic hopefuls for Paris 2024!

Free general admission or reserve your ticket to the VIP luncheon.
Local food trucks, boutique shopping and family fun!

TERRANOVA EMPTY BOWLS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH AT 11AM

This community event benefits The Food Bank of Manatee, a PLUS program
of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee.

Guests will enjoy a delicious lunch of soup, salad, bread, and desserts provided by fan-favorite
local restaurants and will take home a keepsake ceramic bowl.



PURCHASE
EMPTY BOWLS
TICKETS:



PURCHASE
VIP
TICKETS:



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THE ROAD TO THE OLYMPICS

On the Horizon of Paris 2024

By Rhianna Russell



Photo Credit Jessica Buehler

The Olympic Games are the pinnacle of competitive sports. Every four years, athletes from 33 sports come together on the world stage to showcase the ultimate in athletic talent. Becoming the best of the best all starts with a dream. Achieving that dream takes grit, determination, and – for equestrians – a very special horse.

As the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics approach, anticipation runs high – and for good reason. Perhaps it's the allure of wandering through the storied gardens of the iconic Chateau de Versailles, juxtaposed with the thrill of competing on these historic grounds, that makes this year feel exceptionally extraordinary. Or maybe it's the shadow cast by the postponement and stringent regulations of the previous Summer Olympics due to an unforeseen global pandemic.

For Grand Prix dressage rider and Paralympic coach, Lehua Custer, the anticipation has left her speechless. "It is incredible," she said. "The

opportunity and honor to potentially be there as an owner of a Paralympic horse, or potentially as a dressage athlete would be... I don't have words for that specifically."

TerraNova Equestrian Center is lucky to have hosted several elite riders and Olympians as they vie for 2024. For these athletes, competing in Paris is not just a distant hope, but a tangible reality. To them, it's a matter of every card falling into place. In the words of American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, "It's not the destination, it's the journey."

EQUESTRIANS AT THE OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games have roots dating back to ancient Greece in 776 B.C. Equestrian sports have long been a staple of the Games. Back then, horses competed in chariot races. During the 1900 Olympic Games in Paris, four distinct types of equestrian sports were introduced: jumping, high jump, long jump, and mail coach. Over the years, equestrian



Photo Credit Taylor Pence US Equestrian

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events have become a cherished and integral part of the Olympics, drawing athletes and enthusiasts from across the globe to celebrate the beauty, skill, and athleticism of both horse and rider.

Today the equine events are made up of dressage, eventing, and show jumping. Dressage showcases the art of precise and harmonious movements between rider and horse, emphasizing control, balance, and obedience. Eventing is a multifaceted equestrian sport combining dressage, cross-country jumping, and stadium jumping, testing the horse and rider’s versatility, agility, and endurance. Show jumping is an equestrian discipline where horse and rider navigate a course of obstacles, such as fences, gates, and liverpools, with the goal of clearing them cleanly and quickly. At the Paralympic Games, para dressage follows a similar format to dressage and is graded based on the athlete’s qualifying criteria.

Equestrian events at the Olympics are the only events in which animals are both teammates and



Photo Credit Al Green



Photo Credit Sue Stickle

athletes. Equestrian sports are also one of two events in which men and women compete against one another on an even playing field. On average, equestrian athletes are the oldest at the Olympics. In fact, the oldest Olympian ever to compete was Lorna Johnstone, of Britain, at age 70 in 1972.

As the next generation of equestrian Olympians rise through the ranks, it has become a family affair for dressage athletes like Jan and Ben Ebeling. Ben Ebeling, son of Olympian Jan Ebeling, was the youngest to compete at the 2021 United States Dressage Short List Observation Event at just 21 years old. Ben Ebeling shared what it was like growing up watching his father compete at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, “I got to see how hard he had worked for this goal,” he said. “[My father] had competed at the Pan American Games and multiple World Cups. For him, to get that Olympic berth in 2012 was just incredible for me to watch- the hard work that was put into that- and the payoff.”



Photo Credit PC Equidia Life

Qualifying FOR THE OLYMPICS

To compete at the Olympics, riders must qualify through a combination of individual and team-based selection processes. There are five general ways that riders may qualify.



National Federation Eligibility

Each country's equestrian federation sets its own criteria and standards for Olympic qualification. Equestrians must first meet the eligibility requirements established by their national federation, which often include factors like citizenship, residency, and membership in good standing with the federation.



Individual Qualification

In addition to national eligibility, equestrians often need to achieve specific performance standards or rankings in international competitions recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). These competitions typically include prestigious events such as the World Equestrian Games, World Cup Finals, and designated Olympic qualifiers. Riders accumulate points or achieve certain placements in these competitions to secure individual qualification spots.



Team Qualification

Olympic equestrian events feature both individual and team competitions. Teams usually consist of three or four riders representing a single nation. Team qualification may be based on a combination of individual performances and team rankings in designated events. Nations must meet specific eligibility criteria set by the FEI to enter a team in the Olympics. Additionally, the host country often receives automatic qualification spots to ensure their participation.



Tripartite Commission Invitations

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) allocates a limited number of additional spots, known as tripartite commission invitations, to countries that may not have secured qualification through the standard routes. These invitations are typically given to nations with limited Olympic representation.



Wild Cards

In some cases, the FEI may grant wild cards to riders or teams that haven't qualified through the standard methods. Wild cards are usually reserved for exceptional circumstances, and the decision is made by the FEI and the IOC.



Specific qualification criteria can vary by discipline, and they may change from one Olympic cycle to another. Equestrians and their national federations closely monitor the qualification process and work to secure their places in the Olympic Games through a combination of talent, hard work, and competitive success.



Kyle Carter rides Madison Park for Team Canada at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.



Photo Credit Split Second

THE RIDER PERSPECTIVE

The road to the Olympics isn't as simple as qualifying for and winning notable events. There are aspects unique to equestrian athletes that must fall perfectly into place. From finances and personal fitness to the health and fitness of their horses, riders have the additional challenge of their attention being divided. "Let's say you are a tennis player. You're not building tennis courts. You're not mowing the grass around the tennis court. You're not collecting the balls. You're focusing on your game. And that's it," said Canadian Olympian, Kyle Carter, who competed at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics with the Canadian eventing team.

While these obstacles are challenging enough, from the Paralympic perspective, it is even more important to develop a very deliberate timeline and roadmap as there are fewer events to qualify. As a coach, Lehua Custer said, "Working with any of the elite athletes, you end up mostly not talking about that [end goal] in the sense that we never want to put that pressure on them. Yet, we do have to create a bit of a timeline."

Managing this calculated schedule calls for careful planning and seeking out shows that will help each

athlete achieve their goals. TerraNova Equestrian Center is home to FEI events in each discipline. When asked what sets TerraNova apart from other venues, Ben Ebling said, "I've been lucky enough to compete at some of the biggest shows in the world with some really big atmospheres, and the show at TerraNova last year was electric!"

MANAGING THE EQUINE ATHLETE

The bond built between horse and rider is undoubtedly the most critical element for a pair's success. This relationship is grown over time through the love and care that the riders show to their partners. For Ben Ebling, attentive management is key to ensuring the horses are prepared for each event and every step up in training. "It is not just you. It's also the horse, and [your horse] must be very physically fit and very mentally focused," he said. "It's important to always give horses time off, especially leading into this season before the Olympics."

Knowing when the horses need time off or when they need to be entered into major events to prepare them is carefully strategized at the elite level. As Custer described, "You must allow for downtime for the horse so they're not always pressing their bodies and their

Lehua Custer rides FJ. Ramzes at TerraNova. The pair hopes to qualify for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.



Photo Credit Al Green

Kent Farrington wins the \$77,300 FEI 2* 1.45m The Estates at TerraNova Grand Prix aboard Dagny at TerraNova Equestrian Center.



Photo Credit Jessica Buehler

mental state to the very edge. Identifying those peaks and working towards them sets the horse and the rider up to be at their best.”

Behind each Olympic ride is a team of coaches, trainers, grooms, veterinarians, farriers, saddlers, and breeders all dedicated to the success of the horse and rider. With everything that goes on behind the scenes, it is important that every need is met and there is ample accommodation when traveling on the road. “I chose to compete at TerraNova Equestrian Center because I knew I was going to be dealing with a big Olympic-like atmosphere and the course was going to be challenging but good. Also, I know what they do with the footing,” Carter said.

Competing at a venue like TerraNova takes pressure off the riders and most importantly, the horses. The leadership team at TerraNova has scrupulously examined every detail when it comes to the welfare and care of the horses during their stay at the showgrounds. From the size of the cushion-padded stalls to the uniquely formulated footing in the arenas, the riders can rest assured the welfare of their horses is at the forefront at TerraNova’s Equestrian Center.

SUPPORTING THE ATHLETES

The journey of equestrian athletes towards the Olympic Games is complex. It extends far beyond what is seen in the arena. It encompasses teamwork, fortitude, and above all, the mental and physical conditioning of equine athletes. The road to the Olympics is a journey marked by dedication, talent, and perseverance, with no shortcuts to success. Competing on the Olympic stage is the pinnacle of achievement, and each rider’s path is a testament to their unwavering commitment.

TerraNova, with its top-notch facilities and dedication to horse welfare, plays a vital role in supporting these athletes regardless of where they are on their journey. With the unique needs of each competitor in mind, riders can focus on their performance and their horses’ happiness. “You have some passionate horse people here that are putting a lot into the infrastructure and trying to hold different events for us to develop horses while we’re here in Florida for the winter,” said two-time Olympic show jumper, Kent Farrington. “I think that’s great for the industry and great for all the riders.”