



Top CDI Winners Share Stories and Praise for
Shoofly Farm CDI and
Houston Dressage Society Spring Classic



*Houston, Texas -
(May 16, 2017)*
- The three
championship
winners at the
Shoofly Farm CDI
and Houston
Dressage Society
(HDS) Spring
Classic I and
II came home with
a fistful of ribbons
as well as some
great stories.
Between a
fractured foot,
messed up music
and too many

tempis, the CDI champs forged on to win their divisions. Children's Division champion Emma Claire Stephens, Small Tour Champion Terri Sue Wensinger and Big Tour Champion Christy Raisbeck not only earned top honors from the show, they took home excellent fodder for water-cooler stories as well as high praise for the HDS.

Emma Claire Stephens claimed the Children's Championship despite suffering a broken foot on move-in-day. As 12-year-old Stephens was leading her horse, 8-year-old Dutch Warmblood De Nouvelle Vie (Vivaldi-Issandra), aka Vivi, down the barn aisle, a loud noise spooked the gelding and he landed on her right foot. Although not certain of the extent of her injuries, she knew it hurt, but she had a ride scheduled two hours later, so she quickly put on her dressage boots before the swelling increased and soldiered on.

"It hurt really bad at the end of my test," the youngest ever USDF Silver medalist said. "That's why I forgot part of my test on the first day. It ran up through my knee. Every stride it hurt. Ow, ow, ow. I had to put my weight to the inside of my foot."



Emma Claire Stephens and De Nouvelle Vie. Photo by Susan J. Stickle.

After the ride, her mother Jennifer Stephens took the young rider to urgent care. Not only did she suffer a broken foot, but she also had an ear infection and a fever. She didn't quit and rode in all three classes, although she did have to bow out of some of the activities the HDS planned for its

youngest riders and members.

"They really are such nice people and their shows are always so well-run and well-organized," Jennifer Stephens said. "The scores always come out quickly. They always have a lot of fun stuff for the kids. Unfortunately, Emma Claire wasn't able to do a lot of it."

The next morning, Emma Claire's mother and grandmother helped her on with her boots while she was still in bed.

"Saturday's ride went really well, but Sunday she was really, really hurting," Jennifer Stephens said, adding that Emma Claire and Vivi still scored high enough to qualify for the USEF Children Dressage National Championships at Lamplight Equestrian Center in August.



Terri Sun Wensinger and Valentino. Photo by Susan J. Stickle.

Adult Amateur Terri Sun Wensinger also had good stories to tell after the weekend.

The Dallas resident rode her 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood Valentino (Riverman ISF-Jiovette) in the AA Prix St. Georges, Intermediaire-I and the I-1 Freestyle and captured the wins in all three CDIs. Although she rode in

her first CDI in California several years ago, she said it was a comedy of errors and she pretends it never happened. Instead, she counts the Shoofly Farm show as her first CDI.

"The HDS was good about helping with the CDI details," she said. "It was so well-run. The awards ceremony was great and it was really cool to hear the national anthem played when I won."

She created the music to her freestyle herself, including fun music like "Mr. Big Stuff" and "Hit the Road, Jack."

"My husband's name is Jack and he doesn't like horses and whenever he complains, I tell him, 'Hit the road, Jack,'" she laughed. "It's a fun freestyle."

Wensinger said there were some problems with her music because she put it on the wrong type of CD, but the judges allowed her to use a copy of the music on her trainer Benjamin Pfabe's iPhone. Unnerved, when she went down centerline to salute the judges, she instead raised her hand.

Although she laughs about her foibles, she is proud of her scores and her horse.

"He has turned into such a nice horse," she said. "He has a great heart and is so solid in the way that he tries."



Christy Raisbeck and Herslev Mark's Mister B. Photo by Susan J. Stickle.

Professional Christy Raisbeck, owner of Freestyle Farm Dressage in Fulshear, Texas, hadn't ridden in a CDI since the 1980s, but that didn't stop her from winning the Big Tour Championship.

"It's different and there's a lot more involved," she said, adding that the HDS eased the transition with the new rules.

"I have a really cool horse right now that belongs to Gon Stevens, Herslev Mark's Mister B, a 14-year-old Danish Warmblood (Michellino-Herslev Mark's Candy) we call Bodi. It was his first CDI in the Intermediaire-II and Grand Prix. He did everything I asked. Unfortunately, I asked him to do things like go off course and too many tempi changes. Going off course is a lot more expensive than it used to be! Bodi was a good boy. He's a little bit of a princess mentally but he does the whole Grand Prix like he was born to do it."

Raisbeck also competed in the Open Grand Prix Freestyle. She created the choreography and the music that includes trot and canter music from the soundtrack from the movie "Secretariat" and piaffe/passage tour music from "Man in the Iron Mask."

"This is one of my favorite freestyles and he's never done freestyle before until I made this for him," she said. "He loves it. The last centerline, I come up in passage and piaffe, then do a piaffe pirouette. He's a real ham for that part."

She also had nothing but praise for the HDS shows as well as the programs they provide.

"The shows that HDS puts on are super well-run," she said. "The volunteers are great. The facility is perfect. I've talked to a couple judges and they seem to like the Great Southwest Equestrian Center too."

"In addition to shows, they've been bringing in Conrad Schumacher to do FEI Training Series the past couple of years. He comes in three or four times a year and works with some of us. Some of the people he works with did really well at the show, too."



Title show sponsor and owner of Shoofly Farm, Kim Rathmann

Title sponsor of the show, Shoofly Farm owner Kim Rathmann, started supporting the show many years ago. A dressage rider and enthusiast, Rathmann enjoys watching the competition.

"I think we need to support each other in our sport because it's not easy," she said. "I love the CDIs and I love having it here in our region. The Houston Dressage Society has an outstanding program and they support every age group. They do a top-notch job here. I am so blessed to be able to be support it and I'm really proud to be a part of it."

To see the show results, log onto showsecretary.com/rs.asp?U=&Show_ID=615&Class_Date=4/28/2017. To learn more about the Houston Dressage Society, go to houstondressagesociety.org and like them

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HoustonDressageSociety.



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