



## **SEND-OFF TO PARIS:**

**The weekend of the Summer Horse Trials was a hot one with Saturday reaching a scorching ninety-three degrees. Friday started the action with Dressage in the Tree Arena beginning at 7 am with Modified and Preliminary divisions. An hour later, the main attraction of the weekend began in the Hunter Arena with the Advanced division. The United States Olympic Eventing Team short list filled most of the division. Elizabeth Halliday was the first down the center line on Shanroe Cooley with Boyd Martin and Commando 3 closing the division. Spectators lined the rails of the Hunter arena watching the athletes who in just a few weeks time will be going to Paris to represent the country. After dressage, Boyd Martin and Commando 3 were leading on a 27.8. Elizabeth Halliday and Miks Master C were close behind on a 28.8 and William Coleman and Diabolo rounded out the top three on a 29.6.**

**Following dressage, Traveling Reserve Team Member Liz shared, “We’ll work on some of the things we need to keep working on and we’ll just wait in the wings and be ready to go if we’re needed.” Boyd commented, “Bruno is in great shape. He is obviously a special horse in Aiken. We’re all very grateful to Barry and Cyndy Olliff here at Stable View. The footing out there is in great condition. They have put a huge amount of effort into it and it is**

greatly appreciated.” Announcer Charles Pinnell ended with a closing statement saying, “Of course the whole world is rooting for you guys. I wish you very much all the best. Travel safely and win it for the US.”

Following dressage was stadium. The riders jumped over Chris Barnard’s track in the Phillips Arena. Once again spectators filled the bleachers and rails of the ring with many sporting red, white, and blue. Spectator, Charlie Swanson, said, “It’s been such a wonderful opportunity to see great competition here in Aiken especially this time of year.” There were few rails that fell with eight of the thirteen combinations jumping double clear and one more with just one second of time. Boyd and Commando maintained their lead, Will and Diabolo moved up to second, and Boyd and Federman B, Aiken’s hometown horse, moved up to third.

Saturday morning saw the first advanced horse leave the box at 10am to navigate Mark Phillip’s track. The horses left the box in intervals of five minutes. With several riders having two or three horses this allowed them time to warm-up. It also allowed all focus to be on the horse on course. Announcer Charles Pinnell was able to give all spectators, grooms, and owners a play-by-play of each jump. The cross country was the main attraction of the event. The lower deck and garden in front of the Pavilion were full of spectators eager to watch the Paris and Aachen-bounds riders up close. The upstairs of the Pavillion allowed VIP ticket holders a bird’s eye view of the course. Ticket holders were able to see jumps thirteen through twenty-one. They also had a catered lunch by Blue Collard, free drinks, and Stable View Swag including the limited edition Stable View Olympic Send-off ballcaps. For those who missed out, Stable View will also be selling VIP tickets for Oktoberfest at the end of September.

**After the conclusion of cross country, James Alliston and his mare Karma won the advanced division. They were only two seconds behind optimum time. Will Coleman and his Olympic-bound partner Off the Record finished in second and he finished in third on his other mount, Diabolo. Most of the riders weren't looking to go too fast and instead focusing on giving their horses one good final prep run. There were no refusals over Mark Phillip's track. Liz Halliday and Cooley Nutcracker were the only ones to part company. It was early on course at 5B coming out of the first water and both were unharmed.**

**At approximately 11:30, the team gathered on the lower section of the Pavillion porch for a toast to the team. All VIP attendees stood above and raised their glasses to the team. Boyd Martin, William Coleman, Elizabeth Halliday, Caroline Pamukcu, James Alliston, Sydney Elliott, and Jennie Brannigan were all present. Charles led the toast in saying, "We wish you a safe and fun time in Paris. We wish you lots of success and all of the United States is behind you. As we send you off what a great treat to have you all here today. We thank you for coming to Stable View and the best of luck to Team USA." With that the crowd erupted in cheers with a few even chanting, "USA." Several team members proceeded to pour their champagne over James to congratulate him on his win.**

**Regarding the final team outing, US Chef d'Equipe, Bobby Costello, shared, "I feel great. It was a really good weekend. Conditions were tough being so hot and dry and Stable View went above and beyond to make sure that the footing was as good as possible. The riders appreciate it, I appreciate it, and I think the US will appreciate it when we go to the competition. We have very good, fit, and sound horses." Team Rider Will Coleman also shared his**

**thoughts on the weekend. He said, “I feel good. My horses were super today. We had a nice go and it was just a great prep track. Hopefully, it serves us well. It was nice to jump in the main ring here for show jumping. It was my first time jumping in it and I really enjoyed it.”**

**Stable View wishes the United States Eventing Team the very best of luck in Paris.**