

LA CHAPTER CDS



Reflections on the 2006 USEF National Championships at Gladstone

California riders were in top form at Gladstone, with **Steffen Peters** on Floriano, **Guenter Seidel** on Aragon and **Leslie Morse** on Tip Top taking the top three slots in the Grand Prix Championship and **Jan Ebeling** on Rafalca securing third place in the Intermediare I Championship. Other competitors who did the West Coast proud include **Marie Meyers** and **Mette Rosencrantz**, who share their experiences on the prestigious event:

MARIE MEYERS

Sometimes you need luck to find a horse that takes you to the big leagues. Marie Meyers has that kind of luck. When Meyers's assistant, **Marisa Festerling**, suggested that Meyers keep Fandango, an Oldenburg gelding originally purchased as an investment horse, Meyers listened—

and she's lucky she did.

Meyers and her 10-year-old bay gelding competed successfully at Gladstone and are now preparing for the **Pan American Games**. Said Meyers, "He is so engaged behind, with 8s in walk and trot and 9s in the canter. He's not spooky, not a looker—he just enjoys going to work. The day I first sat on him I knew it was a good fit.

"I was also lucky that Guenter Seidel spent so much time with me at Gladstone, finessing the movements, encouraging both me and my horse," said Meyers. "Everyone was so friendly at Gladstone. We were all happy to be there and encouraged by the level of the riding and dedication to the horses and the sport."

METTE ROSENCRANTZ

The competition at Gladstone became a renewing of the heart for Mette

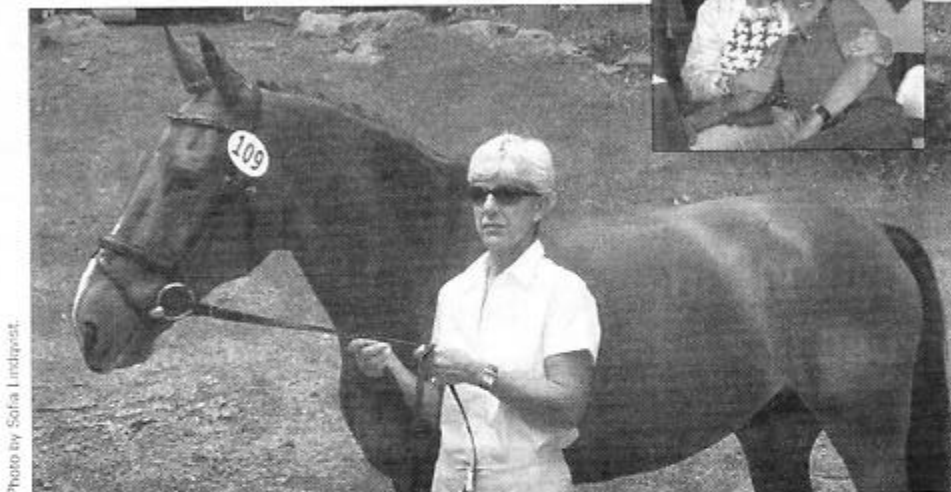


Photo by Sofia Lundqvist

Mette Rosencrantz with her horse below, and inset, Mette with her mother, Gertrud Rosencrantz.

Rosencrantz. While she didn't qualify for the **World Equestrian Games**, Rosencrantz found the event memorable nonetheless. Her 85-year-old mother, **Gertrud**, her sister **Elizabeth** and brother-in-law **Goran Odin**, had flown in from Sweden to watch her compete for the first time in 20 years. "I was so happy to be with my family," said Rosencrantz.

Fellow competitors also provided welcome support, noted Rosencrantz. "The camaraderie with all the riders was wonderful at this competition, and our California riders really came to my aid when my horse became sick. He was a bit dehydrated, so he was off his form."

Rosencrantz credits **Glenda McElroy** with helping West Coast riders prepare for premier events such as Gladstone. "One thing I was very thankful for," said Rosencrantz, "is that I'm comfortable riding at this level because of the strength of the CDI shows in California. Glenda McElroy has brought in the judges that keep the quality of the riding international. She prepares riders for big events by putting on big events. With the **World Cup Finals** in Las Vegas, the High Performance classes and CDIs, Glenda is driving the quality of riding forward. The West Coast now has really strong riders and horses." 🐾