

## Daily Diary – Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

### Canada's Show Jumpers

First thing this morning was the veterinary inspection jog for the jumping horses. Mario Deslauriers' horse, Paradigm, was sent to the holding box, and will have to be re-presented on tomorrow morning.

Throughout the day, each of the 134 show jumpers, five of whom were Canadian, had an opportunity to practice (very briefly) in the main stadium to acclimatize their horses to the environment of the big stadium. Each had a 90-second window of opportunity during the daylight (if you call grey and drizzly 'daylight') and a 60-second session in the evening under the lights.

Eric Lamaze told us that "Ian (Millar) is great to be on a team with and Torchy (Show Jumping Team Chef d'Équipe, Terrance Millar) is there for any questions we may have. Chris (Pratt) is a newcomer to the Team, but he's a terrific rider and has a terrific horse. This is one of our strongest teams, but it is show jumping, and anything can happen."

"All the Canadians are so positive. I just started with the Nations' Cup Team and it is a really different feel. You can win a grand prix, but to win a Nations' Cup is a very different feel. It is easy to be positive with the Team. Everyone comes together, including Torchy," said Chris.

Torchy said, "This is one of the better teams we have fielded in the last decade. They feel that they are on a team. They are not competing against each other. They are mature adults and what helps is clarity – this is what we've done and why." Torchy and the Canadian Selection Committee had the unenviable job of deciding which four, of the five horse / rider combinations sent by Canada, would make up the actual Canadian Show Jumping Team. The decision was:

Jill Henselwood of Oxford Mills, ON, riding Special Ed owned by Juniper Farms;  
Eric Lamaze of Schomberg, ON, riding Hickstead owned by Torrey Pines and Ashland Stables;  
Ian Millar of Perth, ON, riding In Style owned by Susan Grange; and  
Chris Pratt of Belfountain, ON, riding Rivendell, also owned by Susan Grange;

This left Mario Deslauriers and his horse, Paradigm, as the reserve pair.

Torchy said, "This time it was a very difficult decision, not as clear cut as at other times. The decision is somewhat subjective, but the Committee feels that we have done the right thing," said Millar. "Leaving Mario 'on the bench' is like leaving a superstar on the bench. Paradigm had some good classes and some not good classes, (but) the other horses were more consistent."

Mario Deslauriers commented, "I'll support the Team and hope it goes well."

### Stallions on Parade

The German Stallion Parade was held this afternoon in Stadium 3, the covered arena where the Vaulting was held last week and where Reining will be held later this week. Although we didn't see the whole thing, we did catch glimpses of some of the Saddlebreds and Tennessee Walkers that made up the 50 gaited horses on display. Before that there were ponies – lots of ponies – including 12 Shetland ponies, 37 'classic' ponies, 6 Rhineland dressage ponies. There were 23 Friesian and 8 Fjord horses shown to the audience as well.

They paid homage to some of the most influential sires in sport breeding: Adeptus, Senator, Flaneur, Sacramento Song xx, Pilatus, Absatz, Furioso II, Ramzes, Goldfisch II and Capitol I. Unfortunately, the commentary was all in German and it was difficult to identify which horse was which.

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The heavy horse quadrille and the performances of ten Quarter Horses, 25 Arabian horses, 8 Trakehner horses, offspring of Lauries Crusador xx and Roman chariots rounded out the afternoon's entertainment.

## Driving Teams

Many of the 4-in-hand driving competitors are on the grounds now and, while waiting for our shuttle back to our hotel, we saw several being exercised – some hitched two in line and some hitched four abreast instead of their normal configurations. It makes an impressive sight and you have to wonder at the skill of the drivers who will be maneuvering these teams through the various obstacles and challenges of the coming competition.

## Tid Bits

Judy encountered Jon Garner, Competitions Manager for Spruce Meadows, on the show grounds. He's in Europe to organize the regular air charter for the horses that will be traveling from Europe to compete at the Masters Tournament in September. He said, "We have 45 horses booked on the flight."

As usual, the weather forecast for today was rain and cool temperatures. The forecast for the rest of the week is either 'rain' or 'possibility of rain' and more cool temperatures. The cooler temperatures are nice for the competing horses, although the constant dampness means vigilance for the riders and grooms choosing appropriate caulks for the footing conditions.

For spectators and your trusty reporters, it means dressing in multiple layers to fend off the chills and penetrating dampness.

Judy quipped, "Being a weather forecaster in Aachen must be an easy job. All you have to do is say, 'rain, or possibility of rain' and that way, even if you're wrong, and the sun shines, everyone is happy!"

For the duration of the Games we will be staying in the same hotel as many of the Reiners. This one is located in the neighbouring town of Eschweiler. But, although the distance is longer, the commute to the show grounds is actually shorter since a portion of the trip is on an Autobahn.

On the week-end one of the shuttle drivers told Ceci that, on the main Autobahn, you can go as fast as you want. If you go less than 130 kph you won't survive and the police may ask you to get off and take another, slower route. On the other hand, in the towns and cities, the speed limit varies between 50 and 70 kph, with photo radar cameras everywhere to catch the unwary.

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