

The importance of a CDI3* to Canada

Dressage in Canada

Dressage in Canada has shown improvement in individual dressage events in recent years. Ashley Holzer and her mount Pop Art finished 13th at the 2008 Olympic Games. The combination came back from Hong Kong and competed for Canada at the FEI World Cup Final posting the best Canadian result in two decades finishing in 5th. Ashley and Pop Art also travelled to the Hickstead CDI5*, England, in July 2009, to compete against the best horse/rider combinations in the world and finished in 5th behind the World Record performance of Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas.

In order for Canada to qualify to send a dressage team to the 2012 Olympics, Canada must perform well at the 2010 World Equestrian Games or the 2011 Pan American Games. Canada's goal is to have their team finish 7th at the World Equestrian Games and to have a top 7 individual finish. Then Canada will look towards a Gold or Silver medal performance at the 2011 Pam Am Games clinching a spot in the 2012 Olympics.

The availability of quality competition horses, exposure to top athletes, competitions, officials and the access to ongoing training has been a limiting factor for Canadian dressage athletes to reach the top of the podium at the World Equestrian Games and Olympic Games. Canadian athletes need top North American and European competition experience on an ongoing basis to provide more exposure to international judges and competitors and to learn how to successfully compete against the rest of the world at the highest level.

In order to qualify for the World Equestrian Games or the Pan American Games riders must be selected for the Canadian Team by Equine Canada. Part of the selection criteria is receiving qualifying scores at CDI3* and above competitions.

Dressage in Alberta

The Gold Rush CDI3* is the first dressage competition in Western Canada that will give our athletes and youth the exposure to a dressage competition that will count towards qualification at the 2010 World Equestrian Games or the 2011 Pan American Games. These competitions are governed by international rules; there are five international dressage judges including three Olympic judges on the judging panel, and the horses will be stabled in a separate stabling area with strict controls on access, stabling standards and vaccinations. Each horse will be inspected by an international FEI veterinarian who along with the head of the judging panel and the foreign judge delegate will determine whether the horse is fit enough to compete in the three day competition.

Alberta has several horse/rider combinations that show potential to represent Canada at these events. For the first time ever, there are two horse/rider combinations from Alberta declared for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. The last time Alberta sent an athlete to compete in an Olympics was in 1984. Now we have several combinations that show the talent to represent Canada at these major games. The Gold Rush CDI3* is the first time that Western Canada has offered an elite level international competition for these athletes. Not only will the declared athletes for WEG and the Pan AM Games benefit; our emerging talent will have the

opportunity to compete at an elite competition in Alberta. The more competitions we can offer at this level, the more experience our riders will get and the better our results.

Canada is host to a limited number of elite level and international competitions, therefore, athletes face limitations and may have to travel great distances (including travel outside of Canada). This is an area that needs to be enhanced as exposure to international competition and judging can have a great impact on podium potential.

Team Performance Olympic Games

2000 Sydney, Australia Olympic Games

Canada did not meet the qualification standard to enter a dressage team at the Sydney OlympicGames.

2004 Athens, Greece Olympic Games

Canadian dressage team finished 9th out of 10 teams.

2008 Beijing (Hong Kong), China Olympic Games

Canadian dressage team finished 8th out of 11 teams.

Team Performance World Equestrian Games (WEG)

1998 World Equestrian Games, Rome, Italy

Canadian dressage team finished 17h out of 18 teams.

2002 World Equestrian Games, Jerez, Spain

Canadian dressage team finished 9th out of 13 teams.

2006 World Equestrian Games, Aachen, Germany

The Canadian team as selected for was unable to compete in the team competition due to injuries to two of the four team horses after the close of the entry date. This prevented the Canadian teams participation at WEG. Instead Canada was represented in the individual competition with two individuals.

World Equestrian Games

The World Equestrian Games, held every four years, are comprised of the world championships for eight equestrian sports - show jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, reining, vaulting, endurance and para-equestrian.

The idea behind the World Equestrian Games (WEG) came into being in the mid-1980's. The inaugural games were held in 1990 in Stockholm, Sweden, and have never taken place outside of Europe. The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Kentucky will represent the largest equestrian sporting event ever held in the United States.

The 2010 World Equestrian Games will be held September 25th – October 10th, 2010, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

History	
Year	Host City
2010	Lexington, Kentucky, USA
2006	Aachen, Germany
2002	Jerez, Spain
1998	Rome, Italy
1994	The Hague, Neherlands
1990	Stockholm, Sweden

Pan American Games

The Pan American Games bring together athletes from the countries of the Americas in a festival of sport and international friendship. The Games are held every four years in the year preceding the Olympic Games.

The first Pan American Games took place in 1951 at Buenos Aires, Argentina, but they originated more than two decades earlier. At the Olympic Congress coinciding with the 1924 Olympic Games at Paris, France, the International Olympic Committee members from Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico proposed the establishment of regional games for the countries of Central America. These games became reality two years later when Mexico City hosted the first Central American Games.

At the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games, representatives of the Latin American delegations proposed regional Games for all the Americas. This proposal eventually led to the first meeting of the Pan American Sports Congress at Buenos Aires in August 1940. The Congress selected Buenos Aires to host the first Pan American Games in 1942, but World War II forced postponement of these games.

A second Pan American Sports Congress met at the 1948 London Olympic Games where plans were revived. The first Pan American Games opened on February 25, 1951, at Buenos Aires. More than 2,500 athletes from 22 countries participated.

The organization governing the Games was renamed, in 1955, as the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO). Currently, 42 nations of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean comprise the organization.