

Gladstone 2007 Part II
By Charlotte Bredahl-Baker

Dear CDS,

This summer Eskada and I made it into the top 12 in the Country to go to the National Intermediare 1 Championship at the USET Headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey.

June 11 at 1:30am my husband Joel and I loaded up Eskada and drove to LAX to fly with Fed ex to Newark (I really appreciated Joel driving all night to take me to the airport). We arrived at 4:00am and two other trailers were already lined up. One trailer had Steffen and Shannon Peters two horses in it and another had a pony. Steffen's groom Carrie was going to fly with his horses. The two of us got checked through security and all the equipment was loaded up. Eskada shared a container with the pony and Steffen's and Shannon's horses shared one. All four horses handled the flight very well. Carrie and I sat in the jump seat right behind the cockpit and the crew were super nice and constantly checked on us and the horses. We also had a good meal.

In Newark we got the horses loaded onto a van to go to Gladstone and Carrie and I had to sit on my two plastic tack trunks surrounded by the three horses. Hay was constantly flying in the air (all windows were open), one horse was pawing and almost getting to us, another horse was snorting and getting you know what all over us. If you ever thought competing in the big league was glamorous, you should have seen us then.

Before I left I had arranged for a groom to meet me at Gladstone. Her name is Marcia Niemzyk and she brought her friend Robin Teets with her. I had never met them before, but I was in for a real treat. When we arrived (very tired) to Gladstone, Eskada's stall was already bedded down and water buckets hung and they had brought all their own show stuff to set up a beautiful tack room for me, including tables, chairs and flowers. The best part was the cooler with Gin and Tonic, Wine etc. I felt bad telling them, that I don't drink at all. They were happy, when I cleaned up the chocolate they brought. It was a great welcome, especially after such a long trip and no sleep. On top of that, they even lend me a Honda Accord for the 10 days I was there.

Everybody at Gladstone were so nice and helpful. Betsy Steiner and Anne Gribbons were some of the first people I saw, and we were remembering the first time we met at Gladstone 15 years ago, trying out for the World Games in Stockholm. Gladstone is an amazing place with so much history.

Sunday morning I had a great lesson with Klaus Balkenhol (US Team Coach). It was very helpful and Eskada felt great. Not the least bit tired. The rest of the day I watched other riders, including Susan Dutta and Betsy Steiner take lessons with Klaus. I really enjoyed my free time. In the afternoon, I went to the hotel and my friend Sue Veley from California called and said she had arrived. I told her to go to room 121. She did, and a man with a turban opened the door. Needless to say, she was in the wrong hotel.

Tuesday morning Sue and I went to the barn early and I had another great lesson with Klaus. We spent the rest of the morning watching everybody else take lessons. It was really fun to see a lot

of the East Coast horses and riders. I especially liked Michael Barisone's Neruda and Wild One beautifully ridden by Tuni Page. Sue and I had lunch with Anne and David Gribbons. It was their 35th wedding anniversary. They are an amazing couple. Still totally devoted to each other. Anne has always been an inspiration to me. She has an unbelievable energy and ambition to be the best at everything she does.

In the afternoon I decided to longe Eskada and in spite of the heat and humidity he was totally wild. It was good for him to get it out of his system. In the evening we had dinner with two dear friends of mine, Jennifer Miller and her mom Kaye Evans. I met both of them 15 years ago, when I came to Gladstone the first time. They treated me like family and I will never forget that. Jennifer herself made the Pam Am Team. They live 10 minutes from the team. It was great to see them again.

Wednesday the 15th I rode mostly by myself, since Klaus was trying to help the riders who had arrived later. Eskada was very good and relaxed. In the afternoon we had the jog and you would think after a lot of years practice, I could do it right. First I trotted to the wrong marker and then Eskada did a big stumble right in front of the judges. Amazingly enough, I didn't have to do it twice.

In the evening all the riders were invited to a BBQ at Michael Barisone's . It was a beautiful place and the food was great. Kathy Connelly came with Sue and I. We all had a great time with old friends and made new ones.

Thursday I had drawn first and my ride was at 10:00am. Luckily the weather had turned very nice and much cooler. Eskada went very well and ended up tied for 4th in the PSG with a 67,8%. I tied with former California rider Heather Bender on Winwood. I was thrilled and relieved. This is Eskada's first year in competition. His very first horse show was one year ago at 3rd level. He is only 8 years old.

Shannon and Steffen Peters took turns winning each day, with Steffen being the overall Int. 1 Champion on Marlando. They both rode beautifully and represented CDS great.

In the Int. 1 Eskada was not quite as focused. A photographer decided to sit in the middle of all the trees on the short side, with a lot of equipment and Eskada noticed her right away. He still got a 66,45% and ended up 7th.

Friday evening the USET hosted a very nice reception for all the riders. My husband Joel and son Zach had flown in Friday morning and really enjoyed meeting everybody and experiencing Gladstone.

Saturday was the freestyle and I was thrilled with Eskada. He got a 69,9% and ended up 6th. Steffen won handily with a 77%, but 2nd place was a 71,7 so the scores were very close. After the Int. 1 freestyle we all watched the G. P. Freestyle and George Williams on Rocher won ahead of Arlene(Tuni) Page on Wild One. Rocher had been the big winner all three days. She looked great.

Overall Gladstone was a wonderful experience and I am so glad that I got to go. During the 10 days I also got to spend a lot of time, including lunches and dinners with Marilyn Adams, Maureen Pethick and Christy Baxter. They all work at the Team and they do a great job and are a lot of fun to be with. Pam Lane and Patsy Albers did a great job managing the show. I was thrilled to meet my groom Marsha and her friend Robin. In fact Marsha is coming out to visit next month.

Thank you to CDS for helping make this possible with their travel grants.

Charlotte Bredahl-Baker