



KATIE MAKES HISTORY



KATIE AND HER NEW ZEALAND BRED MARE, DUNSTAN DELPHI PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS TO FINISH SIXTH IN THE ROLEX FEI WORLD CUP FINAL!

It's not every day that a rider gets to rewrite the history books but that is exactly what Katie McVean did when she and her 17hh New Zealand bred mare, Dunstan Delphi, clinched sixth place at the FEI World Cup final in Leipzig, Germany at the end of April.

Katie's success marks her out as the highest placed New Zealand rider ever at the World Cup final. The title used to belong to Olympian John Cottle and Arturo who finished eighteenth at the 1983 final in Vienna.

The final day saw two full rounds for the top 27 combinations and course builder Frank Rothenberger threw everything at them. The 1.65m fences were challenging and technical - leaving no room for error and well suited to the big scopey German horses. In the first round the Kiwi combination nudged the last fence, dropping the rail and earning four faults.

After that first round, Katie said Delphi was so fast 'that I actually needed to slow her down a bit and get her jumping without too much speed. She was only a fraction over the time so I am really pleased with her. I have a lot of faith in her.'

Only 19 made the second round and Katie collected an early rail and a time fault. Despite a twinge of disappointment at the rolled rail, 24-year-old Katie still pocketed around \$27,500 NZD for their sixth place effort. Host nation Germany retained their stranglehold on the title with a calm and controlled clear round by Christian Ahlmann aboard Taloubet Z. It was almost a Germany quinella but leader Marco Kutscher and Cash, the last to go in the final round, slid down the placings to fourth equal after a run of rails. Superstar Hickstead and Eric Lamaze (Can) finished second on the back of their spectacular win the first day.

Katie is understandably thrilled with her ten year old, homebred mare. 'It was so much bigger out there in the second round and Delphi was trying so hard,' said McVean after the class. 'After that rail she was away again - I'm so very, very happy. It has been a dream.'

Katie's father and coach Jeff McVean, himself a competitor at World Cup finals, was ringside to watch his daughter and the horse he calls his 'princess' ride in the event of their lives. Jeff has always had a particular soft spot for Dunstan Delphi, who is out of his very own World Cup mare Flower Power.

Jeff said they had dreamed of doing well but didn't think it would actually happen. He added that his daughter was keen to show she could be competitive and that was exactly what she had achieved.



DUNSTAN DELPHI SELLS IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEAL!

New Zealand show jumping star, Katie McVean has said goodbye to her top horse, Dunstan Delphi. The striking 17hh nine year old home-bred mare has been sold for an undisclosed amount but understood to be for millions to the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation.

'There is still a small chance, but I think I am going to have to give up on my London Olympics dream and start over,' explained Katie. 'It has been my goal for a long time but if I tried to keep her and everything had gone wrong, I would have had nothing. This way I can set up for the future, and maybe next time I won't have to sell.'

We wish Delphi all the best as she continues to prove that New Zealand is capable of breeding truly world class competition horses. There will also be more than a few eyes on 24 year old Katie as she heads home to train up her next champion. With her talent, passion and determination, the Olympic dream won't be on hold for too long.

'I've always believed in Delphi - she's a very good horse and still so inexperienced at this level,' smiled Jeff. 'She's a New Zealand bred horse and Katie has come out and matched it with the best - it's very good for her...for both of them.'

Katie's latest victory is the result of many hours of hard work and dedication. She and Delphi picked up their qualifying ticket for the FEI World Cup final after competing three times at World Cup level on the New Zealand circuit earlier this year. This included a win at Dannevirke in January 2011, a 2nd in the Speed Leg at Tauranga and a win in the final round also at Tauranga.

The talented pair has been based in Europe since the end of February 2011. Delphi, co-owned by the McVean and Shore families, was shipped to Europe well in advance of the World Cup Final to give the mare time to acclimatise rather than rush her across after defending their Olympic Cup crown at the NZ Horse of the Year Show in March. It's a far cry from their Mystery Creek home but they are clearly in their element, more than holding their own against some seriously competitive international horses and riders. This most recent impressive performance is certainly not their first taste of the international show jumping scene. In 2010, Katie and Delphi spent two months in the USA racking up some impressive results, including 4th in the \$200,000 CSI***** CN Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows. Later that year she also competed at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, finishing 38th out of 160 riders.

With their international results getting better and better, it is unlikely that the Rolex FEI World Cup Final will be Katie and Dunstan Delphi's last successful outing at such a high level.

In fact, with the consistent placings and increasingly high profile reputation Katie is earning for herself, more than a few Kiwis will be hoping to see her representing her country in London next year. Not to be forgotten either is the star of the moment, Dunstan Delphi, who is out there proving that New Zealand has what it takes to breed and produce world class sport horses. Between them, they have truly got the world sitting up and taking notice.

RESULTS:

Rolex FEI World Cup Final: Christian Ahlmann (Ger) Taloubet Z 4 penalties 1, Eric Lamaze (Can) Hickstead 10 2, Jeroen Dubbeldam (Ned) BMC van Grunsven Simon 11 3, Beezie Madden (USA) Coral Reef Via Volo 12 and Marco Kutscher (Ger) Cash 12 =4, Kevin Staut (Fra) Silvana de Hus, Pius Schwizer (Sui) Carlina, Gero Schroder (Ned) Eurocommerce New Orleans and Katie McVean (NZL) Dunstan Delphi 13 =6, McLain Ward (USA) Antares F 14 10.