

Devon Horse Show, Fair May 25-June 3

DEVON (Chester Co.) — Top American riders who are international stars will be showing at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, May 25-June 3.

From their ranks will probably come the four-man team that will represent the U.S. in show jumping at the Sydney Olympics this fall.

All four members of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics silver medal team — Leslie Howard, Anne Kursinski, Peter Leone, and Michael Matz — will compete in the Dixon Oval. So will all four members of the 1999 Winnipeg Pan American silver medal team — Margie Goldstein-Engle, Alison Firestone, Howard, and Peter Wylde.

Also competing will be McLain Ward, who missed last year's Pan American team but is aiming all his top horses toward the selection trials for Sydney.

The first series of selection trials take place at the U.S. Equestrian Team's headquarters in Gladstone, N.J., on June 21, 23, and 25. The top 12 riders from those trials will travel to San Juan Capistrano, Calif., for the final trials, Aug. 2, 4, and 6. The team of four plus an alternate will fly to Sydney for Olym-

pic competition on Sept. 25 and 28 and Oct. 1.

Equestrian sports are one of only a few in which males and females compete against each other on even terms. There are three equestrian disciplines featured at the olympics — show jumping, dressage, and eventing.

Equestrian sports are also one of only a very few in which top stars can continue to compete and win for many years.

Matz of Collegeville rode in his first games in 1976, then won a place on the 1992 team for the Barcelona Olympics. His finest hour came in Atlanta in 1996, 20 years after his first appearance in the Olympics, where he was a member of the silver medal team and then had the honor of carrying his nation's flag in the closing ceremonies.

Matz is trying to win his way onto this year's olympic team with Judgment, owned and bred by Mary Alice Malone's Iron Spring Farm in Coatesville.

Kursinski of Frenchtown, N.J., was an alternate on the 1984 Los Angeles gold medal winning team, a member of the 1990 Barcelona team, and a member of two silver medal

teams, in Seoul in 1988 and in Atlanta in 1996. She and her top mount, Eros, won the American Gold Cup at the Devon show grounds in 1994 as well as placing third the same year in the Grand Prix of Devon.

Howard was a member of the gold medal Los Angeles and the silver medal Atlanta Olympic teams as well as last year's silver medal Pan American team.

Howard of Fairfield, Conn., is always a leading contender at Devon and has won the leading rider award there twice.

Ward, who was the 1999 leading jumper rider at Devon, is trying to make his first Olympic team. He will show all three horses that he is taking to the selection trials, last year's Grand Prix of Devon winner, Twist Du Valon, as well as Galileo and Rio.

Firestone, along with her silver medal from Winnipeg, was the highest placed American at the 1998 Rome World Championships.

Margie Goldstein-Engle, another silver team medalist in Winnipeg, most recently won the American Grandprix Association Leading Rider Award.

Peter Leone and Peter Wylde are both contenders to watch.

The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair benefits the Bryn Mawr Hospital, and has donated more than \$9.5 million to the hospital in the past four decades.

The country fair, open daily, offers sporting clothes, fine prints and paintings, beautiful gold and silver jewelry and antiques.

General admission is \$6 for



Anne Kursinski, an Atlanta Olympic silver medalist with Eros who will be trying for a place at the Sydney Olympics, is one of the top stars competing at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair.

adults, \$3 for children under 12, and \$4 for senior over 65. Reserved seating is available. Call for ticket prices. The ticket office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the ticket office at the show grounds or call 610-688-2554.

Focus

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herd We would expect, that even though there are differences in dry matter intakes as well as production levels, that the MUN to be within a range of plus or minus 6 from the average. The April and the February DHIA information shows that we stray from the normal expected range. Through cooperation with the nutritionist we tracked the diets that were fed during each of these months and found an interesting trend. The two months that showed high MUNs above the plus 6 from the average also were months that the moisture of the

TMR dropped to 46% for February and 47% for April. The other three months ranged from 51% to 54% moisture. We now suspect that low moisture levels in the TMR led to greater sorting and therefore more cows ate a diet that was different than the target. This showed up as greater than expected ranges for the MUN measurements taken on test day.

On this farm we now have included one other nutrient to balance - moisture. We plan on using MUN as well as physical observations to measure if this feeding management change is working.

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