

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN GOLD CUP

The first American Gold Cup was held in Cleveland in 1970 as part of the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show's annual event. The show had already made history, hosting the nation's first show jumping grand prix in 1965. Then in 1970, they launched a new star. Saturday, July 25, the show hosted the Fifth Annual Cleveland Grandprix, and Sunday, July 26, was the inaugural presentation of the American Gold Cup. D. Jerry Baker designed the course which featured 18 obstacles including a closed ditch, two water jumps and a bank. The victor that day was Conrad Homfeld aboard Act 1.

The Gold Cup was held in Tampa, Florida's home of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1971 and 1972. In 1973, the event was moved to Philadelphia's JFK Stadium, which was well suited due to the course requirements for Grand Prix competition and JFK's similarity to the Olympic stadiums in use at the time. This allowed D. Jerry Baker to design an outdoor course which provided a superb challenge to both rider and horse and brought sheer exhilaration to the spectators. In 1980, the Gold Cup was moved to the Devon Show Grounds outside Philadelphia, where it remained until 2005.

In 2006, the Gold Cup organizers moved the event back to its Cleveland roots under Wachovia Securities' title sponsorship. One of the main reasons for relocating the Gold Cup back to the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field was the installation of a new international show ring at the Field by the Chagrin Valley PHA in 2005. The Polo Field grounds now meet international standards for competitions such as the Gold Cup.

Over the years, the American Gold Cup has provided exciting competition over courses designed by such talented Grand Prix designers as Pamela Caruthers, the late Bertalan DeNemethy, Robert Jolicouer, Allan Oliver, Robert Ridland and Frank Chapot. At this year's event, riders will compete over Steve Stephens' course. A Gold Cup winner himself (1971), Stephens was selected as the course designer for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

PAST WINNERS OF THE AMERICAN GOLD CUP

Year	Rider/Horse	Owner
1970	Conrad Homfeld/ Act 1	Mr. & Mrs. Michael McEvoy
1971	Steve Stephens/ Houdini	Edward Borbeau
1972	Rodney Jenkins/ Balbuco	William D. Haggard, III
1973	Rodney Jenkins/ Idle Dice	Harry R. Gill
1974	Rodney Jenkins/ Idle Dice	Harry R. Gill
1975	Rodney Jenkins/ Idle Dice	Harry R. Gill
1976	Melanie Smith/ Radnor II	Mr. & Mrs. Neil B. Eustace
1977	Michael Matz/ Grande	F. Eugene Dixon, Jr.
1978	Michael Matz/ Jet Run	F. Eugene Dixon, Jr.
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1980	Buddy Brown/ Felton	Ira Kapp & David Weismann
1981	Melanie Smith/ Calypso	Windrush Farm
1982	Melanie Smith/ Calypso	Windrush Farm
1983	Leslie Burr/ Albany	Debbie Dolan & Sagamore Farm
1984	Conrad Homfeld/ Coastline	Mrs. S.B. French
1985	Rodney Jenkins/ The Natural	Sheldon Gordon
1986	Barney Ward/ Sedac	Barney Ward
1987	Joe Fargis/ Mill Pearl	Jane Burr & Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Butler
1988	Peter Leone/ Threes and Sevens	Ri-Arm Farm
1989	Beezie Patton/ Northern Magic	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fisher
1990	Anne Kursinski/ Starman	Meadow Grove Farm
1991	Terry Rudd/ P.S. Gazpacho	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gansky
1992	Eric Hasbrouck/ Kilmore Quay	Pin Oak Farm
1993	Anne Kursinski/ Top Seed	Hillary Boone
1994	Anne Kursinski/ Eros	The Eros Group
1995	Anne Kursinski/ Dynamite	Alan Shore, Jr.
1996	Chris Kappler/ Seven Wonder	Marley Goodman
1997	Amanda Fuscas/ Genesis	Helen Kriebel
1998	Sarah Watt/ Arabian	Leviticus Enterprises
1999	Michael Matz/ Judgement	Iron Spring Farm
2000	Schuyler Riley/ Carolus H	South Beach Stables
2001	Kimberly Prince/ Bergerac	K. Miracle /Overlook Rider
2002	Chris Kappler/ Royal Kaliber	Chris Kappler & The Kamine Family
2003	Chris Kappler/ Royal Kaliber	Chris Kappler & The Kamine Family
2004	Kimberly Prince/ Marlou	Windmill Ranch, LLC
2005	Patty Stovel/ Shandor 41	Shandor Syndicate
2006	Christine McCrea/ Vegas	Candy Tribble