



WACHOVIA SECURITIES AMERICAN GOLD CUP

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WACHOVIA SECURITIES AMERICAN GOLD CUP HOSTS FEI CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL JUMPING QUALIFIER *One of Only Two Qualifiers To Be Held in U.S.*

MORELAND HILLS, OHIO – March 3, 2008 – The Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup, an international FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) World Cup qualifying show jumping competition, September 17-21 in Moreland Hills, Ohio, will host one of only two 2008 U.S. qualifiers for the FEI Children's International Jumping Final. The other qualifier will be held in California, September 10 to 14 at the Oaks Blenheim Fall Tournament in San Juan Capistrano. The FEI show jumping Final for children ages 12 to 14 will be held in Bogata, Columbia, December 6-12, 2008.

“This year's American Gold Cup offers young riders valuable experience competing in an international FEI qualifier during an early stage in their riding careers,” said Michael Morrissey, CEO of Stadium Jumping, Inc., organizer of the Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup. “The FEI Children's Jumping Qualifier will not only serve as a building block for future United States Equestrian Team members, but it also offers a chance to ride in Bogata on an international level.”

The Children's Final is comprised of a total of 32 riders; 16 from the host country and 16 foreign riders. The U.S. riders are considered foreign riders for the 2008 Children's Final. No country can have more than two representatives other than the host country, so no more than two children could be selected to compete from U.S. in Bogata, based on their ranking in the worldwide standings.

The worldwide standings include the final scores for each competitor from every FEI Children's Qualifying Competition in the world held in 2008 before October 15th. Riders are considered Children by the FEI from the beginning of the year they reach the age of 12 until the end of the year they reach the age of 14. This means for 2008, FEI Children riders must be born on or between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1996.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE 2008 FEI CHILDREN'S JUMPING FINAL:

- **What are the fence heights for this competition?**
Courses will be set at 1.10 to 1.20 meters (3'7" to 3'11") in height and 1.20 to 1.30 meters (3'11" to 4'3") in width. Triple bar spreads will be 1.50 meters (4'11").
- **How many qualifying competitions can a rider compete in?**
U.S. riders can compete in a total of four rounds. A Qualifying Competition consists of two classes (or two competitions by FEI language) with two rounds each. Therefore, a rider may compete in one class/competition of two rounds in the U.S. and the second one class/competition of two rounds in another country. A rider may NOT compete in one full qualifying competition of four rounds and then compete in any other class/competition in another country and have those points count for the FEI Children's worldwide standings.

- **How many US riders will be participating in the Final?**

The U.S. could qualify none, one, or two riders. The answer depends on how well the U.S. riders perform in the qualifiers compared to all other riders in the world participating in the qualifiers once the standings are complete.

 - If the U.S. has two or more riders in the top ten, the top two riders will be invited.
 - If the U.S. has one rider in the top ten, only that rider will be invited.
 - If no U.S. riders are in the top ten but a rider from another country in Group IV is in the top ten, no U.S. riders will be invited.
 - If no U.S. or other Group IV riders are in the top ten, the first rider in the standings from Group IV will be invited regardless of their home country.

- **If a rider wins a Qualifying Competition, are they qualified to compete in the Final?**

No. Winners of Qualifying Competitions do not automatically get invited to compete in the Final. The 16 foreign riders will be invited according to the FEI Children's Jumping Final rules using the worldwide standings.

- **How many horses can a rider compete with in a Qualifying Competition?**

Riders may ride more than one horse in a Qualifying Competition but the score of only one horse will count for the standings. This horse must be declared before the Qualifying Competition begins and must be ridden first.

Event Background

The Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup attracts riders who compete for more than \$200,000 in prize money in 23 different show jumping classes where the object is to jump obstacles without knocking them down in the fastest time. The highlight of the five-day Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup event is the international World Cup qualifying competition, the \$125,000 Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup, which includes an opening round on Friday evening and the final round Sunday afternoon. Other attractions held in conjunction with the show jumping include a weekend family festival with rides and attractions, shopping boutiques, musical entertainment, and more. For more details, visit www.AmericanGoldCup.net or call (440) 834-8615.

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