



WACHOVIA SECURITIES AMERICAN GOLD CUP

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Olympic Gold Medalists Head to Cleveland *Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup Adds New Jumper Classes*

MORELAND HILLS, OHIO—August 27, 2008—If you missed seeing the U.S. Show Jumping Team win the Gold Medal during the summer Olympic Games, you will have a chance to see several Team members, as well as former Olympic medalists, ride right here in Cleveland during the Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup, September 17 to 21 at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field in Moreland Hills.

Beezie Madden of Cazenovia, NY and McLain Ward of Brewster, NY made America proud when they galloped to the Olympic Team Gold Medal win. During Olympic competition for Individual honors, Madden rode Abigail Wexner's horse, Authentic, to a Bronze Medal win. Both Madden and Ward, who also shared Olympic Team Gold Medals in 2004 at the Athens Games, will ride their other top non-Olympic horses in Cleveland. Team alternate Anne Kursinski of Flemington, NJ (a two-time Olympic Silver medalist in 1988 and 1996) will also compete at the Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup.

Cleveland is an important stop for the nation's top riders who set their sites on the international FEI World Cup™, which will be held in April 2009 in Las Vegas. The Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup is one of a series of qualifying classes. Fans can see the Olympians in the \$25,000 Wachovia Securities Welcome Stake (the first round of the qualifying competition) on Friday, September 19. The top finishers will return for Sunday's \$100,000 Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup finale where jumping obstacles are 5 feet high and 6 feet wide. The winner will earn \$30,000 and valuable points towards qualifying for the World Cup™ Finals.

Other notable riders expected to compete include Bromont, Canada's Mario Deslauriers (2007 American Gold Cup champion and Olympian); Chris Kappler of Pittstown, NJ (2004 Olympic Team Gold and Individual Silver medalist); Peter Wylde of Dover Plains, NY (2004 Olympic Team Gold medalist); Margie Engle of Wellington, FL (2000 Olympic Team Silver medalist); Leslie Howard of Westport, CT (1984 Olympic Team Gold medalist and 1996 Olympic Team Silver medalist); Norman Dello Joio of Wellington, FL (1992 Olympic Individual Bronze medalist); Olympian Lauren Hough of Wellington, FL; and Olympic alternates Allison Firestone of Upperville, VA and Todd Minikus of Wellington, FL.

Adding to the post-Olympic reunion will be American Gold Cup Course Designer Steve Stephens, who devised the challenging show jumping courses during the China Olympic Games.

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**Entries Increase for American Gold Cup...Strong For New North Coast Jumper Classic
*New International FEI Children's Qualifying Class and Young Jumper Divisions
Added to 2008 Schedule***

Now in its third year since returning to Cleveland, the total number of horses competing at this year's Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup is expected to continue to grow. In 2007 the event sold over 400 stalls and to date, that number has increased by 10 percent. The new North Coast Jumper Classic show, which precedes the American Gold Cup, has already sold 350 stalls in its first year!

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."

Also new to the schedule for the Wachovia Securities American Gold Cup are divisions designed for points towards the national Young Jumper Championships® including Young Jumper Championship Qualifiers. The three sections are for 5 Year Old Young Jumper, 6 Year Old Young Jumper and 7/8 Year Old Young Jumper. For more information or a complete schedule, visit www.AmericanGoldCup.net.

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