

▶ HORSE SHOWS

Kraut gave him a two-month vacation at the end of the year, a decision she came to regret.

"I think it was like when you go on vacation and you're fine the whole time, but then you come home and get pneumonia," she joked. When he was coming back into work, Andretti showed signs of roaring, so he had surgery to correct partial paralysis of his larynx. Then, when he was rehab-

bing from that, he bruised a heel.

"He missed half the year, so I'm playing catch-up with him. Right now he feels like he did when he finished last year, so if he keeps developing like this, I think he can jump anything," Kraut said. "He's a wonderful horse. He's quirky, but he wants to try. Sometimes he doesn't always get how to do something, but he will do anything to go over a jump."

Viva La Viva

Kraut was the only one to break the Irish riders' hold over the open jumper classes at the Gold Cup. Conor Swail topped the \$85,000 American Gold Cup Grand Prix Qualifier on Friday afternoon riding Viva Colombia.

Swail used the long gallops over the hills of Old Salem Farm's Grand Prix field to his advantage with

▶ Just Let Go

Katherine Strauss has learned a very important lesson from All In: to just let go.

"He is a fast horse, so I used to want to hold him at the base of the jumps, but he really likes me to stay off his mouth at the jumps. So no matter the distance, I have to give him his mouth and trust that he's going to set himself up for the jump," she said.

"Sometimes I'll be getting there to a super deep distance to a tall plank jump, and I'll have to really consciously not pull," she continued. "When he gets strong, if I try and hold him, he just gets stronger, so I have to give him one good half-halt and then just let him be. Now I know that about him, it's gotten much easier. After a forward line, I can take one good half-halt and let go, and he relaxes and takes a breath on the way to the next jump."

In fact, a situation came up in the \$25,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic at the Gold Cup that tested her resolve to let go. "There was a waiting six-stride distance in the class to a skinny plank, and I kept thinking, 'I have to give him his mouth here, even though it's coming up really quickly.' He set himself and jumped it fantastically," she said.

It worked, as she and the 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood (Aachen—Orlandaise, Indoctro) took the blue over Tori Colvin on Cafino.

"He really performs great in venues like this because on a big field you can get a good gallop, and he has a huge stride and enough scope to cover for me if I want to leave a stride out," Strauss said.

"We had a great summer, so I felt confident coming here



Katherine Strauss has learned that staying out of All In's way is her best bet, and she guided him to the top of the \$25,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic at the American Gold Cup.

and starting our fall season. I couldn't show in any of the other high junior classes this week because I just started school, and I couldn't miss it. We usually do a warm-up class earlier in the week. So I knew I'd need to give him a good, confident ride," said the high school junior.

Strauss, 16, keeps her equitation horses with Stacia Madden at Beacon Hill in New Jersey and commutes there from her New York City home. But her jumpers, including All In, live with John and Bezie Madden in Cazenovia, N.Y., so she only rides them on various week-ends or at shows.