



DRESSAGE

"When I first got on him, I thought, 'Who built this horse for me?'" she said. "He just suited me so perfectly, like a glove. I felt that immediately, even though he was weak and unfit."

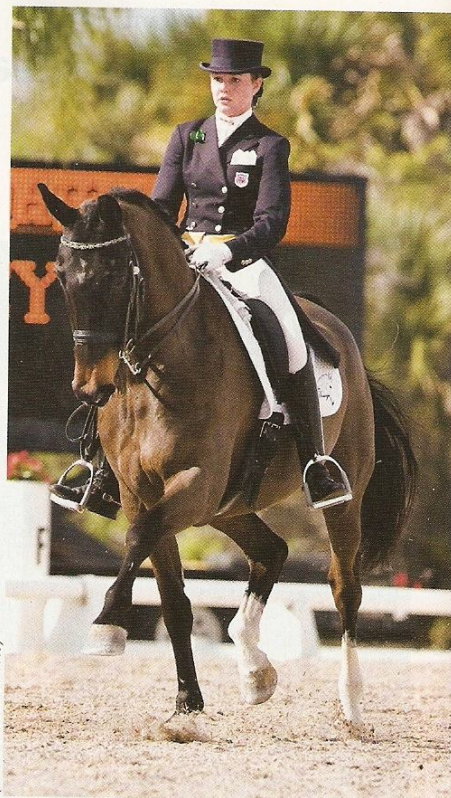
Despite his age, Leonberg is "very fit and strong, and he's just gotten stronger and stronger over the two years," Gundersen said. "Nobody believes he's 16. He's got a strong topline. We have the HorseGym treadmill that has helped building up that strength so I don't have to ride and ride him. We do a lot of trail rides and get him fit slowly.

"He's a very sensitive horse. He'll do

anything for you. He's a true gentleman. He's not a big wild stallion. He can be nervous around the ring, and everyone has seen me come flying around the outside of the ring. But once he gets down the centerline, he's all business."

► Making A Quick Trip Count

Meagan Davis got down to the business of winning pretty quickly. She arrived in Florida from her home in Stone Ridge, N.Y., just days before showing at the Palm Beach Dressage Derby. But she didn't let the hectic schedule stop her



(Susan J. Strickle Photo)

Meagan Davis escaped the frozen north to show at the Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI-W and won the Young Riders Team and Individual tests on Bentley.

from topping both the Young Rider Team (70.89%) and Individual (68.84%) tests on Bentley.

"I hadn't shown at all this year. So to come out in a CDI and get a 70 percent score was very exciting," she said. "My first test was very smooth. I felt like I had control the whole time. Bentley can be very strong, and sometimes he won't accept half-halts, but I didn't have the problem once throughout the whole test. That was exciting. It was kind of like breaking through a brick wall. I know that test is there now—I don't have to worry so much."

Davis, 20, has been riding Bentley for a year and a half and trains with Lendon Gray. She's a veteran of multiple North American Junior and Young Rider Championships and is aiming to represent Region 8 again this year, her last as a young rider.

Bentley, a 17-year-old Danish Warmblood, was the U.S. Dressage Federation's 2008 Prix St. Georges Horse of the Year with Endel Ots aboard. Owner Kelly

PALM BEACH DRESSAGE DERBY CDI-W

Loxahatchee, Fla.—Mar. 4-7

GRAND PRIX FOR THE SPECIAL

Judges: E: Wim Ernes (NED); H: Wojtek Markowski (POL); C: Evi Eisenhardt (GER); M: Natalie Lamping (GER); B: Sarah Geikie (GER)

HORSE/RIDER	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. Calecto V/Tina Konyot	68.93	68.93	69.78	71.91	70.21	69.95
2. Olivier/Elisabeth Austin	68.51	69.57	67.44	70.63	68.51	68.93
3. Anton/Belinda Trussell	68.08	69.57	68.29	68.29	68.93	68.63
4. Wadamur/Susan Jaccoma	68.08	68.72	69.57	68.29	67.87	68.51
5. Otto/Todd Flettrich	67.60	68.72	66.80	67.23	68.93	67.87
6. Beemer/Lars Petersen	67.23	67.87	69.14	68.93	64.89	67.61

Also competed: 7. Pikardi/B. Bonnelo, 66.80; 8T. Ayscha/S. Dueck, 66.21; 8T. Granada/O. Shimoni, 66.21; 10. Cezanne/G. Vander Ploeg, 65.74; 11. Proton/V. Winter, 65.19; 12. Come On III/S. Harding, 64.29; 13. Gran Gesto/J. Brooks, 63.95; 14. Don Angelo/M. Gibson, 63.70; 15. Devon L/D. Creech, 63.57; 16. Manhattan/J. Kelly, 63.10; 17. Optimus Prime/Y. Losos de Muniz, 63.06; 18. Douglas Hilltop/C. Hickey, 60.17; 19. Sandor/P. Becker, 59.53; 20. Arabella/S. Roberto, 59.48; 21. Rheirattack/S. Dutt-Roth, 59.23; 22. Valintino/H. Dressler, 59.06; 23. BeSe/K. Barteau, 58.68; 24. Rutherford/K. Bateson-Chandler, 58.04; 25. Wallenstein/N. Shinton, 54.42; 26. Amalon/R. Jewell, 52.04.

GRAND PRIX SPECIAL

Judges: E: Liselotte Fore (GER); H: Stephen Clarke (GBR); C: Ernes; M: Eisenhardt; B: Linda Zang

HORSE/RIDER	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. Calecto V/Tina Konyot	72.29	72.50	71.87	71.04	72.08	71.95
2. Anton/Belinda Trussell	70.83	70.83	70.41	69.58	71.87	70.70
3. Otto/Todd Flettrich	68.54	69.79	70.00	66.87	68.75	68.79
4. Come On III/Shawna Harding	66.25	69.79	67.29	66.66	66.25	67.25
5. Granada/Oded Shimoni	67.91	67.50	65.83	64.58	68.54	66.87
6. Proton/Victoria Winter	67.08	65.62	66.66	65.62	66.04	66.20

Also competed: 7. Pikardi/B. Bonnelo, 65.12; 8. Don Angelo/M. Gibson, 64.75; 9. Ayscha/S. Dueck, 64.20; 10. Gran Gesto/J. Brooks, 63.54; 11. Cezanne/G. Vander Ploeg, 63.33; 12. Wadamur/S. Jaccoma, 63.04; 13. Olivier/E. Austin, 61.45; 14. Beemer/L. Petersen, 60.83; 15. Devon L/D. Creech, 58.58

GRAND PRIX FOR THE FREESTYLE

Judges: E: Fore; H: Clarke; C: Ernes; M: Eisenhardt; B: Zang

HORSE/RIDER	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. Leonberg/Mikala Gundersen	67.87	66.38	66.17	64.25	65.74	66.08
2. Balmoral/Jacqueline Brooks	65.10	64.25	64.89	64.68	66.38	65.06
3. Dea II/Katherine Bateson-Chandler	65.74	63.19	63.83	63.61	65.95	64.46
4. Schumacker Solyst/Melissa Taylor	63.40	65.74	63.40	61.91	65.53	64.00
5. Rachmaninoff/Joe Sandven	63.61	61.70	63.40	62.55	61.27	62.51
6. Wiona/Diane Creech	64.04	60.85	61.91	60.00	61.48	61.66

Also competed: 7. Nalando/L. Denizard, 60.51; 8. Halbgott/M. Bernal, 59.57; 9. Naomi/C. von Martels, 58.85; 10. Pascal/D. Mukpo, 57.83; 11. Wunder Ein/S. Williams, 57.23.

GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE

Judges: E: Ernes; H: Zang; C: Clarke; M: Eisenhardt; B: Markowski

HORSE/RIDER	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. Leonberg/Mikala Gundersen	68.5/76.0	73.0/76.0	72.0/75.0	71.5/75.0	71.5/75.0	73.25
2. Balmoral/Jacqueline Brooks	66.5/72.0	72.0/75.0	68.0/72.0	66.0/69.0	65.0/72.0	69.75
3. Rachmaninoff/Joe Sandven	64.0/70.0	60.5/66.0	68.0/74.0	66.0/70.0	67.5/71.0	67.70
4. Naomi/Chris von Martels	65.5/70.0	66.0/69.0	67.0/70.0	66.0/68.0	64.0/71.0	67.65
5. Dea II/Katherine Bateson-Chandler	63.0/71.0	65.5/71.0	66.0/71.0	67.0/71.0	60.0/66.0	67.15
6. Schumacker Solyst/Melissa Taylor	66.0/72.0	65.0/68.0	65.0/70.0	62.5/67.0	62.5/69.0	66.70

Also competed: 7. Wiona/D. Creech, 64.15; 8. Halbgott/M. Bernal, 63.40; 9. Nalando/L. Denizard, 59.05.

Scoring: Technical/Artistic.