

Todd Flettrich Prepares For 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

By Lauren Fisher

A veteran dressage competitor and trainer at the FEI levels, Todd Flettrich has had many great accomplishments throughout his career. Flettrich was a four-time participant in the North American Young Riders Championships (NAYRC), earning Individual Gold and Team Silver Medals in 1991, and also coaching many riders to success while serving as Region 1 Coach and Chef d'Equipe from 1988 through 1994. Most recently, the talented rider has set his sights on competing at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Lexington, KY, this fall. Flettrich is qualified to compete in the final Selection Trials at the USEF Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, in August, and feels confident moving forward following a great season of competition.

Based in Coatesville, PA, and Wellington, FL, Flettrich and his current mount Otto have been very consistent together this season. Otto is a 13-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding (Ranbo X Rampal), owned by Cherry Knoll Farm. Flettrich and Otto spent the summer in Germany training with Olympic Gold Medalist Hubertus Schmidt before returning to compete quite impressively throughout the fall and winter months in the United States.

Going into the 2010 season, Flettrich had two important goals in mind for his career. The first goal was qualifying for the WEG, which he has worked toward all season. Looking into the future, Flettrich also hopes to make it on to the United States Dressage Team for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He and Otto have built an exciting partnership this year and continue looking to the next challenge.

"I would really love to compete on the team at the WEG and I think that it is great to have this huge competition in our own country this year," Flettrich acknowledged. "I think it would be great to be on a team representing my country. The WEG, as far as the horse list, is probably bigger than even the Olympics, so it is a very prestigious event and it would be a great honor to compete."

Throughout the qualifying season for the WEG, Flettrich and Otto performed consistently well and gradually increased their scores, improving with each competition.



Upon returning from Germany in September, they immediately showed at the New England Dressage Association's Fall Festival, held September 9-13, in Saugerties, NY, and won the Grand Prix Special.

One week later, the pair returned to their home state of Pennsylvania and showed at the prestigious Dressage at Devon. There, Flettrich and Otto earned a third place in the Grand Prix de Dressage, and then placed fifth performing their first freestyle together under the lights.

Following an excellent fall season, Flettrich and Otto relocated to Cherry Knoll Farm's southern location in Wellington, FL, and kicked off the winter circuit in January with an exciting win, earning first place in the Gold Coast Opener's Grand Prix de Dressage.

In February, the duo earned two third place finishes at the Wellington Classic Spring Challenge, and Flettrich earned the honor of top placed American in the competition.

Completing their qualifiers, Flettrich and Otto showed at the Palm Beach Dressage Derby the first weekend in March, earning fifth place in the Grand Prix de Dressage, and then receiving an impressive third place in the Grand Prix Special.

Flettrich and Otto have progressed with each competition and will continue to develop their partnership in the remaining months leading up to the WEG. The connection and tension are there, and the consistency between the

warm-up and the show ring has grown through the correct preparation at each competition. The tests have gotten better and better, and now Flettrich just wants to make it look even easier.

"My biggest strength is that I have been very consistent and we have been slowly rising and getting higher scores with each show," Flettrich stated. "We always have room for improvement; we have not met our full potential yet."

A few of the goals that Flettrich has moving on in the season are to ride the canter with more uphill expression, try not to make mistakes, and to continue riding consistently.

"Now that I have my scores and I am qualified for the final Selection Trials, I can take more risks and really go for it," he expressed. "I would like to see how much further Otto and I can take it and see what we can do. The challenge is to go for it, but not to blow it. The more you go for it, the more risks you take, and the greater the chances are of having a mistake. We are still developing as a team and I am really happy with where we are going from here."

Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

In a few months, the world's finest equine athletes will gallop into Kentucky's Bluegrass region for the most prestigious, global equestrian championships – the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The Alltech FEI Games will take place in Lexington, Ky., from September 25th – October 10th. Like the Olympics, the World Equestrian Games are held every four years and are the world championships for the eight equestrian disciplines recognized by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

Tickets to the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games have already been sold to buyers in all 50 U.S. states and 50 countries. They are available for purchase through Ticketmaster via www.ticketmaster.com, 1-800-745-3000 or at all Ticketmaster outlets. Prices range from \$25 to \$150, providing a wide range of options for spectators. Visit the official site of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games at www.alltechfeigames.com for complete information about the event.

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