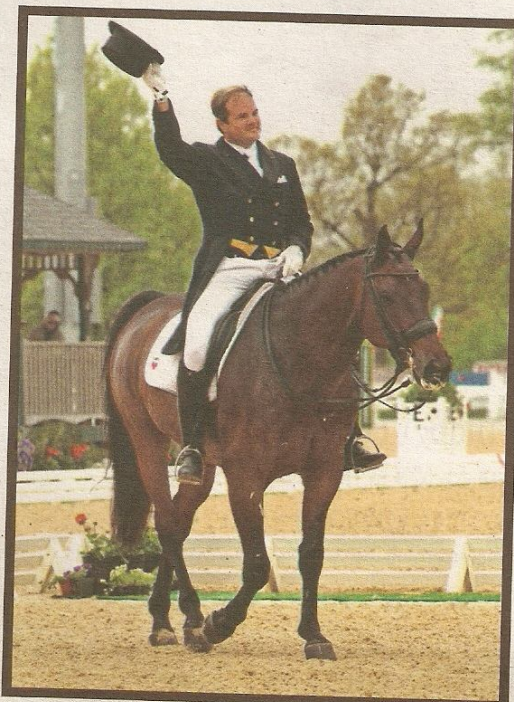




Photo by Allen MacMillan/MacMillan Photography

## WEG Tests

*Beezie Madden and Danny Boy (above) won the \$80,000 WEG Show Jumping Test grand prix at Lexington, Ky. Todd Flettrich of Coatesville, Pa., and Otto finished a disappointing seventh when Otto showed up not feeling well. Flettrich withdrew the horse from the Grand Prix Special and the Freestyle in the WEG Dressage Test.*



gold medal in jumping at Athens in 2004 revoked and awarded to the U. S.

And, just "coincidentally", after Ward's elimination, two Germans, Marcus Ehning and Beerbaum, ended up first and second following the third leg of the World Cup.

"I don't think it's payback, but unfortunately, with my history at Aachen I find it hard to defend myself because there's already a pre-set and preconceived notion," said Ward in an interview with Kenny Kraus of PhelpsSports.com. "But we're talking about an incident that occurred over 11 years ago. I have had a perfectly clean record ever since."

"It's a set-up, for sure," said former chef d'equipe Frank Chapot, who led U.S. teams to Olympic gold medals in 1984 and 2004 as well as an Olympic silver medal in 1996 and a World Championship gold medal. "McLain was going well, he'd won everything in sight recently. Someone wanted to stop him and they had the power to do it."

"This is a very big step back for the FEI," said Chapot. "It's very important that the U. S. Equestrian Federation has to find out why the FEI did this and hold them accountable."

"WE HAD a fabulous first three days," said Morris. "We won almost every class. Then this. The rug was pulled out from underneath us."

"This is a travesty of the sport," said Morris. "Now it's all about power and control, which controls the money. No matter how you slice it, it ends up being all about money."

Sapphire passed the jog for soundness held prior to the competition.

Sapphire jumped a clear and fast round in the first leg of the World Cup, a big speed class, and was second to Rich Fellers on Flexible.

Then, after the second leg of the competition had already begun, the FEI appointed veterinarian Dr. Paul Farrington and Dr. Emile Welling, the Foreign Veterinary Delegate, examined Sapphire in front of U.S. team veterinarian Dr. Tim Ober and her two grooms, using thermography and a clinical examination of the legs.

The thermography was normal, yet Dr. Farrington told Dr. Ober that Sapphire was showing some sensitivity in her left foreleg, but was fit to compete.

Sapphire then jumped two beautiful clear rounds to again place second in that leg, this time to Steve Guerdat of Switzerland, and

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