

The Arena

PERSONALITIES, PERFORMANCES, NEWS AND REVIEWS

Trakehner of the Year

Peron, a 12-year-old stallion from Georgia's Hidden Springs Farm was awarded the title of 1995 Trakehner of the



Bob Langrish

Adding to his accomplishments in the European dressage arena, 16.3-hand stallion, Peron, is the Trakehner Champion of the Year.

Year by the German Trakehner Verband. Owned by Dr. Carole Meyer-Webster and Russell Webster and ridden by Michelle Gibson, Peron is currently competing on the European dressage circuit.

When the Verband informed Meyer-Webster of the decision, she says "it was the thrill of my life." Russell Webster recalls the acceptance letter as saying "he's pre-approved—kind of like the credit cards you get—sign below and you're off and running."

Discovered on the stallion market in 1986 by Günter Bertelmann, Peron was pur-

chased at auction for 32,000 German marks and moved to Canada.

Meyer-Webster discovered him in Pennsylvania, where he was standing at stud. She wanted to buy a nice dressage horse for herself but soon discovered the stallion's tremendous talent. "Initially, Robert Dover was training him, but he wasn't riding him full-time and I thought the horse needed more attention. So, I brought him back to Georgia."

Shortly afterward, the Websters met Gibson through a reporter who ran a story on the young rider in a local newspaper.

The now-winning team is concentrating on qualifying for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, where they will obviously be the hometown favorites.

As the biggest money winner among Trakehner dressage horses this year, Peron also captured the *In-Memory-Of-Dr.-Fritz-Schilke-Medal*.

Ramiro Z Dies

The famous stallion Ramiro Z, progenitor of numerous champion show jumpers and dressage horses, passed away at the age of 30 on July 30, 1995.

Bred by Freiherr Clemens von Nagel-Doornick in Westphalia, among his get are Olympic dressage bronze medalist Lectron, ridden by Robert Dover, and show jumping gold and silver medalist Ratina Z.

Other dressage horses

Just In!

Lavell and Gifted To Go To Sweden

As the result of two stellar performances at the Volvo World Cup U.S. League Final, Carol Lavell and her 17.3-hand Hanoverian gelding, Gifted, will represent the United States at the 1996 Volvo World Cup in Göteborg, Sweden, next April. Top scorers of both the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Freestyle, the pair prevailed over Kathy Von Ertfelda and Dutch, a 17-hand Hanoverian.

The newest chapter of the *Did-He-Or-Didn't-He-Piaffe* saga finds Gifted's piaffes in harmony with Lavell's aids in both the Grand Prix and the freestyle. Although the crowd was asked not to clap or take pictures, Gifted's ever-brilliant extended trot in the freestyle elicited a round of applause and a big smile from Lavell. As the duo left the arena at the Washington International Horse Show in Landover, Maryland, the audience acknowledged the pair's hard work with a standing ovation.

Several of the nation's top riders are currently in Europe preparing to campaign for the Olympics and many of the country's most talented horses are lame. Consequently, this year's field for the Volvo World Cup qualifier was smaller than it has been in the past. Fortunately, while the numbers were less, the quality was not.

1995 U.S. League Final Volvo Dressage World Cup

B: Edgar Hotz (USA); C: Volker Moritz (GER); H: Axel Steiner (USA); E: Cara Whitham (CAN); M: Mariette Withages (BEL)

Grand Prix	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL	%
Carol Lavell/Gifted	327	329	304	310	341	1611	64.44
Kathy Von Ertfelda/Dutch	299	315	284	302	322	1522	60.88
Grand Prix Freestyle							
Carol Lavell/Gifted	Tech: 6.15	6.35	6.50	6.35	6.30		
	Art: 6.65	7.00	7.10	6.95	7.25		66.60
Kathy Von Ertfelda/Dutch	Tech: 6.45	6.05	6.15	5.70	6.65		
	Art: 7.0	6.675	6.875	6.2	6.975		64.725