

sports will be included in the Paralympic's 17-sport lineup, with participants from 19 countries.

American Competition Opportunities for Riders with Disabilities, Inc., (ACORD) is managing the equestrian competition for the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee. Riders are classified according to functional level and compete against others with similar abilities. Before they can make the trip to Atlanta, riders must meet strict qualifying standards set by their home country's national governing body. The United States is sending a team of six riders—who will train together before competing—under the sponsorship of United Cerebral Palsy Athletic Association.

ACORD is seeking bomb-proof horses with training from walk/trot to USDF Second Level. Also in short supply are volunteers, grooms and funds to haul the horses to the GIHP. For additional information, to volunteer or to contribute, call (404) 256-5878.

Gibson Gets A Lift

Service Guido Klatté, an international horse transporter, has agreed to fly U.S. Olympic hopeful Michelle Gibson and Carol Meyer-Webster's stallion, Peron, back to America to compete in the Final Selection Trials. The offer also includes airfare for Gibson's coach, Rudolf Zeilinger, and his wife, as well as Peron's groom. Once the team lands

at New York's Kennedy Airport on June 6, Klatté's partner, Tim Dutta of the Dutta Corporation, will take over. As the husband of FEI competitor Susan Dutta, Tim is no stranger to the ins and outs of



J. Tim Dutta

equine travel. He will sponsor Peron's import and quarantine costs and make sure Peron arrives on time for the Final Selection Trials in Gladstone, New Jersey. During the competition, Peron's saddle pad will read "Dutta Corporation and Service Guido Klatté."

The total trip expenses will include:

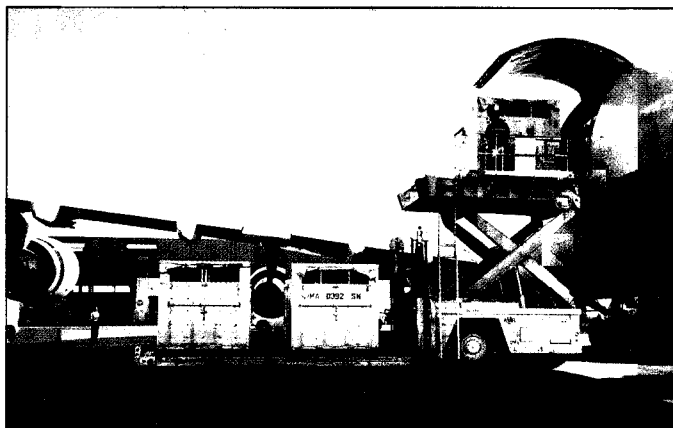
- trailering Peron from where he is stabled in Warendorf, Germany, to the airport in Frankfurt, Germany;
- plane tickets;
- customs costs;
- quarantine costs;
- airfreight for 500 kilos of tack and equipment;
- trailering Peron to USDA New York Animal Import Center in Newburg, New York; and
- trailering Peron from Newburg quarantine center to Gladstone, New Jersey.

Since their corporation's inception eight years ago, Dutta and Klatté have transported many of the United States' best dressage riders to international competitions around the globe. Klatté—

tion trials and until the end of the Olympic Games, the USET will pay for the costs of all of the U.S. dressage team members.

Trials And Olympic Coverage

NBC Sports, which holds the U.S. rights to the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials and Olympic Games, reached an agreement with ESPN last summer granting the cable network exclusive cable rights to a variety of Olympic Trials coverage. The equestrian coverage that is a part of that package includes show-jump-



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International "frequent flyers" including Peron (top), are first loaded into a crate and then lifted into the cargo section of the airplane.

once a German national junior event team member—says he and Gibson "are already friends. I think she is a nice person and it is fun for me to sponsor her."

According to Dutta, Anky van Grunsven and the Dutch team will be flying via the Dutta Corporation and Service Guido Klatté instead of using the Olympic charter.

After the Gladstone selec-

ing and dressage competitions in Gladstone, New Jersey as well as three-day event trials in Lexington, Kentucky and Badminton, England.

ESPN2 will air highlights from the show-jumping and dressage selections on Saturday, June 29, from 10:30 p.m. to midnight EDT. The same coverage can be seen on ESPN from 12:30 to 2 p.m. EST on June 30. The three-day event