

WE GOT IT!

West Coast Classic Will Welcome WEG Finalists!

The members of Team Canada, who will compete at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in September will be chosen at West Coast Classic, it was announced today.

This means that reiners such as NRHA Futurity Winner and Million Dollar Rider Duane Latimer may well be competing at our show this year. Duane won the Individual gold medal at the 2006 World Equestrian Games. After winning the Junior Reining at the 2009 AQHA World Show on Shiners Lena Dust, he said he'd like to take the 6-year-old to Kentucky to defend that title. If he wants to do that, he and his horse will have to come to Heritage Park in July!

WCRA's West Coast Classic has been chosen as Canada's World Equestrian Games Selection finals, Sharon Hall learned in a phone call today from Ottawa. After WCRA voted at its AGM in November to make the pitch, Sharon got busy and put together a first class proposal that EC found too good to turn down.

The World Equestrian Games, at which all the FEI disciplines decide their World Championships at one time and place, were first held in Stockholm in 1990. Like the Olympics, WEG happens every four years and it wasn't until 2002, in Spain, that reining was included for the first time—the only western discipline that has a place in the FEI world.

This year the games come to North America for the first time, to the newly refurbished Kentucky Horse Park, and Canadian reining will have its best opportunity ever to showcase itself to the world.

Reiners who want to represent Canada at WEG in September have to first qualify by obtaining a score of at least 68 at three CRI competitions. Then they must vie for the coveted team positions at the Canadian WEG Selection finals. Each rider can compete on up to three horses.

So – we're over the first hurdle. We've won the bid. Now we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Fund raising is going to be "Job One" so start thinking about what you can do, and how you can help. We look forward to hearing from you and to working together with everyone in this great club, to make this show a tremendous success.

~ Kathleen Keating
President, WCRA