

## ► EVENTING

"He shouldn't ever lose the dressage. I did my best dressage test I've ever done, hands down, at Virginia; I was really proud of it," said Murphy, 36. "That horse is such a good mover, and he has so much presence and is so light that he's really like—I don't have too many horses to compare him to. He's a really fantastic horse on the flat. He should be up there after dressage."

But Beastie also has what Murphy calls "a magical gallop," and he's a very careful jumper.

"He's the only horse that I struggle with my internal clock on," she continued. "I made myself wheel the course at Virginia because a lot of times I have stupid time faults on him. I think I'm going somewhere, but he has this really lofty canter, and so you're kind of up in the air for five years, but you're not really going anywhere. Once you ask him to gallop, he has a huge gallop, but you have to remember to ask him, because he doesn't just cover the ground."

Murphy feels confident on cross-country, but she views her dressage and show jumping as her weaker points. In 2007 she committed to focusing on those phases, and she's enlisted the help of her husband, show jumper Brian Murphy, and dressage judge Linda Zang.

"I think it just takes a long time to put it all together," Sara said. "You don't just go and take lessons for six months and all of a sudden score better. I think it's the daily grind—it's out there all the bloody time."

"Some people are naturally talented about the different things," she added, "and I think you've got to be dispassionate about where your strengths and your weaknesses are."

Hard work and increased quality of horseflesh has brought Sara to this year, which included wins in the CIC\* and CIC\*\* at Morven Park (Va.) earlier this fall.

"We couldn't go out there and pay for horses that are going at the upper levels, but we made a more conscious decision to have much more quality in our young horses," she said. "Sebastian is, hands down, without anybody discussing it, the nicest horse I've ever had."



### A Meaningful Victory

Winning the junior/young rider CCI\* at Virginia was about more than just a blue ribbon for Amanda Beale Clement. She and Peter Pan also took home the Kildonan Tug trophy, an award that holds special meaning for her.

Her sister, Gillian Beale King, donated the trophy after her mount, Kildonan Tug, who'd finished third at the Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\* with Abigail Lufkin in 2004, broke his leg with King riding at the Virginia Horse Trials in 2006.

"It was such an honor to receive this trophy and so moving to bring it home for my sister," said Clement.

She and Peter Pan led the division start to finish, adding only a single rail to their dressage score to finish on a 48.5, a fraction ahead of Michael Pendleton and HH Lancaster (48.8).

"I was very nervous going in [for show jumping. Pendleton] had one rail, so I knew I had one in hand, but any more than that, I was done," she admitted. "I've never been under so much pressure. I just had to tell myself to breathe and smile and know that I had such a good year that I could do it."

Amanda Beale Clement was thrilled to take home the Kildonan Tug trophy, an award that holds special meaning for her family, after she and Peter Pan topped the junior/young rider CCI\* at the Virginia Horse Trials. BRANT GAMMA PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

Earlier this year, Clement and Peter Pan were members of the gold-medal Area II eventing team at NAJYRC. Clement, 16, hopes to move up to intermediate during the spring season in Aiken, S.C., so she was looking for a good showing in Virginia.

As the daughter of trainer Susie Beale, Clement was introduced to horses at an early age, but she originally resisted eventing.

"I actually didn't like it in the beginning," she said. "I found foxhunting when I was 11 and found this *amazing* horse, and I just loved it—going fast."

But slowly she changed her tune and fell for the sport with the help of her mother's former two-star horse, Pressed For Time.

"He took me from novice to prelim, and he gave me all the confidence in the world," said Clement, Phoenixville, Pa. "He just taught me everything I needed to know. He was



such a machine, and he was amazing."

She purchased Peter Pan, a 12-year-old Thoroughbred (Aptitude—Saratoga Surge, Saratoga Six) 1½ years ago from Lellie Ward, who competed the gelding through intermediate.

"He is just so amazing—everything about him; he's so steady, and he has an amazing trot and a beautiful canter," she said. "He has so much movement and so much animation and is so bouncy. He's hard to sit the trot on, and when you need to push out that medium trot or push out that medium canter, it's a lot, and he's powerful.

"The way that he can bring himself back after something like a medium canter and the way he just compresses himself," she continued. "He's just so fun to ride. He's so quick on cross-country and so confident. It's pretty typical for us to pull off a pretty good test, but this was definitely my best."

Before Peter Pan started eventing, the Thoroughbred raced under the name My Attitude, something Clement said was an appropriate moniker.

"That definitely says a lot about him," she said. "On the ground he's hard to deal with. He just has so much attitude! He says so much about himself. He doesn't crosstie. He can be a little naughty, but I love him still. I love everything about him. 🐾

## ► Virginia Horse Trials

Lexington, VA—Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

▲ **CIC\*\*** - 1. Shannondale 54, M. McCue, 54.5; 2. Fly N Bayou, S. Thomas, 59.2; 3. Kilpatrick Orlando, 63.4. ▲ **Open Int.** - 1. SBF Cortez, B. Martin, 35.0; 2. Bonito, B. Martin, 36.6; 3. Master Eli, B. Martin, 40.4. ▲ **ATC Open Prel.** - 1. Padi's Celtic Measure, S. Greenway, 36.7; 2. Beverly's Bebop, K. Martin, 38.0; 3. Newmarket Jack, A. MacLeod, 41.3. ▲ **Jr./Y.R. Open Prel.** - 1. Motocross, K. Poos, 38.4; 2. Brazilian Wedding, H. Carspecken, 41.5; 3. Cheap Trick, W. Solomon, 41.8. ▲ **Open Prel., Div. 1** - 1. Gipsy King, B. Martin, 29.6; 2. High Altitude, S. Halpin, 30.1; 3. Issabella C, R. Wood, 31.7. ▲ **Open Prel., Div. 2** - 1. Calle, M. Kuchta, 27.1; 2. Amasing F, S. Beale, 29.6; 3. CMA Special Messenger, M. Frazier, 31.8. ▲ **Prel. Chmp.** - 1. Cobra, R. Wood, 32.2; 2. Willie Wiggins, V. Vizcarondo, 35.0; 3. Filibuster ST, B. Guimond, 36.6. ▲ **ATC Open Trg.** - 1. Midnight Raid, R. Lee, 28.4; 2. Remington, L. Dreher, 32.5; 3. Anegada, A. Baker, 33.0. ▲ **Jr./Y.R. Trg.** - 1. In A Trance, A. Freeman, 32.2; 2. Winsome, M. Groux, 34.9; 3. Forget Me Not, K. Gray, 35.5. ▲ **Open Trg.** - 1. Avatar, C. Silliman, 32.0; 2. West Point, J. Santiago, 35.7; 3. Freedom's Eclipse, T. Nolte, 39.1. ▲ **Trg. Chmp.** - 1. Brown Eyed Girl, A. MacLeod, 30.7; 2. MTF Cooley Classic, C. Husain, 30.9; 3. Scherzo Di Notte, L. Symansky, 32.1. ▲ **Trg. Horse** - 1. Shannondale Cooley, E. Murphy, 31.6; 2. Elton, N. Wales, 34.9; 3. Jaywyn, K. Martin, 35.8. ▲ **Trg. Rider** - 1. Command Approval, M. Fox, 36.4; 2. Tommy Two, E. Kober, 38.0; 3. Corner Oak Loch Lorian, K. Czwil,

39.5. ▲ **ATC Open Nov.** - 1. Love Affair, A. Hafner, 35.8; 2. Corona With Lime, T. Brewer, 38.0; 3. My Baby Grand, S. Traylor, 38.3. ▲ **Jr./Y.R. Nov.** - 1. Schooner, J. Wilson, 20.4; 2. Davinci, I. Giordano, 24.0; 3. Along Came Polly, G. Dickerson, 30.3. ▲ **Open Nov.** - 1. Bijoux, F. Lagimodiere, 26.0; 2. Sunflower, A. Brown, 28.0; 3. Just Charlie, K. Tracy, 29.8. ▲ **Nov. Chmp.** - 1. Spectra VET Cohiba, L. Symansky, 25.0; 2. Wonderful Remark, J. Leuenberger, 30.6; 3. Discreto, L. Wiesman, 32.0. ▲ **Nov. Horse** - 1. Cherished Friend, K. Samuels, 29.2; 2. Idlehour Patriot, E. Ricklefs, 29.5; 3. GHF Gosling, A. Grald, 30.0. ▲ **Nov. Rider** - 1. Hard Ale, S. Kanter, 28.8; 2. Calypso Kid, M. Jones, 33.0; 3.

Fly-by-Night, J. Flory, 34.3. ▲ **ATC Open Beg. Nov.** - 1. Ana D, C. Deporter, 24.3; 2. Whitty Remark, T. Whitty, 31.3; 3. Captain My Captain, S. Foley, 33.8. ▲ **Open Beg. Nov., Div. 1** - 1. Cooley Higher Ground, L. Ogden, 33.3; 2. JawBone, C. Rutledge, 35.0; 3. Femme Fatale, E. Murphy, 41.0. ▲ **Open Beg. Nov., Div. 2** - 1. Dream Weaver, S. Sloan, 29.4; 2. Rocking The Ark, 36.5; 3. RFH Jay, J. Clark, 37.2. ▲ **Beg. Nov. Chmp.** - 1. Harrington Cat, M. Klesmer, 28.0; 2. Norman, J. Trautmann, 29.8; 3. Sterling Silver, K. Vosbury, 30.3. ▲ **Jr./Y.R. Beg. Nov.** - 1. Belong To Teufer, E. Bortuzza, 31.0; 2. Paint Me A River's Worth, A. Boling, 32.3; 3. Azucar, A. Stone, 37.0.

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