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WELCOME LETTER/INTRODUCTION?











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We asked a few of the Dressage Symposium In The Rockies clinicians what they thought of the inaugural event:

Steffen Peters: "It's so important that we share the things we learn from our horses. Obviously all of us have wonderful human trainers, but we learn so much from our horses and when you can share those ideas, that is what the clinics are really all about..."

"A huge thank you to Adequan", Michael Stone, and Meg Krueger. It's an amazing facility. I'm so impressed with the footing. I saw the facility ten years ago and it is just incredible how The Colorado Horse Park has bloomed. We've had a wonderful clinic, every rider has been fun to work with and I even had a chance to ride a few horses. It has been one of those clinics that you truly enjoy. I would love to come back, not just to teach but also to compete here."

Axel Steiner: "Thank you to everyone who put this event together. It really is a first, to have this kind of a seminar. So, thank you to the organizers, thank you to the sponsors, and thank you to the volunteers. Without them all, this sport would not be alive. Everyone here did a wonderful job."

Jane Savoie: "I'm so excited to be here at The Colorado Horse Park, and with such great company like Steffen Peters and Michael Klimke. One of the things that has just permeated all three of us as the clinicians, is that there is such an atmosphere of harmony here."

Scott Hassler: "I think that having so many great professionals working out of the same place, where people can ride and audit and get different perspectives, is wonderful. The meaning is all very much the same, but when you look at that, everyone says things a little differently, and that clicks for people. To spread that general knowledge to this area, it's been a wonderful thing. I can't thank The Colorado Horse Park enough for what they've put on here, and I think it's going to grow. The first year has been a huge success, and it's an honor to have been a part of that."





Late May brought a buzz of excitement to dressage enthusiasts of the Rocky Mountain Region. The inaugural Dressage Symposium In The Rockies (DSIR) concluded on Wednesday, May 24, at The Colorado Horse Park (CHP) in Parker, CO, after five days of educational dressage clinics and exhibitions. The week's sessions were presented by top clinicians and riders, including Lars Petersen, Steffen Peters, Michael Klimke, Scott Hassler, Axel Steiner, Jane Weatherwax, and Jane Savoie. Sponsors for the event included presenting sponsor, Adequan[®]; RMDS Scholarship Sponsors,



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For Meg Krueger, COO of CHP, the event ushered in a new era of possibility and exposure for the facility, not just for the riders and clinicians, but to spectators and auditors wanting to participate in the event as well.



"My hope for the DSIR was to create a special event for the dressage community that showcased our Colorado hospitality and equestrian talent that drew internationally recognized clinicians to infuse new energy and opportunity in our region," said Krueger. "I couldn't have hoped for a better inaugural year, and the entire team was heart warmed to hear the positive reviews and enthusiasm. This first year paves the way for our region to continue to build, collaborate and inspire our dressage athletes and enthusiasts, and thanks to the input from our attendees, we have many new ideas to unveil at the 2018 DSIR."

For riders, the event promised growth amongst the dressage community in the Midwest region and a prime opportunity to train and receive feedback from some of the sport's most knowledgeable athletes and experts. Trainer Benjamin Pfabe traveled from Dallas, TX, specifically for the symposium. For him, the opportunity to work with clinicians of such high caliber, was not one he could pass up.

Pfabe noted, "This event was well run and everyone was very welcoming. There are so many opportunities on the East and West coasts, and I think that this event was able to bring education to an area that may not have as much of



it so readily available. These were top clinicians coming in, so we got great instruction, great feedback, and I really think that this will push the sport to a new level."

President of CHP, Michael Stone, describe his hopes for the future of The Colorado Horse Park, which is poised to become a strong equestrian competition and destination venues for numerous disciplines of equestrian sport.

"The intention is to make The Colorado Horse Park the center for equestrian sport in the Midwest," said Stone. "I think that dressage in the west has slipped back a little bit, partially because there aren't the facilities and competition venues around to make it work. We had the same problem in Wellington when we started the Global Dressage Festival five years ago and it is now the biggest festival of dressage in the world."

He continued, "We believe that we can do the same here. We aren't going to stop; we are going to keep going. We believe that by bringing in top clinicians, we can give something back to the community, and invigorate dressage once again. If everyone gets together, we can make a difference. We are committed to making this work."

At the end of each one of his Wednesday lessons, clinician Scott Hassler asked his riders, "What did you get from today? What did you learn?" It is sufficient to say, that due to the outstanding efforts of the CHP staff; riders, clinicians, and auditors alike learned that the future of dressage in the Midwest looks very bright.

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