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On McKinlaigh, Miles Trots To Galway Downs Dressage Lead

Temecula, Calif., March 28, 2008 – Gina Miles and McKinlaigh, the individual bronze and team gold medalists at the 2007 Pan Am Games, grabbed a 2.8-point lead in this afternoon's dressage at the Galway Downs International Horse Trials. With a score of 47.0, Miles, of Creston, Calif., and McKinlaigh, 13, topped the 17-horse field in the CIC***.

Nicholas Cwick, of Saratoga, Calif., rode his dark bay partner Asterix, 11, into second place, and Jolie Sexson of Martinez, Calif., guided the gray gelding Killian O'Connor, 9, into third place, just .2 penalties behind Cwick. One of the three judges – Ingrid Macaulay of Venezuela – placed Sexson and Killian O'Connor first. But the other two judges – Angela Tucker of Great Britain and Marilyn Payne of the United States – judged McKinlaigh as No. 1.

Hawley Bennett of Canada is the top-placed foreign rider, standing in fourth place on Livingstone, her 2004 Olympic veteran, with a a score of 55.2. Bennett is the only rider in the division with more than one horse, and she's holding eighth place on Splendorofthesun and 12th place on Gin N' Juice.

The CIC*** and CIC** are each member events of the U.S. Eventing Association's Adequan Gold Cup Series. The Adequan Gold Cup Series victors are determined by a cumulative points system, with horse-rider pairs earning prize money and points at each of the 13 designated events in three leagues across the United States. Galway Downs is the first of four events in the Pacific League.

Max McManamy, who trains with Miles, rode her Beacon Hill to a commanding 3.6-point lead in the CCI** aboard Beacon Hill, an 11-year-old Thoroughbred gelding. McManamy, 16, of Templeton, Calif., nearly won the CCI* at last fall's Galway Downs International Three-Day Event, leading until they made a few mistakes in the show jumping phase.

Kate Gillespie, who rides for South Africa but lives in San Diego, Calif., holds second place on Renegade Reno.

Chloe McNally, of San Mateo, Calif., is the dressage leader in the CIC* on Lad's Night Out, just .7 penalties ahead of Chelsea Schaefer of Santa Rosa, Calif., on Danny Max.

The CIC*** horses will compete over the cross-country course tomorrow (Saturday) from 12:25 to 1:50 p.m., and the CIC** will run from 2:10 to 2:52 p.m. The CIC* will run from 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

For complete results of the all three CIC divisions, go to www.galwaydowns.com.

The Galway Downs International Horse Trials is being held at the Southern California Equestrian Center, at Los Corralitos Rd., just east of Temecula. Admission at the gate is \$8.