



GALWAY DOWNS

For More Information: Contact

Press Officers John Strassburger & Heather Bailey

707-217-5072/phoenixfarm@hughes.net

Smith Faultlessly Holds Lead at Galway Downs

Temecula, Calif., Nov. 1— Tamara Smith and Gallipoli II held on to their overnight lead with a spectacular double-clear trip around Ian Stark’s cross-country course at the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event.

“It was amazing—it rode great,” said Smith, of Hemet, Calif. “Ian does an amazing job with the questions he creates and the way they ride. He does such a great job with making a difficult question, but making it ride well.”

Gallipoli, a 14-year-old Thoroughbred, is owned by a student of Smith’s, Scott Kuhlman. The big, flashy chestnut is a former show jumper, who entered the world of eventing with Kuhlman. Smith is sharing the ride with her student as they prepare horse and rider to compete at the intermediate level.

“Scott’s going to college next year—lucky for me!” Smith joked.

“He’s a bit of a tough horse because he’s extremely strong,” she continued. “He has the biggest galloping stride I’ve ever felt.”

Smith will continue to share the ride with Kuhlman in the spring, and, although the eventual goal for the pair is the North American Young Riders Championships, school commitments will prevent that from taking place next year—a double-edged sword for Smith, who is also the Area VI young riders coach. On the one hand, she’s always looking for team prospects; on the other hand, it provides her an opportunity to continue riding a horse she clearly enjoys.

Despite his previous occupation, the final day may be the most challenging day for Smith and Gallipoli. “He’s a funny horse; he’s not the most careful, which is why he’s an ex-show jumper,” she admitted.

Still in second place is Anna Collier from Tigard, Ore., and her spectacular-jumping chestnut Uppercrust D, who added only 1.6 time penalties to maintain their overnight position. Although he had finished fourth at his last CCI** outing with Collier, a recent fall at the advanced level could have left their confidence shaken. But “he’s very forgiving and generous, and after the first two fences he just locked on,” said Collier, 32, of her 7-year-old Dutch Warmblood. “He’s so intelligent and doesn’t get worked up or worried about things.”

Collier also had nothing but praise for Stark’s course. “It was a little bit more of a traditional course—very fair and challenging to the horses. It asked a lot of questions, but wasn’t punishing to the horses.”

Especially influential today was fence No. 10, the Double Brush, a pair of narrow angled brushes at the bottom of a steep grade. Six horses received penalties for refusals there. Overall, eight horses recorded double-clear rounds over the course, out of 17 starters.

In the classic format CCI*, overnight leader Jennifer Strauss maintained her position atop the leaderboard after a faultless ride with Another Fable, a horse bred by her aunt. Strauss incurred 20 penalties on her first horse, Galveston, when he misread the double ditches at fence 17 and tripped, causing a stop. When she came through on Another Fable, she chose to go the long way there. “I figured a few time penalties were better than 20 [for a stop],” she said.

But even with taking the option, she finished four seconds under the optimum time of 7:02. Strauss was very pleased with the classic-format experience for her 11-

year-old Selle Francais. She was anxious about the steeplechase, because “galloping hasn’t always been his strong suit,” but she still managed to finish three seconds fast.

“I thought if I could get him here and run around a long format, I would have found the key to getting him fit and moving up,” she said of her decision to compete him in the classic format.

Strauss is reasonably confident going in to the show jumping tomorrow, given that Another Fable’s sire is Aesop’s Fable, a grand prix show jumper, and his dam was a top jumper in her own right. Both of her horses have traits that she appreciates, and she says she’s “always dreamed of combining the two of them.” She’ll get to do the next best thing in the spring when she breeds Galveston’s dam to Aesop’s Fable.

Robyn Fisher, of Topanga, Calif., had a perfect round on an old friend to take over the lead in the short-format CCI*. Her Lady Calido, a 12-year-old Holsteiner mare, took over the top spot when dressage leader Adrienne Hillas on High Tower had an unfortunate stop at the second water jump. Lady Calido is a former advanced horse for Fisher, but she suffered a tendon injury in October 2006 and has been show jumping ever since.

“I did a derby class with her five weeks ago and decided she needed to event again,” said Fisher, 28, of her decision to return to eventing with the mare. “This wasn’t planned.

“I’ll probably continue to play with both worlds, and just be very choosy about where I take her,” she added.

Being back on the cross-country course was everything Fisher had hoped for. “I loved [the course],” she said. “I was grinning from ear to ear. It flowed very well—it was technical and difficult, but forgiving.”

In the training level three-day event, Debbie Davis and Omar kept their dressage lead with a wonderful double-clear trip around the course, adding no penalties to their score of 26.6.

Moving up to second place is Amber Shevin, 21, and her 8-year-old Hanoverian mare Weltina. The pair have only been together since February, when she acquired her from Andrea Pfeiffer’s Chocolate Horse Farm. The mare had been a dressage horse, but has enthusiastically been

converted to eventing. The classic-format experience has made a convert of Shevin, a Los Angeles native.

“I loved it,” she enthused. “I can’t wait to do the full-format one-star next year. The steeplechase was so fun!

“[A, B, and C] is such a great warm-up, I felt more prepared going out of the start box than I ever had before. It was an awesome experience, I really feel like I grew in my partnership with my horse,” she added.

Shevin is a senior at the University of San Diego; she trains with Jennifer Wooten while at school and Debbie Rosen when at home.

This year the Organizing Committee, volunteers, officials and competitors are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event. First run in November 1999, Galway Downs is the longest-running CCI** and longest running CCI* currently held in the United States, and it has provided dozens of West Coast riders with upper-level competitive opportunities previously unavailable in California.

A special poster commemorating the event’s 10th anniversary is available at the event, for \$4.

Complete results are available at www.galwaydowns.com.

Photos to come under separate head.