

Rescue Horse Jamaica and Owner Chester Weber Celebrate Big Wins at USEF Annual Convention

Cincinnati, OH – Jamaica, one of the most talked about horses of the year with his slaughterhouse to silver medal story, was named the 2008 Farnam® Platform® Horse of the Year at the recent United States Equestrian Federation's Annual Meeting. Jamaica's owner, Chester Weber, had a lot to celebrate during the awards ceremony as Jamaica won the highest horse honor in the industry. Jamaica and Weber received a standing ovation when the winner was announced. In addition, Weber was recognized as a 2008 Equestrian of Honor and won the Becky Grand Hart Award and his Four-In-Hand team won the Year End Combined Driving Championship.

"It's a great chapter in Jamaica's amazing story," said Weber, "Of course Jamaica's career isn't over as I am hoping he will be one of my superstars during the 2010 World Equestrian Games."

Jamaica, a 17-year-old Warmblood, was headed to a slaughterhouse in Belgium years ago before being rescued and used as a tourist carriage horse. After Weber bought him, Jamaica found his true calling in life as a Four-In-Hand Combined Driving horse.

"More than a decade ago when Jamaica was on his way to the slaughterhouse no one could have predicted he would be named the 2008 Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year," said Weber. "He was instrumental in helping me win a Silver Medal in the Four-in-Hand Combined Driving competition at the 2008 FEI World Championships in The Netherlands. With this honor Jamaica has earned his place in history."

As part of Weber's team, Jamaica not only helped Weber capture the Silver Medal at the FEI World Championships but also helped Weber's team win the Four-in-Hand National Championship title – six years in a row.

As part of his USEF honor, Jamaica earned a 39-inch bronze sculpture which is on permanent display at the USEF headquarters in Kentucky. The sculpture was commissioned by well-known equine artist Alexa King, and Weber received a replica.

During the USEF awards ceremony, the rest of Weber's team – and Jamaica's teammates – were honored with the Year End Championship for Four-In-Hand Combined Driving. Weber's horses who were honored were Rolex W, Jamaica, Boy W and Para. Weber's driving horse Senate took fifth place.

Photo: Chester Weber (center) holds a replica of the bronze sculpture awarded to his horse Jamaica, who was named the 2008 Farnam® Platform® Horse of the Year. Weber is joined by Farnam's Senior Vice President Chris Jacobi (left) and USEF President David O'Connor.

