

CHESTER WEBER

Steps Up to Podium at CHIO Aachen

The United States Four-In-Hand Driving Team rounded out five days and three rounds of competition with a seventh-place finish at the world-renowned CHIO Aachen. Chester Weber drove away with four, top-five finishes in the illustrious show facility and earned the bronze medal among the international contenders.

Weber, of Ocala, Florida, and Allison (Lisa) Stroud, of West Grove, Pennsylvania, represented the United States in front of the global audience July 13 – 17. Both of them sported a quartet of KWPN geldings throughout the stretch of competition. Weber finished the first day in third place with a score of 43.33, putting him behind Netherlands', IJsbrand Chardon (40.83) and Australia's Boyd Excell (34.05). Stroud ended the day just shy of the top 10 with a score of 54.72 to claim 11th place.

The Florida native improved upon his opening day performance in the dressage arena on the second day with an impressive 38.34, which moved him into second place behind Australia's Boyd Excell (34.86). Weber's score and Stroud's score (56.93) combined for a 95.27 to secure the U.S. Driving Team a second-place standing behind the Netherlands (81.46) in team rankings.

With a total of 1910 points, Weber earned third place in the Top Score Driving Competition, while Stroud placed 17th. Both drivers moved on to the marathon portion of the competition Saturday, July 16. Weber finished fifth with a score of 120.06.

The final scores were tallied for the U.S. drivers during the obstacle driving competition. Weber was one of eight competitors to have a clear round, and finished seventh among the tough competition with a score of 81.40. After individual points were tallied across the three disciplines, Weber finished in third place with a final score of 160.96. He was a point shy from second-place finisher IJsbrand Chardon of the Netherlands (159.24).

With five superb horses to choose from, Weber varied his selection of four horses for each test. His roster consisted of his own Amadeus, a 2005 KWPN gelding; Boris W, a 2006 KWPN gelding; Para, a 1997 KWPN gelding; and Jane Clark's Splash, a 2003 KWPN gelding; and Uniek, a 2001 KWPN gelding.

Similarly, Stroud drove a varying combination of Willow Star LLC's Anesco 4,




Chester Weber

a 2005 KWPN gelding; Antonio, a 1999 KWPN gelding; Enzo, a 2009 KWPN gelding; Orlando, a 1996 KWPN gelding; and Ulco, a 2001 KWPN gelding.

"The marathon was very difficult as

a stamina test, but the dressage phase demonstrated that we are in top form as the World Championships in Breda approaches," Weber concluded.

– Devaney Iglesias 



Allison Stroud

All Photos by Shannon Brinkman