

2008 Hope Cup Dressage Competition – Introduction of the Riders

Freestyle

1. Sun, Yujen (Ken Sun), Grade III (17b), Phydalco, 78,325%



Yu-Jen is at the moment Taiwan's most advanced Para Equestrian Rider. His biggest success were two gold medals at the Guangdong Para Equestrian Dressage Competition (CPEDI1*) in March this year. That competition was a qualifier for the Paralympics, which Yu-Jen missed by less than 1 percentage points, but his goal was anyway not Beijing, but London 2012. Yu-Jen also joins dressage competitions for able bodied here in Taiwan.

This time he performed his new Freestyle program, which included simple changes. Even he did not have much time to practice it, the program went quite well, but Yu-Jen has to try to ride his horse more uphill.

2. Yang, Pei-ling, Grade III (Mentally challenged) Buzz Lightyear, 78,025%

Pei-ling is one of the students assigned by our mother organization to

work at the Therapeutic Riding Center of Taiwan, where she is not only doing stable cores, but also leading horses during Hippotherapy sessions.



She has joined the 8th RDA Yokohama Championships, where she got a bronze medal in the Dressage Competition, but it turned out that she is very afraid of flying; therefore going abroad is a big challenge for her.

This time she and Buzz Lightyear made a perfect match, the only thing to criticize were the 20m circles, which were a bit too big and square, but that happened because her coach had reminded her to make them big, fearing the music might be a bit too long. If the circles would have been rounder, she definitely would have won this competition.

3. Nelson Yip (葉少康), Hong Kong, Grade II, Baiwa, 75,8%

Nelson is the only rider in this field, who joined the Equestrian Competition of the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, which were held in his home city Hong Kong. He got qualified for that event at the 2006 Pacific Rim International Para Dressage Competition, which was held

in Canada.



Nelson arrived on Monday before the competition to choose a horse and do some riding practice, because he was not on a horse since the Paralympics. It turned out that Baiwa's strides worked well with his music, but he had got the wrong music with him, a problem, which could be solved with a few changes of the program. Nelson is a rider who is quite flexible in his Freestyle and obviously could adjust very well to our horse. Going first, he made a deep impression on all the honoraries who had attended the opening ceremony. Hopefully that will get us more support for our Para-riders in the future.

**4. Yang, Yuchen (Rain Yang),
Grade II (17a), Baiwa, 72,475%**

Yu-chen is the youngest of the four riders riding in the Freestyle competition. In the competitions he has joined yet, he always proved to be quite lucky and last year he even was ahead of Yu-Jen. His youngest success was the win of two gold medals at the 10th Yokohama Championships in October this year.



This time his mount Baiwa was quite excited, so he was much faster than during practice, so fast, that when he stopped for the salute, he was already just in front of the judges, but the rest of the program went really well, even better than in Japan.

Grade I a

1. Yang Zong-lin, Phydalco, 73%



When we were presenting a drama on horseback in 2005, Zong-ling was playing the king and during the rehearsals he showed a high EQ like a real king should have. During one of the last lessons before this competition, he was telling his coach very precisely how Phydalco's movements were helping him to get a better feeling of his body. Phydalco helped him also to win his first

medal.

2. Hsu Chia-yi, Baiwa, 73%



Like most of the riders starting at this competition, Chia-yi began her riding career with Hippotherapy sessions. She has improved quite a lot during this time, not only on the horse, but also when walking. Her greatest wish is to join her primary school graduation ceremony in June next year on horseback and her coach promised her to make this wish come true if she was performing well today, which she surely did, so the coach has to fulfill her promise. Her mother was moved to tears when she realized her daughter came in a very close second.

This competition gave Chia-yi so much self esteem, that beginning with the following lesson she was willing to try practicing the trot she was quite afraid of before and did this with great joy.

3. Huang Zihao, Iso, 70,5%

Huang Zihao is not able to express himself verbally very clearly, but he likes role plays very much. As soon as

he is on the horse, he is the prince, and if there is a pretty young female sidewalker, she will be the princess. His coach is the only one not very happy about her role, because he always makes her the witch. Nevertheless this witch is not a very bad one, as she was accompanying the prince in his trial to defeat all his enemies.



In the end he did not defeat all, but won himself a bronze medal, which made his parents very proud of him. His coach is often surprised about his performance on horseback, because one would not expect him being able to steer a horse according to the commands of the coach. Last session he tried for the first time to make the coach understand, that he wanted to trot.

4. Hsu Ch'ien-ju, Iso, 68,355%



Once, when the FRDI-president Mrs. Hauser was giving a seminar here in Jungli, Ch'ien-ju was one of the students she was teaching at the

workshop. To help her sit straight, Mrs. Hauser asked her to imagine she won a gold medal and wanted to show her medal to all people around. Suddenly one could see her straighten up with her shoulders going back and her chest broadening. Later on her coach asked her in which kind of competition she would like to win a gold medal. And her answer was: in a riding competition. She did not win a medal in the dressage competition, but succeeded to get one in the afternoon Gymkhana race.

Grade I b

1. Yang Tsung-ta, Phydalco, 75,495%



When he was 17 years old, Tsung-ta had an accident which resulted in a brain injury. Out of a sudden he had to learn the most basic movements again, like how to eat or how to walk. Last year he joined a riding holiday in Mongolia, where he surprised the Mongolian riders with his stamina. Last year he also got his drivers license and he is now going to university. Therefore he doesn't have much time anymore to practice

Nevertheless he surely is a keen competitor, which can be seen in the result.

Grade II

1. Sung An-t'ing, Iso, 74,075%



When Sung An-t'ing first came to our centre, she was a very shy girl, but today she shows a lot of confidence when steering the horse. At one of the last training sessions before the competition she was very proud when she did her test right, but her coach made a mistake. This time neither of them made a mistake, resulting in her first gold medal, a success her parents never had dared to dream about.

2. Inaba Sho, Japan, Baiwa, 73,82%



Inaba Sho is student of Emiko Ota, who was here last year with another rider. Inaba was also competing at the 10th RDA Yokohama Championships, where he won a Gold Medal in the Drill Class for Independent Walk and Bronze Medal in the Fun Competition. Inabe told us he is thirteen years old and going

to junior high school. He belongs to the “Green field” riding club and rides horses once a week. He enjoys riding a lot and also likes to watch horses. He surely is a promising young PE rider.

3. Sun Ruei-kai, Domingo, 72,64%



Sun Ruei-kai hopes he can one day ride as well as Sun Yu-jen, his equestrian role model, with whom he is not only sharing a similar condition, but also the same family name. In October Ruei-kai joined the 10. RDA Yokohama Championships, where he won the gold medal in the trot drill class, a promising start into his competition career. This time he spoke the oath together with his new friend Arnold, he learned to know at the trip to Yokohama.

4. Kathrin-Ann Wu, Baiwa, 65,145%



An-An, like everybody is calling her, asks her mother every morning how

many days she still has to wait before she can go to the Riding Centre again and whenever she is not willing to do what her parents ask her for, they only have to ask her, whether she wants to go to the Riding Centre on Saturday. For her, like for many others, the Riding Center is not only a place for riding, but also a place to socialize, to meet her friends.

An-An likes competitions, because they are opportunities to show what she has learned. This time too, she went into the competition very confident and told her friends that it was a lot of fun. Of the two competitions she liked the Dressage better, probably because she likes wearing the formal competition outfit.

5. Yang, An-li, Baiwa, 64,445%



Whenever Anli comes to the stable, she is very busy. With a big smile on her face she is saying hallo to the horses, feeding them, helping with the grooming and of course riding. This is her second competition after the 10th RDA Yokohama Championships, where she was winning a Silver Medal in the Dressage test.

This time she was quite concerned

about the figure 8 and the S-figure before she went into the arena and indeed this turned out to be her problem spots in the competition, too. We will have to work with her on visualization of the figures in the arena.

Grade III

1. Hsieh Meng-hsue, Ahmei, 75,5%



Meng-hsue is representing the Oldenburg Equestrian Center in Gaoxiong, where he is also working. Meng-hsue was joining the Hope Cup for the 3rd time. He has already won one gold and two bronze medals as well as one gold medal in a video competition organized by Japan RDA. Meng-hsue was quite afraid of heights when he was a child, but since he started riding he got a lot more self-confidence. He wants to become a riding coach one day. Good luck, Meng-hsue.

2. Yeh Chin-chung, Jolly, 70,75%



Yeh Chin-chung was one of the first two disabled riders of Taiwan who ever joined an international competition, the Special Olympics in Ireland in 2003. Now Chin-chung also joins able bodied competitions on the D- or C-level. He is working at the Therapeutic Riding Centre of Taiwan, where he is not only doing stable cores, but also helps with horse leading.

3. Kao Ch'uan-ch'in, Iso, 68,58%



Like Chin-chong Ch'uan-ch'in was working at this riding centre from the very beginning and he was the second Taiwan rider at the Special Olympics in Ireland in 2003, where he proved to be a very talented Goodwill ambassador, because he shows with much affection, how he treasures the contact with other people. For him going abroad was a really special and challenging experience. At home he likes hard work, where he can show his strength the most.

He was riding Iso, who like him, was part of this centre from the very beginning.

4. Cheng Yi-hsuan, Sky, 63,36%



Yi-hsuan is representing the Blue Sky Equestrian Club in Taizhong. He is eleven years old and goes to Yixing Primary School in Taizhong County. He loves riding the best and hopes to be able to have his own horse one day.

Yi-hsuan is an autistic boy. When riding a test he is telling himself loudly, what he is supposed to do. At this competition he and his friends were all very helpful when the arena had to be changed for different classes. Thank you!

5. Chou Yi-hsuan, Jolly, 62,225%



Chou Yi-hsuan started riding during the summer vacation this year and has made big improvements since then. In riding he found a hobby he really likes.

His favorite mount is the Belgian Pony mare Jolly and his favorite activity is cantering.

Grade IV

1. Amy Chang, Iso, 67,50%



Since October this year, Amy is called the Silver-Bronze-Girl, because she won a Silver- and a Bronze-Medal at the 10th RDA Yokohama Championships. Now she has got the third color: gold.

Amy is a very bright girl, but it makes her sad, that she never can join the sports competitions at school. Riding is the only sport she has got medals yet, but if she wants to go international, she will have to train very hard, because the international standard for Grade 4 riders like her is very high.

2. Hu Yi-t'eng, Xiao Baiwa, 62,775%

Hu Yi-t'eng is representing the Shunyi Riding Club in Xinzhu. His condition is a bit different from the other riders, who mostly suffer from Cerebral Palsy or mental development problems. He has got Spina Bifida, which is a neural tube defect that happens in the first months of pregnancy, when the

spinal column doesn't close completely.



This was Yi-t'eng's first riding competition, therefore he was very nervous and made an error of test, which did cost him the gold medal.

Nevertheless he was also more than happy about his first medal at a sports competition.