



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES | SHOWCASE | 51

IN SOCIETY
WITH LISA LENOIR | lenoir@suntimes.com

Great steeds & good deeds
Equestrian stars show championship form at first Evergreen Invitational Grand Prix, which provides funding for Prentice Women's Hospital programs

PARTY OF THE WEEK | The Friends of La Rabida Children's Hospital will host its Masquerade Ball Friday at the Four Seasons Hotel. Call (773) 753-9606.

High-caliber riders sail over a hurdle. MITCH CANOFF FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Maureen Swade (from left), Megan McMillian and Debbie Markoff. JOAN HACKETT FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Sam Harris (left) and J.B. Pritzker. MITCH CANOFF FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Walter and Susie Jacobson. MITCH CANOFF FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Jonathan F. and Stacey Lefton Glick and their sons Chase (second from left) and Zachary. MITCH CANOFF FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Marie Kelly, Bakary Soumare (Chicago Fire player) and Carolyn Kelly, Grand Prix winner. JOAN HACKETT FOR THE SUN-TIMES

M.K. Pritzker shares her love of horses and her Bristol, Wis., estate to raise money for Prentice Women's Hospital. JOAN HACKETT FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Guests soak in the sun and horsemanship on display at Evergreen Farm. JOAN HACKETT FOR THE SUN-TIMES

PARTY FILE
Tickets: \$500
Guests: More than 650
Amount raised: More than \$700,000

her first Grand Prix. During the warmup on the Richard Jeffrey-designed course, Kelly, 19, of New York, pronounced the facility amazing. "The field was flat and was a great course design. My horse is very perceptive, and she likes to look at everything."

Among her competitors was Chris Kappler, who won an individual silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics Games. He said this equestrian event was a potential feather in Chicago's cap as it bids for the Olympics.

"The general public doesn't get to see a high caliber of horse and rider," said M.K., who sparked and cultivated the idea to host such an elite charity party on her property. "This is some of the best. It was my pleasure to create the opportunity. "This went better than I ever could have dreamed. The weather was perfect, the guests were perfect and the horses were perfect."

Great steeds & good deeds

Lisa Lenoir
The Chicago Sun-Times
September 26, 2007

A small idea leaped to great heights with the inaugural **Evergreen Invitational** Grand Prix, which raised record money for the new Prentice Women's Hospital's programs.

Longtime supporters and friends of the Northwestern Memorial Foundation journeyed to M.K. and J.B. Pritzker's estate in Bristol, Wis., after paying a premium price to lunch on a bountiful buffet -- including miniature pot pies and shrimp cocktail in shells -- and marvel at the showmanship of warmbloods and their riders on lush green grass, framed by a white fence.

Adding more luxury to the scene was a promenade of shops featuring Graff London jewels, Collins caviar, Dennis Basso furs and silent auction items to drool over. One was to "own" Evergreen Farm for a day and have a meal catered by Jewell Events Catering.

The estate would be an easy sell for anyone, for it looked stunning on Sept. 15, where its signature white stables and white tents captivated the attendees. "I would love to gallop my horse along that field," said guest Austynne Newberg, gazing at the sprawling 230-acre estate on this clear, fall-like day.

"We all want to live here; we all want to have a farm like this," said Nancy Moss, an avid rider who attended the party with her pre-teen daughter Zoe. But aside from the visual splendor, she said, she wanted to support Prentice because her daughter was born there. "This is a good event, and we are interested in being charitable and combining it with fun."

The day started with Roxane Theidel of Hinsdale winning the \$25,000 Wachovia Junior Amateur/Owner Classic. The show-jumping competition featured 30 riders, all vying for the \$75,000 purse sponsored by Ferrari. M.K. aimed to give it a high level of prestige, not only by the sponsors she attracted but also by getting the event sanctioned by the United States Equestrian Federation. Next year's event also will take place in September.

Winner of the "Jump Off" was Carolyn Kelly, who rode her German warmblood to perfection in her first Grand Prix. During the warmup on the Richard Jeffrey-designed course, Kelly, 19, of New York, pronounced the facility amazing. "The field was flat and was a great course design. My horse is very perceptive, and she likes to look at everything."

Among her competitors was Chris Kappler, who won an individual silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics Games. He said this equestrian event was a potential feather in Chicago's cap as it bids for the Olympics.

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