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LIVING LEGEND
OLIN ARMSTRONG *p. 60*

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The Team In Colvin's Corner

Two years into her professional career she's a force to be reckoned with in the hunters, but she lacks top jumper support. George Morris aims to change that.

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN GLAVAN



Tori Colvin and Private Practice won the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Deeridge by a smashing 19-point margin.

When Tori Colvin cantered into the ring aboard Brad Wolf's Private Practice for the handy round of the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Deeridge Farm in Wellington, Florida, Wolf wasn't worried about a thing. Sure, the horse was a recent jumper convert who had shown just a handful of times in the hunter ring, and yes, this was 20-year-old Colvin's second week showing the horse, but that's the beauty of having one of the sport's phenoms in the irons.

"It's a weird feeling because you never worry about the ride with Tori; you know it's going to be perfect," said Wolf.

And so it was. Colvin came in to the handy round with a 10-point lead, and when Private Practice cleared the final fence with the same six inches of clearance he'd given the rest of the course they sealed the deal. Private Practice walked out of the ring with the first tricolor of his derby career by a 19-point margin.

"This horse reminds me of Way Cool," Colvin said. "This one has a better temperament, but to me he's the closest horse to Way Cool."

Way Cool was Colvin's notoriously quirky ride in the large junior hunters. She rode him to victory for owner Betsee Parker at every major show across the country. Three years ago, in her last year as a junior, she piloted Way Cool to the elusive perfect score of 100 at the Upperville Colt & Horse Show (Virginia). Colvin hopes Private Practice is the amateur-owner-friendly version of that.

"I love a horse that jumps like that," Wolf said. "He has an explosive jump, and he's not that hard to ride. When I tried him he was great for me."

Colvin had her eye on the now 8-year-old Holsteiner by Lordanos a year before Wolf sat on him.

"We were at a barn trying other horses, and I saw him in the stall," Colvin said. "I love chestnuts with white, so of course I was drawn to him."

Colvin watched videos of the horse and thought he could make a good hunter, but she didn't end up trying him with Wolf until the gelding showed up a year later in his first hunter class, a junior hunter trip with Madison Goetzmann.

"I saw Goetzmann show him, and my mom goes, 'That's the same horse,' and I went, 'No way,'" Colvin said.

Wolf keeps his horses at the Ingram family's stable in Franklin, Tennessee, where Colvin rides professionally. Wolf had been looking for a new amateur-owner hunter for some time, and though Private Practice was green, he was willing to roll the dice on the horse. Wolf had no idea the horse would make the transition so easily in time for a big win at Deeridge, just two weeks after he bought him.

"The success of that weekend is due to the team John [Ingram] has built with Tom Wright," Wolf said. "In two weeks they took that horse from here to there; it's just incredible. They changed his bit around; they worked him on the flat; they did all these different exercises; they took him to a grass field and set up a whole derby course to practice. They really worked hard, and I give them all credit for that."

Colvin was a household name as a junior, and she won the 2017 USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship (Kentucky) with Cuba a year after turning professional. That transition has been relatively seamless

thanks to the support of the Ingram family. They own most of the hunters Colvin rides, including Cuba.

"It's just a very special time to have somebody like that in our program," John Ingram said. "We're delighted to have her for whatever time we have her, and hopefully it's a long time. She's just especially gifted, and we want the best for her."

Moving from top junior jumper rider to the professional jumper divisions, however, hasn't been so easy.

"The junior jumpers that I had were true junior jumpers," Colvin said. "They were never going to be anything else. Where a lot of the juniors had jumpers they could move up with, mine were retiring."

Those jumpers also weren't owned by Colvin. In fact, Colvin hardly ever owns the horses she pilots to victory, not now as a professional and not when she was a junior. The horse on which she won the \$100,000 Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular (Florida) three years in a row, Ovation, belongs to Betsee Parker. Patrick, Colvin's mount when she won the 2014 ASPCA Maclay Final, also belongs to Parker. Twice

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Judges: Panel 1: Sissy Wickes, Linda Andrisani; Panel 2: Robert Crandall, Scot Evans

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL
	PANEL 1 SCORE/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 2 SCORE/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 1 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 2 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION	
1. Private Practice/Tori Colvin	92/4	94/4	94/7/4	95/9/4	407
2. Red Ryder/Hannah Isop	89/4	85/4	92/8/4	89/9/4	388
3. Aeroplane/Amy Momrow	88.5/3	87/3	88/7/4	88/8/4	380.5
4. In The Know/Samantha Schaefer	86/4	90/4	78.5/7/4	86/9/4	372.5
5. Vanderpump/Augusta Iwasaki	84.75/2	84.5/2	85.5/9/4	84.5/9/4	369.25
6. Kensi/Kristy Herrera	84.5/3	84/3	84.5/10/4	82/9/4	368
7. Corice Z/Jennifer Hannan	82/4	80.5/4	84/7/4	85/8/4	362.5
8. El Primero/Louise Serio	76.5/4	79/4	86/8/4	87/9/4	361.5
9. Any Given Sunday/Hunter Holloway	87.75/4	83.5/4	74.5/9/4	80/9/4	359.75
10. Lautento/Grace Tuton	77/4	77/4	85/9/4	84/8/4	356
11. Dedication/Emma Kurtz	76.25/4	80/4	82/6/4	81/7/4	348.25
12. Cuba/Tori Colvin	87.5/4	88/4	72/7/4	68/7/4	345.5

54 horses competed.

“She should have backing in the jumpers, because unlike many hunter riders she is destined for the Olympics.”

—GEORGE MORRIS

she was leading junior jumper rider at the Devon Horse Show (Pennsylvania) aboard Karen Long Dwight's Don Juan.

That's because unlike many riders at her level in the sport, Colvin's parents aren't independently wealthy. Her father, Jim, is a farrier, and her mother, Brigid, managed horses on the circuit before Tori was born. But Tori's talent earned her rides on other people's horses and was noticed by none other than George Morris.

“I had known Tori's mother, but I didn't know she had married; I didn't

know a Colvin,” Morris said. “And I kept reading about this Victoria Colvin winning on the ponies and then the junior hunters, and I would ask people who this girl was.”

Eventually Morris met Tori in person and made the connection, and starting six years ago Morris began giving Tori weekly lessons. Once she turned professional Morris got more involved with her training and mentoring. Just last year, he upped the ante, reaching into his own pocket and buying her two jumpers.

“Ever since I was a professional I've owned a few horses that I have my students ride,” Morris said. “I did that for Conrad Homfeld, Buddy Brown, Katie Monahan [Prudent].”

Homfeld, Prudent and Brown all rode on U.S. Olympic teams, and that's what Morris wants for Tori.

“Tori has great backers in the hunters. I'm very happy with the Ingrams, but she doesn't have all that backing in the jumpers,” Morris said. “And she should have backing in the jumpers, because unlike many hunter riders she is destined for the Olympics. There is no question she has the ability.”

It's not just Tori's acumen in the saddle Morris recognizes—he lets her keep the two horses he owns for her at her home farm in Loxahatchee, Florida.

“I'm very particular where they live. That's the most careful part of owning a horse is where you stable them,” Morris said. “They can live with Beezie [Madden]; they can live with

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McLain [Ward], but there are very few people I would leave my horses with to be honest. But the Colvins run a meticulous place. All three of them are great horse people; they're very knowledgeable."

The Colvins bought a couple yearlings that are now coming 3-year-olds. Until recently Tori had the ride on Beezie, a top jumper owned in part by the Ingrams, until she sold, and the Ingrams own another jumper with talent enough for the U25 grand prix division.

"If I find a good bank to rob maybe we can help her find an Olympic horse," Ingram said with a laugh.

As for Tori, she'll continue working away with the rides she has. She may not have the funding, but there is no shortage of patience.

"We have some young ones coming along—give me like, four years," Tori said with a laugh. "I'm so thankful for [George Morris'] help, I can't thank him enough, and George always just says he has it covered." 🐾

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(Tatabra Luftballon x Baloubet du Rouet)

LOT # 13 - TATABRA ENYA
(Quitender x Dimitil de Terlong)

LOT # 28 - TATABRA FEMME FATALE
(Cristallo I x Quitender)

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