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For more information contact:
Caroline Roffman Dressage
1-617-633-1003
cara9588@aol.com

Caroline Roffman and Bon Chance Go Five For Five

Wellington, FL (August 2, 2010) . Five may be dressage rider Caroline Roffman's favorite number right now, as the talented 21-year-old rode her Hanoverian gelding Bon Chance (Belissimo M x Wintersong by Weltmeyer bred in Germany by Marefield Meadows) to the Five-Year-Old Championship at the Markel/USEF National Young Horse Championship in Lamplight. It was the first national championship for Roffman, who lives in Wellington, Florida, and trained Bon Chance herself.

The Five-Year-Old victory was the fifth win at a major show for Bon Chance, giving the duo a five for five record. Bon Chance also won the Five-Year-Old Preliminary Class at the Young Horse Championships, captured first at the 2010 Dressage at Equestrian Estates as well as the 2010 Dressage Derby and was Reserve Champion at the 2009 Young Horse Championships in the Four-Year-Old class.

"Bon Chance's four-year-old career was impressive. He was named the top Four-Year-Old American Hanoverian in 2009," Roffman said. "I am looking forward to Bon Chance's five-year-old career, and I am also eager to bring along other young horses."

Roffman, who trains with Olympian Lars Petersen, has proven she has a knack for beating the pros, even at the tender age of 21. "I would love to find another horse like Bon Chance and bring them along and give another breeder the chance to have a champion," Roffman said, adding that she has qualified four different horses in the last three years for the championships.

Looking back at Bon Chance's victory at Lamplight, Roffman said she was thrilled with how he handled the competition. "Bon Chance didn't put a foot out of place," Roffman said. "He was with me the whole time and handled the new show grounds so well."

Roffman, a veteran of the Junior and Young Rider programs, has big plans for Bon Chance as they head toward the small tour at Gladstone. "I feel like I jumped

head first into competing against the professionals, but am excited that I am holding my own,+Roffman said.

Roffman, who will train new young horses under the tutelage of Petersen, said her dressage beginnings were humble but that she was hooked from the beginning. %My life with horses has proven to be an incredible learning experience both as a rider and as a person,+she said. %Thanks to Bon Chance, this show season has turned out to be the most exciting yet.+

The excitement will not stop at Lamplight but will continue as Roffman adds another 5 to the theme. She has qualified and will be competing her horse %Bulgari 5+in the small tour at the 2010 USEF Festival of Champions in Gladstone, New Jersey.

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Photo: Caroline Roffman and her Hanoverian gelding, Bon Chance, won the Five-Year-Old Championship at the Markel/USEF National Young Horse Championships in Lamplight, Illinois. Roffman lives in Wellington and trains with Olympic rider Lars Petersen. (Photo courtesy of FireandEarthPhoto.com)