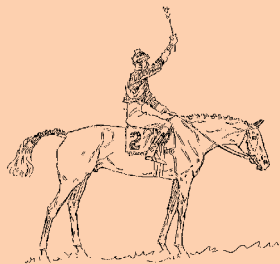


# Maryland Horse

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## Stettinius reflects on Olympic journey

By Muffy Fenwick

There came a moment during the fencing competition that pentathlete Suzanne Stettinius knew she was not performing her best. In a day-long event that encompasses five unique sports, each element sets up for the next. On this particular day, 24-year-old Maryland horsewoman Stettinius was competing against international athletes for an Olympic medal. The road to this moment had been arduous and her spot on the three-person American team was hard fought.

This summer, the Olympic Pentathlon celebrated its 100th year, dating back to the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. Created by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, considered the father of the modern Olympics, the event comprises five essential sports skills he believed a soldier would need if caught behind enemy lines: the ability to run, swim, or ride away and to fence or shoot if engaged.

Today's Pentathlon begins with fencing. Athletes then swim the 200-meter freestyle and follow with a 12-fence show jumping course. Each element is scored separately, then combined into a handicap score to determine the start time for the combined running/shooting event. Here, athletes run 1,000 meters and



shoot 5 targets within 70 seconds (three times).

The scope and range of the event suggests that modern pentathletes are all-arounders, possessing skills that, in the right combination on a single day of competition, will yield optimal results.

Stettinius considered the fencing event one of her stron-

gest. In her past competitions, she scored close to 900 points. In London, she scored 688. She knew she was out of medal contention in 32nd place, but, like a true Olympian, Stettinius found motivation. The comeback she made in the pool and the combined event were one of the highlights of the Olympics for her. She

quickly learned her hardest and most valuable Olympic lesson—"keeping my cool." She finished 28th overall.

For her stretching coach, Karen Dubs, the most thrilling event was the show jumping. This element draws on Stettinius' lifelong involvement with horses. From age 7, when she joined the United States Pony Club, Stettinius has been competing in equestrian events from show riding to amateur flat races and local timber races. These experiences were both a springboard for her Olympic experience and an edge for her in competition.

The equestrian element of the modern Pentathlon throws an obstacle at its competitors by requiring them to perform on a horse they met a mere 20 minutes before their event. For many, this can make or break their results.

First-place qualifiers after the first two elements have first pick of the horses. After

that, horses are drawn at random while athletes wait in the stands for their matches. With such a short time to become acquainted with their mount, athletes can suffer in competition.

For a lifelong equestrian like Stettinius, this obstacle was surmountable. Having galloped horses in the backstretch of Maryland race-tracks, she was accustomed to unfamiliar and unpredictable mounts. This, she felt, gave her "a huge advantage" over other riders. She even laughed at past decisions to ride a timber horse she had barely met.

Stettinius felt confident that a British horse would be well bred for the show jumping event. She was warned, however, that her mount could be "a little spooky." Stettinius said her horse tried to buck her off at the start. He seemed to focus more on the screams of the crowd than the fences;

he knocked down four rails, penalizing his rider 80 points.

Watching from the stands, Dubs recognized the challenge each element posed, especially the equestrian event.

"Nothing could have prepared me for how intense the show jumping was," Dubs said. "Suzanne was so graceful and strong on her horse, it literally took my breath away. I held my breath from the moment she and her horse entered the arena until they trotted out."

Stettinius called her Olympic experience "unbelievable." Although she wishes she had competed a little better, she marveled at the number of spectators watching and cheering for an event that rarely garners a huge crowd.

The scheduling of the Pentathlon at the end of the games allowed Stettinius to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies. Representing the United States was a thrill

but also added to the pressure to perform well.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," she said, "because I was wearing the United States singlet."

That pressure, she said, explains her low fencing score and set up her overall results. At the end of her combined element, when she had completed all five events, the pressure and disappointment had vanished and Stettinius came into the stands to hug her family, friends and coaches.

Despite having competed for over 10 hours, she signed autographs and posed for pictures before racing to make the closing ceremonies scheduled to begin 40 minutes after the Pentathlon ended.

Stettinius returned from London to her hometown of Parkton a local hero. While the realities of searching for a job encroach, she still relishes her Olympic memories. ■

## Broodmares infuse new life into University of Maryland equine program

By Dr. Amy Burk

*Editor's Note: Dr. Amy Burk, an associate professor and coordinator for the Equine Studies Program in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland, contributed the following as an update to the university's new broodmare program.*

Eleven years ago, I made a promise during my job interview that I would bring broodmares back to the university. At the time, it seemed like an easy feat, but I slightly underestimated the time it would take to re-build an Equine Studies Program.

I also didn't think through that tricky little detail called space. Back then the struggling program consisted of six riding horses, a few sand turnout paddocks, a small rusty stock trailer, a run-down barn, and eight students registered in the equine studies track within the Animal Science major.

The property occupied by the horses was only an acre. There weren't a lot of options for housing broodmares. So, I focused my efforts on other things like regaining a good reputation among horse enthusiasts in the state, offering

good quality on- and off-campus equine educational programs, restoring the equine facilities at our on-campus farm, and producing some exceptional future leaders of the horse industry along the way.

Today, our equine studies program is much stronger with a robust student population, enhanced facilities, expanded course offerings, and a solid reputation. We even have a highly successful off-campus four-horse equine rotational grazing demonstration site in Howard County that draws hundreds of people each year to learn

about proper horse pasture management. But to me, that just wasn't enough. How could the University of Maryland really compete with nary programs offering hands-on opportunities in horse breeding?

At the same time, I was contemplating how the struggling Thoroughbred breeding industry would survive if these economic times meant fewer investments. How would breeding good quality Thoroughbreds be possible if there were no educational programs for future breeders? Who would fight for them in

Annapolis if there were no new advocates? That's when it hit me that it was time to partner with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

The pitch in front of the MHBA's board in December 2011 and then a follow-up pitch to the MHBA Foundation a month later were a success. Our partnership began with a \$5,000 sponsorship and a promise to work together to ensure the success of the program.

The news spread quickly among the animal science students. Some were elated because they were going to get a chance to see a foal born. Others were saddened because they were going to graduate before the foals arrived. Either way, excitement was brewing and questions about the horses poured in.

In my mind, there was never really a question about the breed. It had to be the Thoroughbred. My own experiences with breeding Thoroughbreds came from when I was a M.S. and Ph.D. student studying equine nutrition at Virginia Tech's 420-acre Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The graduate students fed and cared for about 100 registered Thoroughbred breeding stock, including 35 broodmares, three stallions, and their offspring.

We lived there year-round and assisted with everything from holding mares for estrus detection, prepping mares for live cover, foal watch, foalings, post-foaling care of mares and foals, weaning, and yearling sales prep. We also assisted other students with broodmare and foal nutrition studies that included blood draws from foals and milk and blood samples from mares.

Working on that farm not only taught me about horse science and management, but it also opened my eyes to the tough, but rewarding life in the Thoroughbred breeding industry. I not only developed a deep admiration and ap-



University of Maryland's Dr. Amy Burk (left), Rotational Grazing Site manager Tim Shellem and Jennifer Reynolds, coordinator for Equine Extension Events, welcomed Amazin (with Burk) and Daylight Lassie, two pregnant Thoroughbred mares donated to the university's fledgling breeding program.

preciation for Thoroughbred breeding, but more importantly, I became a life-long advocate.

Before even sounding the horn that we needed broodmares, I heard from breeders Katy Voss and Marilyn Doetsch. A student and I quickly headed out to look at three of Doetsch's broodmares. Two were selected, Daylight Lassie, a big, beautiful 2005 mare by Seeking Daylight, and She Loves Me Not, a solid 1997 mare by Not For Love. Voss and Doetsch orchestrated two donated stallion covers to Friesan Fire and Great Notion.

Unfortunately, She Loves Me Not was not able to carry a foal this time around and remains open at Doetsch's farm. That only left us with one pregnant broodmare for the program as of May 2012.

Good fortune struck again when I was introduced to Allen and Audrey Murray of Murmur Farm. I headed to Darlington to look at a 1996 mare by Conquistador Cielo named Amazin, recently bred to Cherokee's Boy. She was accepted into the program and made her way to the farm in July along with Daylight Lassie.

The mares bonded quickly and settled in well at the 5.5-acre equine rotational grazing site. We did have a

bit of a scare with Amazin shortly after her arrival when she had a mild infection, but after a positive pregnancy check, antibiotics and a caslicks, she's doing just fine. Veterinarian Dr. Michael Tanner was wonderful with our undergraduate students, often stopping to explain the procedures and answering questions.

Most of the students working at the equine rotational grazing site are pursuing their dreams of becoming equine veterinarians or farm managers. Seeing how day-to-day health issues are managed and/or treated on our farm is essential to providing comprehensive learning experiences. Therefore, I'm thankful to have seasoned equine breeding professionals investing in our budding program with donations of horses and time. These and future investments into our program will ensure its success.

Our next move is for my fall student intern to work with me on how the March/April on-campus foalings will be coordinated. The basic plan is for the mares to get shipped down to campus when they bag up. The instructor of the Equine Reproduction course and the students in class will monitor their progress and initiate foal watches.

We're working on getting a foaling camera that will be streaming live on our equine studies website so students and anyone else can watch the foalings.

The mares and new foals will have modest turnout for a few weeks on a half-acre grass paddock being reestablished with endophyte friendly fescue and Kentucky bluegrass this fall. From there, mares and foals will head back to our rotational grazing site to serve as the horses on our rotational grazing project. I'm sure they will be the main attraction for our evening pasture events during the spring and annual pasture management seminar in the fall.

In the near future, we need to start tackling critical issues to ensure the long-term success: establish a mare weaning pasture this fall with plans to harvest hay when it's not being grazed; create a plan for training, preparation, and sales of the weanlings; prepare to accept two additional broodmares with good pedigrees, conformation and dispositions; securing donated stallion seasons for our next crop; and develop a funding plan that details how the program will be sustainable for years to come.

Former Pepsi and Apple executive John Sculley once said that, "The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious." I hope so because it's not entirely obvious to me how we are going to secure the funding to sustain this important program. But one thing's for sure, I will pursue all opportunities, including continuing this great partnership with the MHBA.

Initiating the Thoroughbred breeding program at the University of Maryland has been an exciting project for the faculty, staff and students in the Equine Studies program. We eagerly await the spring with hopes for two cute, healthy and valuable foals, along with two healthy mares bred back for next year.



## MARYLAND-BRED STAKES WINNERS



EQUUPHOTO, INC.

### Ben's Cat repeats in Grade 3 Turf Monster

Perfectly-placed in mid-pack in Parx Racing's \$350,000 Turf Monster Handicap-G3 at 5 furlongs over a boggy course on Sept. 3, Ben's Cat ranged up four-wide on the turn for home and, lapped on 2010 Breeders' Cup Turf

Sprint-G2 and two-time Turf Monster winner Chamberlain Bridge, took dead aim on frontrunner Great Mills. "I thought I'd get second money," said breeder/owner/trainer King T. Leatherbury. "I didn't think he'd make it all the way."

Returning to his patented, late-running, mow-them-

down style, 6-year-old Ben's Cat, under Julian Pimentel, nailed the victory on the wire, finishing a head better than Chamberlain Bridge, who was a nose in front of Great Mills. The final time of 1:00.62 was well off the winner's course record of :54.96 set on June 17 in his previous score, the Parx Dash Handicap.

"In the past, he's liked the soft turf, so I thought that was in my favor," said Leatherbury. And the trainer worked to get Ben's Cat more relaxed in the early stages after the experiment to sharpen him up for his breaks backfired in his prior outing, a fourth-place effort in the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Handicap at Penn National on July 28. Rank early and pressing a quick pace, he weakened late in that race, losing by three-quarters of a length. "I don't know if the training procedure did it, or if it was the way the soft turf was, or what, but we got the trip that we wanted," said Leatherbury.

With the victory, worth \$210,000 to the winner, Ben's Cat became a millionaire. His earnings of \$1,161,090 propelled him to 16th place on the all-time list of Maryland-bred money winners, one ahead of famed Maryland-bred speedster Dave's Friend (with \$1,079,915 from 76 starts). Ben's Cat (Parker's Storm Cat—Twofox, by Thirty Eight

Paces), the richest runner trained by Leatherbury, has won 17 of his 26 lifetime starts in a career that began in May 2010. A dozen of his wins have been in stakes.

With the Turf Monster win, Leatherbury faced a similar scenario with his 2011 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year as he did last year. The race is a Breeders' Cup Challenge Win and You're In event for the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G2, but Ben's Cat isn't Breeders' Cup nominated, and Leatherbury has been reluctant to put up the large late nomination payment to make his gelding eligible. And with the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita this year, the prospects were extremely dim that he'd go. "It's so logical and practical to come back in the Maryland Million, it's almost ridiculous to pass it up," said Laurel-based Leatherbury.

Ben's Cat would be aimed for a third consecutive Maryland Million Turf Sprint Handicap, at five and a half furlongs on Oct. 6 at Laurel Park. Also on the gelding's agenda is the \$150,000 Laurel Dash Stakes, run at the same distance at the end of October, a race he won last year. "There are two right here where all I do is walk out of the stall door and go to the paddock. It's so convenient," said Leatherbury.

## Touch of Class Award Winners

Dori Johnson (#2, right) and Caroline Gardiner (#3), Maryland-born polocrosse players who compete at the national and international level, were named "Touch of Class" award winners in August by the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), a program of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

"The fact that two of the top woman players in the United States were introduced and became accomplished in the sport of polocrosse while growing up in Maryland once again underscores the great diversity of our state," said Jim Steele, chairman of the MHIB.

Polocrosse is played worldwide in about 20 countries and is described as "playing lacrosse on horseback." Maryland has two polocrosse clubs: Bay Area Polocrosse in Calvert County, and the Sugarloaf Mountain Polocrosse Club in Montgomery County.



# Maryland State Fair champions



Left to right: Harrison Morris exhibited his mare Ragtime Brass to title of Grand Champion Thoroughbred at the Maryland State Fair on Aug. 29. The 12-year-old is by Swear by Dixie out of Bella Marine, by Marine Brass. Selected as Grand Champion Non-Thoroughbred was Magdalene Carolan's yearling filly Ironrose, bred and shown by her owner. Ironrose is by the Oldenburg stallion Ironman out of the Thoroughbred mare Mal's Mystery (by Pioneering). The Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Anne Pennington presented the awards.



## MARYLAND FOAL REPORT

DEARIE BE GOOD, by Scrimshaw, dk.b./br.f., February 1, by Jump Start. Hillwood Stables LLC. Mare to Silver Train.

HE LOVES ME, by Not For Love, ch.f., March 30, by More Than Ready. Dark Hollow Farm. Mare to Pure Prize.

MEMORIES OF MYSTIC, by Dixie Union, b.c., May 17, by Tiz Wonderful. Dark Hollow Farm. Mare to Not For Love.

POPEYE'S LADY, by Forest Wildcat, b.f., February 6, by Flatter.

Dark Hollow Farm. Mare to Trappe Shot.

PROMENADE LANE, by Woodman, b.f., April 21, by Temple City. John Foster. Mare to Temple City.

RESPLENDENCY, by Tale of the Cat, b.f., February 24, by Elusive Quality. Dark Hollow Farm & Arnold Davidov. Mare to Congrats.

SAFE JOURNEY, by Flatter, ch.c., February 29, by Line of David. Dark Hollow Farm. Mare to Archarcharch.



Jump Start filly is the first foal out of Hillwood Stable's Dearie Be Good (by Scrimshaw).



Memories of Mystic's colt by Tiz Wonderful, a May foal, was bred by Dark Hollow Farm.

TIDING OVER, by Unbridled, b.c., April 12, by E Dubai. Hillwood Stable LLC.

TOUCHNOW, by Pleasant Tap, dk.b./br.c., April 19, by Blue-

grass Cat. Dark Hollow Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov. Mare to Include.



Stakes-placed My Little Josie (by Outflanker) with her E Dubai filly, bred by David DiPietro.



David DiPietro also bred the filly by Discreetly Mine out of Thedamewantstowin (by Gulch).



Safe Journey, from the family of Safely Kept, produced a flashy colt by Line of David.



Popeye's Lady, a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Poseidon's Warrior, with her filly by Flatter.

## Maryland's top 20 earners in 2012

(through September 12)

1. Richard's Kid . . . . . \$389,990	11. Action Andy . . . . . \$134,800
2. Ben's Cat . . . . . 360,860	12. Change of Command 117,940
3. Poseidon's Warrior . . 241,000	13. Night Officer. . . . . 116,500
4. Jazzy Idea . . . . . 239,000	14. Not Abroad . . . . . 115,250
5. Madame Giry . . . . . 206,280	15. Universal Language . 104,950
6. Barbecue Eddie. . . . . 199,000	16. Take Down Two . . . . . 104,350
7. Bold Affair. . . . . 192,060	17. Baileys Beach . . . . . 96,320
8. Midnight Silver. . . . . 179,800	18. Havelock . . . . . 94,975
9. Hello Lover . . . . . 168,020	19. Catch a Thief . . . . . 93,235
10. Delaunay . . . . . 151,700	20. Ainsley. . . . . 93,150

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## Maryland's leading sires

Supplied by Bloodstock Research Information Services (BRIS), these statistics were compiled on September 12. Lifetime earnings for stallions with at least one starter in 2012. † denotes freshman sire.

### Earnings in 2012

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love. . . . .	139	735	62	104	\$2,804,570
Dance With Ravens . .	116	701	54	93	2,442,400
Lion Hearted. . . . .	102	556	57	87	1,760,250
Outflanker. . . . .	58	360	29	49	1,206,730
Two Punch . . . . .	62	330	32	44	1,171,440
Great Notion. . . . .	49	251	25	38	1,148,160
Louis Quatorze. . . . .	82	419	26	39	959,234
Rock Slide . . . . .	68	376	25	30	877,188
Gators N Bears . . . . .	51	234	21	36	823,079
Cherokee's Boy. . . . .	24	124	13	18	470,101
Go for Gin . . . . .	40	232	20	27	439,337
Scipion . . . . .	28	142	10	13	412,869
Seeking Daylight . . .	21	130	11	16	316,088
Deputy Storm. . . . .	18	88	10	14	262,182

### 2-year-old earnings in 2012

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love. . . . .	13	25	5	7	\$242,599
Scipion . . . . .	6	14	3	4	165,824
Cherokee's Boy. . . . .	5	15	3	3	115,816
Two Punch . . . . .	7	22	2	2	89,893
Gators N Bears . . . . .	6	12	1	1	54,785
Deputy Storm. . . . .	3	13	2	2	52,540
Dance With Ravens . .	10	16	2	2	50,700
Outflanker. . . . .	7	12	2	2	45,247
Great Notion. . . . .	6	12	1	1	30,016

### Earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love. . . . .	674	14,250	537	2,188	\$60,110,800
Allen's Prospect . . . .	927	23,233	768	3,362	54,444,300
Two Punch . . . . .	877	16,674	677	2,511	50,929,100
Polish Numbers . . . .	439	9,191	362	1,356	32,981,500
Carnivalay. . . . .	494	13,307	405	1,818	30,447,000
Louis Quatorze. . . . .	543	10,172	396	1,312	28,880,100
Waquoit . . . . .	470	11,149	358	1,492	26,331,000
Citidancer . . . . .	296	7,031	254	1,217	25,348,400
Eastern Echo . . . . .	416	8,543	290	1,112	22,515,100
Outflanker. . . . .	341	7,220	263	1,058	22,180,900
Norquestor . . . . .	293	8,733	252	1,242	20,945,400
Lion Hearted. . . . .	375	6,375	289	921	20,848,500
Deputed Testamony .	352	10,209	267	1,403	18,499,600
Go for Gin . . . . .	300	5,431	201	664	17,315,600
Hail Emperor . . . . .	201	5,688	133	718	7,389,500
Dance With Ravens . .	179	2,354	113	293	7,144,760
Wayne County (Ire) . .	154	3,025	99	343	6,004,250

### 2-year-old earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Allen's Prospect . . . .	458	1,558	175	240	\$5,629,410
Not For Love. . . . .	301	941	113	152	5,452,800
Two Punch . . . . .	430	1,373	161	200	5,381,630
Polish Numbers . . . .	229	700	84	122	3,672,570
Citidancer . . . . .	153	575	82	124	3,220,990
Louis Quatorze. . . . .	256	793	78	99	3,118,280
Eastern Echo . . . . .	220	812	73	100	3,032,700
Outflanker. . . . .	190	769	80	108	2,739,060
Lion Hearted. . . . .	179	582	68	95	2,555,860
Carnivalay. . . . .	249	1,010	88	122	2,480,130
Waquoit . . . . .	198	681	56	81	1,920,960
Norquestor . . . . .	136	508	47	64	1,316,410
Go for Gin . . . . .	155	500	31	38	943,194
Dance With Ravens . .	99	352	26	32	933,242
Deputed Testamony .	174	695	38	51	761,008