

► Building For The Future In Bratislava



Megan Nusz's two clean rounds on Dynamo helped the U.S. team claim victory in the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup in Bratislava, Slovakia. MILINA IMRICHOVA-STRIHOVSKA/FEI PHOTO

While the senior U.S. team was battling it out in England, a group of less experienced riders scored a big win in the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Megan Nusz, Catherine Pasmore, Quentin Judge and Kirsten Coe joined forces to earn a convincing win. Anchor rider Coe didn't have to jump again as the U.S. team finished on a score of 4 faults and ahead of the pack of 13 other teams.

"This was a three-star event, but it was still plenty big for developing riders like myself and Quentin and Catherine," said Nusz, who was competing in her first Nations Cup. "Kirsten is a little more experienced than the rest of us. It was an opportunity to go, get experience, and learn how to react to that amount of pres-

sure. You want to win no matter what, but it's good to get in that atmosphere and learn how the teams work."

Nusz and Pasmore each jumped two clean rounds to help vault the team to the win. Judge's 4 faults in Round 2 aboard HH Dark de la Hart was the only flaw of Round 2, while Nusz, Pasmore and Judge's clean first rounds allowed Coe's 5 faults to be the drop score in that round.

Bratislava was part of the U.S. Equestrian Federation's effort to expose younger riders to the pressure of team competition in Europe.

"I think it would be very difficult to go straight into a senior team competition if you hadn't done it before or experienced it," said Nusz.

"It's a lot of pressure and a new attitude that it's not just about you," she added. "I think it's important for us to go to a nice show like that that's a three-star and smaller but still big enough to feel important. Then, if you do go on a team to a show like Dublin or Hickstead, it's not completely overwhelming. It's great that the USEF does this because it gives riders like us who maybe aren't at the top of the sport right now an opportunity to have a good experience."

Nusz was particularly pleased with her horse, Dynamo, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood (Skippy II—Veritas, Lys de Darmen). "I felt like he knew it was important on team day," she said. "It was so hot and miserable, but he jumped spectacularly in the first round. As we were warming up for the second one, I was thinking, 'Wow, this horse is jumping even better!' After we jumped the first fence of the second round, I thought, 'He's going to jump clean for me again.' He was on it. I'm very lucky to have him."

Each of the riders had been competing in Europe independently but converged on Bratislava for the show.

"We all kind of laughed when we found out we were going, saying

'Where is this place?' But it was actually really nice," said Nusz. "The town was super cute, and the showgrounds were beautiful. They did a nice job running the horse show. The footing and the courses and the rings were spectacular."

FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP Bratislava, Slovakia—Aug. 1-4			
TEAM	ROUND		ROUND TOTAL
	1	2	
<b>1. UNITED STATES</b>			
Bonanza Van	0	0	
Paemel/Catherine Pasmore			
HH Dark De La Hart/Quentin Judge	0	4	
Dynamo/Megan Nusz	0	0	
Calypso/Kirsten Coe	(5)	(—)	
			4
<b>2. BRAZIL</b>			
Show Show/Alvaro Alfonso De Miranda	(5)	(8)	
Amemio O Sandor/Pedro Veniss	0	4	
Clowni/Marion Zanotelli	0	4	
Dolores/Bernardo Alves	0	0	
			8
<b>3. FINLAND</b>			
Armani The Gun CH/Maiju Mallat	(8)	4	
Celestine/Satu Liukkonen	0	(4)	
Agropoint Cassius/Kaarlo Kovacs	0	4	
Fardon/Anna Kontio	4	0	
			12
<small>Also competed: 4. Austria (Emir VH Moleneid (D. Köfler, Royal Des Bissons/A. Kneiff, Texas/M. Saurugg, Connycor/S. Eder), 13; 5. Germany (Taquila/S. Karshüning, Cash 92/S. Blum, Dante De Joter/T. Köhlbrand, Cassius 56/A. Knippling), 16; 6. Sweden (Be Wonderful/L. Heed, Duchess Van De Zuthoe/E. Janson, Easy Contact Humlan/M. Maggi, Newton Nickel/A. Von Essen), 19; 7. Switzerland (Nouvelle Europe Z/F. Schoch, Oceane De La Taille/E. Bussmann, Nirvana Basters/F. Fabre Delbros, Milor Landais/P. Bettschen), 20; 7. France (Rhune D Euskadi/M. Demonte, Origan De Vains/J. Helmlinger, Marlou De Etisses/A. Borrin, Quastor De La Vallée/D. Jobertie), 20.</small>			
<small>Did not qualify for second round: Slovakia (Cento/A. Holly, Lord Levisto/J. Slavikova, Pinocchio/M. Stangelova, Concano/B. Chudyba; Hungary (Dr. Oklund/G. Szuhai, PM Jumping Lady/B. Horvath, Timpex Cent/G. Szabo, Chacco Boy/S. Krucso); Czech Republic (Kallisto/J. Skrivan, Luka's Ninja/Z. Zelinkova, Bel Canto Hradiste/K. Papousek, Zidande P/A. Opatrny); Poland (Duke Of Carneval/R. Zalewski, Abigej/M. Lewicki, Zoweja/M. Ludwiczak, Denetor/G. Kubiak; Italy (Fixdesign Chopin/B. Filippo; Caesar VGZ/R. Lippi Bruni, Lucky Du Reverdy/N. Montini; Calida 46/F. Ciresi).</small>			