

Brave, Bold and Galloping Toward New Adventures

Equestrians everywhere are brave and bold and love the adventures they experience with their equine partners—no matter what discipline. I'm excited to have Olympic eventer Doug Payne on the cover, who's not only brave and bold, but excels in two disciplines—as a top eventer and Grand Prix show jumper.

Doug was a member of the 2021 Tokyo Olympic USEF Eventing Team and was the highest-ranking U.S. individual horse and rider, placing 16th overall while the team finished in sixth place. Doug's life in the saddle is helped immensely by his wife Jess, who's not only one of his biggest supporters but organizes and runs their Payne Equestrian farm. Doug and Jess have two adorable children, which means the Payne family will probably have ponies soon—and many more adventures!

Dressage rider Anna Buffini may not be galloping, but she is perfecting her piaffe and passage. Anna had dreams of being a U.S. team rider and that came true recently when she represented the United States in Europe on three Nations Cups teams. If you haven't met Anna, then sit back and enjoy her story that includes being brave, bold and on a path that will take her on amazing new adventures.

Speaking of being brave, I'm eager for you to meet eventer Alex Martini, who was born with life-threatening heart defects and has had five open heart surgeries. Alex hasn't given up on her pursuit of being an upper level eventer and she is definitely galloping toward new adventures. Get ready to meet a truly brave, bold and amazing rider.

David O'Connor, an eventing legend, is featured in our Unbridled column this month and I think you'll love his honest and fun answers. Spoiler: The 2-year-old on our leadline page isn't the only one who has fallen asleep in the saddle! Read the last page in this issue to find out what happened to David.

My husband and I just came back from a trip to the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, Florida, and the show grounds are truly an adventure. If you haven't been there, I hope you can visit this stunning horse paradise. We were able to catch up with many riders we've featured in past issues of *Sidelines*, including Josh Dolan, who was on the cover of our February issue. Not only did we get to see Josh but we also met Spanky, his kangaroo that appeared on the cover with Josh. Meeting Spanky and Josh's herd of miniature horses was an amazing adventure.

The Equestrian Hotel at the World Equestrian Center is filled with beautiful dog portraits, which works perfectly because where there are horse people there are dogs! Enjoy all the photos in the Spotlight section on the Letters to the Editor page, from riders at the World Equestrian Center to another peek at Spanky. **S**



Jan

Jan Westmark Bauer,
Editor-in-Chief
Stay in touch by emailing
editor@sidelinesmagazine.com
and follow us on Facebook and
Instagram @sidelines_magazine



Photos top to bottom:
The Payne family, left to right,
Doug, Abigail, Hudson and Jess.
Photo by Pam Jensen
Anna Buffini
Photo by Melissa Fuller
Alex Martini
Photo by Pam Jensen