

PEMBERTON

> EQUESTRIAN

Local equestrians shine in B.C. competition

Dreamcatcher pairs secure dressage titles

A fallen mountain and 40,000 concert-goers limited the number of qualifiers that the riders from Pemberton's Dreamcatcher Meadows could attend this summer, but nevertheless top awards kept piling up for the equestrian centre this past weekend. Local horses and riders have distinguished themselves in both dressage and show jumping in 2008.

On Sunday (Sept. 7) at the Southlands in Vancouver, two local competitors – Lokomotion, ridden by Dreamcatcher coach John Dingle; and Dreamcatcher Elite, ridden by Jill Giese – secured top honours in their respective categories in dressage, earning them the right to compete in a World Cup qualifying show in San Diego in November.

Lokomotion, the stunning German stallion imported in December, is now the reigning four-year-old provincial champion, over Young Horse Champion and Overall Hi-point B.C. champion. Trained and ridden by Dingle, the pair is undefeat-

ed at the international (FEI) level.

The pair scored 77.4 per cent on the weekend. Danish judge Kurt Christenson, a former Olympic team leader, described the Hanoverian as “one of the most exciting prospects for future international competition.”

Dreamcatcher Elite and Giese secured top honours at the FEI Intermediaire level. Judge Jan Peters from the Netherlands commented that the “perfect partnership” presented a “lovely, elegant” test, showing “correct training.”

Giese, who has trained the Hanoverian mare for nine years, said, “It is very rewarding to receive positive feedback that our (Dreamcatcher Meadows) methods are solid. It assures me (that) our coaching of young and mature riders is in accordance with the classical principles and international standards.”

Dreamcatcher show jumpers have also had a strong season. Whistlerite Sally Warner and her mount, Rivaldi, are in lead place in the provincial rankings in their division. Coached by local Shirley Hills, the team has secured six cham-

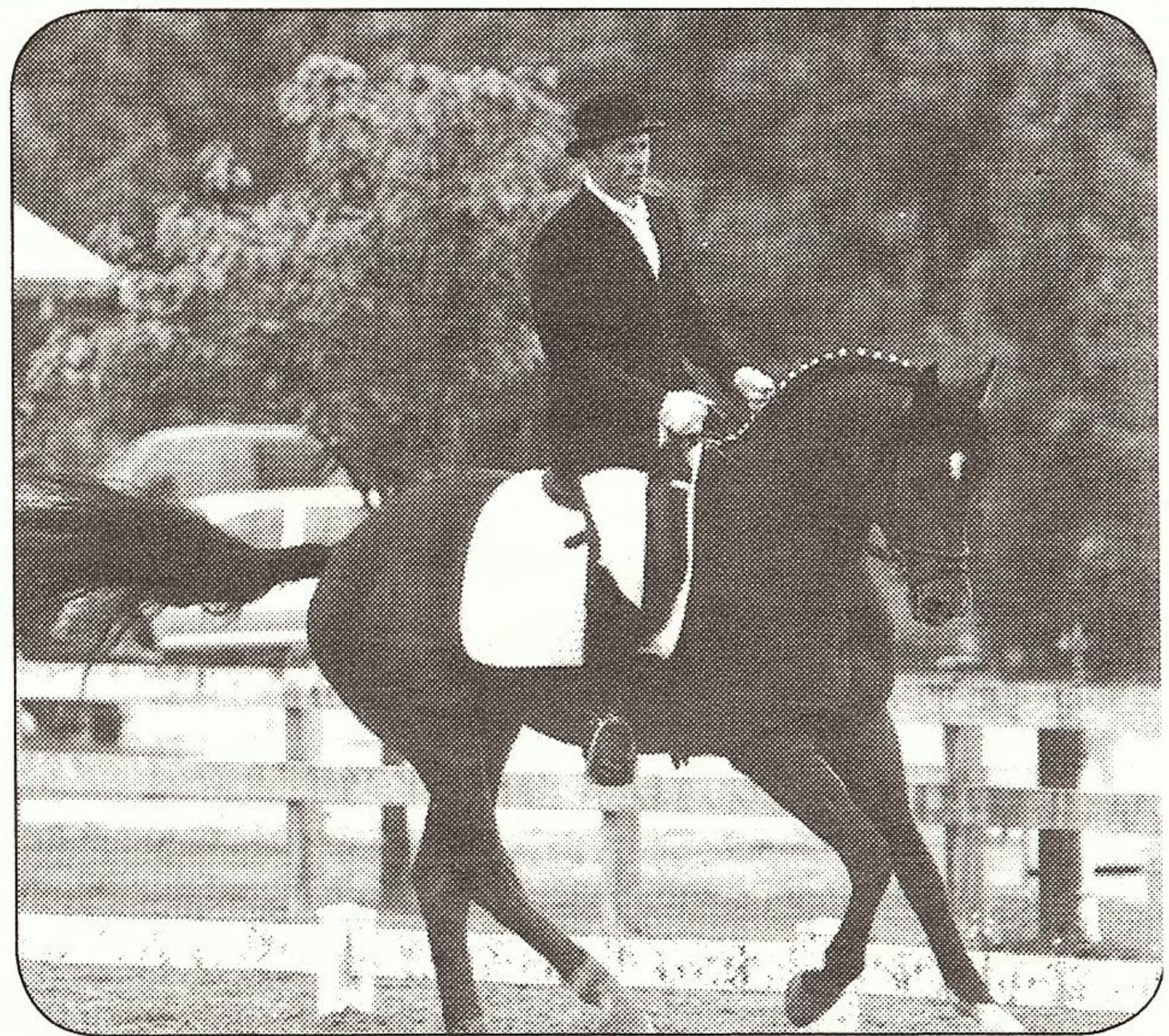


PHOTO BY TRACY EIDE/SPECIAL TO THE QUESTION

John Dingle and his mount, Lokomotion, perform in dressage on the weekend in Vancouver. The Pemberton pair is undefeated internationally.

pionships this season.

Warner, a full-time real estate agent and mother, purchased the young Hanoverian Rivaldi from Dreamcatcher Meadows in 2003 and still trains there.

“Sally and Rivaldi are a superb duo, with Shirley bringing out the best in them,” Giese said, adding that the pair has one more competition in their

effort to secure the top provincial ranking.

Giese said the Dreamcatcher contingent went to only three qualifying shows this summer. Shows were planned on the weekend of the Pemberton Festival and the following weekend, when a rock slide closed Highway 99, but those events prevented the group from leaving the valley.