

PRESS RELEASE: August 11, 2008 Todd Minikus takes the top three spots in the \$50,000 In the Woods Log Homes Grand Prix



SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK (August 11, 2008)--In honor of the Olympic Games that opened this weekend in China, former equestrian Olympian Todd Minikus finished in the three top spots in the \$50,000 In The Woods Log Homes Grand Prix at HITS Saugerties.

Minikus, who was an alternate for Team USA in the 2000 Olympic Games, had the only three fault-free rounds on course designer Jerry Dougherty's first-round route to advance all three of his mounts into the jump-off where he grabbed the blue aboard Presidente for Sleepy P Ranch.

"He is 10 and we imported him from the Netherlands about a year ago," said owner Suzanne Porter, of Sleepy P Ranch. "The horse is incredibly careful with a great scope and Todd gives him the confidence to bring the best out of him. Todd started riding him in the Olympic trials this year and they have formed quite a combination. He is even going to ride him in the Masters this year in Canada."

"He's a big, honest, scopey kind of horse who just needed some direction," said Minikus.

The last time Minikus was in Saugerties with Porter's mount, he captured the top prize in the \$50,000 Purina Mills Grand Prix to close out the HITS Saugerties Spring Circuit. Also during HITS-on-the-Hudson III, he had won the \$25,000 Ariat Grand Prix aboard Ultimo Van Ter Moude.

Minikus and Presidente went first in the jump-off and had a rail down midway through the trip to finish with four faults. He elected not to jump his other two mounts, Romy and Olinda giving owners the Diamond Group and Houlihan Lawrence each \$8,750, respectively.

"We got some heavy rain and the fact of the matter is the footing held up great," said Minikus. "I had one go clear early in the class, one in the middle of the class and the very last one in the class."

"The course looked big enough," said Minikus. "It had a variety of combinations. It was nice."