



Coudray Conquers Jersey Fresh CCI*** With Ringwood Magister

The young team from California leads the division from start to finish.

Kat Netzler and Lisa Slade

TIANA COUDRAY rode into show jumping at the Jersey Fresh CCI*** with four rails in hand. She only used one as Ringwood Magister, Coudray's 9-year-old Irish Sport Horse (Master Imp—Cloonkeen View), put in a four-fault jumping effort to win their division on 45.6 penalties over Phillip Dutton and

Inmidair (58.0) and Colin Davidson and Draco (64.2).

The Jersey Fresh CCI***/CCI**/CIC***, held May 5-9 in Allentown, N.J., was "Finian" and Coudray's third attempt at a CCI***—they withdrew from the Bromont International (Que.) last spring and the Dansko Fair Hill

International (Md.) last fall—and Coudray, 21, was ecstatic over finishing one with such good results.

"It's very exciting!" she said. "I think it's a little bit of everything we were working toward last year coming together. It's a bit of reaffirming that taking my time last year and not run-



(Kat Netzler Photo)

The third time was the charm for Tiana Coudray and Ringwood Magister at Jersey Fresh, as they finally managed to complete, and win their first CCI***.



ning him at all those events was the right decision to make. Sometimes I wondered if I was being too protective of him. It was worth it. It did save the horse and gave him the education he needed.”

“I am always after that perfect, perfect go, and those don’t really happen.”

—Tiana Coudray

Coudray, Ojai, Calif., has made the long trip east with Finian several times. When they traveled to Bromont, Finian was leading after dressage before Coudray discovered a small swelling on his foreleg. Though nothing alarming was found on the ultrasound, Coudray elected to withdraw him from competition. When they made the trek again, for Fair Hill last October, Coudray withdrew after dressage because of the inclement weather and course conditions. At the 2009 Jersey Fresh, the pair finished third in the CIC***.

“I was thrilled with how he went here at Jersey last year—third was more than I was expecting in that,” Coudray said. “This year was a whole different thing. I had a lot of near misses where I’d start a three-star and not finish for one reason or another. I was just hoping to finally complete one. I guess the third time is the charm!”

Finian and Coudray, who is a long-time student of Bea and Derek di Grazia’s in Carmel Valley, Calif., have been a team since the horse was imported from Ireland as a 4-year-old. The steel gray earned a win at the Galway Downs CIC*** (Calif.) this March, where he also led from start to finish. At this year’s Jersey Fresh, Finian’s dressage score of 36.8 penalties placed him over Last Call and Alexandra Slusher by 16.8 penalties. Finian added no jumping faults to their score on cross-country day.

“I would have liked things to go perfectly, and of course they never are so that bothers me. But I suppose there’s a lot I should be happy with,” Coudray said. “I just felt like I didn’t ride as well as I want to. I am always after that perfect, perfect go, and those don’t really happen.”

John Williams’ CCI*** and CIC*** courses utilized a long gallop up an

extremely steep hill about 2/3 of the way around. Though Finian is built heavier than some event horses and has Irish Draught blood, he had no problems making the time, and Coudray was pleased with his fitness.

“He handled it really well,” she said. “He’s certainly not bred to go galloping up a hill like they put out there for us, even though he is mostly Thoroughbred. I thought he was getting a bit tired a little earlier than I’d hoped, and then he found a second wind and a third wind and a fourth wind. He actually finished stronger than he was going about half-way through the course.”

Coudray is aiming Finian for another

three-star test and then possibly for the 2011 Pan American Games (Mexico).

“I think he needs another three-star, and I need another three-star,” Coudray said. “He’s fantastic and very careful—there are a few more things I want ironed out before I make that step, because he’s so careful I want to not shake him up unnecessarily.”

► “Ping’s” Perfect Record Continues

In the CCI**, Jennie Brannigan, West Grove, Pa., finished on her dressage score of 44.3 ahead of Doug Payne with Happy Valley (50.0) and Canadian young

JERSEY FRESH CCI				
Allentown, N.J.—May 5-9				
CCI***				
HORSE/RIDER	DRESSAGE	CROSS-COUNTRY Jump/Time	SHOW JUMPING Jump/Time	TOTAL
1. Ringwood Magister/Tiana Coudray	36.8	0/4.8	4/0	45.6
2. Innadain/Phillip Dutton	58.0	0/0	0/0	58.0
3. Draco/Colin Davidson	56.2	0/0	8/0	64.2
4. Rafferty's Rules/Sharon White	57.8	0/0	8/0	65.8
5. Mojito/Kate Brown	66.6	0/0	4/0	70.6
6. Share Option/Lillian Heard	64.8	0/2.4	4/0	71.2
7. Special Blend/Casey McKissock	64.2	0/8.4	4/0	76.6
8. Extravagance/Hilda Donahue	57.4	0/8.4	20/0	85.8
9. Parker II/James Alliston	75.0	0/11.2	0/0	86.2
10. Our Questionaire/Heather Gillette	59.2	0/10.4	16/4	89.6

Also competed: 11. Subway/D. Loiacono, 103.0; 12. Polar Storm/K. Willis, 117.2.

Retired on cross-country: Mar De Amor/L. Mesher; Last Call/A. Slusher; Mensa/A. Leatherman; Jimmy Cricket VI/D.A. North; Corner Street/K. Nunnink; L.A. Albert/B. Davidson. Withdrawn before cross-country: Medici/E. Estes. Withdrawn before dressage: Wild TMater/D. Burnett.

CIC***				
HORSE/RIDER	DRESSAGE	CROSS-COUNTRY Jump/Time	SHOW JUMPING Jump/Time	TOTAL
1. Truluck/Phillip Dutton	51.2	0/7.2	4/5	65.4
2. Kilrodan Abbott/Peter Barry	55.0	0/8.4	4/6	73.4
3. Mazerio/Ashley Keboe	63.8	0/8.8	4/1	77.6
4. JB's Star/Jennifer Simmons	59.8	0/13.6	4/1	78.4
5. Call On Me/Callie Judy	61.2	0/10.4	8/0	79.6
6. Jet/Ashley Leith	62.9	0/13.2	8/0	92.1
7. Detail Specialist/Melissa Miller	63.1	0/21.6	8/1	93.7
8. Shree/Colleen Rutledge	67.5	0/21.2	8/0	96.7
9. Asteca/Escaion Mendivil	64.4	0/21.6	16/0	102.0
10. Belmont II/Kate Hicks	56.7	0/22.4	16/7	102.1

Also competed: 11. Balmoral Tim Tram/M. Kuchta, 103.6; 12. SVR Ror/F. Daners, 118.3; 13. St. Barths/H. Burnett, 126.5; 14. Baba Creek/L. Lambert, 130.7.

Eliminated on cross-country: Gold Twist/R. Lee. Rider fall on cross-country: Interwin/I. Anees.

CCI**				
HORSE/RIDER	DRESSAGE	CROSS-COUNTRY Jump/Time	SHOW JUMPING Jump/Time	TOTAL
1. Cambalda/Jennie Brannigan	44.3	0/0	0/0	44.3
2. Happy Valley/Doug Payne	50.0	0/0	0/0	50.0
3. Malibu/Joelle Baskerville	54.8	0/1.2	0/0	56.0
4. Windswept/Carroll Courtenay	56.5	0/1.2	0/0	57.7
5. Mastercraft/Buck Davidson	56.9	0/0	4/0	60.9
6. Galway Blazer/Laura Roberts	56.3	0/10	0/0	66.3
7. Fernhill Fearless/Nina Ligon	59.6	0/0	8/0	67.6
8. Jumbo's Jake/James Alliston	44.1	20/7.2	0/0	71.3
9. Lightning Bound/Jessica Pye	50.0	0/18	4/0	72.0
10. Lion Display/Dornin Anne North	60.4	0/0	20/0	80.4

Also competed: 11. Powerball/C. Rollins, 124.1.

Withdrawn before show jumping: Santa's Playboy/A.R. Borun. Retired on cross-country: Wil'Ya Love Me/C. Sendak. Rider fall on cross-country: Enchantez/L. Solorzano. Withdrawn before cross-country: Haifa Bay/B. Davidson; Havasu Canyon/C. Cooper.



(Lisa Stade Photo)

Jennie Brannigan and Cambalda added another win to their undefeated 2010 record at the Jersey Fresh CCI**.

Temple put him into her sales program, from which Brannigan has now purchased three horses.

“Kelli always believed in him, but when I first got him, there was a little question of what he was going to end up being,” Brannigan admitted. “Now she’s saying, ‘I told you so!’ a lot.”

Ping took some time off to have a chip in his knee removed last fall and was laid up in the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center at the same time as Cooper. This spring Brannigan began to worry she wouldn’t be able to pay off his veterinary bills and afford to keep competing him, even though he was winning everything in sight.

That’s when Nina Gardner, who’s been a long-time supporter of Brannigan’s employer, Dutton, and has owned many of his mounts, including House Doctor and Sky’s Prospect, stepped in.

“I had watched this rider for some time because she’d been with Phillip, and I had really admired her ability and also her work ethic,” said Gardner. “Phillip kept saying, ‘You know, this is a rider for the future. She’s going to really be something.’”

“So then I went to Rolex [Kentucky CCI****] and had dinner one night with Dick Thompson, who gave a really impassioned speech at the table about supporting young talent,” she continued. “And I went to the owners’ meeting at Rolex, and again, there was all that ‘Come on, get on the bandwagon!’ type talk. And on the way home [my husband] Tim said, ‘Why don’t we get another upper-level horse? It would be so much fun!’ So the wheels started turning.”

Meanwhile, Brannigan had been looking at a young prospect to bring up the levels, and she’d fallen in love with another of Temple’s sale projects.

“The day that Nina called me was the day I looked at Indie, and I was driving home thinking, ‘How do I sell my soul to

rider Joelle Baskerville on Malibu (56.0).

Brannigan, 22, put her advanced-level partner, Cooper, down in December due to numerous complications after a show jumping accident at the Fair Hill CCI*** (Md.) last fall. Now her younger mount, Cambalda, is stepping in to fill the void.

“I think Cambalda’s really come into his own,” Brannigan said of the 8-year-old gelding. “He was living under a bit of a shadow because of how talented Cooper was, and I blame myself for that. But last fall and this spring have shown he’s pretty talented.”

“Ping” won the intermediate title at the 2009 Bit of Britain/USEA American

Eventing Championships (Ill.) and topped every competition he contested this spring, including a preliminary division at Southern Pines II (N.C.), an intermediate at The Fork (N.C.) and the Fair Hill CIC** (Pa.).

At Jersey Fresh, Brannigan put in a lovely dressage test, but the error penalties she incurred when she forgot a transition to walk at C put her narrowly in second on the leaderboard on Friday. But Ping posted two double-clear jumping rounds to slip easily into the lead. The bay gelding also earned the best conditioned award.

Susie Pragnell found the Irish-bred Thoroughbred in England, and Kelli

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—Jennie Brannigan



“Ideally, you try to produce your horse at his best for the bigger event, which, hopefully for this horse, will be the World Championships.”

—Phillip Dutton

be able to buy this horse?’ ” Brannigan said. “And then I got pulled over for speeding, and when I pulled away again, Nina was on my voicemail. It was just too crazy.”

Ping will get some vacation time in the Gardners’ field before ramping up to the Stuart CIC** (N.Y.) and the advanced horse trials at Millbrook (N.Y.) this summer.

“I’m really excited about his future,” Brannigan said. “I’m still learning, and of course it’s hard for me to not have Cooper anymore, but with something so talented coming up right behind him, I think I’m pretty lucky.”

Payne, Pottersville, N.J., has been campaigning Happy Valley since 2008 for owner Sandy Freeman and hopes his second-placed finish will help facilitate his sale. Payne, 28, and “Leroy” tied for third in the dressage on a 50.0 but added nothing to their tally in the jumping phases.

“He’s a blast,” Payne said of the 13-year-old Irish Thoroughbred. “I was surprised how well he handled everything here. He’s really the laidback, easy-going type. I really can’t complain at all—his worst place has been sixth all spring.”

Baskerville took the yellow ribbon back to Summit Point, W.Va., where she’s been training with Sharon White since Christmas. The 19-year-old rider from Calgary, Alta., is aiming for the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (Ky.) this summer, after which she’ll go back to college in Canada.

“It’s my first two-star and her first two-star,” Baskerville said of Malibu. “It’s a big confidence booster, and it felt great to get the qualifying score [for the NAJYRC], so now we’ll just keep working on her fitness level and hope she’s good to go.”

Malibu scored a 54.8 for fifth place in the dressage and added 1.2 time faults on Saturday but finished the event with a double-clear show jumping round.

Phillip Dutton led the Jersey Fresh CIC* from beginning to end with Truluck.**

▶ **Truluck Doesn’t Need Luck In CIC*****

Phillip Dutton’s ride in the CIC***, Annie Jones’ 13-year-old Thoroughbred Truluck, also led his division from start to finish. Though the veteran gelding didn’t have as much breathing room as Coudray’s horse, his final score of 65.4 penalties put him in the lead over his student Peter Barry and Kilrodan Abbott (73.4) and Ashley Kehoe and Mazetto (77.6).

Truluck (Maha Baba—Grayfully) earned a team gold and individual silver medal with Dutton at the 2007 Pan American Games (Brazil), and they finished fourth at the 2009 Burghley CCI**** (England). Dutton’s aiming the horse for the 2010 Alltech World Equestrian Games (Ky.), increasing

his fitness and improving his flatwork.

“I’ve still got work to do,” Dutton said. “He’s definitely fit enough and in good jumping form. I was a little disappointed in his dressage, but we still have plenty of time for that.”

With team coaches Capt. Mark Phillips and Oded Shimoni, Dutton’s been focusing on Truluck’s dressage, trying to get bigger movement and, eventually, bigger scores than the 51.2 penalties they earned at Jersey Fresh.

“Basically, he’s at a level now where he’s only going to get the same score if I try to push him more forward,” Dutton said. “So we started to go down that track a bit. It was maybe a little bit much at this event, but I think long term it’s the right thing to do. You didn’t see it this weekend in his dressage, but



(Kat Netzler Photo)



I think you'll see it start to improve."

Despite his disappointment over the dressage, Dutton was happy with how the horse jumped around the cross-country—adding 7.2 time penalties to their dressage and coming home with the fastest time out of the CIC*** teams.

"Ideally, you try to produce your horse at his best for the bigger event," Dutton said. "Which, hopefully for this horse, will be the World Championships. I wanted a course that would make him think and keep him sharp and improve him and also let him come out of it feeling very confident and keen to go on and

do bigger and better things next time."

Dutton, West Grove, Pa., also took second in the CCI*** on Jan Byyny's Inmidair. He took over the ride on the horse after Byyny sustained serious injuries at the Pine Top Horse Trials (Ga.) in February. She has been recovering well lately, and Dutton isn't certain how much longer he'll have the ride.

"I think she's already riding again," Dutton said. "She wanted to make sure she's properly ready and full strength before she starts to compete again. We hadn't talked past here. He'll go back to her farm now."

Inmidair, an 11-year-old New Zealand Thoroughbred, only stays with Dutton for a few days before each competition, and he attributed most of the horse's recent accomplishments to the work Byyny, Purcellville, Va., and her assistant trainer Lizzie Williams do with him at home.

"He's a very careful jumping horse," Dutton said. "I literally don't train the horse very much. I just try and ride him really forward. He's got the heart of a lion—on the cross-country, whatever you point him at he's going to jump." 🐾

Riders Praise Jersey Fresh Cross-Country Courses

Cross-country course designer John Williams made significant changes to the Jersey Fresh tracks this year, employing a back piece of the property, adding a gallop up a steep hill and an additional loop.

"I reworked the tracks significantly," Williams said. "I had to reuse a lot of the old, existing jumps to keep the cost down. In the end, it worked out fairly well, I think."

Williams used the water complex twice for the CCI*** and CIC*** horses, and he was pleased with the flow of that part of the course.

"For several years I have not really been happy with some of the major features on this property, such as that water," Williams said. "It's in a very awkward location to use. I wasn't able to find a way to use that water jump twice without the second time being very near the end of the course. They were similar questions to what it's been in the past, but this time they came up easier for the horses."

Despite the low number of entries—fewer than 19 horses started in each division—riders appreciated the new course design, and many offered accolades for Williams' alterations.

"It was more like an old-fashioned, go forward, big, open, galloping course, and it was great!" said Sharon White, who finished fourth in the CCI*** with Rafferty's Rules. "I think the horses got a lot of confidence going around, and I will say this bumped up their fitness level. They're going to come in better, with a little more fitness, which is great. My horse will definitely have gotten something out of this."

Colin Davidson, who came in third in the CCI*** with Draco, echoed White's praise about the course. "It was very horse and rider friendly but also very difficult," he said. "It was the best three-star course I've seen in years, anywhere."

Two riders fell on cross-country day—Lindsey Solorzano came off Enchantez, and Imtiaz Inees with Interwin fell in the water complex—but no horses or riders suffered injuries.

"It's sort of a silly thing we do, going at 20-odd miles an hour to solid obstacles, and sooner or later we all fall down," said Williams. "All of us do our best to minimize the risk, but the risk will always be there. Even if every jump is collapsible and deformable, we're still going to fall down. It's always a huge relief when the last horse gets to the finish line, and everyone is fine and nothing odd has happened."

Most riders with one or two stops on the course retired, and only Rebecca Lee and Gold Twist were eliminated.

"There has definitely been a change in attitude," Williams noted. "The attitude used to be, you pull yourself together and kick on and get it done. And for good reasons, that attitude has been altered. The new attitude is one much more of, 'My day is obviously not going well. I'll pull myself together, go home, try to figure out why and do it better next time, rather than make this day end well.' Another reason is now it's three stops and you're eliminated. Most people don't want to be eliminated; they would rather willingly retire."

Jersey Fresh course designer John Williams included new territory, like the Horse Park of New Jersey's massive back hill, for the first time this year, and riders praised the more flowing, open track.



(Kar Netzler Photo)

Let's Give A Standing OVATION™

*To Tiana Coudray
& Finian*

on their first place finish
at Jersey Fresh CCI3*

You make us proud!

Tiana is proudly sponsored by
Ovation™, Mountain Horse™,
Anky® & Veredus™

Photo Taken by: Kat Netzer
The Chronicle of the Horse.

Tiana safely competed and won at Jersey Fresh in our New Ovation™ Sync Helmet.
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