

Focusing on East Coast Riders and Their Horses

TODAY'S EQUESTRIAN

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JUNIOR ISSUE!

A Close-Up of Top Juniors

**Off to College:
Horse Show Kids Bid
Farewell to Their
Junior Years**

**Kip Rosenthal
On Finding a
New Trainer**



Mother and Daughter ‘Give Back’ Through the Sport They Love

Camille Duvall-Hero and Gabby Hero Find Their Stride in Flying Manes Therapeutic Riding and JustWorld International



On many an early Saturday morning at the Riverdale Equestrian Center in New York City, you'll find two tall, athletic blondes—clearly mother and daughter—guiding children around the ring in a therapeutic riding class. “Flying Manes is an amazing program that gives children with physical, cognitive and emotional challenges the chance to feel that special connection with a horse. One day with the program and we were hooked,” says 15 year-old Gabrielle Hero. “The looks on the kids’ faces and the joyous laughter is infectious, and to be able to share horses with them is icing on the cake,” adds Camille Duvall-Hero, Gabby’s mom.

Mother and daughter certainly know their way around horses and the competitive sports world. Gabby is a national level equitation rider who trains with Frank Madden at Old Salem Farm. A top pony rider before she grew to 5’ 9”, Gabby earned top finishes at Zone 2 Finals, won the Hudson Pony Equitation Medal at the Marshall & Sterling Finals, and won ribbons at several National Pony Finals. Camille has ridden all her life and showed as a teenager in the Carolina’s and still loves to ride when she gets the chance. But she’s far better known as perhaps the greatest female water-skier in history. A six-time World Champion and member of the Water Ski Hall of Fame, she was named one of the Century’s 100 Greatest Athletes by *Sports Illustrated*.

Gabby is a student at the demanding Trinity School in Manhattan who manages to ride six days a week. Mom Camille manages to fuel her competitive juices in the demanding world of New York real estate. She is a Managing Director at Warburg Realty Partners, one of the oldest residential real estate brokerages in the City. In addition to her tireless rounds of selling luxury residential properties in Manhattan, Camille is enjoying representing Albany, a new luxury resort development in Lyford Cay, Bahamas, that in

addition to an Ernie Els designed golf course and a marina for mega-yachts, will feature a state-of-the-art equestrian center.

Their good fortune is not lost on them—both mother and daughter are active in “giving back” in any way they can. “We have been so lucky throughout Gabby’s riding career for the help and support of friends and trainers alike, and we feel especially honored now to be able to train with Frank Madden and his colleagues Steve Weiss and Tammy Heumann at a barn as beautiful as Old Salem Farm,” says Camille. “Gabby has always had an incredible passion for horses, nearly tumbling over the railing at the Hampton Classic at the tender age of two just trying to touch the horses.” Summer camps in Southampton, NY, with Patsy Topping and Mary O’Connor and their wonderful families soon followed and fueled Gabby’s desire to become a competitive rider.

Not content with summer riding, the Hero’s soon found themselves at the Riverdale Equestrian Center in New York City through their friends, Ashley and Rusty Holzer, who have always supported and inspired Gabby’s riding career.

At Riverdale, Gabby began competing in the Children’s Ponies with Joey Currais and became an accomplished rider and incurable “barn rat.” Riverdale is also where they met Flying Manes coordinator, Byron Kazangian, who inspired them to volunteer for the program.

Camille loves how proud and happy the parents are as they watch their kids grow and blossom; “It really makes you appreciate how fortunate you are. It’s a real hands-on



Gabby Hero at the Fairfield Hunt Club Horse Show showing *Polaris* in the Big Eq.
Richard Killian Photography

experience, which I love, walking beside the kids while they ride, and seeing their faces light up when they succeed—nothing can put a price on that.”

Gabby is equally passionate about JustWorld International, a program she became involved in at the Winter Equestrian Festival last year. JWI was started by Jessica Newman, a former international Grand Prix rider who saw an opportunity to fill a real need when she volunteered to help in Honduras after a devastating hurricane. Jessica wanted to find a way for riders, whose extra time is limited due to showing and school, to be able to help in a definitive way and not just by writing a check. JWI provides targeted funds for immediate needs: food, water and shelter; funds mobile libraries; supports local elementary and vocational school programs; and helps provide basic health care and drinking wells in Cambodia, Honduras, Brazil and Senegal.

JWI’s major fund raising comes from within the equestrian community and the lion’s share of fund raising is done at big horse shows where JustWorld Ambassadors like Gabby and her friends compete, allowing them to volunteer on-site. JustWorld Ambassadors stage and handle the “horseless” horse shows at WEF, The Hampton Classic and, new for this year, at Old Salem Charities. Other local JWI fund raising activities this past year included a private screening of the movie, *Secretariat*, in New York City; t-shirt and hand-made bracelet sales at local horse shows; and good old fashioned bake sales at the Old Salem Winter Series. “We must have made and sold about a ton of cupcakes this winter” says Gabby. “French vanilla and red velvet were the biggest sellers to the judges, riders, trainers, and grooms.”

To donate or for more info: www.flyingmanes.org or www.justworldinternational.org. Ω



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