

# ROLEX

## Sponsored Riders Compete at 2006 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event

Becky Young

**K**nown as "The Rolex," this world-class competition held at the Kentucky Horse Park every year in late April showcases horses and riders at the most demanding level of three-day-eventing. This year's Rolex Kentucky event attracted elite national and international entrants, serving as a selection trial for the upcoming World Equestrian Games to be held in Aachen, Germany this fall. Veteran competitors Bruce Davidson, Sr., Karen O'Connor, John Williams, Phillip Dutton, and Kim Severson, all of whom are sponsored by Kentucky Equine Research and/or Team Member Pennfield Feeds, rode well and finished respectably, although none claimed the top honors this year.


*John Williams rode Sloopy to a ninth-place finish.*

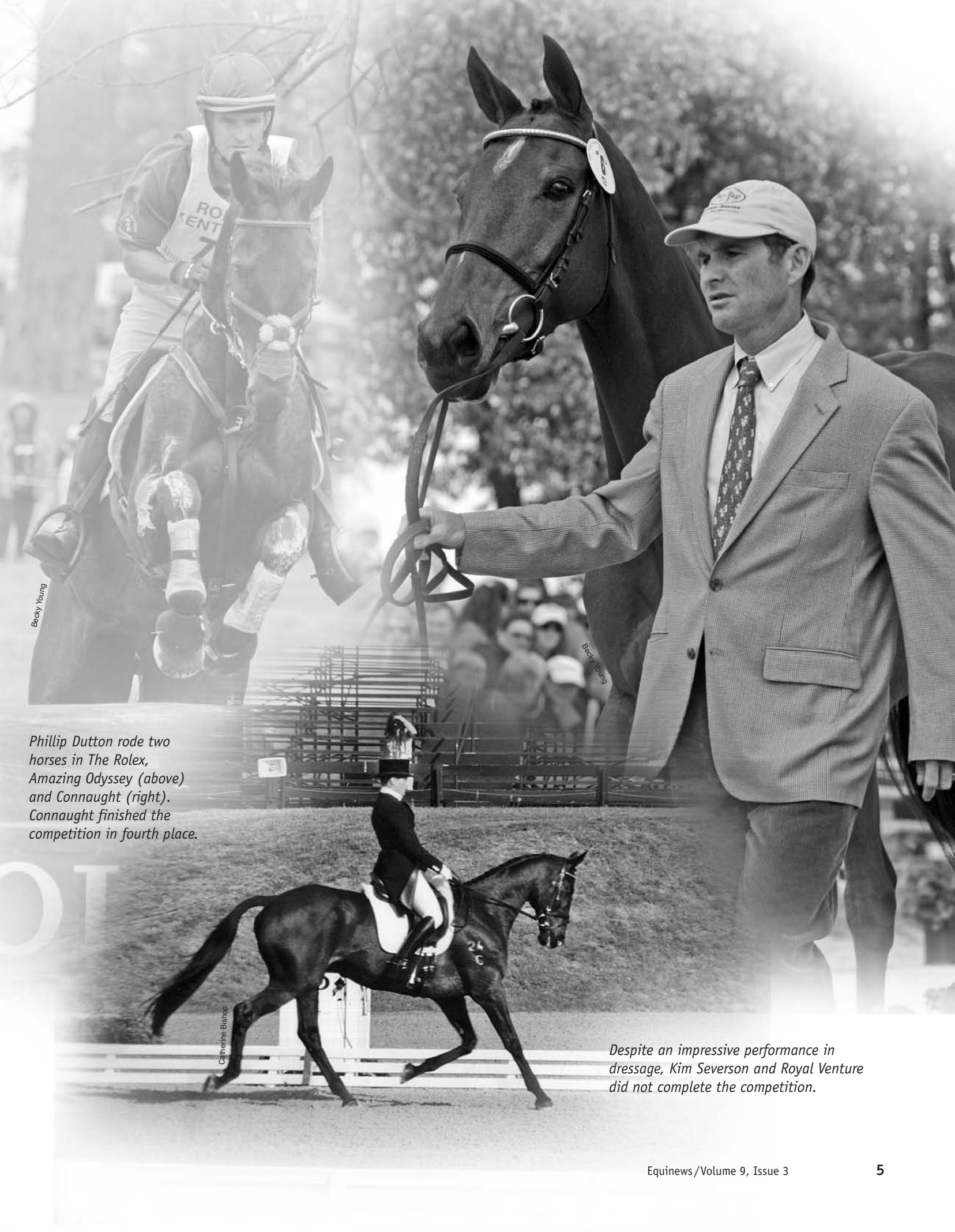


Becky Young

At the close of the first phase, the dressage competition, Darren Chiacchia and his black Trakehner stallion Windfall stood atop the list with an excellent score of 33.0. Severson, who had entered three-time Rolex champion Winsome Adante but then decided not to compete the horse, proved she had the talent to bring her Australian-bred gelding Royal Venture into second place with a score of 39.5. Mara Dean was four points behind for third, and Williams, Dutton, and O'Connor all had scores within the top thirty rides.

Saturday's demanding cross-country competition is practically guaranteed to rearrange the placings, and this year followed true to form. Chiacchia went out with refusals, and Severson retired after a spectacular (but injury-free) fall into the water. By the end of the day, five of Friday's top ten riders had retired or been eliminated on course; however, three others had moved into the first, second, and third standings. After many riders had trouble with refusals, falls, and time penalties, standings on the leader board showed O'Connor in tenth place. Williams and Dutton, less than two points behind, were tied in thirteenth position, and Davidson was out of the competition.

Stadium jumping on a rainy Sunday established a new set of Rolex champions as veteran Australian rider Andrew Hoy and his Thoroughbred gelding Master Monarch posted a clear round to finish in first place. Heidi White and Northern Spy claimed the second spot, and Stephen Bradley rode Brandenburg's Joshua to third-place honors. Among the KER/Pennfield-sponsored riders, Phillip Dutton moved up to bring Connaught into fourth place, also finishing twenty-second with another horse, Amazing Odyssey. John Williams was ninth with Sloopy, and Karen O'Connor and Upstage claimed twelfth. Only 34 of the original 56 riders completed all phases of the event, underscoring the difficulty of competition at this level. Congratulations to all competitors, and best of luck at the World Equestrian Games! 



Becky Young

Becky Young

Phillip Dutton rode two horses in The Rolex, Amazing Odyssey (above) and Connaught (right). Connaught finished the competition in fourth place.

Catherine Bishop

Despite an impressive performance in dressage, Kim Severson and Royal Venture did not complete the competition.



## **Reprint Courtesy of Kentucky Equine Research, Inc.**

3910 Delaney Ferry Road  
Versailles, KY 40383  
Phone: 859-873-1988  
Fax: 859-873-3781  
Order Department: 888-873-1988  
[www.ker.com](http://www.ker.com)  
[info@ker.com](mailto:info@ker.com)