



U.S. riders. I knew before high school I wanted to be involved with breeding and was always fascinated with bloodlines, from an early age when I was riding quarter horses." Her own showing interests quickly expanded to jumping.

Hansen is joined by an impressive list of grand prix competitors in California. Richard Spooner, thirty-three, of Glendale, founded the West Coast Active Riders. He amazed everyone when he broke his foot during the Indio winter circuit in 2002. "He had five horses in the class," Susan Towson, from The Oaks office, reports. "He was first on course with Robinson. He rode all five without stirrups, his foot in a cast. Robinson was clean, although he did add the stirrups for the jump-off. The most extraordinary thing I've ever seen. The video I'm sure is great—but I've never seen a prettier, more fluid round, ever." Two weeks later, he disobeyed his doctor's orders and sawed off the cast.

The show must go on.

Ray Texel, thirty, ran the Beverly Hills Equestrian Park for David and Suzanne Saperstein. Saperstein is the former chairman and CEO of Metro Networks in Hollywood, now a division of Westwood One. He sold the news/traffic/weather syndication in 1999 for \$1.2 billion. They also own the 140-acre Hummingbird's Nest with Spanish-inspired stables and twenty plus very expensive show jumpers.

The Sapersteins are known around the Holmy Hills area of Los Angeles for their \$100 million 45,000-square-foot French-inspired, gilded-to-the-rafters custom-built chateau called Fleur de Lys. It comes complete with a 2,000-square-foot closet with a chilled section for sweaters and a 5,000-bottle wine cellar. All of it was designed by architect Richard Robertson III, who, according to the April 2002 issue of *Vanity Fair*, likes to make new money look old.

Texel's had a number of successful Sundays on the Sapersteins' jumpers, Fleur and Pershing. He travels the circuit with wife Elizabeth, a competitor in the amateur classes. But evidently it wasn't good enough for the Sapersteins. He was fired after this show. "It was ugly," one trainer reports.

And then there's thirty-eight-year old Mandy Porter, who spent several years riding with Gerhard Etter in Switzerland before returning to California. And with the close proximity to Hollywood, many riders have found themselves involved in the entertainment world somehow. Mary Tyng of Los Angeles normally rides Southshore and Baccarrat out of China Blue Farms. But she had her fifteen minutes of fame riding as Julia Roberts' double in the film *Something to Talk About*. (See also Dennis Murphy!)

