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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Top 10 Finish for Utah Para Rider at National Championships**

Katy, Texas – November 2, 2015: Lara Oles of Heber City and her mare, Bella, competed at their first United States Para Dressage National Championship horse show in Katy, Texas on October 30-November 1, 2015. Oles and Bella earned very good scores in front of a panel of five international judges, three of which will be on the judging panel at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. Oles and Bella improved each day and achieved an impressive 72% average in the Musical Freestyle on the last day. With a final average of 67.6%, she is now ranked 10th overall in the nation, according to the official rankings.

Oles' coach, Annie Sweet of Sage Creek Equestrian says, "Lara held her own at the most competitive Para Nationals in United States history. The judges were all blown away with the quality of horses and riders at this show, and many of the scores were extremely close. I couldn't be prouder of Lara and Bella!"



Riders from all over the U.S. converged at the "Deep in the Heart of Texas" dressage show near Houston to compete for the National Championship. Funding for Oles' trip to Texas was provided by the CEECOACH™ powered by peiker, a bluetooth communication system that allows coaches and students to communicate during training sessions.

Dressage is an equestrian discipline where a horse accurately performs a series of precise patterns while receiving subtle cues from the rider. Para Dressage adapts dressage for physically disabled riders and has been a Paralympic event since 1996.

Oles thanks all her other supporters and sponsors, including Brakes Only, Les Schwab Tires of Heber City, Arista Equestrian, Silver Eagle Feed and Theraplate Revolution.

The next requirement to qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, is to show in Wellington, Florida in January. Oles is determined to get there somehow.

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### ***More about Lara Oles***

*Lara currently lives in Heber City, Utah with her husband and a myriad of well-loved pets. In addition to her riding, Lara works full time for the U.S. Forest Service. For more information please check out her website, or follow her on Facebook.*

[www.lope.org](http://www.lope.org)

[www.facebook.com/LopeLaraOlesParaEquestrian](https://www.facebook.com/LopeLaraOlesParaEquestrian)

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