

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# Strong Finish for Utah Para Rider

Heber City, Utah – August 23, 2015: Aspiring Paralympian Lara Oles and her mare, Bella, closed out the summer show season with their highest score to date. The team earned a score of 76.4% while showing at the Utah Dressage Society - Dressage Days Show last weekend.

Oles, Bella, and their trainer Annie Sweet, are now preparing for the United States Equestrian Federation Para Dressage High Performance National Championship scheduled for October in Katy, Texas. peiker acoustic, Inc, the manufacturers of the CEECOACH Bluetooth Communication System has provided a generous donation to help Oles pay for the trip to Texas.



Oles was in a freak skiing accident in 2006 that damaged her spinal cord, leaving her right arm permanently paralyzed and stroke-like symptoms in her right leg. Oles and Bella train with Annie Sweet at Sage Creek Equestrian in Heber City, Utah. Oles is well known in the Utah horse community as a determined competitor and as the state's first internationally classified Para Dressage rider.

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, Arista and Theraplate Revolution and says, "All competitive sport is expensive at the high performance level, but when a horse is your team mate the costs are out of reach for middle-income workers like my husband and I. Without financial assistance, we would not be able to afford to compete at the National Championship." 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.

###

### **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)

**Photo Credit: Dan Oles**