

# Robyn Fisher: A New Direction Begets Success

By Erin Gilmore

There is more than one way to love a sport. From 2004 to '06, Robyn Fisher's name was a common and consistent sight among three-star rankings and top placings at events around the country. When her name dropped off the lists in 2007, it was natural to wonder what had happened. But she hadn't gotten hurt, and she hadn't walked away from eventing. After competing in the Eventing World Cup, being named to the Olympic long list, and bringing her own horses along to the top levels of the sport, Robyn Fisher had found her calling, and it wasn't running a four-star track.

As a teenager, Robyn's first Intermediate horse was a 4-year-old she bought off the track and competed up the levels with. In 2005 she made it to Rolex and the Eventing World Cup on Le Samurai, a horse that she'd bought as a green 3-year old. She wasn't lacking in the drive to compete; in 2003 she was the number one rider in California at both the Intermediate and Advanced Levels. But for her, the training process had always been the fun part, and she had always brought along her young horses herself.

"It's so hard to know the history on a horse, what their experiences have been and if the proper steps have been taken in their training," she explains, "With the ones that I can mold and shape to what I like, I know that at the end the horse is going to be a good horse."

But in 2006, as she trucked along from one event to another, the seriousness of competing at the three star level began to weigh on her. She was spending so much time worrying over the dressage score or trotting out sound after cross country that the weekend would be over before she'd begun to enjoy it.

At that turning point, Robyn realized that she'd lost the desire to compete at the upper levels of eventing. "I love the horses, but I also felt like when I was competing at that level it was so serious I wasn't really having fun anymore," Robyn says. "I also found myself in a situation that was such that I didn't have the unlimited funds to promote my horses at the top levels.

"In 2006 my horse Lady Calido had her first injury and I moved overseas to England," she continues. "I got to see some things that really opened my eyes to the way things are, and my experience there just made me realize that I wanted more in my future, like a husband, children, and real friendships."

Robyn began to give the rides on her upper level eventers to her friend Amy Tryon and turned her focus onto her young horses from her base at Mill Creek Equestrian Center in Topanga, CA.

It was clearly the right choice; since then she's brought along several of the top young horses in the country. Her horses grabbed the 2009 Spalding Labs/USEA Young Event Horse 5 yr. old and 4 yr. old West Coast Championships last fall. She'll continue to compete last year's 5 yr. old champion, the Holsteiner stallion Claire de Lune SE (owned by SE Farms) this year. The 4 yr. old champion was her own Artesian, a Dutch Warmblood stallion that Robyn had spotted at Willy Arts' DG Bar Ranch as a 3-year-old. A son of Bezie Madden's Judgment, Artesian



Robyn jogs Claire de Lune at the Young Event Horse Championships last fall.

was sold to Plain Dealing Farm in February. At press time, Robyn was looking forward to watching Pawlow, an 11 year old Irish Thoroughbred that she sold to rider Will Faudree, compete at Rolex.

"Competing will always be a part of my career," says Robyn. "I know it's rare to train up an upper level horse and then give it to someone else, but the young ones are just so much fun. I can't think of anything else I'd rather do."



Robyn competing with Lady Calido in 2009.

Photo by Josh Walker