



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **The Evergreen Classic – An important stop on the road to the Olympics!**

**Carnation, WA (July 21, 2008)** - For the past 29 years, the Evergreen Classic Horse Show has been a popular proving ground for thousands of local, regional, national, and international equestrian athletes...many with Olympic aspirations, several with actual Olympic experience, and one (from just up the road in Duvall) with a ticket to Hong Kong in August and a spot on this year's U.S. Olympic Team.

Amy Tryon, a Washington native and former firefighter that was named last week to the U.S. Team, has long been a supporter of the Evergreen Classic, which is held annually to benefit local charities. This year the event is expected to attract more than 500 of the top horse and rider combinations in the Northwest to the Remlinger Farms Equestrian Park, which is located in Carnation, WA in the scenic Snoqualmie Valley along the banks of the Snoqualmie River. The dates for the show are August 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.

The list of other Olympic riders that have participated at past Evergreen Classics includes Jonathan Asselin, who will also be going to Hong Kong this summer as a member of Team Canada, Laura Tidball-Balisky (also from Canada), Eddie Mackin (Ireland), Guy Thomas (New Zealand), Kevin Freeman (USA), Todd Trewin (USA) and Robert Ridland (USA). Rich Fellers and Jeff Campf, who have each ridden in the U.S. Olympic Trials, are both expected to enter this year's \$40,000 Evergreen Classic Grand Prix, which will be held Saturday afternoon, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

"The Evergreen Classic is a Northwest tradition and an excellent venue for developing top level horses and young prospects", said Amy Tryon. "The event is a fantastic opportunity to watch the best in equestrian sport compete in one of the most beautiful settings we see all year. The charities do a wonderful job preparing the grounds and hosting the thousands of exhibitors and spectators that turn out each day...it's a treasure to have in our back yard." Amy's mother, Jemi Cain, was one of the many volunteers that contributed their time at the show last year for the benefit of Camp Korey.

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville is returning to the Evergreen Classic as the lead charity beneficiary for 2008. In addition to its outstanding therapeutic riding programs, which help hundreds children and adults with disabilities each week, Little Bit has also been recognized by the United States Equestrian Federation as a National ParaEquestrian Training Center and is home to several riders who are Paralympic hopefuls. The US Paralympic Team will be traveling to Hong Kong to compete at the same venues and under the same rules as the Olympics, only a month later. Little Bit's own Erin Alberda, one of their top riders and a 2012 Paralympic hopeful, will be performing her gold medal winning musical freestyle dressage ride at the Evergreen Classic before the start of the \$40,000 Grand Prix. Marci Bender, Head Instructor at Little Bit, has also been named US Paralympic Team Groom will be caring for the Team's equine athletes during their trip to Hong Kong.

“We are so proud to have once again been named as the lead beneficiary of the Evergreen Classic,” said Little Bit Executive Director, Kathy Alm, “Both Little Bit and the Evergreen Classic have a long history and appreciation of the magical connection that exists when riders and horses come together to form incredible relationships that can change lives.”

### **Got Hat?**

In the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics, the Evergreen Classic will be hosting a “Best Hat” competition immediately before the \$40,000 Grand Prix. A celebrity judge will select a Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalist and award \$1,000 in prizes to the most fashionable, creative, or distinctive head coverings worn by the exhibitors and spectators at the event that day. Participants must complete an entry form which will be made available prior to the commencement of judging. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Olympic Physical Therapy, no entry fee will be required.

### **About the Evergreen Classic**

The Evergreen Classic Horse Show is open to the public and admission is free. Parking is \$10 on Saturday and Sunday. Competition begins daily at 8:00am and ends in late afternoon or early evening. A full schedule of events and directions to the Remlinger Farms Equestrian Park can be found at the show’s web site at [www.evergreenclassic.com](http://www.evergreenclassic.com). Profits from this year’s event are shared equally by Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center and the Washington Hunter-Jumper Foundation, both 501c3 charities. The horse show also encourages people to visit the Team Tryon web site at [www.teamtryon.com](http://www.teamtryon.com) for more information on Amy Tryon’s pursuit of a gold medal at the 2008 Olympics. For more information about the Evergreen Classic, please contact Jeff Anthony, President of the Washington Hunter-Jumper Foundation at (206) 669-3440.

### **About Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center**

Founded in 1976, Little Bit is a leader in the field of therapeutic horseback riding and the first nationally accredited program of its kind in the Northwest. In 1992 Little Bit was selected from more than 500 therapeutic riding centers in North America to receive the Delta Society's Model Program Award of Excellence for performing outstanding service in bringing people and animals together. Through its therapeutic riding programs, children, youth and adults with physical, emotional and developmental disabilities improve physical health, relax tight muscles, increase balance, build muscle strength, sharpen hand/eye coordination, improve social skills, and gain a sense of control and self-confidence as the rider experiences a freedom never felt before. For more information about Little Bit and its programs, please visit [www.littlebit.org](http://www.littlebit.org) or contact Pam Cote, Community Relations Director at (425) 882-1554.