



Trinidad & Tobago Equestrian Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

TRINI EQUESTRIANS REPRESENT IN WELLINGTON, FLORIDA

May 11th, 2013: Trinidad & Tobago is one of the countries which comprise the Group IV of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), along with Barbados, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Haiti. The first ever Group IV Friendly Competition was held over the period April 09th to the 14th, and Chelsea Thomas and Mariel Lanser had the honour of representing our twin island Republic in this inaugural event. Accompanying the riders was Mrs Patrice Stollmeyer, one of our leading National Coaches.

The youths prepared for the event with training at both Valmont Stables in Santa Cruz and Goodwin Heights Stables in St. Ann's, riding a variety of different horses, to expose them to riding unfamiliar mounts such as they would experience in Wellington. Among the 20 riders in the competition, the Caribbean was well-represented with 10 hailing from our region; the US riders on their own mounts, and the Caribbean riders on borrowed horses. The event, held over the four days allowed keen rivalry among the participants, and our girls performed well especially on the last day with Lanser in 11th and Thomas in 9th position. Other Caribbean riders impressed as well, especially Heather Walker from Barbados winning the 3rd place ribbon on the final day.

The experience gained from this event was tremendous, our riders being among many US Equestrians who already compete at the Grand Prix level, and they also met, interacted and learned from the President of the USEF (United States Equestrian Federation), Mrs. Christyne Tauber. It is hoped that this Group IV Friendly would become an annual event.