

Max to retire from top level international competition

Following his success placing him 7th at the European championships in Windsor Max's owners Kyra Kyrklund and Yvette Conn have announced his retirement from international competition.



Max at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong. Photo by Jytte Lemkov



Max waving goodbye to the audience in Windsor. Photo by Sonja Holma

- It has been a wonderful journey said Yvette Conn. "I have watched Max in his daily training since he was four years old. Together with Kyra and Richard I have had so many wonderful experiences all over the world. I have reached heights in dressage that I never dreamt possible as an owner. Two World Cup Finals, three European Championships, the World Equestrian Games and the Olympics – it doesn't get better than that. I agree with Kyra that it is the right time for Max to take a new path in his life."

Kyra will continue to ride Max at home and he may also be a mentor for some of her students. Kyra's career at the top of international competitive dressage spans some 25 years. She has successfully trained and competed numerous horses in international Grand Prix dressage.

- I am not planning to retire myself quite yet, says Kyra, as I have a few interesting Grand Prix prospects at home!

- I like happy endings said Kyra. "Max has been one of my most consistent and honest horses. He has been competing at top level international Grand Prix for the past six years. He is a true gentleman who always tries his best. I felt this was the right moment and that is why we chose to reuse our favourite freestyle music Cabaret for his farewell. It was a big decision and in my heart I felt sad that he was entering the international arena for the last time but I knew it is the right thing to do. He has given us all so much more than we ever expected or hoped for. I consider Max to be a perfect ambassador for dressage. He loves an audience so I now look forward to take him to lecture demos and gala performances."

Max (14, Swedish Warmblood by Master) started in 35 international shows and was placed in 33 of them. These are the highlights:

Year	Place	Result
2004	CDIO Hickstead	1st GP Freestyle
2005	CDI Lingen	1st GP Freestyle
2005	European Championships in Hagen	12th GP Freestyle
2006	CDIO Aachen	2nd GP, GPS, GP Freestyle
2006	CDI Stuttgart	1st GP & GP Freestyle
2006	World Equestrian Games in Aachen	7th GP Freestyle
2007	World Cup Final in Las Vegas	4th
2008	World Cup Final in s'Hertogenbosch	3rd
2008	CDI Wiesbaden	1st GP Freestyle
2008	Olympic Games in Hong Kong	6th GP Freestyle, 8th overall
2009	CDI Addington	1st GP & GP Freestyle
2009	World Dressage Masters in Munich	2nd GP Freestyle
2009	World Dressage Masters in Cannes	2nd GP Freestyle
2009	European Championships at Windsor	7th GP Freestyle