

Dressage competitions dot the globe and as an elite equestrian competitor, Olympic bronze medalist, Kasey Perry-Glass and her horses are international travelers. "I've been over in Europe for the last three summers now, competing for Nations Cup teams, Olympic teams and events like that for selections." Perry-Glass said.

The winter months signal a calmer time for her horses, which have earned a well-needed break during the off-season when Perry-Glass settles down in the Villages of Wellington. However, "settles down" isn't quite an accurate description of her time in Florida. Neither Perry-Glass nor her horse Dublet, rest on their laurels, but take advantage of the milder temperatures and prepare for the next big event. "This next year in the winter coming months, I will be competing to hopefully get a spot on the World Equestrian Games team."

Tryon, North Carolina is the site for this year's World Equestrian Games, where Perry-Glass hopes to gain a little bit of a home court advantage. "They're [Tryon] known for having great facilities and now it's just about preparing them for the WEG and being able to accommodate all the horses and grooms and riders. I think that they have really a pretty good layout there, to make our country look really good." Perry-Glass said.

Perry-Glass was five years old when she hopped on her first horse. The horse was kept in a local barn, which she her mother visited as a getaway from the kids. It was all for naught, since the five year old and her brother and four sisters followed their mother there. Soon Perry-Glass got her first pony and she's been making history ever since.

As a little girl Perry-Glass learned to ride western style and went on to hunter jumpers. As she grew, so did her love for horses and her desire to compete. An introduction to Pony Club, an equestrian educational organization, fueled Perry's affection. "[Pony Club] a great organization that helps kids get involved with horses in a healthy way; to really learn the basics about anatomy, the care, the riding part. They really go over a large spectrum of the horse and the discipline." Perry-Glass said.

Over the course of her career Perry-Glass has been under the tutelage of top professionals in the field of dressage. She connected with Carmela Richards' local barn in California. Richards brought out a lot of the community for riding. It was there that Perry-Glass gained many friends with the same interest; many are competing at high level of eventing.

Richards introduced Perry to her first dressage trainer, Gina Duran. Under ten years of Duran's watchful eye, Perry-Glass competed extensively. This increased her desire to compete on a higher plane. "It kind of spiraled into me wanting to be international and really push for a career in it." Perry-Glass said.

At the level at which she would go on to compete, Perry-Glass would require an incredible horse with which to partner. Dressage coach and trainer, Christophe Theallet, traveled to Europe with her to discover the perfect horse. They came back to the United States with Dublet. Dublet proved to be the right choice, as he and Perry-Glass first forged a winning partnership at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Debbie McDonald has been Perry-Glass' coach for the last three years and is credited for getting her to the Olympics. They met the prior year in Europe where Perry-Glass was on the Pan Am Selection Team. Unfortunately, she didn't make the

Pan Am team but confesses to begging McDonald for the chance to train with her in Sun Valley, Idaho. "I knew that the next year was going to be pretty intense and she welcomed me in. Within a year, training really hard she got me on the Olympic team. It's pretty impressive to say that someone can do that, coach wise." Perry Glass said.

Kids dream of competing in the Olympics, but it's hard to comprehend the cost until it happens for you. "It is a lot of sacrifice. It's nice for people to know that these athletes that go to the Olympics are in every day training, whether it means physical training, emotional training. You know, all the psychology around it. We're training constantly and it's also a lot of sacrifice for a family." Perry Glass said.

Surprisingly, in her growing up years, Perry-Glass was a homebody. She never relished going too far away from her parents. All that changed. She was the first of the six kids to leave home and now travels around the world with her horses. She knew it had to take place if she was to achieve her goals. She moved to Spokane, Washington. "I loved the idea of a new place. Something inside me just clicked." Perry-Glass said.

Still, leaving home was a sacrifice for both Perry-Glass and her family. She only saw them if they were able to attend a show or on the off occasion when she would make it home for Christmas. "It's a lot of sacrifice to train for that goal, but it's well worth it. It pays off in the long run. Any dedication like that pays off." Perry Glass said.

She speaks glowingly of her family, referring to them as "Team Believe," a motto they adopted when she first started competing. The family's focused attention over the last 4 years has been on her. There's no question in her mind that "Team Believe" shares the same goals. "We really push ourselves as a family. We push ourselves to be better people and to really fight for what we want and to really believe in ourselves." Perry-Glass said. The required dedication and sacrifice it takes to succeed was passed down from her parents. Her father, a psychologist, once played Major League Baseball for the Los Angeles Angels, and her mother is a champion for the importance of believing in oneself.

"It's a little bit different in this sport, because a lot of people don't really have that, and I feel really lucky. They keep me balanced." Perry Glass said. Her parents and siblings aren't her only cheerleaders. Married two years ago, Perry-Glass says that her husband "keeps her grounded."

Dana Glass also works with horses and helps to run a family business in Colorado, where the couple met. "He knows the idea around the sport and the discipline. He keeps me grounded. He gives me an outside perspective of what life is like outside of the sport." Perry-Glass said. The newlyweds are also combining their talents into a new business. Two Worlds Equestrian will encompass both dressage and western.

It's Perry-Glass' fourth season in Wellington, where she lives close to the show grounds. "I can get into a class or just get some extra training there...it sets you up very nicely for other venues and gets you the mileage that you need." Perry Glass said. She will possibly compete in four shows this winter during The Wellington Equestrian Festival, two in February and two in March.

Her long-term goals are more personal. "I really want to have a family. It is very important for my husband and I. We want to have at least two kids. As of right now that's my other dream and goal that I have."