

Beatrice de Lavalette

1x Paralympian

World Championships Medalist



In Depth...

Bea found her love for horses through her mom and was riding by the time she was old enough to walk. She played “horse-ball” with her two older brothers by age 7 and joined her first dressage and hunter seat equitation team at age 12.

Bea has always loved sports; she ran track and field in middle school, where she won a gold medal in high jump at a European championship. In high school, Bea fell in love with soccer and played goalkeeper for her varsity team.



However, Bea’s heart was always with the horses that her mom taught her to love. When she was 11, their family rented out their stall in the stable to a friend, and a horse named DeeDee moved in. Bea and DeeDee quickly formed a bond and started training to become a dressage couple from that moment on.



At age 17 the direction of Bea's life was violently altered when a terrorist detonated a bomb directly next to her in the Brussels airport. Bea spent the next four months in the ICU and then started rehab, where her coach and her friend brought DeeDee in to see her.

Bea attributes this day as the start of her new life; her connection with DeeDee grew stronger and she knew that she had a future in the world of dressage. She still had no muscle tone or control, but she was hoisted onto DeeDee and knew this was the start of her new journey.

While in the ICU, Bea set goals for herself and was able to attain every one of them. She went back to school, rode in her first para-equestrian event, graduated on-time with her friends and was able to walk at graduation, and she represented the USA as part of the Paralympic team in Tokyo.

At the games in Tokyo, Bea placed 5th in the Grade II Individual Test, and 6th in the Grade II Individual Freestyle Test, a great result for her first games. Bea now has her sights set on the 2022 World Championships in Denmark and the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, while also finishing up school at the University of San Diego.

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