

Amanda Knowles



Biography

Amanda Knowles exhibited a love of animals from a very early age, turning that love into a successful career as a show jumping athlete. First introduced to riding at the age of six while on a family holiday in the Dominican Republic, Amanda began taking regular lessons the following year. With a leased pony, Nickles and Dimes, she enjoyed her first taste of success competing on the Ontario provincial circuit.

By the time she was eight, Amanda was determined to compete at the highest level she was capable of and set out to find the proper trainer. After a great deal of research, Amanda selected Mark Hayes, well-known for his ability to coach aspiring athletes to the top levels as well as selecting horses up to the task. Although skeptical about working with a young child, Hayes agreed to take on Amanda with the promise that he would find her another coach if things didn't work out. That was 1998 and neither Amanda nor Hayes has looked back.



While Amanda is striving to achieve her future goals, she has already realized several of them. In 2004, she qualified for her second consecutive FEI Children's Final. Having successfully represented Canada with a top five finish in the 2003 Children's Final held at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, AB, Amanda earned her 2004 invitation by posting four clear rounds in the Canadian Qualifier. Not only was Amanda the top Canadian, but she was also the top performer in her FEI Qualifying Group riding her new seven-year-old mount, Joconde de Sisse. At the 2004 FEI Children's Final held in California, Amanda rode a clear round with a borrowed mount to place second in the Farewell competition. As a result, Amanda was named the 'Jump Canada Athlete of the Month' for December, an honour usually bestowed on professional riders.

In addition to her success in the show jumping ring, Amanda has also enjoyed numerous victories in the Hunter and Equitation Medal divisions. At HITS Saugerties, New York, in 2004, Amanda was crowned the High Junior/Amateur Jumper Champion and, incredibly, won the prestigious MacLay Medal, the HBO Junior Medal and the Washington International Horse Show Medal. Back home in Canada, she was named the Leading Equitation Rider, an incredible accomplishment at the age of 14. In 2005, Amanda achieved her goal of becoming a member of the Junior Team for the North American Young Riders'



Championship where she helped Ontario win its second consecutive Team Silver Medal. She capped off the show season by winning the Jump Canada Medal Finals and finishing third in the CET Medal Finals.

Her parents, Rick and Debbie Knowles, and her older sister, Melanie, wholeheartedly support Amanda's athletic career. Despite missing a great deal of time at school due to her heavy competition schedule, Amanda maintains her place on the Honour Roll. Currently in grade ten, Amanda attends Interact, a school for elite athletes that allows students to maintain their competition schedules while still achieving scholastic excellence.

Amanda enjoys all aspects of riding, and especially training for the equitation division as it provides an opportunity for riders to learn solid basics while laying the groundwork for future competition over higher fences. Amanda attributes her success to her trainer, Mark Hayes, in addition to her love of her horses, her commitment and hard work, and her family's support.

Competition Highlights

2003 Highlights

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| 1st Junior Hunter Under Saddle, Royal Horse Show, Toronto, ON | Lasko |
| 2nd Jump Canada Medal Finals, Royal Horse Show, Toronto, ON | Robin Van Het Lindehof |
| 5th FEI Children's World Final, Spruce Meadows, Calgary, AB | Robin Van Het Lindehof |

2004 Highlights

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| Jump Canada Athlete of the Month, December | |
| 2nd Farewell Competition, FEI Children's Jumper Final, CA | Houdini |
| 1st Junior Hunter Under Saddle, Royal Horse Show, ON | Lasko (two years in a row) |
| 1st \$2,500 Handy Hunter Challenge, Autumn Classic, ON | Robin van Het Lindehof |
| 1st High Junior/Amateur Jumper Champion, HITS Saugerties VII, NY | Joconde de Sisse |
| 1st ASPCA MacLay Medal, HITS Saugerties VII, NY | Robin van Het Lindehof |
| 1st WIHS Equitation Medal, HITS Saugerties VII, NY | Robin van Het Lindehof |
| 1st FEI Children's Final Qualifier, Bromont International, QC | Joconde de Sisse |

2005 Highlights

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| 1st Jump Canada Medal Finals, Royal Horse Show, ON | Robin Van Het Lindehof |
| 3rd Running Fox CET Medal Finals, Royal Horse Show, ON | Robin Van Het Lindehof |
| 1st Rider's Habit/GP Junior Medal Final, Autumn Classic, ON | Robin van Het Lindehof |
| Team Silver North American Young Riders' Championship, Lexington, VA | Joconde de Sisse |
| 1st Junior/Amateur 1.40m, Caledon Summer Classic, Palgrave, ON | Joconde De Sisse |
| 1st OHJA Jumper Medal, Caledon Summer Classic, Palgrave, ON | Robin Van Het Lindehof |
| 1st Junior/Amateur 1.40m, Classic @ Palgrave Phase II, ON | Joconde De Sisse |

Fast Facts

Place of Birth:
Toronto, Ontario

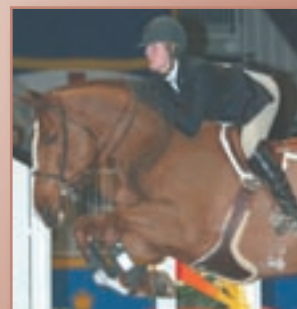
Birth Date:
November 1, 1990

Education:
Honour Roll Student,
Interact

Coach/Trainer:
Mark Hayes (since 1998)

Horses in 2006:
Joconde de Sisse
Robin van het Lindehof
World Class
Catania
Endira

Goal:
To win numerous
medals for Ontario at the
North American Young
Riders' Championship



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Horses

Robin van het Lindehof

'Robin' was purchased as a five-year-old and was imported from Belgium in February of 1999. In 2000, Robin qualified for the National Finals of the Canadian Young Horse Jumper Development Series in the Six-Year-Old division.

Amanda began showing Robin in 2001, competing in the EMG Mini Medal and the Junior/Amateur Section 1 division. During the 2002 winter circuit in Ocala, Florida, Amanda and Robin were very successful in the Child/Adult Low division and returned to Canada to place first overall in the EMG Mini Medal series and finish second overall in Ontario in the Junior/Amateur Section 1 division.

By the end of the 2003 season, Robin had placed first overall in both the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET) Medal, the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA) Medal, and had qualified for the year-end Royal Horse Show to contest the Jump Canada

Medal where he and Amanda earned the Reserve Championship title. In addition, Robin and Amanda placed second in the Handy Hunter Classic in Palgrave, ON, which hosts the largest horse show in Ontario.

Incredibly, they were also chosen to represent Canada at the FEI Children's International World Final at the famed Spruce Meadows show jumping venue in Calgary, AB. Competing against riders representing 14 nations, Amanda and Robin finished the weeklong event in fifth place overall.

Now concentrating on the hunter and equitation rings, Amanda and Robin enjoyed great success in the 3'6 equitation classes at the 2005 Winter Equestrian Festival in West Palm Beach, and went on to win the Jump Canada Medal Finals at the 2005 Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.



Joconde de Sisse

Imported from Belgium in November of 2003 by Mark Hayes, Joconde de Sisse soon found a home with Amanda. One month after her arrival, she went to Calgary as Amanda's second horse for the FEI Children's World Final.

In 2004, along with Amanda's other horses, Joconde competed for four weeks on the HITS Ocala circuit in Florida, successfully competing in the Low Junior/Amateur jumper division. Back in Canada, the pair posted four clear rounds in the FEI Children's Final Qualifier in June, putting them at the top of the standings not only in Canada, but also in their entire global group. The impressive feat qualified Amanda for her second consecutive FEI Children's Final in Simi Valley, California, where she had the distinction of being the only two-time competitor.

In 2005, Amanda and Joconde de Sisse successfully competed in the High Junior Jumper divisions, hurdling obstacles set at 1.40m, and were selected to represent the Ontario Junior Team at the 2005 North American Young Riders' Championship. Realizing a long-time goal of Amanda's, they helped to secure the Team Silver Medal for Ontario.



World Class

Affectionately known as 'Olga', World Class is a Mecklenburg mare that was imported from Germany in September of 2003. Having had two foals in Germany, Olga possessed limited knowledge about the world of show jumping. During the winter of 2004 in Ocala, Florida, Amanda competed with her in the Modified Junior Hunter division before moving up to the Large Junior Hunter division at the 2005 Winter Equestrian Festival. It was also at the Winter Equestrian Federation in Wellington, FL, that the pair tried their hand at the jumper divisions, finding their niche in the Low Junior Jumpers.

Throughout the 2005 season, Amanda and Olga continued to compete in the 1.20m and 1.30m divisions, and also contested the Jumper Medal classes.

For additional information on
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