

PROFILE

(Ms) Laurentia Tan Yen Yi

29 years old, (Profound Deafness and Cerebral Palsy 1A)
Equestrian



Competition Records

Grade Ib Test 6b (2002) – Walk & Trot:

64.71% (1st) (April 2006) (Diamond RDA, Surrey, UK)
72.94% (1st) (June 2006) (Greater London Regional, UK)
67.65% (3rd) (July 2006) (Nationals, Hartpury, UK)

Grade I Freestyle to Music (2002):

61.38% (5th) (July 2006) (Nationals, Hartpury, UK)

Grade Ia Test 6a (2006):

68.20% (2nd) (April 2007) (South Bucks, England, UK)

Grade 1 Team Test (2006):

62.90% (4th) (April 2007) (South Bucks, England, UK)

Grade 1b Test 12 (2006):

70.55% (1st) (April 2007) (Diamond RDA, Surrey, UK)

Grade 1a Test 6a (2006):

71.47% (2nd) (May 2007) (British Para Dressage, UK)

Grade 1a Test 2a (2006):

73.57% (1st) (May 2007) (Greater London Regional, UK)

Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2001):

74.50% (3rd) (May 2007) (Greater London Regional, UK)

Grade 1a Team Test (2006):

63.765% (6th) (July 2007) (World Para Dressage Championships, UK)

Grade 1a Individual Championship Test (2006):

63.000% (12th) (July 2007) (World Para Dressage Championships, UK)

Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2006):

67.941% (4th) (July 2007) (World Para Dressage Championships, UK)

Grade 1b Test 10 (2006):

65.90% (2nd) (August 2007) (Sussex, UK)

Grade 1a Test 3 (2006):

58.78% (1st) (October 2007) (Singapore)

Grade 1a Test 4 (2006):

68.82% (1st) (October 2007) (Blue Barn, Kent, UK)

Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2006):

71.66% (1st) (October 2007) (Blue Barn, Kent, UK)

Grade 1a Test 4 (2006):

66.25% (H/C) (January 2008) (Berkshire College of Agriculture, UK)

Grade 1a Team Test (2006):

60% (3rd) (January 2008) (Berkshire College of Agriculture, UK)

Grade 1a Test 4 (2006):

71.25% (H/C) (February 2008) (Oldencraig E.C., Surrey, UK)

Grade 1a Team Test (2006):

71.76% (1st) (February 2008) (Oldencraig E.C., Surrey, UK)

Grade 1a Test 4 (2006):

68.12% (H/C) (February 2008) (Patchetts E.C., Herts, UK)

Grade 1a Team Test (2006):

68.82% (3rd) (February 2008) (Patchetts E.C., Herts, UK)

Grade 1a Test 4 (2006):

63.53% (H/C) (February 2008) (Blue Barn, Kent, UK)

Grade 1a Team Test (2006):

67.65% (1st) (February 2008) (Blue Barn, Kent, UK)

Athlete Profile

Laurentia Tan took up horse riding at the tender age of 5 as part of her physiotherapy sessions. Being born profoundly deaf and with Cerebral Palsy, the physiotherapy sessions helped to correct her posture and core muscles.

Laurentia soon fell in love with the sport, which she likens to be like doing ballet. Her passion in equestrian took a long hiatus of 8 years because of university as well as her career pursuits. But the attraction to the sport held strong for her, and by 2005, Laurentia was back on the horse, doing what she does best. She has not looked back since then, managing to progress steadily in the sport.

Currently working part time as a mental health worker in South West London, Laurentia trains no less than 5 times a week, alternating between the Diamond RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association) Centre and her trainer's private training venue. In addition to this packed riding schedule, various conditioning exercises are included into her training program to ensure that her stamina and core muscles strength are always upwardly mobile.

This spunky athlete is definitely one who is going places. In September this year, she will represent Singapore at the pinnacle of disabled sports, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. However, Laurentia is not at all fazed by the world class competition that she will be up against at the Paralympics. She feels that having a disability is relative, as disabled people may be more "abled" in other aspects. In a way, equestrian has helped to elevate Laurentia to greater heights not just in terms of an athlete but on a personal level as well.

The soon to be Paralympian has these words of encouragement for aspiring athletes, "Reach for the stars and go for your dreams...! Show your talent, try and participate in as many events as possible, you never know." It is a personal mantra that has served this determined rider well. Come September, the Stars may well be within her reach.