

Pennsylvania National  
HORSE SHOW  
HALL OF FAME

*In Recognition of their extraordinary efforts, commitment and dedication to excellence in Horse Showing and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.*

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## MARY MAIRS CHAPOT



*Mary Mairs Chapot & Tomboy. Awards Presentation at the 1965 Cleveland Grand Prix with Mrs. Gilbert Humphrey and J. Basil Ward. Photo by Chagrin.*

### *A History of “Firsts”*

Mary Mairs Chapot has been a true trailblazer on the American Horse Show scene since her earliest days as a pupil of Jimmy Williams in California. She made her mark on the East Coast at the age of sixteen, winning the two most prestigious equitation finals (the AHSA Medal and the ASPCA Maclay) at the National Horse Show in 1960.

What followed was a career of firsts. In 1961, she became the youngest woman rider on a U.S. Equestrian Team. She was also the first woman to win a gold medal at the 1963 Pan American Games

winning both the Individual Gold on her chestnut mare, Tomboy, as well as the Team Gold. The following year she continued to make history when she and Kathy Kusner became the first women to ride on a U.S. Olympic Show Jumping team at the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

In 1965, Mairs married her U.S. teammate, Frank Chapot, and the couple later raised two lovely daughters, Wendy and Laura, both of whom became competitors themselves. Mairs Chapot added another “first” to her list in 1965 when she won the Cleveland Grand Prix at the Chagrin Valley PHA Horse Show, the first American Grand Prix event. Chapot rode on 22 winning Nations Cup Teams, racking up victories both stateside and abroad. From 1962 through 1967, she claimed victory in a number of big classes at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, including the Prix De Penn National in 1967 on the horse “Anakonda.” She remains one of the few equestrians to both win and later judge the USEF Hunt Seat Medal at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.