



Dreams do come true at new San Diego County eventing facility.

by Kim F. Miller

Persistence is a key quality for any equestrian and especially so for eventers. Holding tight to a dream pulls many through obstacles and detours that might deter softer souls. Jordan and Ava Chase were horsey friends in high school when they first dreamed of having their own equestrian facility. Over three decades passed since then, filled with separate lives and families. Yet the idea lurked in the lee of busy days and years, awaiting a spark.

In March of this year, the Chases closed on the former Roper Ranch, which had been Lou Roper's western training facility for many years.

Eventing trainer Olivia Loiacono-Putрино is the spark that re-ignited the Chases' barn owning dream. "We probably would never have done this without Olivia," Ava reflects. She and Jordan got back into riding under Oliva, a native of San Diego County's Bonsall. "We just really think a lot of Olivia," Ava explains. "We joke that she 'speaks horse,' because she really has a lot of talent."

Ava and Jordan married seven years ago and have both resumed their eventing careers. After raising a daughter, Tatiana Parker, who competed on the hunter/jumper A circuit and is now a professional trainer in South Carolina, Ava is happy to contest the Beginner Novice division. Jordan has his sights set on Intermediate, at which he competed in his youth.

Along with being her students, the Chases purchased a top-level eventing prospect for Olivia, in Petey Pablo. Watching Olivia's business and successes grow since she returned to California in 2013, the Chases saw that she could benefit from a bigger facility. That dovetailed with their high school dream, and that was that. "It's been a pipe dream all these years," reflects Ava.



"There were times I thought we would never actually do it."

"Jordan and Ava have always been really supportive of my business," Olivia notes of OKL Eventing. "I'm fortunate to be their trainer and to be working with them on Far View. We all want it to be a top-level eventing facility." In addition to training, the trio envisions clinics with top horsemen and possibly schooling shows.

Perhaps Pony Club activities, too, given the Far Viewers' deep roots with the horsemanship organization. Jordan and Olivia are A Pony Clubbers and Ava is district commissioner for the Rainbow of the Foothills PC, based out of Heartland Ranch in San Diego County's Lakeside.

Suited For Success

June 2020 - Far View Farm

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The approximately six-acre property was already well laid out. Enlarging two arenas is the biggest upgrade, including re-grading for good drainage and the right base, plus choosing and installing footing suitable for jumping and dressage. (See story on GGT-Footing, page 14). What is now the dressage arena has a new viewing area of terraced seating built into a slope overlooking the ring.

The Chases also converted what had been 28 wood-fenced paddocks to 10 larger paddocks with vinyl fencing and will swap out a hot walker for a Eurociser. The property has easy trail access for hacking out, and its North San Diego County location is an easy haul for cross-country schools in Temecula, Ramona and elsewhere.

Original stable capacity was for about 60 horses, but the Chases and Olivia foresee 20 to 30, all in training. "Small family feel" is the desired vibe, Olivia says.

Grace Walker will complement Olivia's eventing training program with part-time dressage coaching and training. Another A Pony Clubber, Grace will continue as stable manager for Shannon and Steffen Peters' dressage training facility, Arroyo Del Mar in Del Mar, then spend afternoons at Far View coaching her own students and/or working with horses and riders in Olivia's program.



Olivia's Ambitions

While maintaining her small training program at her base of the last three years, Shady Oaks

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Equestrian in Bonsall, Olivia has continued her ascent on the show circuit. Her top horse, Waterford, contested the CCI3* division last year and Petey Pablo ran Preliminary shortly after coming to Olivia last fall from Buck Davidson. Prior the COVID-19 show suspensions, Olivia had planned to bring Petey up to 3* level, too.

Through her family lineage, Olivia represents Italy, and she hopes that both horses will be contenders for their international team in the not-too-distant future. Developing top international prospects “was another reason for wanting our own facility and having it be top notch,” the rider explains.

An A Pony Club graduate at 17, Olivia trained with Canadian Olympic eventer Hawley Bennett Awad through high school, rising to CIC*. She then worked for and rode under Buck Davidson, and completed several 2* events, including individual fourth place at the North American Young Riders Championship in 2007. American gold medal Olympians Karen and David O’Conner were her next port of call, and she had good finishes at Fair Hill, Jersey Fresh and Rolex CCI 3* and 4*s in 2011. In 2012, she worked for Britain’s top rider, William Fox-Pitt, through his 2012 Olympic experience, before ending her East Coast and European tour and coming home to California in 2013.

In the process of fulfilling their stable ownership wishes, the Chases put Olivia that much closer to achieving her competitive aspirations. They’re all hoping dream fulfillment is contagious at Far View Farm.