Media Review
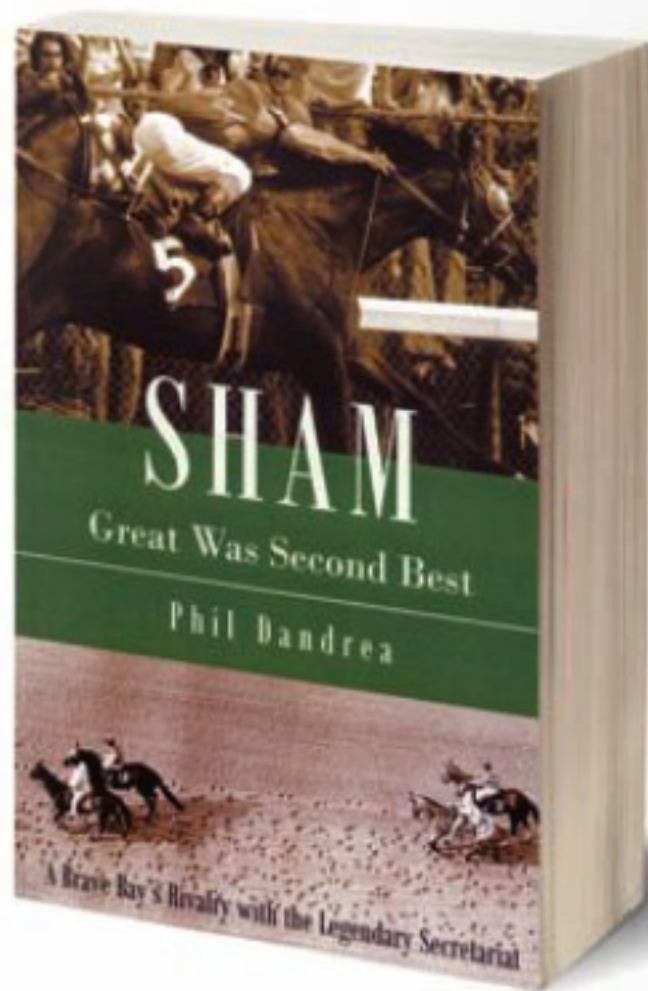
▶ **By Kate Tully**

BOOK

Sham: Great Was Second Best
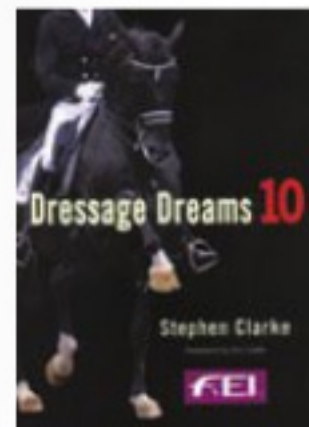
by Phil Dandrea. 415 pages, paperback, Acanthus Publishing (www.acanthuspublishing.com), 2010, $17.95.

Every American knows the name Secretariat. We all recognize him as the most remarkable racehorse of all time, with Triple Crown accolades to prove it. But literally behind this top Thoroughbred was Sham, another incredible athlete who had the misfortune of being born the same year as Secretariat. In both the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness of 1973, Sham came in second, and his own lightning-fast speed has been forever overshadowed by the mighty Secretariat. That is, until now.

Phil Dandrea eloquently captures the rivalry that rocked the American horse racing world of 1973. He chronicles the competing talents of Sham and Secretariat, from their first race together in which neither won (Sham took second and Secretariat third). From there, Dandrea paints a picture of a great horse that could only achieve second best to a legend. The author also makes the argument that it was Sham who actually pushed Secretariat to record-breaking performances. Whether or not you agree that Sham is partially to thank for Secretariat's success, one thing is for sure: Dandrea weaves facts into a captivating story to show the "other" side of Secretariat's success. **BOTTOM LINE:** Sure, you know how the story ends. It's the events leading up to it that may surprise you. ★★★★

Official International Judge, and has been an influential force in dressage in the UK. Now he brings his knowledge from across the pond to us. Well, maybe not his knowledge exactly, but rather insight from numerous dressage greats, all compiled in one place.

This big, bold book is not a training guide. Rather, it is a visually impressive compilation of personal stories, organized so that each chapter highlights one famous rider who is known for achieving one particular movement flawlessly. For instance, the chapter entitled "Flying Changes" includes a page in which Clarke loosely describes how Ulla