

= Ulla Salzgeber =

Ulla Salzgeber ( born 5 August 1958 in Oberhausen ) is a German equestrian and Olympic champion who competes in the sport of dressage . Competing in the 2000 and 2004 Summer Olympics , she won two team gold medals , one individual silver and one individual bronze . She also won numerous medals at the World Equestrian Games , Dressage World Cup and European Dressage Championships . After the retirement of her Olympic horse , Rusty , after the 2004 Games , and unexpected death of her second international @-@ level mount in 2005 , Salzgeber struggled to find a new Grand Prix @-@ level horse .

In 2005 , she took time from competition to act as the dressage training adviser to the Australian national equestrian team , but resigned from that position in late 2006 . In 2008 , she began riding Herzruf 's Erbe at major events , but the horse has been plagued by injuries that have required him to miss many competitions . Salzgeber announced a change in her training base in early 2010 , moving to new stables in Blonhofen , Bavaria , which she said would allow her to accept more students . In 2013 , after returning Herzruf 's Erbe to competition , Salzgeber was again named to the German equestrian squad 's A @-@ team .

= = Personal life = =

Born 5 August 1958 in Oberhausen as Ulla Helbing , Salzgeber began riding at age 10 , competing in the sport of vaulting . In 1977 , at age 19 , she was the Young Riders European Championships . She attended college , graduating from law school before building a training stable in Bad Worishofen , Germany , that focuses on dressage . Salzgeber is married to Sebastian Salzgeber , and has one daughter , Kim .

= = Career = =

Salzgeber rode the same horse to all of her Olympic , World Equestrian Games and European Championship medals . Rusty 47 , nicknamed Rusty , was a Latvian warmblood gelding who was named Rotors when he was purchased by Salzgeber from a German show jumping barn . The pair came to international attention at the 1997 European Championships , with a sixth place individual finish and a team gold . They repeated team gold at the 1998 World Equestrian Games , while also taking a bronze medal in individual competition . The German team , with Salzgeber , rode to another team gold at the 1999 European Championships , and Salzgeber and Rusty also took individual silver . After Gigolo , a horse ridden by Isabell Werth , was retired in 2000 , Salzgeber and Rusty became the top dressage pair in Germany . At the 2000 Summer Olympics , she won the bronze medal in the individual dressage competition . She also rode as part of the gold @-@ medal winning German team , but as the lowest @-@ scoring member , her score was not used to determine the team 's standing . During the finals , in her musical kur performance , Salzgeber 's selected music stopped playing , but she continued riding and finished the event . The music to which the pair performed , Carmina Burana , was used by Salzgeber and Rusty in all their competitions and became " tightly linked to the horse with its signature pirouettes and to date still best one @-@ tempi changes ever . "

The 2001 and 2003 European Championships brought four gold medals in team and individual competition , while the 2001 and 2002 Dressage World Cup competitions brought two additional golds . The 2002 World Equestrian Games brought a repeat of 1998 , with team gold and individual bronze medals . In 2003 , however , Salzgeber became mired in doping charges after Rusty tested positive for testosterone propionate at the 2003 World Cup finals , losing what would have been a third successive gold . Rusty 's veterinarian claimed the drug was given to him to treat a hormonal imbalance , but the pair was banned from competition for two months by the German Equestrian Federation . An exception was made for the 2004 German Dressage Championships , which allowed them to qualify for the 2004 Olympic Games . She was not allowed to compete in qualifying events for the 2004 World Cup , and she did not ride in the event . At the 2004 Summer Olympics ,

she improved her individual performance to win a silver medal , and rode with the German team to a second successive gold in the team competition . Rusty was retired soon after the 2004 Olympics , and was euthanized in 2013 at the age of 25 . Months before his death , it was announced that Rusty had been cloned , resulting in two young stallions , nicknamed " Rusty Clone 1 " and " Rusty Clone 2 " .

In mid 2005 , Salzgeber 's then current Grand Prix mount , Wall Street , was euthanized following an episode of colic . This , combined with the recent retirement of Rusty , left her with no Grand Prix level horses . Wall Street , while a relatively successful dressage horse , had suffered health problems and had never been able to compete with Rusty as Salzgeber 's top horse . In 2008 , Salzgeber again began competing at the Grand Prix level on Herzruf 's Erbe , who would develop into one of her top international horses . In that year , the pair won the Otto Lorke Prize , given each year to the best German Grand Prix horse under 10 years old . During 2008 , Salzgeber and Herzruf 's Erbe had won 10 Grand Prix competitions . In 2009 , the pair were expected to compete at the European Dressage Championships , but were not chosen for the German team after Herzruf 's Erbe sustained an injury at a competition in July . The immediate diagnosis was a severely pulled tendon , although a later diagnosis was that the horse had strained a suspensory muscle , expected to heal in about three months . By early 2010 , the horse was again able to be ridden , but was still not in top condition .

In June 2011 , Salzgeber announced that she would be selling one of her top level horses , Wakana , to a student , leaving Herzruf 's Erbe as her only horse prepared to compete at the international level . Later that month , Salzgeber removed herself from consideration for competition at the 2011 CHIO Aachen and European Dressage Championships . She announced that she had decided to take a break from competition and focus more on training and her personal life . In 2012 , she announced that she would not be seeking a spot on the German team for the 2012 Summer Olympics , saying that her training duties had not given her time to properly prepare Herzruf 's Erbe . She had ridden the horse at competitions during the 2011 2012 winter , and stated that she planned to compete at additional competitions during the winter of 2012 2013 . However , in late 2012 , the horse was put into a one year rest period to help him recover from the injuries that had troubled him throughout his career . In October 2013 , Salzgeber brought Herzruf 's Erbe back into competition , winning a national show in Germany . The pair was successful at subsequent competitions , and in December 2013 , it was announced that they had been returned to the German equestrian squad 's A team .

== Coaching and training ==

In 2005 , Salzgeber was named as the new dressage training adviser to the Australian national equestrian team . In the role , Salzgeber held training camps , approved team members ' training programs and helped choose team members for international competitions . In late 2006 , she resigned , citing a mix of training duties at home in Europe and disagreements with the Equestrian Federation of Australia . Under her tenure , however , the Australian team made their best ever placing at the 2006 World Equestrian Games , finishing 9th .

In early 2010 , Salzgeber announced that she would be moving her base of training from the stables in Bad Worishofen where she had been located since she graduated from college . The new facilities , nearby in Blonhofen , Bavaria , offered more room and extensive natural therapy facilities , including aquatherapy , acupuncture , osteopathy , and homeopathics . Salzgeber said the new , larger , base would allow her to give more training clinics and accept more students .