PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

WEEK 5 • February 8-12, 2017

WEEKLY WIRE

EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

Urban Youth Impact Wins Great Charity Challenge, Presented by Fidelity Investments®

The top three teams of riders, sponsors, and charity representatives along with GCC founders Paige and Mark Bellissimo in the winning presentation. ©Sportfot

The team of riders Shane Sweetnam, Lindsey Tomeu, and Sedona Chamblee, team sponsors Spy Coast & Preston, and corporate sponsor Equine Tack & Nutritionals earned the top prize of $150,000 for their charity, Urban Youth Impact, on Saturday night in the 8th annual Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments®, at the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF).

The 2017 GCC donated a record $1.5 million to 35 local Palm Beach County charities, bringing the eight-year total up to $10.7 million distributed through the event to date. The winning charity received the top prize of $150,000, with a sliding scale for the balance of the proceeds down to 35th place, which wins $15,000.

The competition is held as a pro-am team relay with each team made up of junior and amateur riders competing side by side with top professionals. The event also featured a fun theme, as riders (and their horses) dressed up as characters from their favorite animated movies.

Representing Urban Youth Impact, Sweetnam, Tomeu, and Chamblee rode for team sponsor Spy Coast & Preston, and corporate sponsor Equine Tack and Nutritionals dressed as characters from The Flintstones. All three riders cleared the course without fault and clocked the fastest combined time of 85.27 seconds for the win. Sweetnam and Tomeu were also part of the winning team in 2016, while Chamblee was competing in the event for the first time.

"It is a fantastic cause, not just for our team, but for a lot of different foundations in the area," said Sweetnam, who anchored the team as professional rider. "I do not know if there is anything else like it in the country or anywhere really. Every year we try to do our best for whatever cause we are given. Obviously the girls did a great job, and I just finished it off. They were really motoring, so it was great."

Tomeu (23), who has been competing in the event for the past four years, stated, "Every year we really try hard to win. We put together a good team, and last year we had a great team. We really wanted to step it up and do it again, and we did, which is amazing. We were even faster this year than we were last year, which I did not think was possible. Sedona was fantastic with her switch-off. It was really amazing."

Chamblee (15) added, "This was my first year doing the Great Charity Challenge, and it was really fun. It was a great experience, and you get to ride for an amazing charity, which is really cool. Like Lindsey said, it was just amazing."

Representing team sponsor Spy Coast Farm, Lisa Lourie commented on her team's win for the second year in a row.

"I think it is a great way to involve the community here with our sport, as well as for us to give back to the community," Lourie stated. "It is a win-win for both the community and for us. When we get to be involved with either educational or urban youth organizations, we are especially happy. We are very happy to be involved with Urban Youth Impact."

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Todd Minikus and Babalou 41 Win $216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4*

Todd Minikus and Babalou 41 sped to victory in the $216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4 on the derby field at Equestrian Village. ©Sportfot*

Todd Minikus (USA) and Babalou 41 concluded week four of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) with a victory in Sunday's $216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4*, held on the beautiful grass derby field at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL. Minikus topped a three-horse jump-off over Olympian Sergio Alvarez Moya (ESP) and G&C Unicstar de l'Aumone in second, and young rider Jennifer Gates (USA) riding Pumped Up Kicks for third.

Course designer Steve Stephens (USA) wrapped up his duties for week four with the highlight grand prix event at PBIEC's Equestrian Village, also home to the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. Thirty-two entries started over Stephens' first round course, and three were able to advance to the jump-off.

First to jump clear in round one, and first to jump-off, Jennifer Gates guided Evergate Stable's Pumped Up Kicks through the short course in a steady time of 51.28 seconds, incurring two time faults to earn the third place prize.

Sergio Alvarez Moya was next to go with G&C Farm's Unicstar de l'Aumone, clearing the jump-off track in 40.30 seconds. Last to go, Minikus and Two Swans Farm's Babalou 41 took the win, racing through the timers in 38.79 seconds.

Minikus was awarded the Village of Wellington Cup, and Babalou 41 earned the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman. The 12-year-old Oldenburg mare (Balou du Rouet x Silvio I) showed her experience of competing around the world by heading onto the impressive field for the first time and putting in two faultless efforts.

"This was hard because they had to walk out here for the first time and be right on their game," Minikus stated. "You needed a little bit of an experienced horse, so it worked out for us. This was a 4*, and I think it was built as a proper 4*. It was difficult enough, and we had beautiful weather. That field is beautiful when you stand up there on the hill and look out there. This was always the best polo field in maybe the world, and the footing still seems quite nice."

G&C Unicstar de l'Aumone is just nine years old, but the Selle Francais mare (Ninio de Rox x Timorrak des Isles) has experience winning on the grass. She and Moya topped two Sparkassen Youngster Cup Qualifiers at CHIO Aachen in 2016.

"She jumps very good on grass or sand," Moya noted. "I was in this grand prix seven or eight years ago, and I love the ring. I like the mare very much and I thought it was a really good place for her. She jumped amazing, and I am happy with her."

Gates earned the Leading Lady Rider Award for week four, presented by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, after Sunday's top finish, and a sixth place in Thursday's qualifier. She was thrilled with Pumped Up Kicks, her 14-year-old Brandenburg gelding (Levisto x San Juan).

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Winter Equestrian Festival Recognizes Week 5 Sponsor

Fidelity INVESTMENTS®

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) welcomes Fidelity Investments® as a returning sponsor for the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. Fidelity Investments® has been a sponsor of the Winter Equestrian Festival for ten years and a presenting sponsor of the Great Charity Challenge (GCC) since its inception in 2010. Additionally, Fidelity Investments® is the title sponsor of week five's CSI 5* competition on February 8-12, which will feature the $380,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5* on Saturday, February 11.

The Great Charity Challenge is an exhilarating pro/amateur event in which amateurs are paired with world-class riders and randomly assigned with charities to compete for prize money raised by equestrian families and corporate donors. This unique competition awards a sliding scale of prize money to each of the 35 randomly selected charities in Palm Beach County. Over the past seven years, $9.2 million has been given to more than 200 different area charities as a result of the GCC. This year, event producers met their fundraising goal of $1.5 million with another successful event on February 4, and reached the $10 million milestone in money donated.

"All of us with Fidelity Investments® here in Palm Beach County are delighted to be involved with the Winter Equestrian Festival and with the Great Charity Challenge, a wonderful event that helps so many charities in Palm Beach County," said Russell Binkley, Manager of Fidelity's Investor Center on Palm Beach Island.

About Fidelity Investments®

Fidelity's mission is to inspire better futures and deliver better outcomes for the customers and businesses we serve. With assets under administration of $5.7 trillion, including managed assets of $2.1 trillion as of December 31, 2016, we focus on meeting the unique needs of a diverse set of customers: helping more than 25 million people invest their own life savings, nearly 20,000 businesses manage employee benefit programs, as well as providing more than 12,500 financial advisory firms with investment and technology solutions to invest their own clients' money. Privately held for 70 years, Fidelity employs 45,000 associates who are focused on the long-term success of our customers. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit https://www.fidelity.com/about.

McLain Ward in his winning presentation for the 2016 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix with Mark and Katherine Bellissimo of Equestrian Sport Productions; Anthony Schaub of Rolex; Eric Diamond and Christina Anderson, Vice Presidents and Wealth Management Advisers for Fidelity Investments® in Palm Beach; and ringmaster Christian Craig. ©Sportfot

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PBIEC Week 5 Upcoming Events

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, February 9, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The topic is "Advanced Imaging in Lameness" with Ashlee Watts, DVM, PhD, and is sponsored by Dechra, makers of OSPHOS®. This informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses and health. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1112 or lbostwick@equestriansport.com for more information.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series returns in week 5 featuring some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The CDI 5* competition, sponsored by Diamante Farms, will feature FEI Grand Prix musical freestyle competition on Friday, February 10. Held at Equestrian Village at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is $10/car.

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" – $380,000 FIDELITY INVESTMENTS® GRAND PRIX CSI 5*

The first five-star grand prix competition of the circuit will feature WEF's best show jumping horses and riders on Saturday, February 11, with gates opening at 6 p.m. This always-exciting competition features the biggest jumps with daring jump-off rides for the best prize money. General admission is free, parking is $20/car, valet is $30.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES RECEPTION

There will be a reception on Saturday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m. in The Gallery to celebrate horses and support the Humane Society of the United States Equine Protection Program, which works tirelessly to end cruelty to America's horses, promote humane horsemanship, find sanctuary for rescued horses and stop abusive practices like horse slaughter and the soring of show horses. Enjoy a cocktail reception, buffet dinner, presentation by a member of the HSUS Equine Protection staff, and a special appearance by actress Wendie Malick, all while you enjoy special seating to view the $380,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5* For more information and to buy tickets, contact specialevents@humanesociety.org.

AREA SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

The Area Special Olympic Games will take place at Equestrian Village at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Saturday, February 11. The competition will be held in the Van Kampen Arena from 9 to 4 p.m. and will include competitors from Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St Lucie, and Miami-Dade counties. Riders will compete in English and Western Equitation, Trail, Dressage, and Drill Team. General admission is free, and cheerleaders are welcome! For information on Volunteering or Judging, please contact Ruth at 561-792-9900. Follow Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center on Facebook to learn more at www.facebook.com/vinceremosTRC.

"ALTHEA" TO BENEFIT EQUESTRIAN AID FOUNDATION

Purchase your tickets for "Althea," a theatrical experience featuring former Cavalia artists Sylvia Zerbini, S. Caleb Carinci Asch, Kansas Carradine and more, along with their magnificent horses. „Althea" is an evening of enchantment as humans and horses discover the magical powers of healing through a breathtaking performance. The event of the season is scheduled for one show only, Sunday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Global Arena at Equestrian Village at PBIEC (AGDF Show Grounds). Proceeds benefit the Equestrian Aid Foundation. Go to www.altheatickets.com for tickets and tables.

SAVE THE DATE! PBIEC WEEKS 6 & 7 UPCOMING EVENTS

RIDE & LEARN WITH TODD MINIKUS

On Tuesday, February 14, at 2 p.m., top show jumper Todd Minikus will be training with the theme of "Jumpers" at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds). Participation to ride in the clinic is $100 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 6 riders! Auditing is free and encouraged. For more information, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or jnichols@equestriansport.com.

GLADIATOR POLO™, PRESENTED BY U.S. POLO ASSOCIATION, RETURNS!

The next event of the Gladiator Polo™ series, presented by U.S. Polo Association, will be held on Thursday, February 16, at Equestrian Village – The Stadium at PBIEC. With gates opening at 6 p.m. and competition finishing by 8 p.m., it is a perfect family-friendly event. There will be free general admission and an Asado for $40/per person and $10 for children under 12. Visit www.gladiatorpolo.com for more information and to buy Asado tickets.

Gladiator Polo™, presented by U.S. Polo Association, is the newest equestrian event to join the elite season in Wellington, FL. Hosted on select Thursdays at the Equestrian Village in The Stadium at PBIEC, also home of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), Gladiator Polo™, presented by U.S. Polo Association, brings the exciting sport of polo to a 3 on 3 setting featuring teams of professional players. Spectator-friendly and offering family fun with free general admission, Gladiator Polo™ is sure to entertain attendees of all ages with interactive activities in an engaging sporting atmosphere!

$100,000 WCHR PETER WETHERILL PALM BEACH HUNTER SPECTACULAR AND GALA

For the 21st year, riders will compete all week to qualify for a spot in the coveted Saturday night class during Week 6. The $100,000 WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular, organized by Honorary Chair Bryan Baldwin, Co-Chair Caroline Moran, Co-Chair Jennifer Smith, Margaret Benjamin, Jennifer Burger, Stephanie Danhakl, Laura Lee Montross, Glen Senk, Lynn Walsh and Tammy Williams, will take place February 18, and spectators are invited to the accompanying gala. This year, the event will feature a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. and a lovely farm-to-table dinner at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the WCHR Program and in part the USHJA Foundation Horseman's Assistance Fund, which helps our fellow equestrians in times of need. Purchase tables and tickets online at www.ushja.org/wchrspectacular or by phone at (859) 225-6721.

9TH ANNUAL LIP SYNC BENEFITING DANNY & RON'S RESCUE

Returning for the 9th year at PBIEC, the Danny & Ron's Rescue Lip Sync is a highlight for equestrian children and their families. Tickets and tables are now on sale for the event, held Sunday, February 19, at 6 p.m. in the Special Events Pavilion. Started by Event Chairwoman Kim Kolloff, the Lip Sync is intended to foster a sense of philanthropy and altruism in children and provide a kid-friendly event that is truly one-of-a-kind. Looking to enter a performance, please contact Kim Kolloff: kimkolloff@aol.com or 978-273-6475. Limited tables and seating available, please visit www.dannyronsrescue.org/events. For more event information, please call Anne Caroline at 727-678-8677 or lipsync@dannyronsrescue.org.

ANGLO-EUROPEAN STUDBOOK GRAND PRIX OF FLORIDA AND STALLION GRADING

The Anglo-European Studbook (AES) will present the first-ever AES Grand Prix of Florida and Stallion Grading on Tuesday, February 21, starting at 9 a.m. at the Global Arena at the AGDF dressage show grounds. The event is for jumper and dressage horses born prior to 2014, with the grand prix showcasing horses four years or older and grading happening in two categories (dressage and jumpers) and four ages classes (four, five, six, and seven and older). Registration requires $250 per horse and is due by February 7, 2017. Cash prizes up to $ 2,500 will be awarded. Find more information and to download registration documents, visit http://www.vizcayafarms.com/aes-first-grand-prix-of-florida-stallion-grading. Contact guy@angloreuropeanstudbook.com or 305-206-0507 with questions.

WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION VIEWING

On Tuesday, February 21, at 3 p.m., there will be a presentation of VDL horses for the WEF Sport Horse Auction presented under saddle and jumping in the International Arena at the WEF show grounds of PBIEC. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a cash bar is available in The Wellington Club.

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" WITH THE EQUUS FOUNDATION

On Saturday, February 25, the EQUUS Foundation's annual event will be held during the $380,000 Suncast® Grand Prix CSI 5*. It is an exciting and intimate evening among friends to help more horses than ever. Starting at 6 p.m. in The Wellington Club, guests will enjoy cocktails, an auction, and dinner. Tickets and tables are still available. RSVP aat equusfoundation.org/wef. Contact equus@equusfoundation.org or 203-259-1550 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB HAPPENINGS

The 2017 Ylvisaker Cup continues at the International Polo Club this week. There will be games Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday. All weekday games are free admission and free parking. The quarterfinals of the 2017 Ylvisaker Cup will be Sunday, February 12, 2017.

Love is in the Air and Pink is everywhere this Valentine's day weekend. Bring your special someone to the International Polo Club on Sunday, February 12th for a special Rosé day brunch at the Pavilion. Make sure to be spotted next Sunday at the Pavilion after party in your best Little Pink Dress. The winner will receive two tickets to the Pavilion for an upcoming event.

The expanded Veuve Clicquot Champagne Garden opens at 1 p.m. and is a great spot to grab a drink before The Pavilion opens. The garden lets guests show off their unique polo style. Every Sunday, fashionistas can be named Sunday's Most Fashionable on the Field by using the hashtags #ClicquotStyle and #IPCSundayPolo.

Sponsored by Ketel One ®, the Ketel Kitchen provides guests with specialty Ketel One Vodka Cocktail offerings, food and exclusive cocktail classes. From 1:30-3 p.m., guests can attend the class, craft a specialty cocktail and receive a commemorative copper mug for just $20.

With bounce houses, big lawn games and fun food, the free Kids' Fun Zone, sponsored by Wellington Regional Medical Center, allows children to have fun during the match. With two food trucks in the area, you can take your pick from classic American barbecue to sweet treats.

All three areas along with the Pavilion after party are open to the public with general admission tickets. International Polo Club has brought Worth Avenue to you this weekend. Stop by the new Worth Avenue West retail space located behind the grand stand.

To purchase tickets to Sunday polo and brunch at The Pavilion, visit internationalpoloclub.com.

Great Charity Challenge ,

Continued from Page 1

Team sponsor Monica Preston added, "I am so proud to be a part of this group, and it is really wonderful that a small charity can benefit so greatly. I am so proud of the riders, and thank you to Lisa for getting me involved in this event."

Charity winner Urban Youth Impact's mission is to love, equip, and empower inner-city youth and their parents to fulfill their God-given purpose. Representing the organization, volunteer Sarah Armada detailed, "It is an organization that provides a safe place for kids to go after school. They get reading support; they get the arts. There is African drumming and ballet. There are things that these children would not be otherwise exposed to. They do so much for the community, and I think this is a great way to get their name out there and just provide them with all of the resources that those kids so desperately need. This is going to make a huge difference."

Armada continued, "It is all about building their capacity and letting the kids feel empowered and equipped so that they can go out and be successful in their community."

Adopt a Family was the second wild-card draw of the night, and ended up in second place overall, with riders Sydney Shulman, Lilli Hymowitz, and Hannah Patten representing the charity. Team sponsor the Patten family and corporate sponsor H5 Stables supported the riders, dressed as characters from Lilo & Stitch, with a combined time of 94.02 seconds.

Representing the charity Hepzibah House, Canadian Olympian Tiffany Foster, and amateur riders Alexandra Crown and Alexandra Welles, placed third. Dressed as My Little Ponies and riding for team sponsor the Crown family and corporate sponsor Stone Hill Farm, all three ladies jumped their courses without fault and clocked a combined time of 97.47 seconds.

GCC co-founder Paige Bellissimo was thrilled with the success of the eighth annual event and praised everyone involved on a fantastic evening of sport and charitable giving.

"It is really special year after year to have so many great riders participating in the event," Bellissimo stated. "It is amazing that people donate their time to give back. The executive directors of all of the charity organizations are the lifeblood of these communities, and it is just really amazing that we can all come together to support the community and see it grow. I want to thank the riders and the sponsors. Thank you Lisa and Monica for supporting year after year. It is so cool to see the charities and everyone's unique way of helping. Urban Youth Impact is empowering our youth, and the youth are our future, so thanks go to them for everything they do."

Lauren Fisher

Sunday Brunch at the Pavilion

$125 Veranda Guest
$25 Per Guest for Front Row Seating (this applies to all tickets)
$340 For 2 guests including 1 bottle of Veuve Clicquot
$750 For Table of 6 guests including 1 bottle (not 2 bottles like before)
Beverage Package Add-Ons:
Beverage Package 1: $90 Reserve a bottle of Veuve Clicquot
Beverage Package 2: $70 Reserve a second bottle Vueve Clicquot
Beverage Package 3: $90 Reserve a bottle of Ketel One (mixers Provided)
Beverage Package 4: $150 Reserve one bottle of Veuve Clicquot and one bottle of Ketel One (mixers provided)

$250++ - COCO POLO LOUNGE PER PERSON. INCLUDES SPECIALTY FOOD DISPLAY, GIFT ITEM, TABLE AND LOUNGE SEATING, COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF VEUVE CLICQUOT

BRUNCH BEGINS 2PM | VALET IS $10 | *NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCLUDED IN ALL PACKAGES, CASH BAR

FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION: 561.891.2988 | INTERNATIONALPOLOCLUB.COM

Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments®
Special Grants and Awards

Additional Grants Awarded:
$10,000 – Legal Aid Society

Little League Grants:
$6,000 - Colts Travel Baseball
$5,000 - Wellington Wrestling
$4,000 - WCFL
$3,000 - Wellington Wolves Basketball
$2,000 - Wizards Youth Rugby

Randomly Drawn Grants:
$5,000 - Kids Safe Foundation
$5,000 - Feed the Hungry Pantry
$2,500 - P.B. Agency on Aging
$2,500 - Junior Achievement of Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast
$1,000 - The Arc of Palm Beach County
$1,000 - Delray Students First

Grand Prix Society/Ziegler Foundation Grants:
$5,000 - Adopt a Family of the Palm Beaches
$5,000 - Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach County
$5,000 - Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
$5,000 - Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County
$5,000 - Florence Fuller Child Development Centers
$5,000 - Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach
$5,000 - Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
$5,000 - Palm Beach County ARC
$5,000 - Palm Beach County Food Bank
$5,000 - YMCA of South Palm Beach County

Paige Bellissimo Outstanding Charity Award:
$25,000 - Place of Hope

Team Costume Awards, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty:
1. $5,000 - Glades Initiative/Van Kampen Foundation/Fidelity Investments®/ Todd Minikus/Peyton Utset/Hana Bieling

2. $3,000 – Achievement Centers for Children & Families/Swede Ventures/ Benjamin Family/Adrienne Sternlicht/Mattias Tromp/Ava Stearns

3. $2,000 – Horses Healing Hearts/Marrinan & Rotondo/Gold Coast Feed & Supply/Jennifer Hannan/Ally Marrinan/Nina Rotondo

Best Team Spirit - $2,000 - Palm Beach Habilitation Center/En Visian Products Team/Frontier Golf/Jimmy Torano/Danielle Torano/Sam Walker

Best Horse Presentation - $2,000 – Take Stock In Children Palm Beach County/Bellissimo Family/Lugano/Jonathan Corrigan/Nicole Bellissimo/Teagan Long

Runner-up Best Horse Presentation - $1,000 – Paws 4 Liberty Inc./Poden Farm/Dona Nives/Jessica Mendoza/Emily Moffitt/Sophie Gracida

Groom's bonus - $1,000 - Take Stock In Children Palm Beach County/Bellissimo Family/Lugano/Jonathan Corrigan/Nicole Bellissimo/Teagan Long

Wellington Public Schools Chalk Art Festival
Most Creative - $1,000: Palm Beach Central High School

Most Inspiring - $1,000: Wellington Landings Middle School

Best Representation of WEF - $1,000: Emerald Cove Middle School

Best Overall - $1,000: Okeeheelee Middle School

2017 Great Charity Challenge Photo Gallery

©Lois Spatz

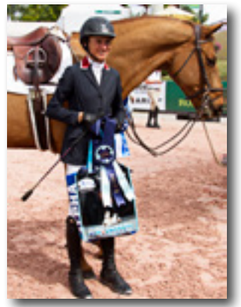
WEF Week 4 Standings and Awards

Hermès Talented Young Rider Award *(after 21 qualifying events)*
1. Emily Moffitt (GBR): 431
2. Emanuel Andrade (VEN): 426
3. Daniel Coyle (IRL): 346
4. Katherine Dinan (USA): 323
5. Jennifer Gates (USA): 280

Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series *(after 3 qualifying events)*
1. Lucas Porter (USA): 137.5
2. Alexandra Welles (USA): 117
3. Emily Moffitt (GBR): 115
4. Coco Fath (USA): 109.5
5. Sydney Shulman (USA): 107.5

Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate *(after 8 qualifying events)*
1. Laura Chapot (USA): 385
2. Liubov Kochetova (RUS): 375
3. Emily Moffitt (GBR): 331
3. Beezie Madden (USA): 310
5. Kara Chad (CAN): 300

Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series *(after 4 qualifying events)*
1. Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER): 114
2. Emily Moffitt (GBR): 111
2. Richie Moloney (IRL): 111
4. McLain Ward (USA): 98
5. Emanuel Andrade (VEN): 87
5. Katherine Dinan (USA): 87
5. Lauren Hough (USA): 87



Laura Chapot and Quointreau Un Prince win the Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award after taking first place in the $35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 4.

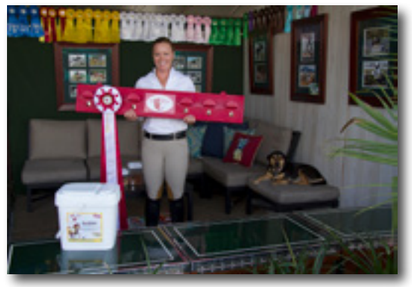
From left to right: Shawn Casady and groom Sue Schlegel with Vanilla are presented with the Under 25 Jog Turnout Award

Style Awards

Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award:
Best Regards, ridden by Jennifer Hannan

Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award:
Babalou 41, ridden by Todd Minikus

Jennifer Gates claimed the Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider Award, presented by Martha Jolicoeur (right) and Sharon Loayza (left) of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, after placing third in the week four grand prix aboard Pumped Up Kicks. © Sportfot



Samantha Davis of Cedar Lane Farm and barn mascot, Bailey, accept the Vita Flex Tack Room Award.

From left to right: Groom Arnulfo Novoa and Freddie Vazquez aboard Zippo Z are presented with the Equis Boutique Best Presented Horse Award by Equis Boutique co-founder Elena Couttenye at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. The honor marked the third Equis Best Presented title for Novoa and Vazquez. © Jump Media

Best Regards, ridden by Jennifer Hannan in the Green Conformation Stake, won the Champion Equine Insurance Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman. © Sportfot

Hunter and Equitation Highlights at WEF 4

Victoria Colvin of Loxahatchee, FL, had a stellar week four at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). Riding Onyx RCF, Colvin won the championship in the Antares High Performance Working Hunter. The pair won three of the over fences classes with scores reaching up to 87 and 86. Onyx RCF is a 13-year-old Warmblood stallion owned by Rivercross Farm. Topping another Performance Hunter division, aboard Fonteyn, Colvin was named champion of the CWD Saddlery Performance Working Hunters 3'6". Fonteyn, owned by John and Stephanie Ingram, LLC, is a 2004 German Sport Horse by Liberty Son. Colvin also earned reserve honors in the CaptiveOne Green Hunter 3'3" division riding Flint as well as in the Take 2 Thoroughbred Hunters aboard Easton's Rocket.

Fonteyn went on to win the championship in the Adequan® Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3"18-35 division with Martha Ingram over the weekend. The pair won two over fences classes, placed second in two over fences classes and in the under saddle. The reserve title in the Adequan® Amateur-Owner Hunters 3'3"18-35 went to Lindsay Maxwell of Beverly Hills, CA, and her own Kingston. The pair won two over fences classes to earn the tri-color ribbon. Kingston is a 2006 Bayern gelding by Koepenick.

Kayla Brusie of Wellington, FL, and Red Drum, owned by Elm Creek Holdings, LLC, were crowned champions of the Palm Beach International Academy Children's Hunter 15-17 division. The pair won three over fences classes, placed third in another, and second under saddle. Talli Wallin of Carmel, IN, captured the reserve honors of the division aboard her own About Time. The pair won one over fences class, placed second in two other over fences classes, and third under saddle.

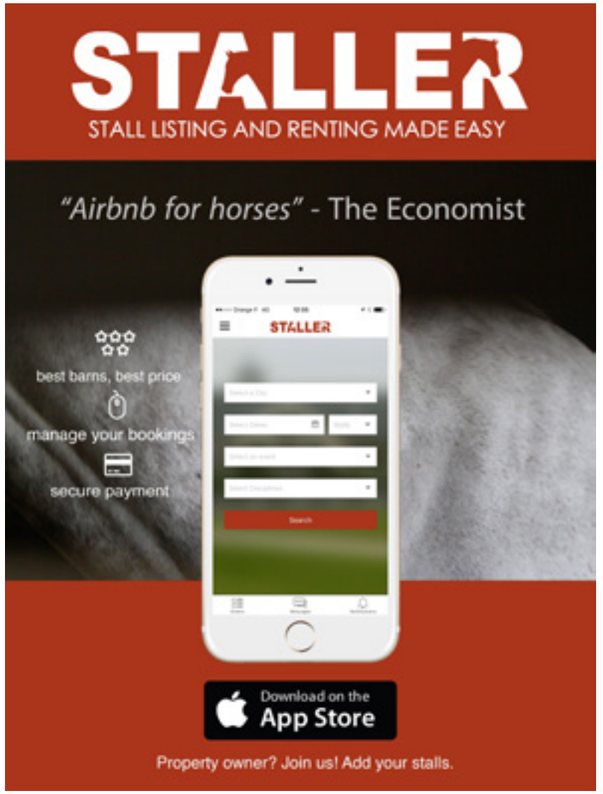
Several of the coveted equitation classes were split into two sections during week four. The ASPCA Maclay class found winners in Emma Ellis of Annapolis, MD, and Coco Fath of Fairfield, CT. Second place ribbons went to Ava Stearns and Elli Yerger. Jordyn Rose Freedman topped the WIHS Equitation Overall Section A riding Finnick (she was also a winner of the class during week one). The pair earned scores of 90 in the hunter phase and 87 in the jumper phase. Annabel Revers rode Quax to win Section B of the class, with scores of 88.5 in the hunter phase and 86 in the jumper phase.

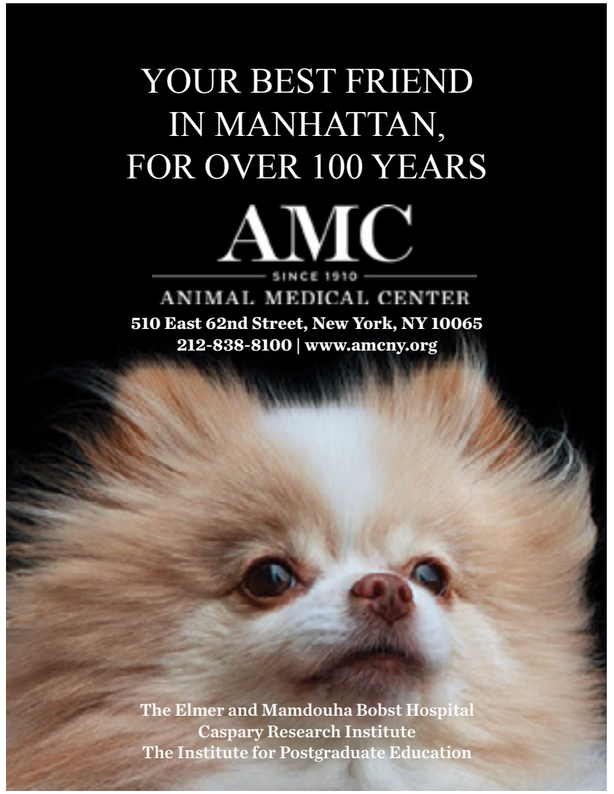
The WIHS Pony Equitation class was won by Augusta D. Iwasaki, who rode Small Soldier to a score of 86. Iwasaki of Calabasas, CA, also dominated the Large Green Pony Hunter division, riding Chic in Time to the championship honors and Butterscotch to the reserve honors. The Animo Medium Pony Hunter concluded on Sunday with Saylor Shea and Magical Diamond winning the championship out of 28 competitors. The pair won the conformation class, earned third and fourth place ribbons over fences, and earned fourth place under saddle.

Hunter competition will resume for WEF 5, sponsored by Fidelity Investments, on Wednesday, February 8.

Sara Cook

Victoria Colvin and Onyx RCF were the Antares High Performance Hunter champions at WEF 4. ©Sportfot





WEF 4 Parade of Champions

Happenstance, owned and ridden by Bergen Sanderford, claimed champion honors in the Lugano Diamonds Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 division.

Isabella Roman and Orchard Hills Gold Dust, owned by Holman Imports, LLC, were named champions in the Younger Cross Rails division.

Sophia Studd piloted Corlanda, owned by M & M Show Stables, to champion in the Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper division.

Steven Green and his own Jack Douglas jumped to champion in the Horseware Don Little Masters division.

Rio Reggae, owned by Karen Bruce and ridden by Carol Hoffman, earned champion honors in Section A of the Camping World Adult Amateur Hunter 50 and Older division.

Shadowplay, owned by Perry Peterson and ridden by Gay Peterson, claimed champion in Section A of the Animal Medical Center Low Adult Amateur Hunter 2'6" division.

Grace Jordan and her own Samuri MEC jumped to champion in the Griffis Residential Children's Modified Jumper division.

Big Girls Don't Cray, owned by Rodney Bross and ridden by Tricia Barr, was named Champion in Section A of the Triple Crown Adult Amateur Hunter 36-49 division.

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Burlington, Gilbertson, Tomeu, and Vlock Triumph in $25,000 Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series Team Event, Presented by Equiline

The winning under 25 team of Brett Burlington, Kaely Tomeu, Lacey Gilbertson, and Teddy Vlock with Equiline representatives MacKenzie MacLean and Denise Wynne, Hollow Creek Farm representative Jennifer Ward, and ringmaster Steve Rector. ©Sportfot

Young U.S. riders Brett Burlington, Lacey Gilbertson, Kaely Tomeu, and Teddy Vlock emerged victorious in the $25,000 Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series Team Event, presented by Equiline, on Friday night during week four of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL.

Friday's team competition was the third event of the Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series for the 2017 WEF circuit. The class was held in the Global Arena at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival show grounds at PBIEC, with 14 teams showing over the Richard Jeffery (GBR) designed course in round one. The best seven teams returned to jump a second round, but only six teams completed round two. When two teams finished with four faults overall, a tie-breaking jump-off was held, where one rider was chosen to represent each team.

Team Sweet Oak/Vlock came out victorious, as Brett Burlington jumped a clear round over the short course, representing her team aboard Alden Burlington's Bluf. Team USA/Ireland finished second after Lucas Porter and Sleepy P Ranch LLC's Diamonte Darco knocked a rail at the second fence in the jump-off and elected to retire.

Also riding for the winning team, Kaely Tomeu and Siboney Ranch's Contenance 15 jumped double clear. Lacey Gilbertson and Seabrook LLC's Baloppi jumped clear in round one and earned the drop score of four in round two. Teddy Vlock and Vlock Show Stables' Cristobar incurred four faults in round one and jumped clear in round two, while Burlington and Bluf scored four and zero, followed by their clear jump-off round to secure team victory.

Making up the second place team for USA/Ireland in addition to jump-off contenders Lucas Porter and Diamonte Darco, were Oliver McCarthy and Kevin Babington's Double Deuce Retto, Ailish Cunniffe and Whipstick Farm's Casper, and Wilton Porter aboard Sleepy P Ranch LLC's Patriot.

Burlington (17, Miami, FL) has ridden Bluf, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Ukato x Placido), for almost two years and was selected as the jump-off participant due to her experience with her horse.

"Coming into tonight, I was definitely pretty confident because I have done this with him before," Burlington stated. "I have jumped him under the lights a bunch, and he has always been really good. I was definitely happy with the way he went. The first round was a bummer at the last jump, but he still jumped really well. Then obviously in the second round and the jump-off he was really good."

Tomeu (21, Wellington, FL) was aboard a new mount since December in Contenance 15, an 11-year-old Westphalian mare (Cornet Obolensky x Darco).

"I am still figuring her out, but I think tonight proved that we are a pretty good match," Tomeu noted. "I was pretty excited for tonight. We won this event two years ago, and last year we ended up third. Lacey, Brett, and I are normally on the same team with one extra person, which Teddy was lucky enough to be this year. We are always really excited for this. It is just neat that it is a team, and we are all in the same barn. We are all friends, which makes it fun."

Gilbertson (23, Lake Forest, IL) was riding an even newer horse in the 10-year-old Danish Warmblood mare, Baloppi, which she just purchased two weeks ago.

"I wanted to go in tonight and have some pretty confident rounds; I'm still figuring her out," Gilbertson stated. "She was amazing. She saved me in places where she needed to, so I am very grateful to her, and I am very excited for what is to come with her."

Vlock (19, Branford, CT) was aboard Cristobar for Friday's competition, an 11-year-old Westphalian gelding (Cristallo x Lancer III) that he has ridden for almost two years. While Bulrington, Tomeu, and Gilbertson have experience competing in the U25 team event, Vlock was showing in the class for the first time, and only his second U25 competition.

"This week was my first time showing him at WEF, so I was really happy with it," Vlock detailed. "He jumped super. He is good at everything he does. He is kind of everything you could want in a horse, which I love."

Vlock added, "Most of the time I don't get very nervous, but I wanted to do well for my team tonight. This was the first time I ever had other people counting on me to do well, so I was really happy that I could contribute and jump a clear round."

The Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series, presented by The Dutta Corp. in association with Guido Klatte, has been expanded to ten events offering a total of $215,000 in prize money for the 2017 season. Developed as a bridge to the international level of grand prix competition, the Series gives athletes, both human and equine, an opportunity to compete under a myriad of conditions, including jumping on grass, under the lights at night, and in team competition; all important elements that competitors will face as their international careers progress. The series concludes with a $50,000 Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Final, which the top 30 riders in the point standings will be invited to contest on Sunday, April 2.

Lauren Fisher

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HORSE SHOW MONDAYS

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME ON MONDAYS?

Jennifer Gates: "On Mondays I usually play tennis because it helps me mentally to do something else. I'm doing some online classes right now so I work on those."

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum: "I workout with my husband, get a massage, and then we do something with our daughter."

Holly Orlando: "We get up, take Logan to school in the morning and then usually run around Wellington doing a million errands."

Life After the Olympics: Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER) and Fibonacci 17 helped Germany win the team bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. ©Lindsay Berreth/Chronicle of the Horse

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum is a very successful competitor at the highest level of show jumping. She represented Germany at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2012 London Olympics, and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Originally from California, the Princeton graduate later married German rider Markus Beerbaum, moved to Germany, and changed her citizenship. Over the years, Michaels-Beerbaum has ridden a series of iconic horses, including Quick Star and Shutterfly. Her Rio Olympic mount, Fibonacci, owned by Artemis Equestrian LLC, is a 2005 Swedish Warmblood gelding that is famous for his unconventional and impressive jumping style. The pair traveled to Rio de Janeiro as the reserve rider for Germany; however, hours before the first class, Marcus Ehning withdrew and Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum stepped in to compete and help Germany win the team bronze medal. We caught up with Michaels-Beerbaum to discuss Rio and what the future holds for her.

How was Rio different than other championships you've attended?
Michaels-Beerbaum: The ambience of where you are makes a difference in the Games. The show jumping was different because Rio de Janeiro is a city full of mixed cultures. There was a lot to see as a rider there from the favelas, to people that had nothing, to fancy shopping centers, and places like Copacabana.

What was your first reaction when you found out Marcus Ehning had withdrawn?
Michaels-Beerbaum: I would describe it as complete and total shock. I found out so late that I had to reorganize my thoughts and my plan. Actually, I was planning on going home that day. Instead, I was to be riding in the event so there was a lot of organization that needed to be done.

What is your next big goal, both personally and with Fibonacci?
Michaels-Beerbaum: We'll pace him and see how our summer goes. We have the European Championships for Germany this summer so that would be something we'd point towards. He's not particularly an indoor horse show horse, so I wasn't planning on going to the World Cup Final with him. I just want to be a good manager for him, place him well, and try to bring out his best.

Can you tell me about any younger mounts that you have high hopes for?
Micheals-Beerbaum: I'm lucky enough to have an outstanding string of younger horses, including three nine-year-olds that are exceptionally good. I just showed one in the Suncast 1.50m Classic, Jackie Brown, she had a clear round and one rail in the jump-off. Then I have Daisy, who won the Suncast here during week two. She's an outstanding little mare with a lot of fight and spirit. I also have a stallion named Samurai. I just started riding him here in Wellington, and he's done a couple 1.45m classes.

What's the most exciting thing, not horse-related, that has happened to you since the Olympics?
Michaels-Beerbaum: Anything to do with my daughter is without a doubt the most exciting thing to me. She is the highlight of my day. For Markus and I, she's the shining light on sometimes cloudy days. She has started riding now, which is really exciting. She did her first show last weekend, is going to ride the walk-trot tomorrow, and cantered for the first time by herself the other day on a pony. That, in conjunction with the fact that she's doing outstanding in school. I am so proud of her.

Stay tuned and read next week's WEF Weekly Wire to discover what another 2016 Olympian has been up to since the Games.

Sara Cook

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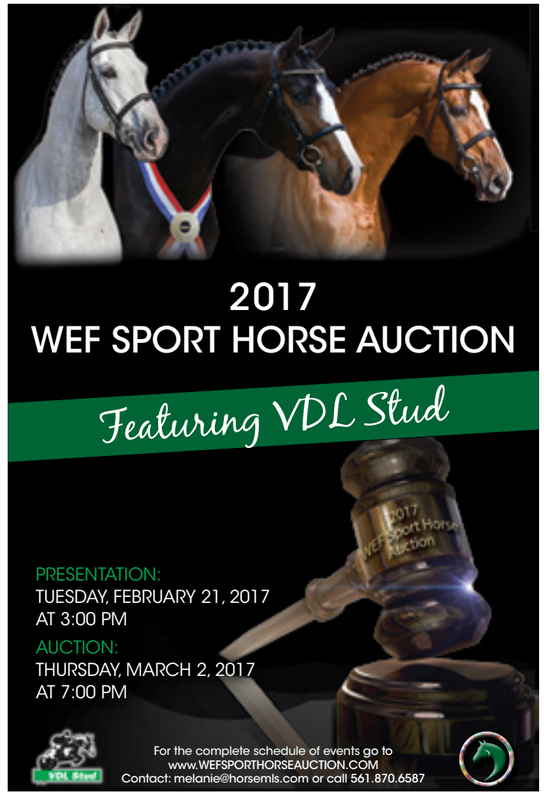

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BARNS 1 - 4

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Woody's Shoe Repair
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INTERNATIONAL WARM-UP ARENA

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RINGS 9 & 10

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Benjamin & Co.
Devoucoux Saddles & Tack
McGuinn Farms Inc. Tack Trunks & Stable Equipment
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RING 6

Amberway Equine Solutions
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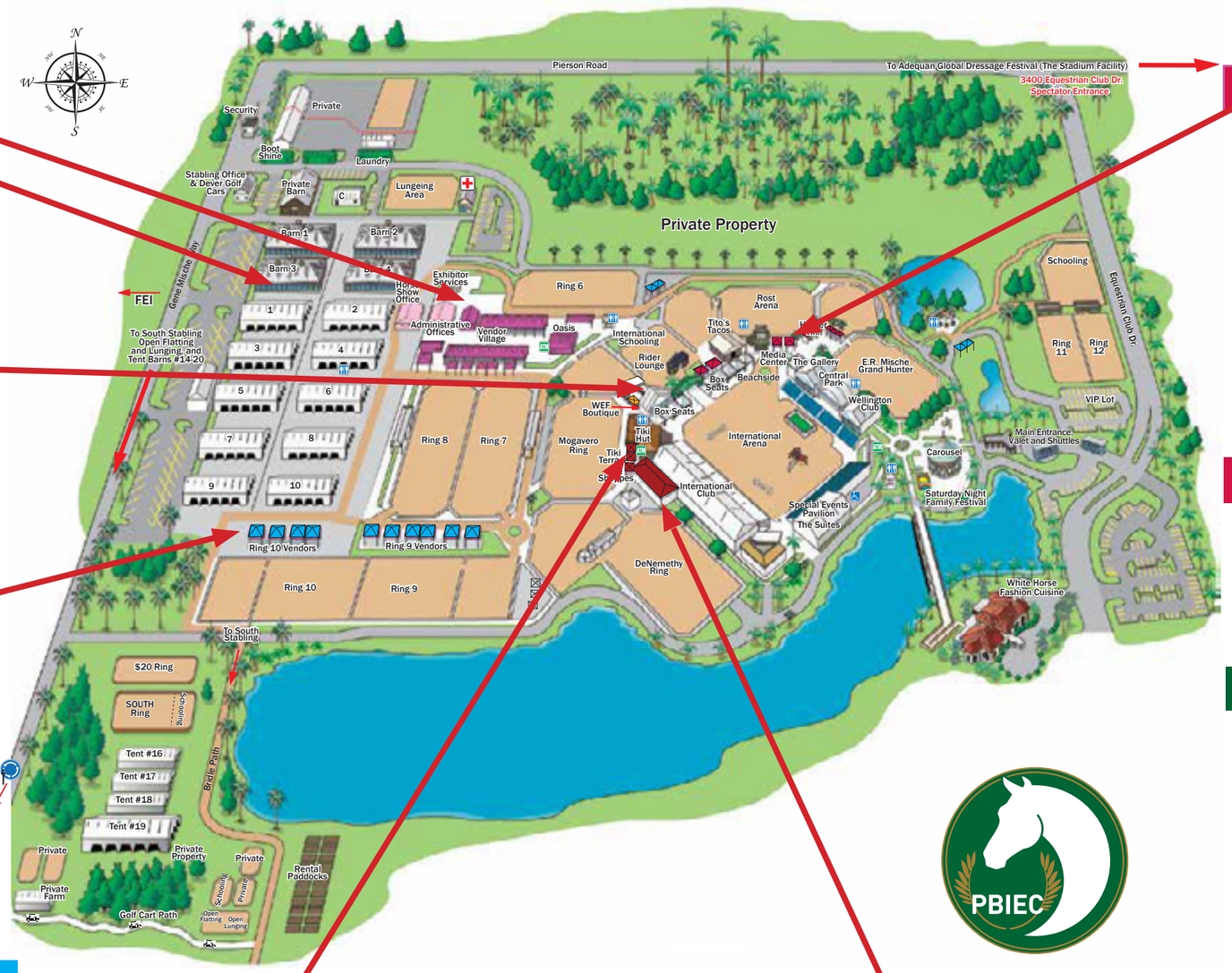
RING 11 (Pony Island)

Palm Beach Int. Academy



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Harry's Lemonade
Loopy's Crêpes Cafè
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RINGS 9 AND 10
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PCI, Professional Concessions
Magdelena's Mexican
Nathalie's Cafe

BARN 4
Burgess & Clark Coffee

PONY ISLAND
Icy Goddess
Tito's Mexican
KP Concessions

SOUTH BARNS
Ted's Take Out

Ariat® Grand Prix ,

Continued from Page 1

"I am over the moon," Gates smiled. "I did him in some Under 25 classes last year out on the grass field, and he was amazing. I am ecstatic with how he jumped today. It took an experienced horse for that course, which I definitely had.

"I knew these two were going to be faster than me, so my plan was to try and have a clear round and put the pressure on a tiny bit in case they had a rail, which of course they did not," Gates continued. "This past Thursday I was sixth in the WEF Challenge Cup qualifier, and that was my biggest accomplishment with this horse so far, so to come out here and be third was a huge deal. I am thrilled to be third in great company."

Lauren Fisher

Final Results: $216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4*

1. BABALOU 41: 2005 Oldenburg mare by Balou du Rouet x Silvio I
TODD MINIKUS (USA), Two Swans Farm: 0/0/38.79

2. G&C UNICSTAR DE L'AUMONE: 2008 Selle Francais mare by Ninio de Rox x Timorrak des Isles
SERGIO ALVAREZ MOYA (ESP), Alvarez Moya Horse SL: 0/0/40.30

3. PUMPED UP KICKS: 2003 Brandenburg gelding by Levisto x San Juan
JENNIFER GATES (USA), Evergate Stable LLC: 0/2/51.28

4. GAZELLE: 2006 Belgian Warmblood mare by Kashmir van Schuttershof x Indoctro
KENT FARRINGTON (USA), Kent Farrington & Robin Parsky: 4/76.58

5. SUPER CHILLED: 2008 Irish Sport Horse gelding by Gelvin Clover
KEVIN BABINGTON (IRL), Kevin Babington: 4/77.98

6. WATERFORD: 2003 KWPN gelding by Coolcorron Cool Diamond x Julio Mariner XX
LAUREN HOUGH (USA), Laura and Meredith Mateo: 4/78.88

7. LADRIANO Z: 2008 Zangersheide gelding by Lawito x Baloubet du Rouet
DANIEL BLUMAN (ISR), Blue Star Investments & Alexa Schwitzer: 4/78.96

8. JAVAS KELTIC MIST: 2006 Irish Sport Horse gelding by ARD VDL Douglas x Clover Hill
CAPT. BRIAN COURNANE (IRL), Glenbeigh Farm LLC: 4/79.61

9. CONSTANCE: 2007 KWPN mare by Indoctro x Animo
JESSICA MENDOZA (GBR), Milena Pappas: 4/80.29

10. CALVIN KLEIN: 2004 Swedish Warmblood gelding by Cardento x Feliciano
JONATHON MILLAR (CAN), Millar Brooke Farm Ltd: 4/80.35

11. FREESTYLE DE MUZE: 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Lord Z x Cento
RICHIE MOLONEY (IRL), Equinimity LLC: 4/80.94

12. CROWN 5: 2005 Holsteiner gelding by Cassini I x Lord
GEORGINA BLOOMBERG (USA), Gotham Enterprizes LLC: 4/81.30

Jumper Highlights: Wednesday through Sunday

Kent Farrington and Sherkan d'Amaury won the Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Classic at WEF 4. ©Sportfot

Kristen Vanderveen (USA) and Bull Run's Faustino de Tili took the opening day win in the $35,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m speed class during week four of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) on Wednesday at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC).

Laura Chapot (USA) and her own and Mary Chapot's Thornhill Kate finished second, while Kent Farrington (USA) and his own, Haity McNerney's, and Daniel Crown's Sherkan d'Amaury placed third.

Also competing in the International Arena on Wednesday, Andrew Kocher (USA) and Le Conte won the $6,000 Illustrated Properties FEI 1.40m speed class. The day concluded with the national $6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m speed class, and a win for Ilan Ferder (ISR) riding Sagamore Farms' Fantast.

Laura Chapot (USA) and Quointreau un Prince were victorious in the $35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 4 on Thursday over 46 other competitors, including Kent Farrington (USA) and his own and Robin Parsky's Gazelle and Hardin Towell (USA) and Evergate Stable's Emilie de Diamant AS.

Also competing in the International Arena on Thursday, Molly Ashe (USA) and Louisburg Farm's d'Arnita won the $8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m jump-off class. The $2,500 Engel & Völkers High Amateur-Owner Jumper speed saw a win for Sarah Bagworth (CAN) riding Goldfinger vd Hengstenpoel.

Chile's Samuel Parot aboard Dazzle White won Friday's $35,000 Illustrated Properties 1.45m competition. Parot and the nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Calvino Z x Narcos II) edged out Kent Farrington (USA) and Sherkan d'Amaury and Kristen Vanderveen and Bull Run's Faustino de Tili.

Also competing in the International Arena on Friday, Tiffany Foster (CAN) and Artisan Farms LLC's Chesney won the $6,000 Illustrated Properties FEI 1.40m. Hilary McNerney and Contact won the $2,500 Engel & Völkers High Amateur-Owner Jumper Power and Speed. Sophia Studd and M&M Show Stables' Corlanda topped the $1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Power and Speed. The $6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m Speed Challenge concluded the day with a win for David Blake (IRL) riding Pine Hollow Farm's Bella Donna.

2016 U.S. Olympic team silver medalist Kent Farrington was the winner of week four's $35,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic on Saturday riding Sherkan d'Amaury. Shane Sweetnam (IRL) took second and third place honors, riding the Blue Buckle Group's Cobolt and Sweet Oak Farm and Seabrook LLC's Main Road. Canada's Beth Underhill finished fourth, riding Sandy Lupton's Count Me In.

Also competing in the International Arena on Saturday, Sarah Bagworth and Goldfinder vd Hengstenpoel won the $15,000 SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Classic, presented by Engel & Völkers.

Concluding week four on Sunday in the International Arena, Luciana Gonzalez Guerra and Guadalupe Gonzalez's Star Light won the $10,000 SJHOF High Junior Jumper Classic, presented by Sleepy P Ranch. Abbie Sweetnam and Chadburn Holdings' Parco topped the $10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumper Classic, and Alexandra Markarian and Bandro were victorious in the $10,000 Equiline Medium Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic.

Week 4 Jumper Classic Winners:

$15,000 SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumpers, presented by Engel & Völkers
Sarah Bagworth and Goldfinder vd Hengstenpoel
$10,000 SJHOF High Junior Jumpers, presented by Sleepy P Ranch
Luciana Gonzalez Guerra and Star Light
$10,000 Equiline Medium Amateur-Owner Jumpers
Alexandra Markarian and Bandro
$10,000 Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Real Estate Low Amateur-Owner Jumpers
Alexandra Welles and X M
$10,000 Maria Mendelsohn, Douglas Elliman Real Estate Low Junior Jumpers
Emma Kurtz and Carisma
$10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumpers
Abbie Sweetnam and Parco
$10,000 EnTrust Capital Adult Jumpers 18-35
Lindsey Tomeu and Bonapart
$10,000 Adult Jumpers 36 and Over
Alissa Kinsey and Grisset
$10,000 Horseware Ireland Don Little Masters
Claire Hyde and Carat V

Week 4 Jumper Champions:

Equestrian Sotheby's Children's Jumper 14 & Under
Sabrina Andreu and Rapsody de Lou Kassan
Equis Boutique Children's Jumper 15-17
Leah Taylor and Wang Chung M2S
Griffis Residential Modified Children's Jumpers
Grace Jordan and Samuri MEC
FarmVet Adult Modified Jumpers
Elliot Dumaine and Simbad de Baussy
Karina Brez Jewelry Low Adult Jumper 18-35
Camellia Ford and U2
Pegasus Builders Low Adult Jumper 36 & Over
Lori Sawyer-Lyons and La Scala
Equo Low Children's Jumper
Ava Hoffman and Kalle; Chloe Jhin and Liberty

Faces of WEF: Steve Sarafin

©Emily Riden

Steve Sarafin has been a familiar face (and voice) at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) for over 20 years. He works a variety of roles and always treats everyone he encounters with kindness and a story. Sarafin is best known for his work as an announcer, doing many of the Saturday night classes here at WEF. You can also find him working here as a jumper judge and as part of the FEI Official Ground Jury. Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Sarafin now resides in Camden, South Carolina, and enjoys repairing clocks in his spare time.

Here's a closer look at Steve Sarafin:

WW: How did you start working at horse shows?
Sarafin: A friend of mine happened to be filling in for an announcer that had moved from Buffalo to Ohio, and Hans Mobius was the man's name who was announcing at the Saddle and Bridle Club that day. He saw that I was at the show and paged me up so he could walk away for an hour to check on his wife at their print shop. Well, Hans never came back. It was a two-day show and that was Saturday. I walked out of the booth on Saturday and the manager said to me, 'You'll be back tomorrow, right?'

WW: How did you get involved with WEF?
Sarafin: I was working at the Hampton Classic, actually 2017 will be my 35th or 36th year working at the Hampton Classic. I've been there every year since the year after Steve Stephens took it over. Steve knew of me and what I could do. He tried to get me to go to Tampa, FL, when it was a part of the circuit. I couldn't do it because I was married with young kids at the time and I was out doing horse shows in Good Year, Arizona, as part of their winter circuit. The horse shows were just a part-time thing for me then. That was in and around my General Motors days and then when the Arab Oil Embargo hit in the 70s, this became more of my life. Eventually I did come over to WEF.

WW: What do you like best about announcing?
Sarafin: It's just fun. To me, it's rewarding to be involved in the sport at that level. Being the announcer, being the guy that takes it to the fans when you have an audience to work with is great. Especially here, there are several announcers who are pretty funny characters, so we have a lot of fun.

WW: If you weren't doing this, what would you be doing?
Sarafin: I'd probably be working with my hands doing something. My dad was a mechanic at DuPont for years. It's very rewarding to take something that's broken, analyze it, and fix it up to put it back in service. My house is full of older appliances because I can get good things really cheap and put them back together. People throw away a lot of things today so there are lots of things to pick up and make them usable again. I could be an auto mechanic if I wanted to. Painting is fun, but preparing for painting is a lot – sanding and everything. Now I'm working on old clocks. It's just something fun to do.

Sara Cook

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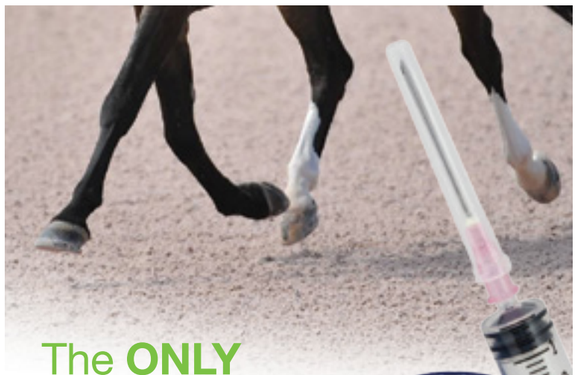

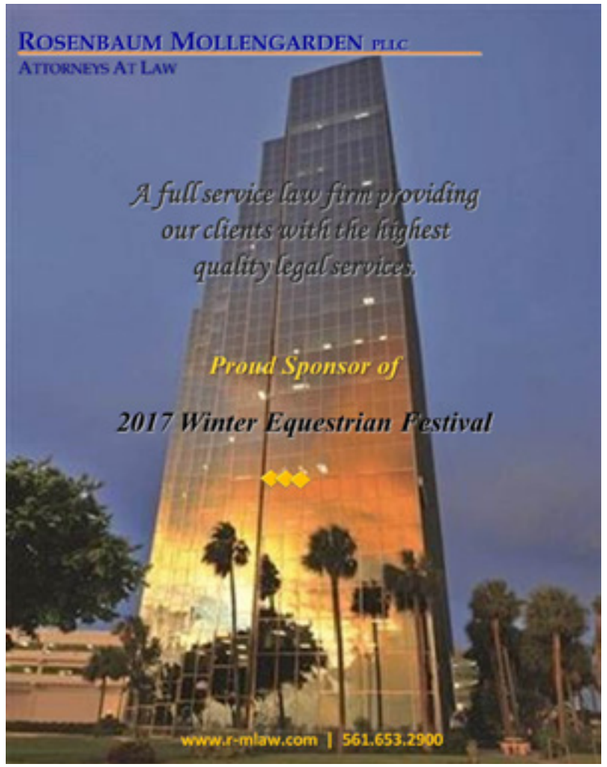

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Boyd Martin Earns Victory for Third Year in a Row at the $100,000 Land Rover Wellington Eventing Showcase

Boyd Martin won for the third year in a row at the $100,000 Land Rover Wellington Eventing Showcase, this year with Welcome Shadow. ©SusanJStickle.com

It was a beautiful weekend for the $100,000 Land Rover Wellington Eventing Showcase at the Equestrian Village at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC). U.S. Olympian Boyd Martin came out on top of the leader board with a win for the third consecutive year, this year riding Welcome Shadow, owned by Gloria Callen.

Beginning the competition with a class of 39 entries, Friday landed Martin in the third place position after a solid day of dressage performances on 26.5 penalties, riding in behind Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous, a 2005 Oldenburg mare (Carry Gold x Richardia x Lario) owned by J. Mars, R. Parsky, P. Manders, & M. Manders, who had 24.9 penalties. Ryan Wood (AUS) and Powell, a 2006 Oldenburg gelding (Pablito x Dinara x Donnerwerth) owned by Summit Sporthorses LTD, Inc. & Ryan Wood, continued into the show jumping phase in second place on 26.1 penalties.

All competitors had specific plans for how their rides on Saturday needed to play out if they were going to get around the show jumping and cross-country courses successfully. "(Course designer) Mark Phillips has really beefed the course up here, and it is considerably trickier than it has been in the last few years. The time should be a fair bit harder to make, so I think that if you want to win a prize here you're really going to have to take a chance and go for broke," said Martin on Friday.

Saturday brought a change in ranking as Martin climbed to the top after a clear show jumping round and a great trip on cross-country to finish on 27.30 penalties with Welcome Shadow, a 2005 Irish Sport Horse mare, and an overall Showcase win for his third year in a row.

Commenting on his victory, Martin said, "This year was by far the hardest one to win. It was a much more competitive field; the caliber of horses was the best we've seen here. I've got to say, the show jumping was bigger and wider, (and) I think the show jumping was even bigger than at Rolex. The cross-country was a real test. I think that it's been good that they've gently built it up like this, but the cross-country was influential this year compared to other years.

"[She] is one of my favorites in training at the moment," he said of Welcome Shadow, who was originally owner Craig Callen's fox hunter. "You couldn't get a horse that tries any harder than Welcome Shadow. I thought she was great in all three phases, and I was proud to win. I will quite happily take the check home."

The day continued on a high note for USA event riders, as Buck Davidson (USA) and Petite Flower, a 15-year-old Thoroughbred mare by Amber's Lust owned by Caroline and Sherrie Martin, finished second on 30.9 penalties after moving up from 13th place after dressage.

"I was really happy with the mare," said Davidson. "She couldn't have been better this whole weekend. I was really happy with the dressage, and she tried her heart out in the show jumping, and was as straight as could be today. She is very fast and a fun horse to ride around these kind of events."

Doug Payne (USA) and Vandiver rose through the standings from eleventh place after dressage to tenth place after show jumping, and came back strong after a flawless cross-country run to land in third place.

Payne said of his experience this year, "This is an incredible competition, and I think it will prove to be valuable for these horses able to come here early in the season. There is more atmosphere here than you are going to see anywhere except for maybe Rolex, domestically. It's a great preparation because we seldom have the opportunity to have these horses in such an environment. It's an incredible asset to the sport, and I couldn't have been more happy with Quinn.

"I was disappointed I had the last jump down (in show jumping), but on cross-country he's a bit of a dirt bike, and we go out there and cruise," he continued. "I am learning to trust him more and more, and I'm incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to ride and work with him."

As the successful weekend concluded Event Organizer Jim Wolf discussed his thoughts on the future of the Eventing Showcase.

"I think we are on to a really great product here," he said. "We try to create sports entertainment properties, and I think today was really great sport and was great entertainment. Mark Phillips did a brilliant job on the course. I would especially like to thank Land Rover. They are a great supporter of the sport and of Eventing worldwide, and we are thrilled they are doing this with us. We thank them for their support and making it possible.

"Mark saw Eventing as an underserved audience as he saw dressage as an underserved audience several years ago and put together investors, owners, and supporters to elevate dressage to a whole new level in this country," Wolf said. "I think we can do that if given a chance for Eventing. We see an audience that has an opportunity to put some money in this sport. This sport isn't easy and you can't go collect a big check every weekend like in show jumping, so when we see these riders come out and put it on the line like these guys do, they deserve to be recognized. Nothing says thank you more than a check."

Equestrian Sport Productions' CEO Mark Bellissimo also highlighted the importance of growth within the sport of Eventing and amongst the Wellington equine community in general.

"It takes a great team to pull this off," he said. "I want to thank Land Rover for stepping up and distinguishing this event. We wanted to create an environment where we could demonstrate the great athleticism of the both the horse and rider in a compact environment which would allow for many new spectators and owners who have never seen Eventing to come and experience this."

Bellissimo continued, "I think we are at a point now where we have a really good format. Next year we are going to try to push this event and make it something very, very special. We are very excited about this event and the future of Eventing in this country."

The buzz continues to grow around the idea of what is to come for the Wellington Eventing scene. One thing is certain; the future of the sport is looking to be a positive one. The 2017 $100,000 Land Rover Wellington Eventing Showcase event was a great success, and 2018 is only a few strides away.

Kim Beaudoin

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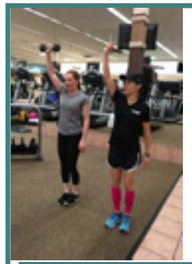

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EQUILINE *Enthusiasts*

Emma Heise

EQUILINE: What are your riding goals for WEF 2017?
EMMA: To sync with my new 6 year olds, they have been unbelievable so far, and getting better and better. Work on being consistent and competitive in the Junior classes and use my time at WEF to get to know my new horses with the aim to step up a little each week. I am competing in the U25 division, which is very competitive, and a great learning experience!

EQUILINE: Which of your horses are you most excited about this season?
EMMA: I'm very excited about my newest addition to the team Hello Guv'nor, he is such an amazing horse and I've admired him for a long time. We're going to start out slow, and build up our confidence together.

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Saturday Views from PBIEC

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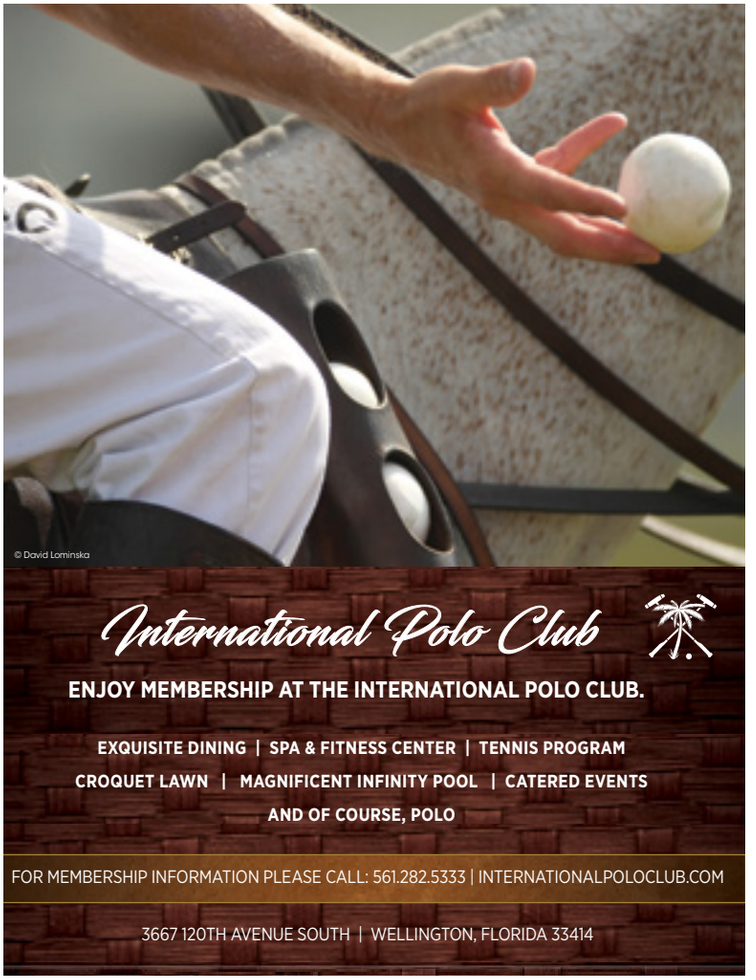

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