



WEEKLY WIRE

EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

WEEK 1 JANUARY 8-12, 2020

COMPETITION SEASON DECLARED OPEN DURING WELCOME PRESS CONFERENCE FOR 2020 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL



Christopher Payne, Beezie Madden, Sarah Lockman, Alex Granato, and Michael Stone at the opening press conference for the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. © Lindsay Brock/Jennifer Wood Media

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) cut the ribbon on the 2020 season at an opening press conference held Tuesday, January 7, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), and welcomed media, athletes, and spectators alike to the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) and the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF).

Panel speakers represented both WEF, which will offer \$13 million in prize money throughout 12 consecutive weeks of top hunter and jumper competition, and AGDF, where top national and international dressage riders will return for competition unlike any other in North America. Both circuits run from January 8 through March 29.

Featured speakers at the opening press conference included ESP President Michael Stone, 2019 Pan American Games Show Jumping team bronze medalist Alex Granato, 2019 Pan American Games Dressage individual gold and team silver medalist Sarah Lockman, two-time Olympic Show Jumping team gold medalist Beezie Madden, and top hunter rider and trainer Christopher Payne.

"We are very excited and looking forward to this season and I think what we have produced for this season is a game changer in our sport," said Stone, whose team at ESP invested in upgrading footing at PBIEC as well as raising prize money to a record-breaking level. "Our big focus this year was on footing, and all of our resources really were poured into that."

"Most importantly, it's high performance while at the same time kind to the horses," continued Stone of the new surface in both the International Arena and warm-up ring. "As far as sport goes, we are proud that we have been able to make this event accessible and open to local spectators. The public here knows who these top riders are and comes to cheer them on."

While unable to attend the press conference, ESP CEO and Wellington Equestrian Partners Managing Partner Mark Bellissimo commented on the continuing expansion of the sport in Palm Beach County and what makes Palm Beach International Equestrian Center integral to the sport's success.

"We are entering our 13th season as managers of the Winter Equestrian Festival," he said. "We created the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in 2012 and brought the International Polo Club Palm Beach into the fold in 2016. With these three incredible venues, we strive to provide a quality experience not only for the exhibitors competing, but for spectators, sponsors, and our local community. We are proud to be a part of the equestrian community and help set the tone for top horse sport not only in the United States, but for the world. We look forward to another amazing winter season and can't wait to see what it brings."

Something about continuing to grow in your 13th season, listening to client feedback to make a large footing investment, still striving to provide a quality experience for the

Please turn to page 7

WELCOME TO THE 2020 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL!



Palm Beach International Equestrian Center ©White Fence Photography

We expect this year's Winter Equestrian Festival to be another fantastic year of top competition and to provide a wonderful way for our equestrian and local communities to come together to appreciate the sport.

Riders come from around the world to participate at WEF, and we offer the perfect way for any horse or rider, no matter their level, to compete and have a safe, enjoyable, and competitive experience.

The 2020 season will once again offer lots of highlights, especially at the top end of the sport. Our "Saturday Night Lights" series kicks off on Saturday, January 11, with the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, which is one of the most well-attended nights of the year. The Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® is a spectacular event on February 1 and will aim to show just how important our partnerships are with local non-profits, riders, and sponsors. The GCC has donated more than \$13.5 million to more than 240 Palm Beach County non-profit organizations to date. We are proud of this accomplishment and honored to work with all of the incredible organizations in our county that help those in need.

Hunters will have the opportunity to shine throughout the circuit, with their main World Champion Hunter Rider week competition during WEF 6 on February 12-16, highlighted by the \$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular on Saturday night. With multiple hunter derby opportunities for ponies, juniors, amateurs, and professionals, riders will get a chance

to show their skills on the grass derby field at Equestrian Village. The top horses and riders will compete in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby on Saturday, March 28.

The best of the best in show jumping will go head-to-head in four weeks of CSI 5* competitions, and selectors from around the globe will be watching results from WEF while they plan their teams for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The \$150,000 Nations Cup returns on February 29 with nations vying for the gold medal position on the podium. Our most prestigious class of the season, the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* on Saturday, March 28, is sure to be another thrilling, can't-miss class.

The Winter Equestrian Festival wouldn't be possible without the support and dedication of our sponsors, who help us keep WEF as one of the foremost equestrian competitions in the world. We hope that all of the athletes, sponsors, partners, and spectators have a successful, safe, and wonderful show season this year at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center.

Sincerely,

Mark Bellissimo and the Wellington Equestrian Partners: Georgina Bloomberg, David Burton, Jr. and Julie Burton, Marsha Dammerman, Howard Dvorkin and Gwen Dvorkin, S. Craig Lindner and Frances Lindner, Lisa Lourie, Caroline Moran, Justin Sadrian and Lee Kellogg Sadrian, Ludwig Sollak and Carol Sollak, and Kimberly van Kampen.

Book Your Event WITH US!

Host your upcoming event at the International Polo Club Palm Beach or the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center to take advantage of the extraordinary equestrian events occurring this winter season. We handle all the details so you and your guests can enjoy an unforgettable experience viewing the exciting competition while dining. The venues can accommodate events ranging from 50 to 500 guests and offer personalized décor, tech support, and more.



The Pavilion at IPC

- Book on a Sunday at IPC to enjoy an afternoon of polo and brunch.
- Or book on a day of your choosing to enjoy a private polo experience featuring polo player meet & greets, live polo demos and more!

The Wellington Club or The Gallery at PBIEC

- Book on a Saturday night to enjoy an evening of competitive show jumping and dinner.

Limited dates available for 2020. Contact us now at
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PBIEC WEEK 1&2 UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOW+ Q&A EVENT

A special Q&A about the new Show+ service offered this year at PBIEC will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 12-1:30 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The Show+ Q&A Session will be held with Wayne Jenkins of CaptiveOne Advisors and his team to educate attendees on this new insurance service. Lunch will be provided, and the Q&A is free to riders, trainers, and owners.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL “FRIDAY NIGHT STARS”

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series returns in 2020, showcasing some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The first week of CDI-W competition will feature FEI World Cup qualifying grand prix musical freestyle competition presented by Lövsta on Friday, January 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 per car, and valet is available for \$20.

\$75,000 BATTLE OF THE SEXES, PRESENTED BY WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Watch the men compete against the women in the first "Saturday Night Lights" event of the circuit on Saturday, January 11, at 7 p.m. The women won the first eight years in a row, but the men captured their first standalone win in 2018. The women returned to the winner's circle in 2019, but can the men triumph again in 2020? Wear pink or blue to show your support for your team of choice! In addition to show jumping, there will be live entertainment from the Derek Mac Band. Gates open at 6 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20 per car, and valet is available for \$30.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES – AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 11, and on select Saturday Night Lights events throughout WEF. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

PARA-DRESSAGE CPEDI FREESTYLE UNDER THE LIGHTS

Para-dressage riders will be featured in the Global International Arena on Saturday, January 11, at 6 p.m. Riders from Grades I-IV will perform their freestyle tests to work toward qualifying scores for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and have special awards ceremonies. Come and cheer on the top para-dressage riders in their CPEDI competition presented by Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, Adequan®, and Nutrena. General admission and parking are free.

\$75,000 ROSENBAUM PLLC GRAND PRIX

Watch some of show jumping's best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2020 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

COMING UP IN WEEK 2!

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, January 16, the Lunch & Learn Series begins for the 2020 season. Held every Thursday starting at WEF 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club, this informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The Week 2 Lunch & Learn, "Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation and Equine Hyperbarics of South Florida Partner to Help Both Horse and Rider with Their Injuries and Athletic Recovery," is sponsored by Equine Hyperbaric Center and The HOW Foundation of South Florida. Contact Miranda Tiona at 561-784-1137 or mtiona@equestriansport.com for more information.

FRIENDS OF ORPHANS LUNCHEON

Join riders from the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti for a luncheon and silent auction to benefit Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti therapy program, which is dedicated to children with special needs, on Sunday, January 19, at 12 p.m. The 15th annual Equestrian Fundraising Luncheon has been a fundraiser that made it possible for Chateaublond rider Darlene Milord to represent and win a gold medal for NPH and Haiti at the Special Olympics World Olympics in Abu Dhabi in 2019. Individual tickets are available for \$80 and a table of six for \$450. Contact Romy Tschudi for information and ticket purchase at 954-643-8678.

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INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB HAPPENINGS

The Joe Barry Cup begins this week at the
International Polo Club.

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S
FULL GAME SCHEDULE BELOW.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9:

3:00 p.m.: Palm Beach Equine vs. Patagones

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12:

Final of the Joe Barry Cup

3:00 p.m.: Winner of January 9 vs. Stable Door Polo

Join us for the exciting highlight match of the week on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. on the U.S. Polo Assn. Field 1. Enjoy brunch in the Veuve Clicquot Pavilion or from a table in the Celebrity Cruises® Polo Lounge. Looking for a more casual seating option? Watch the game from the stadium's green seats of boxes, or hang out at a fun tailgate.

All tickets for Sunday can be purchased online at
www.internationalpoloclub.com



The 2020 Lunch & Learn
weekly educational series will take
place each Thursday during WEF
from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

WEF 2 January 16 th	Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation and Equine Hyperbarics of South Florida Partner to Help Both Horse and Rider With Their Injuries and Athletic Recovery. Sponsored by Equine Hyperbaric Center & The HOW Foundation of South Florida.
WEF 3 January 23 rd	Sponsored by American Regent Animal Health, makers of Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan).
WEF 4 January 30 th	TBD
WEF 5 February 6 th	Latest Technology Trends in the Horse Industry and Juliana Chapman, founder of The Tech Equestrian. Sponsored by HorseLinc.
WEF 6 February 13 th	When Natural Disasters Strike: Who responds? Are You & Your Trainer Prepared? How You Can Effectively Help in Times of Need? Sponsored by The Foundation for the Horse and Havensafe Farm.
WEF 7 February 20 th	Brooke USA: Supporting the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals. Sponsored by Brooke USA.
WEF 8 February 27 th	Footing Facts. Sponsored by Premier Equestrian.
WEF 9 March 5 th	TBD
WEF 10 March 12 th	Modern medicine for the competitive sport horse: How to gain and maintain a healthy and sound show horse. The renowned doctors of Palm Beach Equine Clinic, official veterinarians of the Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, explain how you can help your competitive sport horse achieve and maintain optimal health through advanced technology, innovative approaches, and specialty therapies. Sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic
WEF 11 March 19 th	Managing Your Farm With The Wellington Agricultural App. Sponsored by Wellington Agricultural Services.
WEF 12 March 26 th	TBD

Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. For more information please contact Miranda Tiona Lunch and Learn Coordinator at 561-784-1137 or mtiona@equestriansport.com

2020 SPONSORS:

Adequan®, Brooke USA, Equine Hyperbaric Center, The Foundation for the Horse, HorseLinc, The HOW Foundation of South Florida, Havensafe Farm, Palm Beach Equine Clinic, Premier Equestrian, Wellington Agricultural Services

Thank You

VENDOR VILLAGE

WEF OFFICIAL BOUTIQUE

Albion England
Anne Gittins Photography
CCTV Agent
Charles Ancona NY
CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc.
CWD Custom Saddles
DeNiro Boot Company
Der Dau Custom Boots
Dover Saddlery
EQ Exchange
Equestrian Team Apparel
Equiline
Equine Tack & Nutritionals
Equis LLC
Equo
Eyes of Wellington
F.LLI. Fabbri Inc.
Fab Finds by Sarah
Haygain
James Leslie Parker Photography
Jods Equestrian Apparel
Katherine Lily
Kocher Tack Shop
Laguso GmbH
Le Fash
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Roewer & Rueb USA Inc.
Running Fox Equestrian
Sofie's Boutique
Stephex Horse Box
Tack n Rider
Tony Hanley Horse Supplements
Turner & Co.
Voltaire Design Fine Saddlery
Willow Equestrian
Zest



SHUTTLE ROUTE/PICK-UP LOCATIONS

RING 6

Antarès Sellier France
Equifit
Horse Gym USA
MK Horse Walkers

BARN 1-4

Dandy Products
Farmvet Inc.
RC Saddle & Tack Repair
Josey's Laundry Service
Woody's Shoe Repair

INTERNATIONAL WARM-UP ARENA

Animo USA
Bruno Delgrange
Custom Saddles
Equitan Flooring
Hermès
Premier Equestrian, Inc.

RINGS 9 & 10

Devoucoux Saddles & Tack
McGuinn Farms Inc.
Tack Trunks & Stable Equip.
Prestige Italia USA
SportFot USA
Wellington
Agricultural Services

TIKI TERRACE

WEF OFFICIAL BOUTIQUE
Anna Klose E.K.
The Artful Equine
Carson & Co
Christian Schwetz Photography
Clare Christie Fine Art
COSI
Davin Art Photo Inc.
Elizabeth Locke Jewels
Hermès

Kaval
Mark Cross Leather Goods
Michel McNabb Jewelry
Morphew
Nouvelle
Sandra Meyer Gallery
Susan K Friedland Fine Art Photography
Tommy Conch
The Urban Strides
Vhay Studios

THE SHOPPES AT INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Hunt LTD
Julie Keyes Art Consulting
Karina Brez Jewelry
Lugano Diamonds
Vestrum

PLACES TO EAT

INTERNATIONAL ARENA
Don Chepos
Tiki Hut
VENDOR VILLAGE
Harry's Lemonade
Loopy's Crêpes Café
Oasis Café
RINGS 9 & 10
Muddy Paws Coffee
PCI, Professional Concessions
Magdalena's Mexican
Nathalie's Café

FARM STAND

FOOD TRUCKS & RETAIL
Meraki Juice Kitchen (Vegan)
Pumphouse Coffee Roasters
Tess & Co Homestyle Cooking
Bit-O-Gelato
RETAIL
The Shop at Farm Stand
Pop Up Markets
WELLNESS
Principled Chiropractic
Active Isolated Stretching
Yoga Deck

HUNTER HILL

American Rhino
Athletic Performance Pilates
Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue
Fab Finds by Sarah
Flip Sweater/Flip Vest
Hedgerow Limited
Hingham Square Needlepoint
Just FUR Fun - Goodies for Dogs
Marina St Barth
Springstar GmbH
Wellington & Company Antiques

RING 11 (Pony Island)

Equis LLC
Palm Beach Int'l. Academy

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Horseware Ireland
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PRESS CONFERENCE Continued from Page 1

exhibitors as well as the spectators and local community. The equestrian industry continues to grow and the three venues that ESP manages set the tone for top horse sport in the country.

For grand prix riders and their equine athletes, the 2020 WEF season will offer 11 weeks of FEI competition, featuring four CSI 5* grand prix events during weeks 5, 7, 9, and 12. The 12th and final week will shine a spotlight on the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5*.

For Madden, WEF is where she will make her final bid for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, saying, "I'm lucky enough to already be on the short list [for Tokyo], so I can really pick and choose what I want to do here to hopefully peak my horses. I'd like to have them starting to peak by the end of the circuit here because our observation trials come up quickly after that. Being here is nice because we can pick and choose what weeks we want to compete, and obviously there's some good prize money to aim for. It's really a great start to the year for us."

WEF commences with a fan-favorite event in the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, during "Saturday Night Lights" on Saturday, January 11. The multi-phase event has provided a night of excitement and rivalry during opening weekend for many seasons. This year's event is promised to impress as the men's team tries to win back its 2018 title over the women's team which has scored all but one victory in the 11-year history of the event.

Also highlighting the season during Week 4 of WEF, the Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® will return for its 11th season. The event groups amateur and professional riders into teams with elaborate costume themes and has repeatedly engaged a large crowd. The event has raised over \$13.5 million to date and benefited more than 230 well-deserving Palm Beach County charities over the last 10 years.

Another rider setting his sights on the grand prix spotlight at WEF is Granato. He has campaigned his top horse Carlchen W at WEF since the mount was a five-year-old, and together they helped the U.S. bring home a team bronze medal at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru.

"WEF has been a really key part of my year, with not only him but with a lot of my young horses," said Granato. "It's a consistent showgrounds where you get to focus week after week on new courses and new course designers. They get a lot of experience in a short amount of time, which has been a really helpful part in my development with that horse."

With three USHJA International Hunter Derbies, three USHJA National Hunter Derbies, nine weeks

of USHJA incentive programs for the 3'-3'9" Green Hunters, a pony hunter derby, and 12 weeks of Hunter Classics for the Small, Medium, and Large pony divisions, the circuit will also offer divisions for every level of hunter horse or pony.

"This show is great for developing young hunters," said Payne, one of the top hunter riders competing at WEF this season. "WEF offers everything [for me and my clients]. You get the nice rings and the great atmosphere. We spend the first few weeks gearing toward the WCHR (World Championship Hunter Rider) week and making sure that they're jumping well. Then they also get to do the derbies on the grass, which is really nice for the hunters. We don't have a lot of places that actually do that. You get so much mileage here."

Wellington dressage competition continues to thrive in 2020 with the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. The "Friday Night Stars" opens with the Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Löfst, on Friday, January 10. Opening weekend continues under the lights on Saturday evening, January 11, with the Para-Dressage CPEDI3* Freestyle presented by Adequan®, Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, and Nutrena.

Making her debut in Wellington this season, Lockman has traveled from her home base in California and is eager to leave her mark, saying, "I love the west coast. I'm very proud to be representing it, but I'm excited to have the opportunity to have my barn of horses here this year. What I've really noticed, coming from the west coast, is we don't have much of a connection with other disciplines, and it's really amazing to be able to compete and then come out the next day and watch the jumpers. It's incredible."

New this year to AGDF are events for young Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix horses, as well as the U.S. selection trials for the 2020 Olympic Games during Week 7.

"I brought with me my Pan Am ride, First Apple, and we are really excited to be debuting him in the grand prix this season," continued Lockman. "One of the great things about being here in Wellington as compared to California as a dressage rider, is there are so many options; there are multiple CDIs and national shows, so it really gives us a chance to pick what is best for the horse and not necessarily what is our only option. I also brought a string of young horses and developing horses, so I'm really excited to try to qualify them for our national championship for young horses."

The team at Equestrian Sport Productions looks forward to welcoming the best in equestrian sport to both the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival and 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit www.pbicc.coth.com and www.GlobalDressageFestival.com.

Lindsay Brock



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BATTLE OF THE SEXES



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SATURDAY - JAN. 11

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2019-2020 Holiday Circuit Winners

HOLIDAY & HORSES GRAND PRIX



SNL: Adrienne Sternlicht galloped to victory aboard Just A Gamble in the \$209,000 Holiday & Horses Grand Prix CSI 4* presented by Palm Beach County Sports Commission. Pictured with ringmaster Steve Rector and Scott Glinski of PBCSC, with his daughter. ©ESP

YEAR END AWARDS GRAND PRIX



Kent Farrington and Kaprice championed the \$25,000 #1 Education Place Grand Prix Sunday afternoon. Pictured with ringmaster Steve Rector and Anita Kane, founder of #1 Education Place. ©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY DERBY



Abby Funk piloted Handwritten to top Friday's \$2,500 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by Ultima Fitness. Pictured with with ringmaster Steve Rector. ©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY III DERBY



The \$2,500 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by The Fit Equestrian saw Nicole Lyvere and her entry, Valero take home the blue ribbon.

©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY FINALE GRAND PRIX



The win in the \$50,000 Equiline Holiday Finale Grand Prix was awarded to Jordan Coyle riding Essonar Crixus, pictured with Kelly Molinari of Equiline and Steve Rector, ringmaster.

©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY FINALE DERBY



Victory in the Holiday Finale \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Health Specialty Center (Professional), went to Hannah Isop riding Sincerely, pictured with Jenna Shinn of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY GRAND PRIX



SUNDAY: Erynn Ballard and Canora Z championed the \$25,000 Omega Alpha Grand Prix Sunday afternoon. Pictured with ringmaster Steve Rector.

©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY II GRAND PRIX



Santiago Lambre claimed both the first and second-place finish in the \$25,000 ProElite Grand Prix with Doloris and Ibabco, respectively. Pictured on Ibabco with Jeff Fosenburg, Feed Sales Consultant of Cargill Feed and Nutrition, and ringmaster Steve Rector.

©Anne Gittins Photography

ESP NEW YEARS GRAND PRIX



Mark Bluman won the \$25,000 Vita Flex Lactanase National Grand Prix aboard Cartouche. Pictured with Steve Rector, ringmaster.

©Anne Gittins Photography

HOLIDAY FINALE DERBY



The Holiday Finale \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Health Specialty Center (Junior/Amateur) victory went to Tracy Scheriff-Muser riding Bode Well. They are pictured with Jenna Shinn of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Steve Rector, ringmaster.

©Anne Gittins Photography

DERBY



Tiffany Morrissey claimed top honors with Sebastian in the \$10,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by #1 Education Place. Pictured with ringmaster Steve Rector and Judy Blake of #1 Education Place.

©ESP

DERBY



Gabrielle Sokolow claimed top honors in the \$2,500 USHJA National Hunter Derby presented by Vita Flex Lactanase aboard her own Socialite.

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WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

Featuring

PREVIEW:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020
at 3:00 p.m.

AUCTION:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020
at 7:00 p.m.

For the complete schedule of events:
WEFSPOORTHORSEAUCTION.COM
Contact: melanie@horsemis.com
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For horse trials and information,
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RIDER SPOTLIGHT

McLain Ward



McLain Ward won the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* at the 2019 WEF with HH Azur. ©ESP

As one of the most decorated and well-known equestrians in the U.S., McLain Ward is a regular in the winner's circle at WEF. We talked to McLain to learn more about him and his thoughts about 2020.

Do you remember the first horse you rode? What's your fondest memory of riding as a kid/junior?

I don't remember the first horse I rode, but I do remember my first pony. His name was Peter Pan. I have a lot of great memories, and I've been lucky enough to have a lot of great horses with great teachers and people behind me. I think my first big success was winning the USET Finals, which feels like a lifetime ago. That certainly boosted my confidence.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment in life so far?

Convincing my wife to stay with me for over a decade. I have a beautiful family and an incredible wife, who's very much a part of the success that we have as a family and a team. We have a beautiful daughter and a second one on the way. That certainly trumps any sporting success.

What's something people don't know about you?

If I didn't ride horses, I would like to design and build houses. I think there's a lot of similarities between the two because you're dealing with people and something artistic and trying to build something piece by piece with a finished product at the end. The storyline is very similar even though the pieces are different. My wife and I designed and put together our own house without an architect, actually.

What horse would you want to ride that you don't already, and why?

There are a few. I think every decade has a couple of very special horses, and I think the horse I would have liked to have ridden the most was Shutterfly, a real sensitive and hot horse. I like that kind of horse, so I think I would have really enjoyed that. But also who wouldn't want to ride Gem Twist or Milton or any of those greats.

What's your favorite part about WEF?

As far as the horse show goes, my favorite part is the Saturday Night [Lights] grand prix class because of the atmosphere and the huge focus on the sport. There's also a great audience there, and they are starting to understand the sport. On a personal level, it's the one period of the year our friends are in one area all together, and I would say it's as close to normalcy for us than any other time of the year.

What are your goals for WEF 2020?

WEF is always in the back of our minds. I think this year, going into WEF, we will focus on building the potential horses up to try to qualify for the Olympics in Tokyo. We also have a pretty big sales operation, and I would say WEF is our busiest time.

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Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) completed the installation of a newly engineered riding surface in the International Arena and warm up ring at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in November ahead of competition for the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival. This innovative footing mixture resides on an OTTO Sport Base Mat system and will provide a safer and more durable surface for both horse and rider.

In September, ESP assembled a team of five world-class equestrian footing experts with a mission to design a surface that would protect horse's joints and minimize tendon damage. The team included Premier Equestrian, Inc., Bart Poels of Poels Equestrian, Bill Hawe of iEquiTek, FEI footing expert Lars Roepstroff, and Travis Gould of JTWG Inc.

The new arena exhibits an innovative drainage system as well as OTTO Sport Base Mats, available exclusively at Premier Equestrian, Inc. These exceptional mats are manufactured from recycled materials and aid water conservation, concussion mitigation, and stability for both the horse and rider absorbing up to 40% of the energy caused by the foot fall. The state-of-the-art footing surface is a custom blend, which combines specifically-engineered sands and a balance of fibers and textiles from Premier's ProTex additive. Carefully designed, crafted, and tested on-site, this footing mixture retains moisture and also offers excellent drainage. Finally, the formula was designed to stabilize the sand, providing horses with superior grip, firmness, cushion, and responsiveness.

Bill Hawe from iEquiTek commented, "This arena is now one of the very few in the world which has been completely engineered to meet specific

Hawe continued, "Using this methodology, along with numerous measurement technologies and database models of other arenas, the team was able to rapidly design, construct, measure, and evaluate more than 11 different custom footing mixes, in addition to a variety of bases, mats and other components, and then select the one which met their specific goals. The data aligned to include the design measurements, database models, test surface measurement, FEI tests, and rider test ride perceptions."



It's no news to equestrian athletes that accidents are bound to happen at some point in their careers both in and out of the saddle. Whether it is a rider injury due to a fall or a horse must be scratched from classes due to an illness or injury, wouldn't it be reassuring to know there are protections in place to lower the financial risks of competing in the sport you love?

The revolutionary product, developed specifically for the equestrian community, will be a game changer for equestrians and professionals who are already looking forward to Show+’s implementation at WEF and AGDF this season. Two-time Olympic show jumper Alberto Michán is thrilled to have added protection as he continues his quest for 2020 Olympic Games qualification.

“Earning fifth place in the Olympic Games in London was a career highlight for me,” describes Michán. “To be in the finals and be very competitive for the medals was so special for me as a rider. After London, I gained a lot of confidence to keep going in the sport while understanding that if you work hard, all the pieces match, and you have a great horse, there is a big opportunity to do big things.



to compete. It is an immense asset to competitors, owners and trainers who make a living in this sport we all are so passionate about.”

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WEF 1

WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER • PREMIER "AA"

January 8-12, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Wednesday January 1, 2020
Featuring: \$35,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round I
\$75,000 Rosenbaum PLLC Grand Prix
\$75,000 "Battle of the Sexes" Exhibition Class
Presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center
\$25,000 CaptiveOne Advisors Championship Classic

WEF 2

NETJETS CSI 2* • PREMIER "AA"

January 14-19, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Wednesday January 1, 2020
Featuring: \$37,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round II
\$73,000 NetJets Grand Prix CSI 2*
\$25,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix
\$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors Championship Classic

WEF 3

ADEQUAN® CSI 3* • PREMIER "AA"

January 21-26, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Wednesday January 1, 2020
Featuring: \$37,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round III
\$137,000 Adequan® Grand Prix CSI 3*
\$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic

WEF 4

MARSHALL & STERLING/GREAT AMERICAN CSI 4* • PREMIER "AA"

January 28-February 2, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 6, 2020
Featuring: \$73,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round IV
\$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic
\$25,000 Hermès Under 25 Team Event
\$214,000 Marshall & Sterling/Great American Grand Prix CSI 4
11th Annual Great Charity Challenge
presented by Fidelity Investments®

WEF 5

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS® CSI 5* & 2* • PREMIER "AA"

February 4-9, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 6, 2020
Featuring: \$137,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round V
\$401,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5*
\$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic
Offering CSI 2* Classes sponsored by Rushy Marsh Farm

WEF 6

WCHR CSI 3* • PREMIER "AA"

February 11-16, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 6, 2020
Featuring: \$37,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round VI
\$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic
\$137,000 WEF 6 Grand Prix CSI 3*
\$25,000 CP Grand Prix (National)
\$25,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix
\$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Hunter Spectacular

WEF 7

LUGANO DIAMONDS CSI 5* & 2* • PREMIER "AA"

February 18-23, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 20, 2020
Featuring: \$137,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round VII
\$401,000 Lugano Diamonds Grand Prix CSI 5*
\$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic
Offering CSI 2* Classes sponsored by The Dutta Corp./Guido Klatte

WEF 8

PREMIER EQUESTRIAN CSIO 4* • PREMIER "AA"

February 25-March 1, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 20, 2020
Featuring: \$37,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round VIII
\$214,000 Premier Equestrian Grand Prix CSIO 4*
\$150,000 FEI Nations Cup
\$50,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m National Grand Prix
\$37,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Semi-Final

WEF 9

DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE

CSI 5* & 2* • PREMIER "AA"

March 3-8, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, January 20, 2020
Featuring: \$137,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round IX
\$401,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate Grand Prix CSI 5*
\$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic
Offering CSI 2* Classes Sponsored by Griffis Residential

WEF 10

HORSEWARE IRELAND CSI 3* • PREMIER "AA"

March 10-15, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, February 24, 2020
Featuring: \$37,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round X
\$137,000 Horseware Ireland Grand Prix CSI 3*
\$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic

WEF 11

WELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

CSI 4* • PREMIER "AA"

March 17-22, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, February 24, 2020
Featuring: \$73,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round XI
\$214,000 Wellington Agricultural Services Grand Prix CSI 4*
\$137,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Classic Final
Spy Coast Developing Jumper Classics 5, 6 & 7 Year Olds
\$50,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Final
13th Annual WEF Equitation Championship

WEF 12

ROLEX CSI 5* & 2* • PREMIER "AA"

March 24-29, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: Monday, February 24, 2020
Featuring: \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5*
\$137,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Round XII
\$50,000 CP 1.50m Grand Prix (National)
\$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby
\$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby
\$10,000 National Hunter Derby
WEF High Point Circuit Awards
Presentations on Saturday Evening, March 28
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