



WEEK 2 🐾 January 20 - 24, 2016



# WEEKLY WIRE

🐾 EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

## First Grand Prix Win of the Circuit Goes to Laura Chapot



Laura Chapot and Quintreau topped a field of 17 in the jump-off for victory in the \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix at WEF 1. © Sportfot

The first week of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) wrapped up on Sunday afternoon with the highlight class of the week, the \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix. A large starting field of 52 entries contested the first round course, and 17 of those advanced to the jump-off. It was the always speedy Laura Chapot (USA) who came out on top of the results with Quintreau un Prince, owned by Chapot and McLain Ward. Abdel Said (EGY) and AS Sport Horses' Hope van Scherpen Donder were second, while Molly Ashe (USA) rode Balous Day Date for Louisburg Farm to third place.

In the grand prix jump-off, Chapot counted on her long partnership with Quintreau un Prince, a 12-year-old Selle Français gelding by Diamant de Semilly x Rosire.

The riders were competing over a course designed by Eric Hasbrouck (USA). With the large jump-off field, Chapot said, "It kind of throws any kind of strategy out the window." She added, "You just have to go the best you can. There were no playing games; everyone was giving it a go. The leader at the time was already very fast."

Chapot and Quintreau lowered the

winning time to 26.265 seconds in the jump-off for victory. Said and Hope van Scherpen Donder, a nine-year-old BWP mare by Quadrillo x Balou du Rouet, were second in 27.082 seconds, while Molly Ashe and Balous Day Date were just behind in 27.694 seconds. Fourth place went to Filip de Wandel (BEL) on Gentley in 28.156 seconds, while Andrew Kocher (USA) rounded out the top five in 28.509 seconds on Ora Del Te Di La San Giorgio.

For Abdel Said, competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival is a brand-new experience. The rider, who is based in Belgium, first came to WEF last year to watch and decided he had to compete in 2016.

"I have a lot of friends and business partners over here. It's a very famous tour actually," he related. "We always follow it. Even when I was in Europe at the Sunshine Tour, I always watched the classes live on the Internet if the time difference would allow it, or I would follow the results. It's very interesting, with a lot of good riders and horses. Last year I just came to visit for five days to watch my friend Cian (O'Connor's) horse Good Luck. I had so much fun over here, and I said, 'Wow. Why are we freezing in

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## Women Prevail Once Again in Battle of the Sexes



The women took home their seventh win in eight years in the first "Saturday Night Lights" event of the season at the Battle of the Sexes. © Sportfot

Men and Women were pitted against each other for the eighth annual \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes in front of a crowd of more than 5,000 spectators during the first "Saturday Night Lights" of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival. After three rounds of competition that ended in a duel between the final two riders, the women broke the tie that ended the 2015 battle to come out on top this year.

Candice King led the women's team as captain alongside fellow riders Nicole Bellissimo, Heather Caristo-Williams, Tori Colvin, Amanda Derbyshire, Margie Engle, Abigail McArdle, Catherine Pasmore, Alison Robitaille and Denise Wilson. The men were captained by Charlie Jayne and their team included David Blake, Daniel Bluman, Eugenio Garza, Alex Granato, Andy Kocher, Adam Prudent, Andrew Ramsay, Michael Tokaruk and Daniel Zetterman.

The two teams competed over three phases including a speed course, relay and match race, all set by U.S. Course Designer Eric Hasbrouck. In the speed round, the women established an early lead with a seven to three score. The men, however, answered in the relay and jumped ahead 13 to 12.

The match race determined the final standings with one member of each team jumping identical courses at the same time on opposite sides of the International Arena. The men won the first four rounds worth three points apiece before Pasmore and Catara 4 put the women on the board by toping Granato in the fifth race. She gained the momentum her team needed to make a comeback, and the women crossed the timers first in the next four races.

McArdle beat Prudent in the second-to-last race to set the stage for a head-to-head battle between captains King aboard Hoover and Jayne on Endy in the final race.

King had an early rail, but Jayne suffered a refusal soon after to open the door for her to cruise through the final timers ahead. The final score stood at 30 to 25 for the women, a team that was made up by 10 female riders, but also six mares.

McArdle was ecstatic to help her team secure the win in her second year competing in the Battle of the Sexes.

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**VDL Stud**

**PRESENTATION:**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 3:00 PM

**AUCTION:**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

**Winner**

For the complete schedule of events go to  
[www.WEFSPOORTHORSEAUCTION.COM](http://www.WEFSPOORTHORSEAUCTION.COM)  
Contact: [melanie@horsemls.com](mailto:melanie@horsemls.com) or call 561.870.6587.

## WEF 2 Upcoming Events:

### AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT

The American Equestrians Got Talent Auditions continue on Wednesday, January 20, at 7:30 pm at the White Horse Fashion Cuisine. The event is open to the public. Each week's audition and the Finale will be live streamed on The Chronicle of the Horse, which is brought to you by Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC. Every week the winner is chosen by audience applause and receives \$1,000 prize money. Didn't win? Come back the following week and try again! For auditions, please email [rdover2@aol.com](mailto:rdover2@aol.com) to sign up. For table reservations at White Horse Fashion Cuisine, please call 561-847-4549. The AEGT Finale is on March 20 with a \$10,000 grand prize!

### LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, January 21, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held 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, while all others are \$25. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The season finale door prize includes a custom trunk provided by

Clever Jumps & Trunks and TheraPlate. The subject for WEF 2 is "Sport Nutrition for the Equine Athlete" with Russell K. Mueller M.S. PAS, sponsored by Nutrena and Progressive Nutrition Supplements. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or [laura@equestriansport.com](mailto:laura@equestriansport.com) for more information.

### ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL CPEDI 3\*

Head over to The Stadium at PBIEC on Friday-Sunday, January 22-24, to see the top Para-Equestrian athletes compete in their international competition. Riders from the United States, Canada, and Mexico will be vying for top scores to help them qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### THE SUITES - AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Suites are first available on Saturday, January 16, and then on nine other Saturday nights during 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. The

Suites are available for \$150 for WEF 1 - January 16, WEF 2 - January 23, WEF 3 - January 30, WEF 8 - March 5, WEF 10 - March 19, WEF 11 - March 26, and for \$200 per person during the CSI 5\* weeks: WEF 5 - February 13, WEF 7 - February 27, WEF 9 - March 12, and WEF 12 - April 2. 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@whitehorsetavernflorida.com](mailto:pmiele@whitehorsetavernflorida.com) today.

### "SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" - \$86,000 MARSHALL & STERLING GRAND PRIX CSI 2\*

The grand prix competition continues at WEF 2 on Saturday, January 23, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The best show jumpers of the circuit qualify during the week to compete under the lights of the International Arena. This always exciting competition features the biggest jumps with daring jump-off rides for the best prize money.

### ARTISAN FARMS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

The popular Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series returns to the Winter Equestrian Festival at WEF 2 with the

\$10,000 Welcome on Saturday, January 23, in the International Arena. The \$25,000 Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix, presented by Equine Couture/Tuff Rider is in the International Arena at 8 am on Sunday, January 24. Watch some of the best young talent in the world compete in this seven-event series for \$170,000 in prize money and experience in FEI international competition.

**RIDE & LEARN WITH CANDICE KING PLAN AHEAD FOR WEEK 4!** The Ride & Learn Series will take place each Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. during WEF. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals and will be held in various venues and arenas at PBIEC. Week 4 features top show jumper Candice King at PBIEC Ring 7 on Tuesday, February 2. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$100 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 12 horses, so sign up today! Auditing is Free. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or [jnichols@equestriansport.com](mailto:jnichols@equestriansport.com). ■

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AND LEARN

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# Alexandra Paillot is First Woman to Win Pro-Elite French Championships

This September, French rider Alexandra Paillot became the first woman ever to win the Pro-Elite French Championships. While never imagining she would be contributing to a piece of equestrian history, Paillot and her 13-year-old Selle Français gelding Polias De Blondel partnered last year with big plans.

"I was surprised that we won because I had only had Polias for a year [before the championships]," said Paillot who purchased the horse in France last fall before coming directly to the Winter Equestrian Festival to get him experience at the top international level.

Paillot and Polias De Blondel were sitting third before the final round of competition in the Pro-Elite French Championships, which took place in September 2015. The top two riders each had a rail in their final trips to open a door for Paillot. She returned to produce a flawless round and make the record books.

Polias De Blondel is what Paillot describes as a big, scopey horse with power to spare, but also boasts unique lightness and adjustability.

"He jumped great and I thought we would do well because he was in great shape and we have such a good connection, but winning was more than I imagined," said Paillot who hails from Paris and splits her time between Chamand, France and Wellington.

Before their championship win, Paillot and Polias Du Blondel jumped on the sixth-place French team at the \$100,000 Nations Cup, presented by Kingsland Equestrian, at WEF last year. This year, the pair will return to Palm Beach International Equestrian Center – the place they got their start together – with their sights set on success in FEI competition. They will make their 2016 debut during WEF 5 and plan to compete in the \$380,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5\*. ■

**Lindsay Brock**



Alexandra Paillot and Polias de Blondel competing in the Nations Cup at last year's WEF. Photo © Lucio Landa.

## WEF Week Two Photo Gallery © Meg Banks for ESP



Want an individual seat, table, or entire Suite for up to 22 people? Contact Patti Miele at 561.784.1125 or pmiele@whitehorsetavernflorida.com to reserve yours today!

# VENDOR VIEWS

## Vendor Village

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Ann Hubbards Tack Shop  
Anne Gittins Photography  
Antarès Sellier France  
Awesome Artifacts  
Beval Saddlery  
Bomber Bits  
Cavalleria Toscana  
Charles Ancona NY  
CME Horses  
CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc.  
CWD Custom Saddles  
Der Dau Custom Boots  
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James Leslie Parker Photography  
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Kocher Tack Shop  
La Mundial Custom Boots

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Le Fash  
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Farmvet Inc.  
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## Barn 5

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## RING 6

Amberway Equine Solutions  
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## RINGS 9 & 10

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& Tack  
Fox Run Saddlery  
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and Stable Equipment  
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## INTERNATIONAL ARENA

### WARM UP

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C Jones Silver Housewares  
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Olive and Bette's  
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## BRIDGE DECKS

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Romitelli Shoes & Boots  
WEF Official Boutique

## International Shoppes

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Lugano Diamonds  
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Michelle McNabb Jewelry  
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Zadeh of New York – Men's  
Jewelry

## PLACES TO EAT

### INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Tito's Tacos  
Tiki Hut

### VENDOR ROW

Harry's Lemonade  
Loopy's Crepe Café  
Coliano's Pizza  
Oasis Café

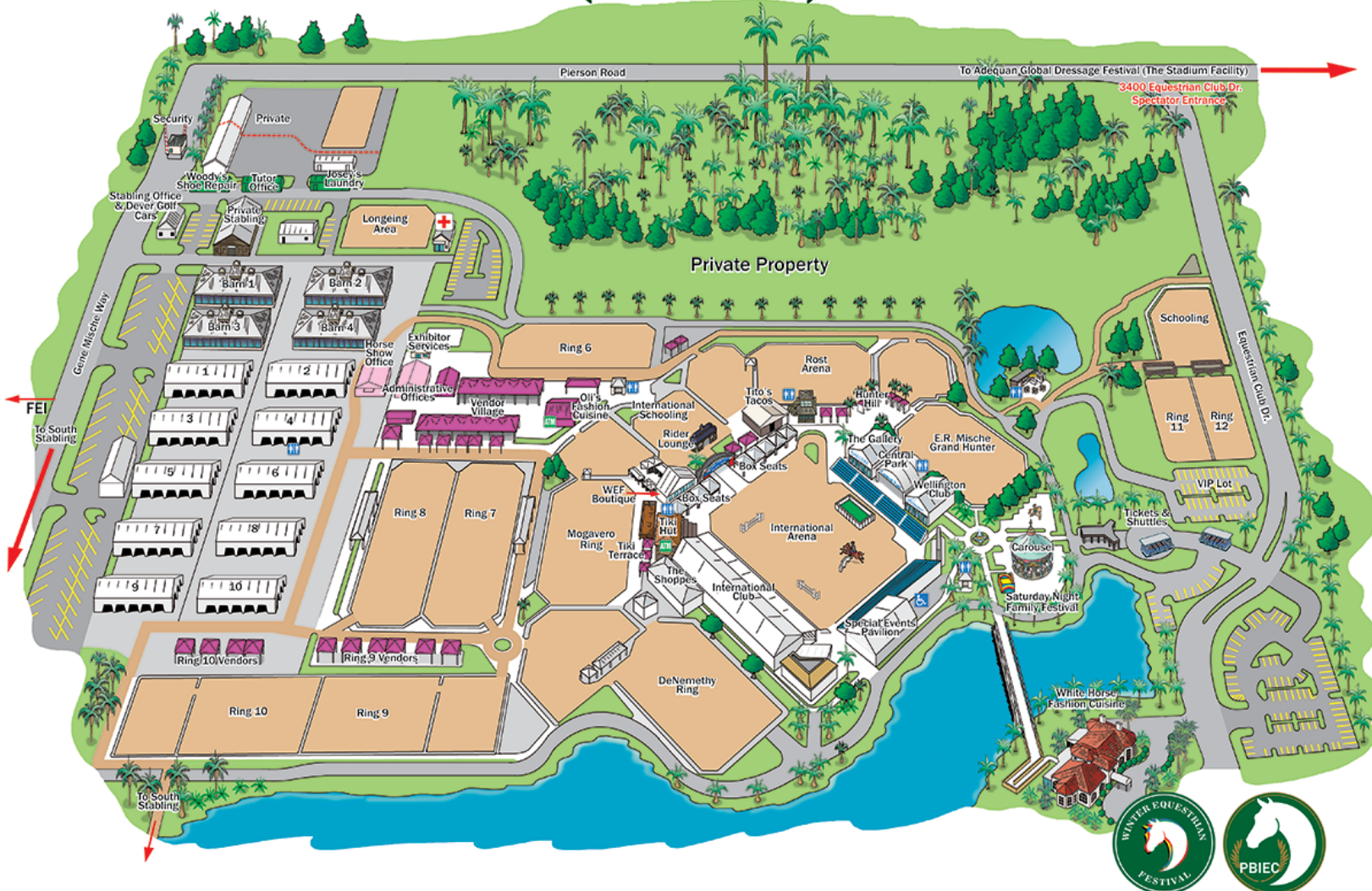
### RINGS 9 & 10

Professional Concessions  
Magdalena's Mexican Food  
Muddy Paw Coffee  
Nathalie's Café

### BARN 4

Burgess and Clark Coffee

# Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (Main Grounds)



# Mark Bellissimo Announces Purchase of The Wanderers Club By Wellington Equestrian Partners

*Golf, Tennis, Pool, Fitness, and Dining Activities Located Within Three Minutes of PBIEC  
Shuttle Service from PBIEC Available, Starting Week 3*

Mark Bellissimo announced this week that Wellington Equestrian Partners has purchased The Wanderers Club in Wellington, Florida. The Wanderers Club is a family-friendly private club that offers some of the finest golf, tennis, fitness, and dining activities in Wellington. The club will continue to serve both equestrian and non-equestrian families in the Wellington area and is conveniently located within three minutes of the world-famous Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC).

“The Wanderers Club is a special facility and property in Wellington,” said Bellissimo. “With its tournament-quality golf course, tennis, pool, fitness, dining and banquet facilities, we are confident that we will continue to attract both residents and seasonal equestrians as Club members. We will also be providing a shuttle from PBIEC to The Wanderers Club so that access to the facilities is quick and easy for club members. Within the next week, we will be host open meetings for Q&A with club members to explore new opportunities to solicit feedback and identify opportunities to better serve our membership.”

## THE BEST AMENITIES

The magnificent, par-72 golf course offers immaculate fairways, manicured greens, and breathtaking vistas. Created by Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design, the 18 holes feature the natural beauty of the Florida landscape with TifEagle greens, tees, and lush fairways at tournament-level conditions. The course offers an uncrowded experience with no tee times. A quick round is possible any time, even on weekends and holidays, during the busy winter season. Players can have a

traditional golf experience by walking the course with caddies or ride in carts.

The golf staff helps members perfect their skills and there are two short game practice areas, a driving range, and a state-of-the-art, indoor/outdoor golf studio complete with video swing analysis and club fitting equipment.

Availability is the name of the game when it comes to tennis at The Wanderers Club. With six lighted Har-Tru tennis courts for day and night play, shade shelters, comfortable seating, and chilled water, plus tennis professionals that are all USPTA certified, the tennis program is second-to-none. Other unique features include a fully-stocked tennis pro shop, 24-hour stringing and racquet customization service, as well as organized teams, events, and clinics.

After a day of golf or tennis, families can lounge by the secluded, Olympic-size swimming pool while soaking up the Florida sunshine. A second children’s pool is available too for playing and splashing. A children’s play area at the Clubhouse includes a heated wading pool and play set. Plans for the winter season include a Kids Camp with tennis, golf, swimming, and fun activities for children to enjoy.

## THE FINEST DINING AND EVENTS

Offering what many call the finest dining experience in Wellington, The Wanderers Club offers three different offerings for patrons. The Stables is the premier restaurant with dishes that feature flavors from around the world and more than 400 different wine labels on its outstanding wine in an intimate atmosphere.

Duke’s Bar and Veranda is the perfect place to enjoy a cold beverage, American tapas dinner, or chef specialties in elegant surroundings. The restaurant invites gatherings of all sizes and is a perfect setting for friends and families to share quality time in a more casual setting. Tennis, Golf, and Equestrian attire is always welcome. The Veranda overlooks the driving range and polo field, a perfect spot to relax with family and enjoy the view.

The Wanderers Club offers exceptional facilities in a unique, private setting, with five-star dining and uncompromising service for meetings, birthdays and anniversary celebrations, charitable fundraisers or corporate outings. The Wanderers Club is a captivating backdrop for every type of event that guests will remember for a lifetime.

## THE FIRST-RATE TEAM

While ownership is changing, the familiar faces of The Wanderers Club will stay the same, led by General Manager and Director of Golf Justin Thompson. Thompson is a Wellington resident and will continue delivering the highest operational standards.

“The team at The Wanderers Club is outstanding,” said Bellissimo, “and we have no plans to change that. We look forward to working with them and continuing their excellent service.”

All of the dining is under the watchful and expert eye of Executive Chef Tam Ha. His repertoire includes Asian, Caribbean, American Fusion, and Continental French cuisines. Chef Tam is also known

for his beautiful, hand-carved ice sculptures that complement food displays at the Club. Chef Tam has spent 20 years in the culinary profession, working at such prestigious clubs as the Everglades Club and The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. He earned the esteemed Silver Medal in Culinary Arts for graduating second in his class at the State University of New York.

Food and Beverage Director Luis Taboda, also a master Sommelier, will continue to lead the staff in providing the very best for members and special events and great wine options from the club's extensive wine list.



For those interested in Wanderers Club info or membership, please email Membership Director Anna Grzebien at

[anna@wanderersclubwellington.com](mailto:anna@wanderersclubwellington.com),  
call 561-795-3501, or visit  
[www.WanderersClubWellington.com](http://www.WanderersClubWellington.com).

"I kept looking over knowing I had to do eight strides and get off the ground," she said of her match race performance. "It was a fantastic feeling and so fun to have someone riding right next to you - it really puts on the pressure."

For King, she enjoyed seeing a packed house at PBIEC Saturday night. "The crowd understands men versus women, so they get behind us and our horses. When these horses hear the cheers, they know it's game on," she said. "It's a great way to start the season, and we all look forward to it every year."

competition is exciting, she thinks the Battle of the Sexes is an opportunity to showcase show jumping to a new audience.

"We want to promote our sport and this introduces the local community to what we do and gets them to come back again," she said. "For me, it's not just about having fun, it's about educating the public and getting them to have fun and grow this sport. We have to thank Equestrian Sport Productions because they have done a great job at encouraging that growth." ■ Lindsay Brock

King also acknowledged that, while the



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# BATTLE OF THE SEXES



# Parade of Champions Photo Gallery ©Sportfot



The Gold Coast Baby Green Hunter champion was Carrera Z, ridden by Ki-Juan Minors for Lori Mattiasen.



The Cross Rail Hunter championship, presented by Carolex Stables, went to Elodie Watrous and Sugarbrook Game Plan. They also won the Kastel Denmark Best Turnout Award for the week, presented by Camilla Jorst with ringmaster Christian Craig.



What-A-Bean and Lola Head were the Palm Beach Riding Academy Short Stirrup Hunter champions.



The champion in the Section B of the Adult Amateur 18-35 Hunters was DiCaprio, ridden and owned by Paige Wilson.

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**APRIL-NOVEMBER 2016**



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# Hunters Start Off Strong During Week 1 of WEF

The first week of hunter competition got underway at the Palm Beach Equestrian Center on January 13. Professional, junior, and amateur exhibitors shined, despite having to contend with some stormy weather.

Despite the heavy downpours, Susan Stanley successfully piloted Everest to the Animal Medical Center sponsored Low Adult Hunter 2'6" Section A division championship. Stanley and her 11-year-old gelding won three out of four over fences classes. Priscilla Denegre and her mare, String of Pearls, settled for the reserve honors. Denegre and the 6-year-old mare won an over fences class.

The Equine Tack and Nutritionals First Year Green Hunter division was among the first of the season to award championship and reserve championship titles. In an exciting tie-breaking hack off, Brady Mitchell and Sutton Place battled Rachel Kennedy and Everglow for the reserve champion honors. Mitchell came out victorious on Katie Robinson's gelding Sutton Place to earn the reserve title. Victoria Colvin, in her professional debut, took home the tricolor honors aboard 7-year-old Style, who is owned by Take the High Road, LLC.

It was a clean sweep of the Bainbridge Companies Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 division for rider Caroline Kellogg. Inclement weather conditions resulted in a 2-hour delay to the show day on Sunday. Once showing resumed, Kellogg rode Trendy to the champion honors and Felicci to the reserve title. Kellogg's mount, Trendy, is a 2003 Holsteiner gelding out of Cassini I, and Felicci is a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood.

Some of WEF's youngest exhibitors showcased their talent in the pony ring this week. The Large Children's Pony Hunter division awarded Eva Romanoff and 19-year-old Sunlight, owned by First Blue LLC, the tricolor honors. Willa Johnson and Trinity Beitler took turns piloting Sarah Moyninan's pony, Glen Haven Ivy League, to the reserve title.

Hunter Competition will continue during week 2 of WEF on Wednesday, January 20. **Callie Seaman**

Stella Styslinger and O'Ryan won the EnTrust Capital Small Junior Hunters 16-17 at WEF 1. © Sportfot



<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES I</b> 06/08/16 06/12/16	<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES III</b> 06/22/16 06/26/16	<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES IV</b> 07/06/16 07/10/16	<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES VI</b> 07/20/16 07/24/16
<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES II</b> 06/15/16 06/19/16	<b>COLORADO MID-SUMMER</b> 06/29/16 07/03/16	<b>SUMMER IN THE ROCKIES V</b> 07/13/16 07/17/16	All are Premier (AA) for the Hunters, Jumper 4 for the first 3 and Jumper 5 for the last 4.

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the cold in Belgium while this exists?"

The typey little mare, who stands just 15.2 hands high, takes the grand prix jumps in stride. "She feels big when she goes to the jumps! She thinks she's big," he said with a smile.

Ashe compared Balous Day Date, an 11-year-old Oldenburg mare by Balou du Rouet x Linda-Dolores, to Said's horse, and it turns out they are related through Balou du Rouet. She noted

that their heart, speed, and energy helps them in the show ring. She has been paired with Balous Day Date for one year.

"We've gotten to know each other quite well," Ashe said. "Once she gets aimed at the first jump, she's point and shoot. I'm very lucky and happy to have the chance to ride her. I'm grateful to Beth (Johnson) and Louisburg Farm and Paul (Butterfield) for giving me the chance."

Sponsor Dan Rosenbaum of Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC spoke to their involvement at the Winter Equestrian Festival and the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center.

"We represent the Wellington Equestrian Partners. In late 2005, Mark Bellissimo walked into my law office. We have had the pleasure of not only being a sponsor, but also being the attorneys to help build the Palm Beach

International Equestrian Center. When you see a jump-off in a grand prix like we had today, with tremendous sportsmanship, tremendous talent, and excellent riding abilities and the horses, it makes you really proud. What it's like to be a sponsor in my situation is really unique, but it's the tenth year now that I've had involvement, and I hope to be here ten years from now with the same type of wonderful people that I'm sitting with here today."

■ Jennifer Wood



Alvaro 'Doda' de Miranda claimed the first bonus of the season offered in the innovative SSG Gloves 'Go Clean for the Green' promotion, now in its sixth year at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival. The Brazilian Olympic Medalist was awarded a \$3,000 bonus for wearing SSG 'Digital' riding gloves on his way to victory in the \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round I riding AD Nouvelle Europe Z, owned by Victory Equestrian Sport BV & A.A de Miranda Neto.

"I think it is very clever," said de

Miranda of the SSG Gloves "Go Clean for the Green" promotion. "It's a way to stimulate the people to use the gloves and once they try them, they see how good they are."

Madison Goetzmann, 15, of Skaneateles, NY, was awarded a \$1,000 bonus by promotion manager Jennifer Ward (pictured) in recognition of her loyalty to the SSG Gloves brand after winning WEF I's \$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Classic. She piloted Wrigley, owned by her trainer John

Madden, to victory, and claimed her first-ever bonus in the "Go Clean for the Green" promotion.

Each week, bonus money is offered to the winner of the Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup, the Maybach - Icons of Luxury High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic, and the Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Classic for wearing SSG 'Digital' style riding gloves on their way to victory. A total of \$60,000 in bonus money is on offer from SSG Gloves at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival.

Photo © Jump Media.

## SSG Go Clean for the Green Week 1

## Grand Prize Final Results: \$75,000

### Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix

- 1 **QUOINTREAU UN PRINCE**: 2004 Selle Francais gelding by Diamant de Semilly x Rosire  
LAURA CHAPOT (USA), Laura Chapot & McLain Ward: 0/0/26.265
- 2 **HOPE VAN SCHERPEN DONDER**: 2007 BWP mare by Quadrillo x Balou du Rouet  
ABDEL SAID (EGY), AS Sport Horses: 0/0/27.082
- 3 **BALOUS DAY DATE**: 2005 Oldenburg mare by Balou du Rouet x Domino  
MOLLY ASHE-CAWLEY (USA), Louisburg Farm: 0/0/27.694
- 4 **GENTLEY**: 2006 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Bentley vd Heffinck x Major de la Cour  
FILIP DE WANDEL (BEL) Filip de Wandel: 0/0/28.156
- 5 **ORA DEL TE DI LA SAN GIORGIO**: 2006 ASSI mare by For Pleasure  
ANDREW KOCHER (USA), Ora Del Te LLC: 0/0/28.509
- 6 **GALOUS**: 2002 Irish Sport Horse gelding by Touchdown x Huff & Puff  
DENISE WILSON (USA), Blue Gate Farm LLC: 0/0/29.031
- 7 **INDIGO**: 2000 KWPN gelding by Indoctro  
MARGIE ENGLE (USA), Griese, Garber, Hidden Creek & Gladewinds: 0/0/29.172
- 8 **BULL RUN'S FAUSTINO DE TILI**: 2005 Belgian Warmblood stallion by Berlin x Bijou van De Vijfheide  
KRISTEN VANDERVEEN (USA), Bull Run Jumpers Five, Inc: 0/0/29.392
- 9 **GLOBAL VAN'T BRAUNERTHOF**: 2006 BWP gelding by Vigo d'Arsouilles x Landetto  
MARIO DESLAURIERS (USA), Karen Polle: 0/0/29.718
- 10 **QUALITY GIRL**: 2003 Oldenburg mare by Quidam's Rubin x Dobrock  
TODD MINIKUS (USA), Quality Group: 0/4/27.178
- 11 **ANDRETTI S**: 2005 KWPN gelding by Corland x Animo  
LAURA KRAUT (USA), Stars & Stripes: 0/4/27.658
- 12 **HOLD ON TIGHT II**: 2007 BWP gelding by Cassini II x Parcival  
MARK BLUMAN (COL), Stransky's Mission Farms, Inc.: 0/4/28.837

## WEF Week 1 Standings and Awards



**Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Illustrated Properties (after 2 qualifying events)**

- 1 Denise Wilson (USA): 122
- 2 Molly Ashe-Cawley (USA): 115
- 3 Laura Kraut (USA): 114
- 4 Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 102
- 5 Kristen Vanderveen (USA): 100



**Suncast 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series (after 1 qualifying event)**

- 1 Alberto Michan (MEX): 18
- 2 Paris Sellon (USA): 16
- 3 Heather Caristo-Williams (USA): 15
- 4 Abdel Said (EGY): 14
- 5 Doda de Miranda (BRA): 13



**Special Award Winners for WEF Week One**

Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman: Scott Stewart and Luster

Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman: Lucas Porter and Psychee d'Amour

## FACES OF WEF:

### A Conversation with Jeroen Dubbeldam

*The Winter Equestrian Festival sees new faces every year, and in 2016 one of them is that of the 2014 World Equestrian Games champion and Olympic Individual Gold Medalist, Jeroen Dubbeldam of The Netherlands. Jeroen is at WEF to help train two top up-and-coming young riders, Wilton and Lucas Porter. Known for his horsemanship and guiding talented riders, Jeroen will travel to Wellington frequently this winter, keeping his eye on what happens here.*

#### When was the first time you came to Wellington?

My first time (here) was after the Olympics, in 2001. I was coming to train Marley Goodman at that time. After that she came to Europe to my stable. That was my first experience in Wellington. It was already then quite impressive, the whole set-up. I came back a few years ago when Bezie (Madden) bought Simon. It grows in a very positive way and looks very impressive. You can see every year more European riders come here to compete.

#### What's the biggest difference that you see here compared to Europe?

There are so many horses and rings. We are used to going to a show with one ring. We see more and get to watch more (at home). This is very different but totally interesting. You get to ride more classes, more rounds. At home you have to sit a bit longer before riding your next class.

#### Are there any horses that have stood out for you here?

There are a few horses that recently came from my stable. One is a nice young horse, an eight-year-old called Daisy. Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum bought it two months ago. Quality from Jimmy Torano, he bought that (horse from me) two months ago. There are more horses that came through me, that somehow were in my stable as a young horse. It's interesting to see them here.

#### Have you had any fun in Florida outside the show yet?

So far not really! We have to concentrate on what we are here for, this is the main thing. In the coming weeks in between, we will do something. It's nice to be at the horse show. I like watching the horses, even if I'm not helping the boys. I still like to watch the other classes going on. I'm always interested in seeing the other riders and horses because you're never too old to learn. I can still learn from watching riders. I've been a person who is a little bit self-made, and I did that by watching a lot of other riders. I still do that; it helps me.

#### What is it like working with the Porters?

This is our first week working with Lucas and Wilton. We were here one month ago just before Christmas to have a look at the horses. We rode them a little bit to know what we can expect. The beginning is always a little bit difficult. They have their way of riding. We have to watch a little bit to not change it too much, too quick. If I try to put too much my stamp on too quickly, it will confuse them, so I have to watch that. They will also come to Europe, (then) I will put my stamp on a little bit more. They have natural feeling. The horses will have to have more buttons on them than just the one to go in and be competitive. We will take more time and focus on the horse to bring it out in the bigger sport and aim for some big classes. This is something that I also had to learn. That is a big step and a difficult step, but it's the step, in my eyes.

#### What are your own plans for top sport in 2016?

I still have Zenith, so I will try to have him ready for the Olympics this year. (Dubbeldam and SFN Zenith S.O.P. won the individual and team gold medals at the 2014 FEI World Equestrian Games) Then unfortunately after the Olympics, he will be sold. He belongs to a fund, and the fund stops this year. Then we have to see after that, how we will go on. If I have some top horses besides Zenith, or can get some top horses, I will for sure continue. If not, then there are lots of other things to do also, like helping Lucas and Wilton. I have another guy I help here, Alonso Valdez from Peru. It's a little bit difficult to see how it will be after the Olympics, what horses I have then. It's a little bit of a question mark. I knew this when I started with him, so it's not surprise for me, but still it's painful of course.

#### I'm told to ask, what is your favorite food?

I love steak. I've been a few days now at Oli's. They have a perfect steak. I'll probably have a few more of them!

#### What are your plans for the circuit?

I will now have two weeks at home, two big shows and an auction that we have organized for the past 12 years together with the Schroeder brothers at the show in Amsterdam. After Amsterdam I come back here. I'll come several times.

#### Do you have plans to compete at WEF?

I will actually compete a few horses from the Porters. We (will) start slowly, get to know them a little bit, find the link, and then we'll see what classes exactly.

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Jeroen Dubbeldam, the 2014 World Champion, walking the course at WEF last week.  
Photo © Erin Gilmore.



# WEF 1 Jumper Highlights

Top honors in the \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 1 were presented to Brazil's Doda de Miranda and AD Nouvelle Europe Z. AD Nouvelle Europe Z, a 12-year-old Zangersheide mare owned by Victory Equestrian Sport BV & A.A de Miranda Neto, carried de Miranda to the win to best a field of 48 horses. Course designer Eric Hasbrouck (USA) set the track, which produced 12 clear trips in the first round. Laura Kraut (USA) returned first over the jump-off course aboard Andretti S for owner Stars and Stripes. She stopped the clock clear in 36.07 seconds before de Miranda bumped her to second in a speedy 35.26 seconds.

Kraut held on for second place after another four double-clear efforts, while Filip de Wandel (BEL) and his own Gentley jumped to third in 36.22 seconds. Kraut also earned fourth place with Cherry Knoll Farm's Constable in 37.81 seconds, and Denise Wilson (USA) rounded out the top five for Blue Gate Farm, LLC in the irons of Galous in 37.94 seconds.

De Miranda has had the ride on AD Nouvelle Europe Z since 2014 and is pleased with her success at the grand prix level. She last jumped at Doha in November before arriving in Wellington in early December to rest up for the WEF season.

Other highlights in the International Arena on Thursday included Cian O'Connor riding to first and second in the \$8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m Jumpers, winning

aboard Crespo PKZ and taking second with Sam Du Challos. Also on Thursday, Cristina Heurtematte won the \$2,500 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper class in the irons of Holala Z.

Laura Chapot and Shooting Star raced to a win in the \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m Speed Challenge as the first week continued on Friday. Chapot and Shooting Star, owned by Mary Chapot, broke the timer beam in 71.21 seconds early in Friday's one-round speed class and kept the lead to top a starting field of 36 over a track set by course designer Eric Hasbrouck (USA).

Andrew Kocher (USA) challenged Chapot with Prof de la Roque, but his time of 72.34 seconds came up shy and settled him in second for Postage Stamp Farm, LLC. Chapot answered back to take third aboard Out of Ireland in 73.15 seconds, while Luis Pedro Biraben (ARG) jumped into fourth in 74.25 seconds in the irons of Coriandolo Di Ribani for owner Miguel Madero. Amanda Starbuck (USA) piloted Carte Blanche to a time of 74.29 seconds to round out the top five for Starbuck Equestrian.

Shooting Star, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Phin Phin x Pion), has been under Chapot's guidance for four years and, according to her, has found his niche in the 1.40m speed classes at WEF.

Friday competition got under way in the International Arena in the morning with a win for Tina Di Landri and Juanita in the \$2,500 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY

High Amateur-Owner Jumper class. Sophie Michaels and MCB Maya took the top spot in the \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper class while Laura Kraut rode Gipsy King to a win in the \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m.

After only ten days in the irons of 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion Warrant, Mexico's Alberto Michan topped 19 pairs to win the \$25,000 Suncast® 1.50m Classic Saturday afternoon. Michan recently took over the reins for owner Ilan Ferder Stables and will pilot Warrant throughout WEF.

Seven horses advanced to the second round where five produced double-clear efforts. Heather Caristo-Williams (USA) and Qui Vive Des Songes Z posted an immediate clear in 38.72 seconds. Two trips later, Michan beat her by nearly three seconds and put down the unbeatable time in 35.86 seconds. Paris Sellon (USA) returned sixth and did her best to catch Michan, but was fractions too slow for second place aboard her own Adare in 35.93 seconds. Caristo-Williams settled for third for Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Caristo. Abdel Said (BEL) and Luron S Z Abdel jumped to fourth for AS Sport Horses & Philippe De Balanda BVBA, while Doda De Miranda (BRA) capped the top five on AD Cornetto K for A.A. De Miranda Neto & Victory Equestrian Sport BV.

Winners in the International Arena on Saturday also included amateur-owner and junior riders on Saturday. Emanuel Andrade and Walter 61 topped 41 contenders to win the \$15,000 SJHOF MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic. Emma Heise and Quentucky Jolly took first in the \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper class, and Eve Jobs aboard Quickley 3 were victorious in the \$1,500 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumper class. ■

Alberto Michan and Warrant started their partnership outright with victory in the \$25,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Classic at WEF 1. Photo © Sportfot.



## EXHIBITOR ALERT

### TRAFFIC RULES:

Equestrian Sport Productions would like to inform everyone entering the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center that traffic laws will be enforced on the property. This includes fines or expulsions for texting while driving, speeding, unsafe driving, and disobeying traffic rules. This applies to anyone in a car, golf cart, or on a motorized vehicle, staff or exhibitors. At night, your golf cart must have headlights. We remind you to please be aware and take precautions to keep the people and animals here safe!

### JUMPER ATTIRE RULES:

While judges were lenient in week 1 to let exhibitors be reminded of the Jumper Attire Rules, they will be enforcing them starting at WEF 2. This is the second year of the new rules, which are stated by the USEF. All of the rules are clearly outlined in the WEF Prize List on page 158 and are posted on all of the Jumper Course Boards at the rings. Management and judges will be striving for consistency in enforcing the rules across all rings.

Please be aware of the "Formal Jumper Attire" for any Grand Prix or special class offering at least \$25,000 in prize money. There are also classes that require "Proper Jumper Attire," and those include any classes in the International Arena where Formal attire is not required and also any Classic. All other classes will require "Standard Attire." Competitors are responsible for knowing the rules and for their own attire. A wardrobe malfunction is not an excuse for improper attire. We thank the competitors for their attention to this matter.

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# Remembering Sophie Walker

Sophie Walker was effortlessly beautiful, had an infectious laugh, and the biggest heart. On January 4, 2016 the world became a little less bright when it lost Sophie. An amateur equestrian show jumper she was 30 years old at the time of her passing.

On April 10, 1985 in Brookline, Mass. Sophie Coppedge was born to Roy "Copey" Coppedge and Susan Gordon. She graduated from Brookline High School (Mass.) in 2003. She took a year off to compete and then attended New York University (NY) from which she graduated in 2008.

Sophie began riding as a young girl at school at Dana Hall (Wellesley, Mass.). Her family spent summers on Cape Cod. She couldn't bare to stop riding over the summer months so she continued her equine endeavors at Bette Avery's Woodsong Farm (Brewster, Mass.) As a junior, Sophie began training with Kathy Fletcher at Grazing Fields Farm (Buzzards Bay, Mass.).

"Sophie was a truly beautiful girl inside and out. Even as a young rider she was always concerned about her ponies wanting to be sure they were happy and healthy," Fletcher recalled. "As she progressed into showing horses, having success in the hunter, jumper and equitation rings her essential love and concern of the animals never went away. As proud as I was to see her succeed in the show ring her compassion for the horses and her fellow competitors really showed the person she was."

Sophie was successful in the equitation ring. She won the 2001 New England Equitation Final Championship (West Springfield, Mass.) aboard her horse, St. Patrick. As wonderful a rider as Sophie was she was an even better sport. Fletcher recalls her sportsmanship when the results did not go her way.

"Her first year in the "big" Eq she didn't make it through the Maclay Regionals. Her friend and fellow barn mate, Sara Wytrzes, did but her

horse was unable to compete. Sophie immediately offered her best horse Patrick for Sara to borrow and made the trip to Madison Square Garden to cheer them on," Fletcher said. "Her generosity with her horses as well as her friendship is something that had always inspired those around her."

Sophie spent her final junior year training with both Fletcher and Missy Clark of North Run stables (Warren, Vt.). She leased Sarah Willeman's famous equitation horse, Grappa. Sophie's husband, Brian, also leased him in his final junior year.

As an amateur Sophie continue to compete moving up to the high amateur jumpers under Clark's tutelage

"Sophie was a remarkable person. She always had an incredibly positive attitude towards anything that she tackled. She was a wonderful student, and a very hard worker," remembered Clark. "It was such a pleasure to teach her. I always remember the two of us laughing together at her difficulties in cantering over a pole on the ground. If you gave her a 1.40 track to jump, however, she would have no problem."

"I can honestly say that Sophie was truly one of the nicest people I've ever met. She will be missed by so many," continued Clark.

In September of 2012 Sophie married her best friend and boyfriend of nine years, Brian Walker. He is a professional show jumper and trainer. Together they ran Woodside Farm (Wellington, FL). They were an unbeatable team, each ones strengths complementing the others weaknesses which made for a successful business operation and marriage.

Brian found her Whiskey, a horse that had a special place in her heart. As an amateur Sophie won many ribbons but the ones she was most proud of were the ribbons she won aboard Whiskey. She had great success with him in the High Amateur Owner Jumper division including wins and championships from WEF and Kentucky.

Fellow competitor and close friend of Sophie's, Gabby Slome grew up competing in the junior divisions with her and trained with Clark at the same time. The two stayed friends through college and adulthood. Slome and Sophie were in each other's weddings, and Slome shared many fond memories she had of her friend's marriage.

"She always knew from day one they would be together forever - her life was to be with Brian more than anything in the world," Slome said in an email to The Chronicle. "Together they let me tag along always and were the most warm and welcoming people one could imagine.

"She was literally the best," Slome continued. "I could always talk to her and count on her no matter what. She always had such good advice, because she genuinely cared so much about you. She had an aura to her that just made people flock and want to be around her."

Walker's husband, Brian, released a statement through a public relations officer regarding Sophie's passing.

"Sophie Walker was a loving wife, daughter, sister and friend. She lit up any room she walked in. We are heartbroken at the loss of this wonderful person," the statement reads.

Sophie loved all animals, not just horses. Brian and she over the years acquired a diverse array of animals to love and care for. They had a number of dogs, donkeys, a parrot, and a pig named Benny.

Sophie is survived by her husband, Brian Walker; her parents, Copey Coppedge and Susan Gordon; and her brothers, Luke Coppedge, Schuyler Coppedge, Walker Coppedge, Peter Coppedge and Ian Gordon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Danny and Ron's Rescue (Wellington, FL) and the Sky's the Limit Fund (Milpitas, CA). ■



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## Remembering Andres Rodriguez

Andres Rodriguez's career highlight came at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto (CAN) when he rode Darlon Van Groenhove to individual silver. He twice represented Venezuela at world championship level, at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2010 in Lexington, KY, and the 2014 Games in Normandy (FRA).

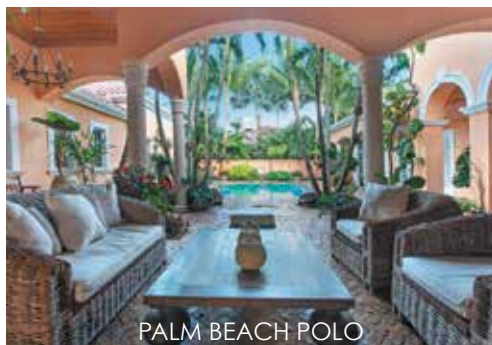
His first major success came in 1996 when he won the FEI Children's Jumping Final. He went on to claim team gold and individual silver at the 2013 Bolivarian Games in Lima (PER), team gold at the 2010 Central American & Caribbean Games in Mayaguez (PUR), and individual gold at the South American Games in Medellin (COL) the same year.

The talented Jumping athlete was bidding to make his Olympic debut at Rio 2016, and was also hoping to make his first appearance at the CHIO in Aachen (GER) this year. He had already realized his goal of a place in the world top 50, and was in 41st in the rankings.

Born in Venezuela, he moved to Europe after graduating from high school to train with Nelson and Rodrigo Pessoa. More recently, he was based in Paris (FRA) for the summer season and in Wellington for the winter, where he was trained by Irish Jumping legend Eddie Macken. He married his long-term partner Clementine Goutal last month. ■



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