



WEEK 4 🐾 February 3-7, 2016

WEEKLY WIRE

🐾 EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

Todd Minikus Makes It Two Grand Prix Wins in a Row



Todd Minikus and Babalou 41 were last in the jump-off to win the "Saturday Night Lights" grand prix. © Sportfot

For the second week in a row, USA's Todd Minikus was the big winner of the Saturday night grand prix at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). During week two of the winter circuit, held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), Minikus topped the \$86,000 Marshall & Sterling Insurance Grand Prix CSI 2* riding Quality Girl. For his win in week three, the rider guided Babalou 41 to a thrilling victory in the \$130,000 Adequan® Grand Prix CSI 3*. Laura Kraut (USA) and Nouvelle finished second, and Chloe Reid (USA) and Codarco placed third.

Luc Musette of Belgium set a challenging track for the 44 competitors in Saturday night's highlight event under the lights of the International Ring at PBIEC. Seven entries cleared the first round course to advance to the jump-off.

Paris Sellon (USA) and Adare were the first pair to tackle the short course, jumping without fault in 44.19 seconds, to eventually finish sixth. Reid and Codarco jumped next, clear in 42.92 seconds, to take third place honors. Scott Keach (AUS) followed with a clear round in 43.18 seconds aboard Southern Cross Equestrian LLC's Fedor to place fourth. Kraut briefly took the lead with a time of 41.87 seconds riding the Evita Group's Nouvelle, but settled for second place in the end. Conor Swail (IRL) followed with a time of 44.08

seconds to take the fifth place prize riding Rubens LS La Silla for Vanessa Mannix. Meredith Michaels Beerbaum (GER) and Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC's Comanche 28 were next, but a drive by at the second to last fence gave the pair four jumping faults and six time faults to finish seventh. Last to go, Minikus and Two Swans Farm's Babalou 41 blazed through the course for the win in 41.15 seconds.

Babalou 41 is an 11-year-old Oldenburg mare (Balou du Rouet x Silvio I) that Minikus has brought along for the last several years. The mare had a fantastic WEF circuit in 2015, including a win in the \$150,000 Grand Prix CSIO 4* presented by Lugano Diamonds during week eight's competition. She also jumped double clean that week to help team USA win the \$100,000 Nations Cup, presented by Kingsland Equestrian. The pair went on to compete in the FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas in April, and represented team USA in Nations Cup competitions three more times throughout the year in Hickstead, Dublin, and Calgary.

When Minikus had a fall in September that caused a severe groin injury, the rider was forced to take some time off, but noted that the break may have been a benefit to his horses, which have come back fresh and in winning form for the winter.

Please turn to page 12 🐾

Hunter Competition Continues During WEF 3



Emma Pell rode Wink and Smile to the Visse Wedell Small Pony Hunter championship at WEF 3. © Sportfot

More bad weather resulted in an abbreviated show week for many exhibitors during the third week of competition at WEF. Torrential downpours forced the cancellation of all classes on Wednesday and Thursday, propelling the junior and amateur hunter riders to center stage.

Junior riders competed fiercely throughout the weekend. In the Children's Hunter Horse 15-17 division, Julia Tait captured the championship honors aboard Fit To Print Farm's Homepage. Tait placed first, fourth and earned two second-place ribbons over fences on the seven-year-old Warmblood mare. She also won the under saddle. Emily Sun rode Elizabeth MacWilliam's Balthazar to the reserve title, placing first, second, third, and sixth over fences and fourth in the under saddle. Balthazar is a fifteen-year-old Hungarian Warmblood gelding trained by Andre Dignelli out of Heritage Farm.

Junior rider Emma Kurtz was crowned champion of the Charleigh's Cookies Large Junior Hunter 15 & Under division this morning aboard David Gochman's horse Fredrick. Kurtz swept the division, riding the 12-year-old gelding to an impressive four wins over fences and a third place finish in the under saddle. McKayla Langmeier and Cuba, who is owned by Missy Clark and North Run, also performed consistently this weekend. The pair earned a sixth, third and two second place ribbons over fences to settle for the reserve champion honors.

The amateur riders also battled it out for championship honors this week. Martha Ingram made a clean sweep of the Oosphos Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 3'3" division. She piloted Ice Time to the championship win and Fonteyn to the reserve honors. Aboard the nine-year-old Oldenburg gelding, Ice Time, Ingram topped two of the four over fences classes and also placed first in the under saddle. Ingram earned a fourth and a third in the other two jumping classes. Ingram then rode the 12-year-old Sporthorse mare, Fonteyn, to two over fences wins and a sixth place ribbon in the under saddle. She also earned seventh-place and fifth-place ribbons over jumps with Fonteyn.

Please turn to page 8 🐾

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PBIEC Week 4 Upcoming Events:

AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT

The American Equestrians Got Talent Auditions continue on Wednesday, February 3, 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 rdovert2@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, February 4, 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 4 is "Regenerative Medicine for Humans and Horses" with Charles S. Theofilos, MD PA and Dr. Bruce R. Coren, DVM MS, sponsored by The Spine Center and DioWave Laser Systems. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or laura@equestriansport.com for more information.

ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT WELLINGTON EVENTING SHOWCASE, PRESENTED BY WELLINGTON EQUESTRIAN REALTY

The Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty will be held at The Stadium at PBIEC on February 5-6 with dressage on Friday starting at 8:30 a.m. followed by stadium jumping (10:30 a.m.) and cross-country (1 p.m.) on Saturday. Approximately 23 top Eventing riders representing the USA, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand are expected to attend this Advanced level competition. VIP tables, which include lunch buffet and drinks each day, are available for the event for prime viewing of both the dressage and stadium jumping arena as well as the cross-country course. Please contact Shelley Spielman for details and order forms at shspielman@gmail.com. Visit www.PBIEC.com for more information!

EVENTING RIDERS AUTOGRAPH SIGNING SESSION

Immediately following the end of the Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, presented by

Wellington Equestrian Realty, on Saturday, February 6, there will be an autograph signing session with all of your favorite eventers! It will be held in the tent overlooking the Global International Arena in Vendor Row. Meet the top riders and get your poster or program signed.

ARTISAN FARMS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

The popular Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series, presented by The Dutta Corp. in association with Guido Klatte, will hold their Team Event, presented by The McNerney Family, on Friday, February 5, at 4 p.m. in the Global International Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds). 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.

ARTISAN FARMS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Riders in the Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series should attend the first meeting in their Athlete Development Program on Friday, February 5, at 12 p.m. in The Wellington Club. The agenda includes talks given by Michael Stone of Equestrian Sport Productions, Kelly Molinari of Equiline, DiAnn Langer and Lizzie Chesson of the USEF, and Olympic gold medalist Laura Kraut.

GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE, PRESENTED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

Heading into its seventh annual event, the Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® (GCC), will be returning to Wellington on Saturday, February 6. The team competition, held each year at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), has distributed more than \$75 million to over 150 non-profits in Palm Beach County over the last six years. This family-friendly event offers free general admission and will feature this year's "Fairy Tale" theme. Thirty-four of these lucky charities will depend on their Fairy Godmothers to receive a share of the \$1.5 million dollar purse. All children are invited to attend dressed as their favorite Fairy Tale characters. For the latest event information and application guidelines, please visit: www.GreatCharityChallenge.com and follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/greatcharitychallenge.

\$216,000 ARIAT® GRAND PRIX CSI 4*

The top riders will compete at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Sunday, February 7, at 2 p.m. The change of scenery for horses and riders always makes for an exciting grand prix competition, so come join and watch on a beautiful Sunday afternoon!

SAVE THE DATE! PBIEC WEEKS 5 & 6 UPCOMING EVENTS

AWARENESS EVENT FOR BLACK MARKET HORSEMEAT

A special event to raise awareness about the black market for horsemeat will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 3:30 p.m. in The Wellington Club. Hosted by Centennial Farm's Debbie Stephens and The Animal Recovery Mission's Richard Couto, the meeting is to learn how to keep horses protected against the black market horsemeat trade.

ANN ROMNEY BOOK SIGNING

Bestselling author and former First Lady of Massachusetts, Ann Romney, opens up for the first time detailing her battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), her faith, and finding joy. Within "IN THIS TOGETHER: My Story," Romney discusses her diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis in the mid-1990s and how important equine therapy was to her recovery. Romney is well known in the equestrian community, largely in part to her ownership of Olympic dressage star Rafalca, who competed with rider Jan Ebeling for many years. Mrs. Romney will host a book signing on the evening of Friday, February 12, from 6-7 p.m. in the Global Pavilion at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds). "IN THIS TOGETHER: My Story" will be available for purchase at the WEF Boutique on the WEF and AGDF show grounds.

KELLY KLEIN BOOK SIGNING

Come celebrate Kelly Klein's new book, "Photographs By Kelly Klein" at a book signing on Saturday, February 13, from 6-8 p.m. at the International Club Lobby. Everyone is welcome to attend and copies of the book will be available for purchase at the WEF Boutique.

COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This is the preliminary event for riders to begin their campaign to compete at the Regional and State Special Olympic Games. Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center will mount 40 riders at this event, and they will compete in two of the following divisions: Dressage, English or Western Equitation, Trail or Pole Bending. The County Special Olympics are on Saturday, February 13, from 9 am to 2 p.m. in the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC. Anyone interested in volunteering or judging, please contact Ruth Menor at 561-792-9900.

LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT THE EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

A luncheon to benefit equestrians for the Special Olympics will be held on Sunday, February 14, at 12 p.m. in The Wellington Club. For more information please call Romy Tschudi at 954.643.8678.

8TH ANNUAL LIP SYNC BENEFITING DANNY & RON'S RESCUE

Returning for the 8th 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 14, 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. Guest star judge and performer, Gloria Gaynor, best known for her performance of "I Will Survive" is interrupting her European tour and donating her time to help raise funds for the rescue. Looking to enter a performance, please contact Kim Kolloff: kimkolloff@aol.com or 978-273-6475. Limited tables and seating available, please visit: <http://www.dannyandronsrescue.com/611.aspx>. For more event information, please call Anne Caroline at 727-678-8677 or drllipsync@gmail.com.

PLAN AHEAD FOR WEEK SIX! RIDE & LEARN WITH HEATHER CARISTO-WILLIAMS

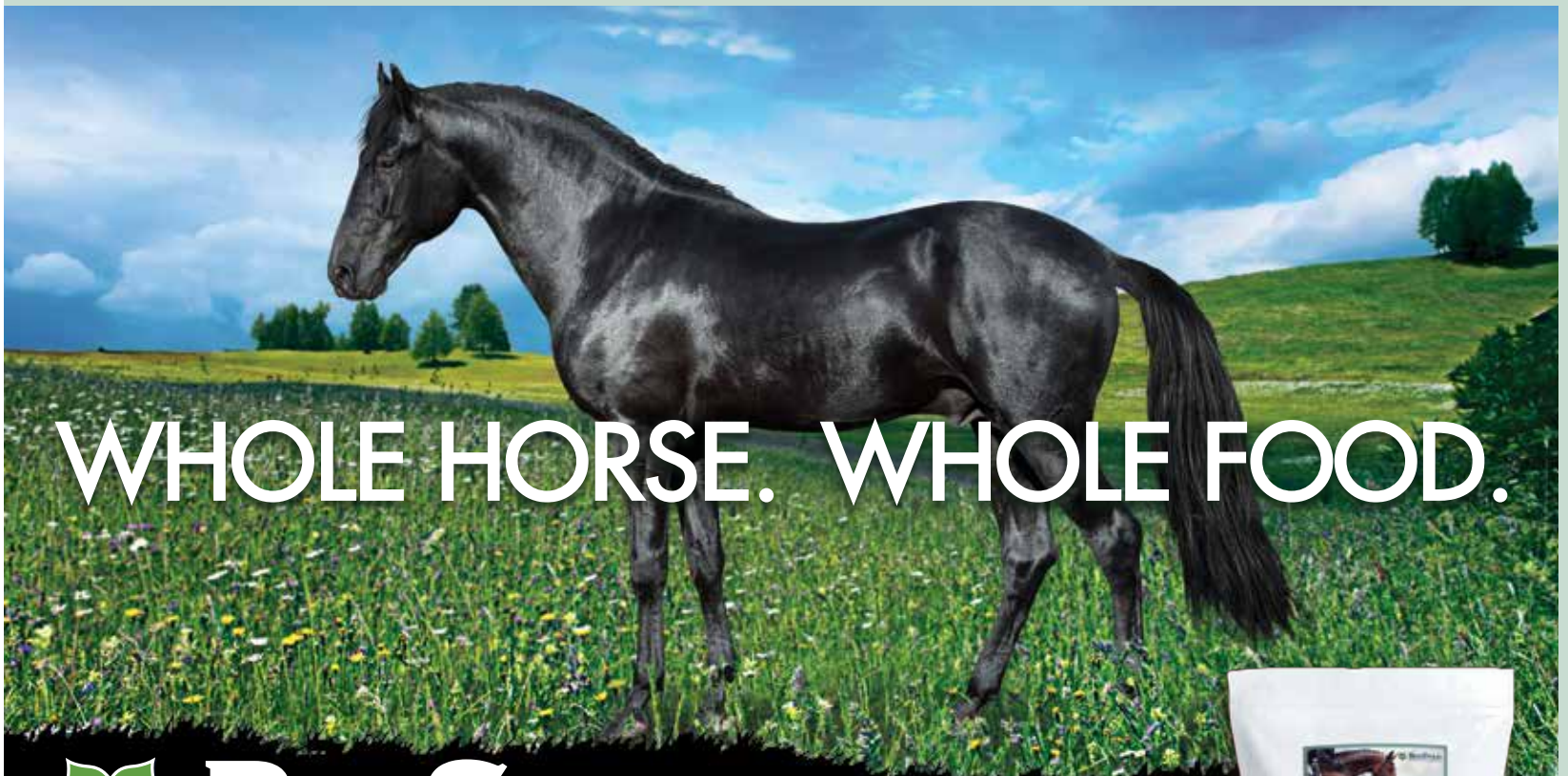
The Ride & Learn Series will take place each Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. during WEF. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals and will be held in various venues and arenas at PBIEC. Week 6 features top show jumper Heather Caristo-Williams at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, February 16. 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.

NUTRENA OPEN FORUM AND Q&A SESSION WITH EQUINE NUTRITIONIST RUSSELL MUELLER

Nutrena and Progressive Nutrition present an Open Forum and Q & A Session with Equine Nutritionist Russell Mueller on Friday, February 19, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Hospitality Tent on Vendor Deck at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds), prior to \$130,000 Grand Prix CSI 3*. RSVP is kindly appreciated for planning purposes, please email: kblasius@equestriansport.com.

HARRY AND SNOWMAN ADVANCE CHARITY FILM SCREENING TO BENEFIT EQUESTRIAN AID FOUNDATION

The Harry and Snowman advance charity film screening will take place on Sunday, February 21, at the The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) at 13500 South Shore Blvd. The money raised will go to support the Equestrian Aid Foundation's mission to help equestrian professionals in their time of need. Guests will enjoy a variety of picnic style food trucks, popcorn, ice cream and cocktails while experiencing Harry de Leyer's Cinderella story. Harry and Snowman is a feature length documentary about international show jumping rider Harry deLeyer and his horse Snowman. For more information or to order tickets, please visit <https://harryandsnowman.eventbrite.com>. ■



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RING 6

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PLACES TO EAT

INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Tito's Tacos
Tiki Hut

VENDOR ROW

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

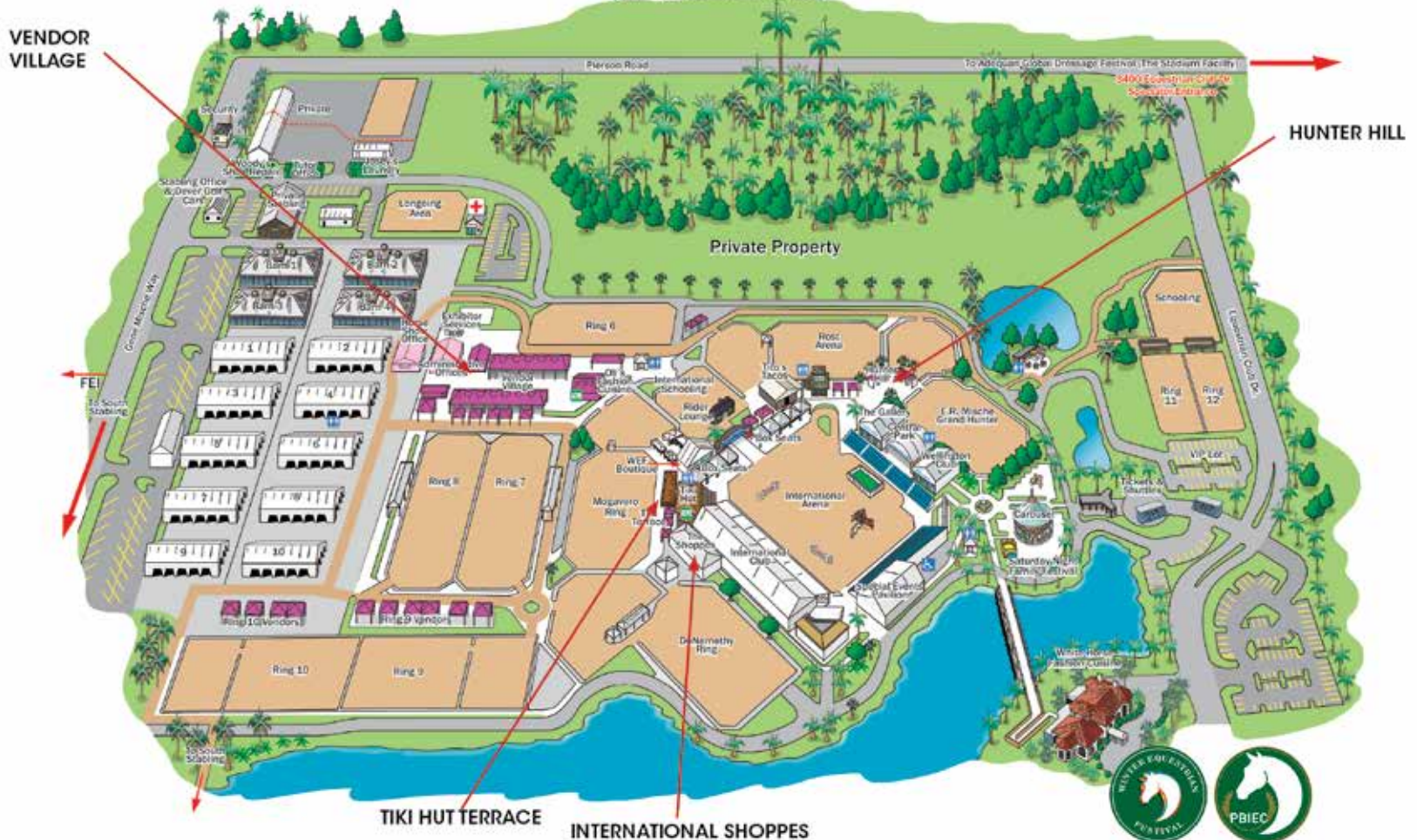
RINGS 9 & 10

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BARN 4

Burgess and Clark Coffee

Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (Main Grounds)



The Animal Medical Center-sponsored Low Adult Hunter 2'6" Section A division awarded Louisa Attenborough both the champion and reserve titles on Saturday. The division was abbreviated this week with only two jumping classes and an under saddle. Luckily for Attenborough, that was all she needed to shine, placing first and second over fences and third in the under saddle to win the championship with Sweet Caroline, who is a seven-year-old Oldenburg mare. She earned first and third over fences on her way to the reserve honors aboard Kim McCormack's Sundance, a 21-year-old Oldenburg gelding.

WEF's younger competitors showcased their budding talents in the Short Stirrup Hunter division presented by Palm Beach Riding Academy. Lola Head and her own What-A-Bean were the division champions after finishing first and third over fences and

fourth in the under saddle. Sterling Malnik rode to the reserve title aboard Anakin, who is owned by Richard Cunkle.

It was tough competition at "Pony Island" on Sunday morning as some of WEF's youngest riders duked it out for the Small Pony Hunter championship presented by Visse Wedell. Emma Pell, who rides at Skyland Farm in Virginia, guided Virginia Bonnie's Wink And Smile to the top of the class. The pair earned two blue ribbons over fences on Saturday and placed third and eighth over jumps on Sunday. Reilly Gogul piloted Sweet Oak Farm's Mr. Magoo to the reserve honors, winning the handy round as well as second and sixth over fences and sixth in the under saddle.

Hunter competition will resume on Wednesday, February 3, for the fourth week of the WEF circuit. ■ Callie Seaman

BOOK YOUR TABLE IN THE SUITES:

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Suites offer prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people, or just buy individual tickets or tables. The Suites are available for \$150 for 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,

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AND LEARN
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11:30AM,
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Regenerative Medicine for Humans and Horses with Charles S. Theofilos, MD PA and Haynes Stevens, DVM Sponsored by the Spine Center and Diowave Laser Systems

Parade of Champions Photo Gallery

©Sportfot



Tracey Gorin-Byrne and Sunman were the Omega Alpha Adult Equitation champions.



Party On and Christina Rogalni won the Autism Speaks Small/Medium Children's Pony Hunter championship.



Charlotte Novy and Opera were the Tucci by Newstar Low Children's Jumper champions and were presented with the Kastel Denmark Turnout Award by Camilla Jorst.



Spellbound, ridden by Amelia Ruth and Claudia Freeman, was the Large Pony Hunter champion.

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WEF 3 Special Awards



Lucy Deslauriers, 16, of New York, NY, was awarded a \$1,000 bonus for the SSG "Go Clean for the Green" promotion for winning Sunday's \$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Classic riding Hester. ©Jump Media



The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award was presented to Untouched, ridden by Nick Skelton (pictured) and owned by Poden Farms.



Left: Ali Wolff and Caya are presented with the "Best Presented Horse" Award and a new KASK helmet by Elena Couttneye of Equis Boutique during WEF 3. ©Jump Media



Chloe Reid won the WEF 3 Leading Lady Jumper Rider Award, presented by Martha W. Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman - © Sportfot



Left: The Hunt Ltd. Amateur-Owner Over 35 Hunter championship, presented by Gretchen Hunt, went to Uprising and Beth Bidgood. © Sportfot



The Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman, went to Cassandra Dreams, ridden by Olivia Lawton. The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award was given to Garfield and Lilli Hymowitz. - ©Sportfot



Alise Oken and Belmont won the MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper championship after their win in the \$15,000 SJHOF Classic. ©Sportfot

**I NEVER
GO OUT
WITHOUT
MY PASSION**



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Final Results: \$130,000 Adequan® Grand Prix CSI 3*

- 1. BABALOU 41:** 2005 Oldenburg mare by Balou du Rouet x Silvio I
TODD MINIKUS (USA), Two Swans Farm: 0/0/41.15
- 2. NOUVELLE:** 2004 KWPN mare by Solitaire x Contango
LAURA KRAUT (USA), Evita Group: 0/0/41.87
- 3. CODARCO:** 2007 Irish Sport Horse gelding by Darco x Orame
CHLOE REID (USA), Chloe D Reid LLC: 0/0/42.92
- 4. FEDOR:** 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Kashmir van Schuttershof
x Orkaan. SCOTT KEACH (AUS), Southern Cross Equestrian LLC: 0/0/43.18
- 5. RUBENS LS LA SILLA:** 2006 SLS stallion by Rebozo LS La Silla x Cash
CONOR SWAIL (IRL), Vanessa Mannix: 0/0/44.08
- 6. ADARE:** 2005 KWPN mare by Royal Bravour x Burggraaf
PARIS SELLON (USA), Paris Sellon: 0/0/44.19
- 7. COMANCHE 28:** 2006 Oldenburg gelding by Coupe de Couer x
Baloubet du Rouet.
MEREDITH MICHAELS-BEERBAUM (GER), Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC:
0/10/57.25
- 8. WILLOW:** 2003 KWPN gelding by Guidam x Little Rock
KENT FARRINGTON (USA), Amalaya Investments: 4/68.94
- 9. WINN WINN:** 2003 AES mare by Chin Chin x Wagenaar
ANDREW RAMSAY (USA), The Winn Winn Group: 4/69.41
- 10. ROSANA DU PARK:** 2005 Selle Francais mare by Kannan
ERIC LAMAZE (CAN), Artisan Farms LLC: 4/69.94
- 11. CARRABIS Z:** 2003 Zangersheide stallion by Canabis Z x Grannusso
RICHIE MOLONEY (IRL), Equinimity LLC: 4/70.00
- 12. FERRO CHIN VH LINDENHOF:** 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding by
Chin Chin x Nimmerdor.
RODRIGO PESSOA (BRA), Vanam Int'l Hamleoot & Rodrigo Pessoa: 4/70.01

Todd Minikus Wins Second Grand Prix, Continued from Page 1

I thought Babalou was fantastic tonight, and I would like to thank the whole team at Two Swans Farm," Minikus stated Saturday night. "My wife and kids could not be here tonight, but I would like to thank them for putting up with me. It is always a team effort, from the blacksmiths, to the veterinarians, to the Adequan® that we use, to show management – there are a lot of people involved and a lot of people who deserve credit"

"She had a great winter last year and an awesome summer," Minikus said of Babalou. "Then I fell off of her jumping literally a two-foot fence before the LA Masters and this is her first show back since then. It probably was a blessing in disguise because now I have a very fresh horse."

"She was always a good horse," Minikus continued. "She is very explosive with her jump and it took a while to get her to come down a bit. She always over-jumped too much, but we worked that out and here we are."

Since he is coming back from an injury and the Olympic Games in Rio are coming up this summer, Minikus is also getting some extra help from trainers Katie and Henri Prudent this winter.

"I think I'll get it back this winter," Minikus said of the setback. "Katie and Henri are helping me, which I have never really had someone help me from the ground. This was their first week helping, so I'm sure they are happy. I am trying to be very serious about Rio. I think this is an important year and it can't hurt to have an extra set of eyes on the ground."

Heading into Saturday's jump-off, Minikus had the advantage of going last, although he did not get to see Kraut's round, which held the lead.

"Laura and I have been in a lot of jump-offs and she is always blazing fast," Minikus stated. "I did not get the chance to watch her, but I just assumed that it was fast and you just gotta go for it"

Commenting on her round with Nouvelle, Kraut detailed, "I knew Chloe was very quick, and you have Conor, Todd, and Meredith behind you, so I went as quick as I thought I could tonight. This is her fourth class back since September, and I did not really get the plan I wanted this week due to the rain. I said to Todd that I chickened out a bit to the last fence. When I came out of the ring I said I deserved to

be beat because I gave it a good run at the second to last (jump) and then I thought I got lucky, so I pulled on the reins. He should have beat me."

For 19-year-old Chloe Reid, the night's third place finish was her best yet in a WEF grand prix. Last year she jumped her first Saturday night class and fell off, so this night was an improvement.

"Being here tonight is incredible," Reid stated. "I have had Codarco for a little over a year. The past six months we were in Germany competing with Markus Beerbaum and Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum and that experience was incredible. I learned so much over there. To be able to come back to Florida this circuit and show all my friends and other competitors what I learned this summer has been so much fun."

The riders commented on the course set by Luc Musette, which challenged many of the competitors.

"I thought it was very difficult," Minikus said. "Walking it I thought it was a little on the big side, but I did not think it would ride so technical. Obviously accuracy counted to the triple. It was a pretty good field and he did not get that many clean, so it was difficult"

Kraut added, "He is a great course builder, and we are really lucky to have him. He built a really great course because the fences fell down all around the course. I'm always happy when he is the course builder."

Allyn Mann, Director of Luitpold Animal Health, the makers of Adequan® (Polysulfated Glycosaminoglycan), was on hand for the fantastic competition and praised the riders on a great night of equestrian sport.

"It is really amazing. Last night we had the dressage freestyle across the street and that facility was packed and you had these great horses with great riders doing some amazing things, and then you come over here and it is a completely different energy," Mann noted. "It is a huge facility with all the people just really making this feel so electric. Then to get to watch some of the greatest riders and some of the stars of the future make it such a wonderful evening, I would have to say, to me, this was an amazing journey to be on. Thank you for making this evening wonderful for everyone. And Mark (Bellissimo), thank you for your vision to bring all this together so we could all be here having the time of our lives." ■ Lauren Fisher

EXHIBITOR ALERT

The dumping of manure outside of the provided bins is against show regulations and violates South Florida Water Management laws. Management is making every effort to keep bins clear for easy dumping. Those who continue to dump manure and shavings outside of a bin that has open space will be fined on their weekly show bill. We appreciate all exhibitors' cooperation in helping keep those areas cleaner. **Great Charity Challenge Schooling Session: Saturday, February 6, 6-7 am in the International Arena.**

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WEF 3 Jumper Highlights

Week three of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) got off to a late start due to inclement weather at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) Wednesday and Thursday, but competition was in full swing on Friday with wins for Eric Lamaze (CAN) and Hardin Towell (USA) in the International Ring. Lamaze and Rosana du Park took home the top prize in the Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Series for the second week in a row, and Towell and Pepperpot were victorious in the Illustrated Properties 1.45m Classic.

Luc Musette of Belgium returned to WEF as course designer in the International Ring for week three competition. In Friday's \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 3, Musette saw 71 entries jump his first round course, with 15 qualifying for the jump-off. Thirteen chose to return for the second round, where Canadian Olympic Champion Eric Lamaze took the win for the second week in a row aboard Artisan Farms LLC and Torrey Pines Stable's Rosana du Park.

Nick Skelton (GBR) was the first rider to clear the short course aboard Niel Moffitt's Untouched in a time of 46.45 seconds that eventually finished fourth. Lamaze and Rosana du Park blazed through the course next in the winning time of 38.57 seconds. Lacey Gilbertson (USA) and Seabrook LLC's Echo D were next to clear the track in 43.65 seconds to finish third. Last to go, Conor Swail (IRL) rode Ruben's LS La Silla to second place honors for owner Vanessa Mannix with a clear jump-off in 42.12 seconds.

Lamaze continues his success with the 11-year-old Selle Francais mare, Rosana du Park (by Kannan), who also topped two Challenge Cup classes in a row in 2015. The rider followed that up with three more wins aboard Fine Lady 5 to total five victories in the series over the 2015 circuit. This year, he is off to another great start.

In addition to the winning prize money, Lamaze picked up a \$3,000 bonus for the second week in a row for wearing SSG 'Digital' style riding gloves as part of the 'SSG Gloves Go Clean for the Green' promotion. That brings his total up to \$6,000 in bonus money for the circuit so far.

The \$35,000 Illustrated Properties 1.45m kicked off competition in the International Ring on Friday morning with a win for Hardin Towell (USA) and Jennifer Gates LLC's Pepperpot. Course designer Luc Musette had 66 entries jump his one-round speed track with eight clear entries. Second to go, Towell laid down a time of 60.48 seconds that would go unbeaten.

Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and Spy Coast Farm LLC's Eregast van't Kiezelhof clocked in three rounds later with a time of 61.53 seconds to eventually finish third. Richard Spooner (USA) came 54th in the order with a time of 61.41 seconds aboard Little Valley Farms' Chivas Z to take second place honors.

Owner Jennifer Gates purchased Pepperpot, a 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare (Heritage Fortunus x Diamonds Are Trumps), following the Spruce Meadows Summer Series in 2015. The experienced

mare previously competed under Egypt's Sameh el Dahan, followed by USA's Caitlin Ziegler, and Canada's Tiffany Foster.

The \$35,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m speed competition was held Saturday afternoon with a win for Richard Spooner (USA) aboard Gerardo & Alfonso Pasquel's 10-year-old Zangersheide stallion Mighty Mouse (Quartz Adelheid Z X Codexco). Out of 44 entries, eight cleared the course without fault and another six were clear over the fences but incurred time faults. Spooner and Might Mouse sped through the course in the winning time of 67.70 seconds.

Paris Sellon (USA) and Belle jumped into second place with a time of 71.33 seconds at the end. Cian O'Connor (IRL) and Nicole Walker's Saphir finished third in 71.90 seconds, and Shane Sweetnam and Spy Coast Farm LLC's Eregast van't Kiezelhof placed fourth with a time of 72.18.

Also competing in the International Ring on Saturday, Alise Oken and Hi Hopes Farm LLC's Belmont topped the \$15,000 SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic, sponsored by MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY. Lucy Matz and Janice Aron's Bailey VI were victorious in the High Junior Jumper speed class, sponsored by Sleepy P Ranch.

Week three of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), sponsored

by Adequan®, concluded on Sunday, January 31, with the \$35,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic. Held in the International Ring at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), McLain Ward and HH Carlos Z jumped to victory out of 54 entries and a 13-horse jump-off.

Luc Musette of Belgium set the course for Sunday's 1.50m. With 13 in the jump-off, only four were able to clear the short course without fault. Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum (GER) and Unbelievable 5, owned by Windward Farm and Jessica Suida, were the first pair to clear the jump-off in 38.45 seconds. They won the class last week, but settled for second place this time around. Richard Spooner (USA) and Little Valley Farms' Chivas Z cleared the course next to take third place honors with a time of 40.08 seconds. Mac Cone (CAN) and Chadburn Holdings Inc's Gasper van den Doorn jumped the next clear round in 44.73 seconds to finish fourth. Last to go, Ward and Double H Farm's HH Carlos Z blazed the winning time of 37.14 seconds.

Also competing in the International Ring on Sunday, Lucy Deslauriers and Lisa Deslauriers' Hester topped the \$10,000 SJHOF High Junior Jumper Classic, sponsored by Sleepy P Ranch. Nicole Bellissimo was victorious in the \$10,000 Medium Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic, sponsored by Animo USA, riding Bellissimo LLC's Visette. ■

WEF 3 Award Standings



Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate (after 6 qualifying events)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Laura Kraut (USA): 423 | 4 Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum (GER): 261 |
| 2 Molly Ashe-Cawley (USA): 315 | 5 Laura Chapot (USA): 246 |
| 3 Tiffany Foster (CAN): 264 | |



Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series (after 3 qualifying events)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum (GER): 108 | 3 Andrew Ramsay (USA): 95 |
| 2 McLain Ward (USA): 100 | 4 Mark Bluman (COL): 89 |
| | 5 Chloe Reid (USA): 88 |



Hermès Talented Young Rider Award (after 10 qualifying events)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Chloe Reid (USA): 288 | 4 Katherine Strauss (USA): 128 |
| 2 Emanuel Andrade (VEN): 250 | 4 Jessica Springsteen (USA): 128 |
| 3 Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 144 | 6 Paris Sellon (USA): 121 |

WEF 3 Jumper Classic winners:

\$15,000 MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumpers - Alise Oken and Belmont

\$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch SJHOF High Junior Jumpers - Lucy Deslauriers and Hester

\$10,000 Animo USA Medium Amateur-Owner Jumpers - Nicole Bellissimo and Visette

\$10,000 Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Low Amateur-Owner Jumpers - Stephanie Gallucci and EH Liandero 3

\$10,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Adult Jumpers 18-35 - Olivia Lawton and Cassandra Dreams

\$10,000 Engel & Völkers Adult Jumpers 36-49 - Alissa Kinsey and Grisset

\$10,000 Maria Mendelsohn, Douglas Elliman Low Junior Jumpers - Pedro Malucelli Egoroff and Levade 35

\$10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumpers - Emily Moffitt and HHS Fafa

\$10,000 Horseware Ireland Don Little Masters - Star Schatten and Fidele

WEF 3 Jumper Champions:

Palm Beach International Academy Children's Jumper 14 & Under - Brooke Peterson and Einstein

Equis Children's Jumper 15-17 - Sophia Zuckett and Aretina M

FarmVet Adult Modified Jumpers - Claire Bakewell and Solo des Forets

Griffis Residential Children's Modified Jumpers - Rosalie Biedron and Will Wimble

Equiline Low Adult Jumper 18-35 - Kathryn Haefner and Charles; Olivia Minicucci and Arian P; Valerie Pare-Charron and Carambo Son

Pegasus Builders Low Adult Jumper 36 & Over - Francisco Arredondo and Winirisja

Tucci by Newstar Low Children's Jumper - Charlotte Novy and Opera

FACES OF WEF: A Conversation with Abdel Said

Abdel Said was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and grew up riding Arabian horses on his parent's farm. Those were the modest beginnings of the rider who is now an accomplished competitor at the international level.

Said took a chance this winter and moved two horses from his Belgium-based business, AS Sport Horses, and came to the U.S. with one groom by his side to compete at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival. It didn't take the 26-year-old long to make a name for himself, placing second in the \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix aboard Hope van Scherpen Donder during Week 1 of WEF.

Perhaps known as the rider who campaigned the horse Avenir, the mount later sold to the U.S. and piloted by Christine McCrea, Said has collected FEI wins at Olympia, Dublin, San Patrignano, Pforzheim and Abu Dhabi. This season at WEF, he is hoping to find that same success in the U.S.

HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT ABDEL SAID:

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START IN HORSE SPORT?

I started riding when I was five. I always liked horses and participated in a couple sports, riding being one of them. I enjoyed it, so I kept at it and one thing led to the next. My family moved just outside Antwerp in Belgium when I was 10, and I continued riding there. Sixteen years later and here we are.

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S.?

This is my first time bringing horses over to compete in the U.S. I have been here on holidays and I do business with a lot of people over here, so I visited the show last year.

I was so impressed - the whole show is so amazing that I thought I would give it a go.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT COMPETITION IN THE U.S. AS COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH?

I think the biggest difference is the shows are a lot more relaxed over here. Maybe it's because of the weather, but the mentality is different. It's still competitive here though - everyone is fast. At every level, whether it's 1.30m or 1.50m, they all go full speed. I really like it. It's a lot of fun, and everyone has made me feel so welcome.

HAVE YOU HAD HELP FROM ANYONE IN U.S. TO MAKE THIS SEASON HAPPEN?

I do a lot of business with Cian O'Connor, so he has been helping me. He showed me around and has been there to answer any questions I have. He's been a great help. Also, I stable at Catherine Pasmore's farm and they have been great to us as well.

WHEN YOU AREN'T RIDING OR TRAINING, WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU?

There isn't much time left over to be honest. You can always find me in the barn because I like spending time with the horses. I also try and watch Cian train when I can. But when there is time, I enjoy going out with friends, traveling and dinners. So far, my two favorite places to eat out while I'm here are Meat Market and Rocco's Tacos in Palm Beach.




Abdel Said at WEF. © Lindsay Brock



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