



WEEK 8 🐾 March 2-6, 2016

WEEKLY WIRE

🐾 EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

McLain Ward and HH Azur Rule the Night in \$380,000 Suncast® Grand Prix CSI 5*



McLain Ward won his second five star grand prix in a row at the 2016 WEF during WEF 7 on HH Azur. © Sportfot

McLain Ward (USA) and HH Azur jumped to an electrifying win on Saturday night under the lights at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL. Competing in the seventh week of competition at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Ward and HH Azur raced to victory in a four-horse jump-off to win the \$380,000 Suncast® Grand Prix CSI 5* over Harrie Smolders (NED) and Apollonia 23 in second, and Doda de Miranda (BRA) and AD Cometto K in third.

Ward's victory on Saturday night marked his second 5* grand prix win in three weeks at WEF, after also topping week five's \$380,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5* aboard his longtime mount, Rothchild. The two-time Olympic team gold medalist and 2015 Pan American Games individual gold medalist is grooming his young mount, HH Azur, for this summer's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 10-year-old Belgian Sport Horse mare (Thunder van de Zuuthoeve x Sir Lui), owned by Double H Farm and Francois Mathy, continues to exceed expectations and jumped flawlessly to win her first "Saturday Night Lights" grand prix in front of a packed house.

Santiago Varela (ESP) set the course for 44 starters in the competitive 5* grand prix with only four qualifying for the jump-off. Doda de Miranda and AD Cometto K were first to go in round one and kicked off the class with a clear effort. They were then first to go in the jump-off, completing a second clear

round in 45.90 seconds, to finish third. Cian O'Connor (IRL) also qualified his mount, Aden Springs and Ronnoco Jump Ltd.'s Good Luck, for the jump-off and went next with one rail down in 47.58 seconds to place fourth overall. Smolders and Copernicus Stables' Apollonia 23 were next to go, jumping the second place round, clear over the short course in 45.64 seconds. Last to go, Ward and HH Azur gave it their all, racing through the course in an impressive 42.99 seconds for the win.

Following his victory, Ward spoke of HH Azur's incredible development this past year and her great effort in the night's competition.

"As far as her evolution and talent, I have never sat on a horse like this. I have never been around a horse like this," Ward stated.

Saturday night was HH Azur's first time jumping in front of the enthusiastic crowd under the lights at PBIEC, but she handled it like a pro.

"It affected her for sure," Ward noted. "The atmosphere here is very electric. Once we got in the ring, she settled into a rhythm after the first line, and you cannot say enough about the way the horse performed. To be honest, it is a little bit unfair to the other people."

Harrie Smolders settled for second place with his mount, Apollonia 23, but was very happy with his horse, and said that Ward and HH Azur deserved to

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Hunter Competition Continues During Week 7 of WEF



Victoria Colvin and My Way were the Antares Pre Green Hunter Level 1 champions at WEF 7. © Sportfot

The battles for wins in the hunter and equitation divisions were in full force during the seventh week of competition at the Winter Equestrian Festival.

The professional divisions kicked off hunter competition this week at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. Jennifer Hannan clinched the Regular Conformation Hunter championship, presented by Shapley's Grooming Products. It was a tight race between Hannan and reserve title winner Kelsey Duffy. Duffy piloted Bocelli to a win in the under saddle, a second place finish in the model and first, second, third, and fourth place finishes over fences. Bocelli is a seven-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Karen MacDonald. But, it was Hannan, who showed eight-year-old Selle Francais gelding, Uppercut, who came home with the top honors. Uppercut, who is owned by Patricia Fulchino, earned a second place finish in the under saddle and a blue ribbon in the model. Hannan also topped three of the four over fences classes and placed fourth in another with the gelding.

The amateur divisions continued to be competitive during WEF 7. Kerry McCahill triumphed in the Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35 division, presented by Ashville Regional Airport. McCahill earned the top tricolor title aboard her own Imagine, a 14-year-old Oldenburg gelding. Imagine earned second in the under saddle and topped three of the four over fences classes. McCahill also placed third in another over fences class. Tracey Gorin Byrne and Cloudline settled for the reserve

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Hollow Creek Farm Offers Team Opportunities with Children, Junior, and Young Rider Nations' Cups

For the fourth consecutive year, the Hollow Creek Farm Nations' Cup Series will spotlight the next generation of show jumping superstars through its Children, Junior and Young Rider Nations' Cup program. Having proved extremely popular the past three seasons, the program gives young competitors from around the globe an opportunity to come together and experience team pressure and camaraderie by competing in their own marquee Nations' Cup events.

On Saturday, March 5, three separate Nations' Cup team events will be held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. Following the same format as the traditional Nations' Cup, a featured event at the Winter Equestrian Festival since 2002, teams of four riders each, with the best three scores counting, will represent their countries in the Nations' Cups for Children, Junior, and Young Riders.

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ireland, Mexico, the United States and Venezuela will all be fielding Nations' Cup teams, cheered on by legions of fans who are encouraged to show their patriotism.

For many of the participants, the Hollow Creek Farm Nations' Cup represents the first opportunity to compete as members of a team for their country under International Equestrian Federation (FEI) rules.

"Hollow Creek Farm really enjoys hosting the Nations' Cup for Children, Junior and Young Rider competitors," said Angel Karolyi of Hollow Creek Farm. "For many of the riders, this event will be their first opportunity to compete under FEI rules in a team competition that also has the importance of a top championship.

"The idea is to begin to set the groundwork for young riders to compete together as a team," continued Karolyi, a veteran of Nations' Cup and major games competition for his native Venezuela. "The Hollow Creek Farm Nations' Cup Series gives them the opportunity to experience the team format before they reach the top levels of international competition. It is very important to expose these young riders to the responsibility of not only performing well for yourself, but for others who are relying on you!"

The first round of each Nations' Cup competition will be held in the International Arena during the afternoon, with the second round held under the lights at night. In the evening session, the Children's Nations' Cup for riders aged 12 to 14 will be held first, followed by the Junior Nations' Cup for riders aged 14 to 18. The Young Riders Nations' Cup will be Saturday's third and final team competition, featuring competitors aged 16 to 21.

Hollow Creek Farm has a living example of the springboard its Nations' Cup Series can provide. Its star rider, 19-year-old Emanuel Andrade, competed in the Junior Nations' Cup in both 2013 and 2014 representing his native Venezuela. He has since gone on to compete at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France, and, at the 2015 Pan American Games held in Toronto, Canada, was involved in a jump-off for the individual bronze medal.

While Andrade got his first taste of international team competition in the Hollow Creek Farm Junior Nations' Cup, he will be a member of Venezuela's senior Nations' Cup team at the Winter Equestrian Festival for the second time in 2016. His story proves the success of Hollow Creek Farm's mission to provide talented young riders with the opportunity to grow and develop in the sport, both as team members and as individuals.

In addition to the Nations' Cup events, Hollow Creek Farm also sponsors Children's, Junior, and Young Riders' Welcome classes on Thursday, March 3, as well as Grand Prix classes on Sunday, March 6, for individual honors. All competition takes place in the International Arena, putting the future of the sport in the spotlight. ■ Jennifer Ward



The top three teams celebrated their achievements on the podium following the 2015 Hollow Creek Farm Young Rider Nations' Cup. © Sportfot

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PBIEC Week 8 Upcoming Events:

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 3, 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 8 is "The Stuff of Legends – How Ice and Joint Therapy Support Top Athletes" by James A. Orsini DVM, Dipl ACVS, New Bolton Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, sponsored by Merial. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or laura@equestriansport.com for more information.

WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

Each year the WEF Sport Horse Auction offers an exclusive opportunity for individuals to acquire the next generation of top champions from VDL Stud. Riders, owners, and trainers have the ability to purchase their next star in an exciting live auction atmosphere. The 2016 edition of the WEF Sport Horse Auction is set to take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at The Stadium at PBIEC. General admission is free. For more information on the WEF Sport Horse Auction please visit www.WefSportHorseAuction.com or www.facebook.com/WEFSportHorseAuction.

WIN A TACK TRUNK FILLED WITH VITA FLEX PERFORMANCE SUPPLEMENTS

Exhibitors at both the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival and the Winter Equestrian Festival can look forward to the annual Key to Success Contests hosted by Vita Flex happening this Friday and Saturday. At the Key to Success Contests, everyone has a chance to claim the lucky key that fits the lock of a Vita Flex Tack Trunk. One key will fit a trunk at the Global Dressage Festival, and one will fit the lock of a trunk at the Winter Equestrian Festival. The person at each of these events who holds the winning key will receive a beautiful tack trunk filled to the brim with Vita Flex® products. Stop by the Global Pavilion Lobby at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival on Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5 at the Winter Equestrian Festival by the Tiki Hut for your chance to open the lock.

\$150,000 NATIONS CUP

Teams of riders compete for national honors to see who can raise their flag as the winning country of the 15th edition of the Nations Cup at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Competition is on Friday, March 4, with gates opening at 6 pm. Cheer on your favorite country – can the United States make it two years in a row?

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" - HOLLOW CREEK FARM CHILDREN'S/ JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER NATIONS CUPS

A variety of countries from around the world will be fielding teams in the Hollow Creek Farm Children's, Junior, and Young Rider Nations Cups this week. This fantastic opportunity gives some of the best young talent an opportunity to participate in team competition. There are two rounds of competition on Saturday, with the second round highlighting the "Saturday Night Lights" series. Competition for the second rounds begins at 5 pm on Saturday, March 5.

AGDF FEI GRAND PRIX MUSICAL FREESTYLE

Dressage moves to Saturday night this week on Saturday, March 5, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Everglades Dressage, will feature horses completing their freestyle choreography to entertaining music ensembles. Also on Saturday night during the break in competition is the Pony Leadline class – see the dressage stars of the future!

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEEKS 9 & 10 UPCOMING EVENTS

GIVE A BUCK PONY DERBY AND GALA

It will be an enchanted evening of dancing, dining, and live entertainment in celebration of the pony derby gala in The Gallery overlooking the International Arena on Friday, March 11, from 6-9:30 p.m. It will be a "A Night in Neverland", presented by Baxter Hill to support Give a Buck for Special Equestrian's mission of providing horsepower that heals. Tables and individual tickets are available. The Give A Buck Pony Derby will begin on the grass derby field at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on March 11 at 9 a.m. For more information please call Tara Bieling at 239-200-2230 or email tara@giveabuck.org. See more at www.giveabuckeq.com.

ARTISAN FARMS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES LEARNING SESSION

An educational session for riders competing in the Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series will be held on Thursday, March 10, at 4 pm in The Wellington Club.

RIDE & LEARN WITH KEN SMITH

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 10 features top trainer Ken Smith teaching equitation at the PBIEC Ring 7 on Tuesday, March 15. The clinic is sponsored by NightWatch™. 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.



AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT FINALE

American Equestrians Got Talent brings together equestrians from all disciplines to show off their non-horse-related talents and compete for a \$5,000 top prize. Contestants have earned their spots in the Finale through a series of auditions over the past several months in Wellington. The finale is on Sunday, March 15, at 6 pm at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds). Their diverse talents range from singing and dancing to stand-up comedy and fire-baton twirling

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 per person for WEF 10 – March 19, WEF 11 – March 26, and for \$200 per person during the CSI 5* weeks: 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 today.

and the finale grand prize is \$10,000. The AEGT benefits USEF High Performance programs through the USET Foundation.

SHAPLEY'S GROOMS' CLASS

On Friday, March 18, the second \$1,000 Shapley's Groom's Class of the season will be held. The exact time and ring will be announced at the beginning of week 10. Please fill out an entry form in the Horse Show Office and don't miss your chance to show off your skills and win great prizes! ■

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Lugano Diamonds has two locations in Orange County, including the company's Grand Salon in Newport Beach, California, as well as a salon at Montage Laguna Beach in Laguna Beach, California. For additional information about Lugano Diamonds please call 866.584.2666 or email susan@luganodiamonds.com.

Lugano Diamonds is also the proud sponsor of Week 8's \$216,000 CSIO 4* Grand Prix.

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CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc.
CWD Custom Saddles
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BARN 3 & 4

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Farmvet Inc.
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Barn 5

Woody's Shoe Repair
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RING 6

Amberway Equine Solutions
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VENDOR ROW

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

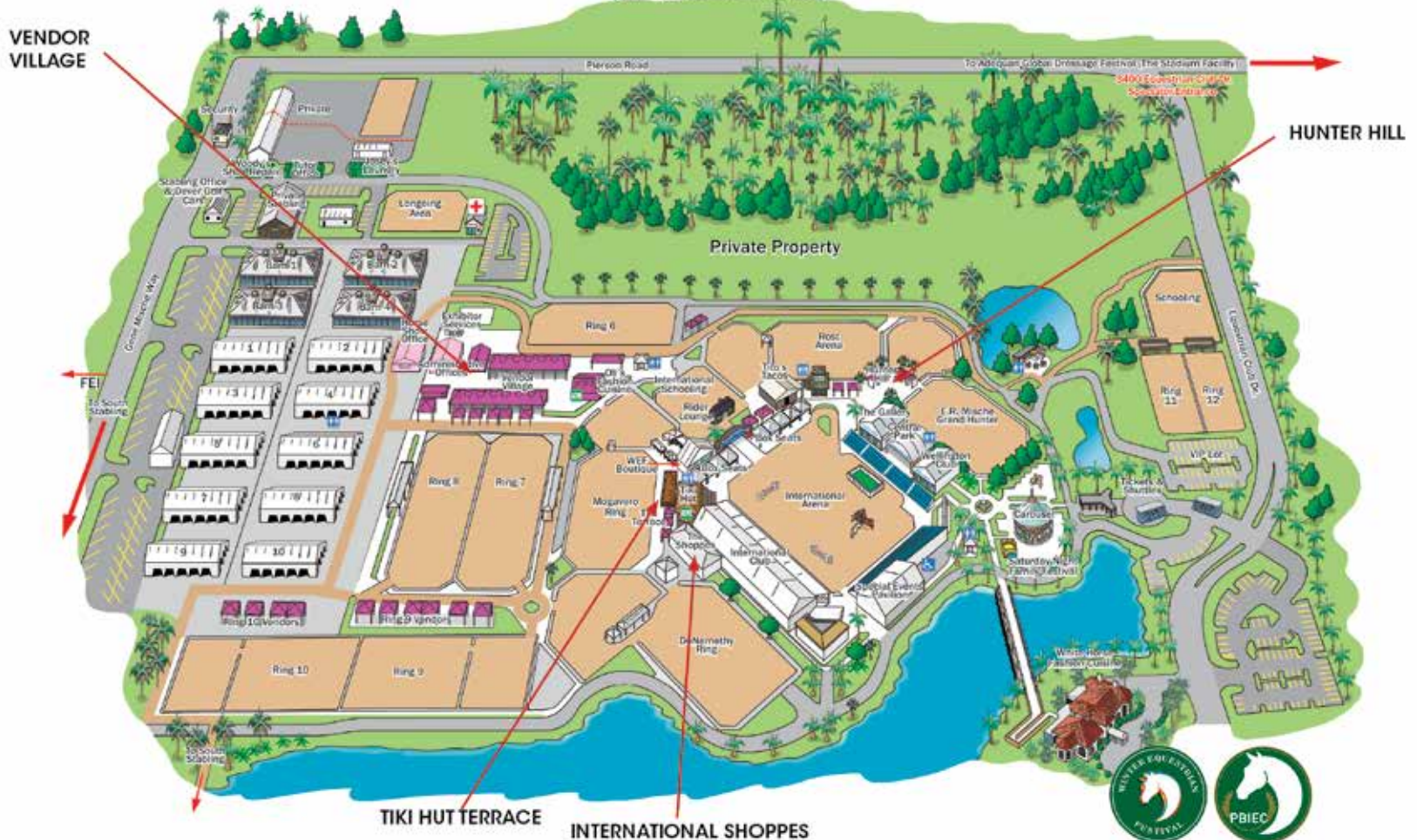
RINGS 9 & 10

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)



WEF 7 Photo Gallery © Meg Banks





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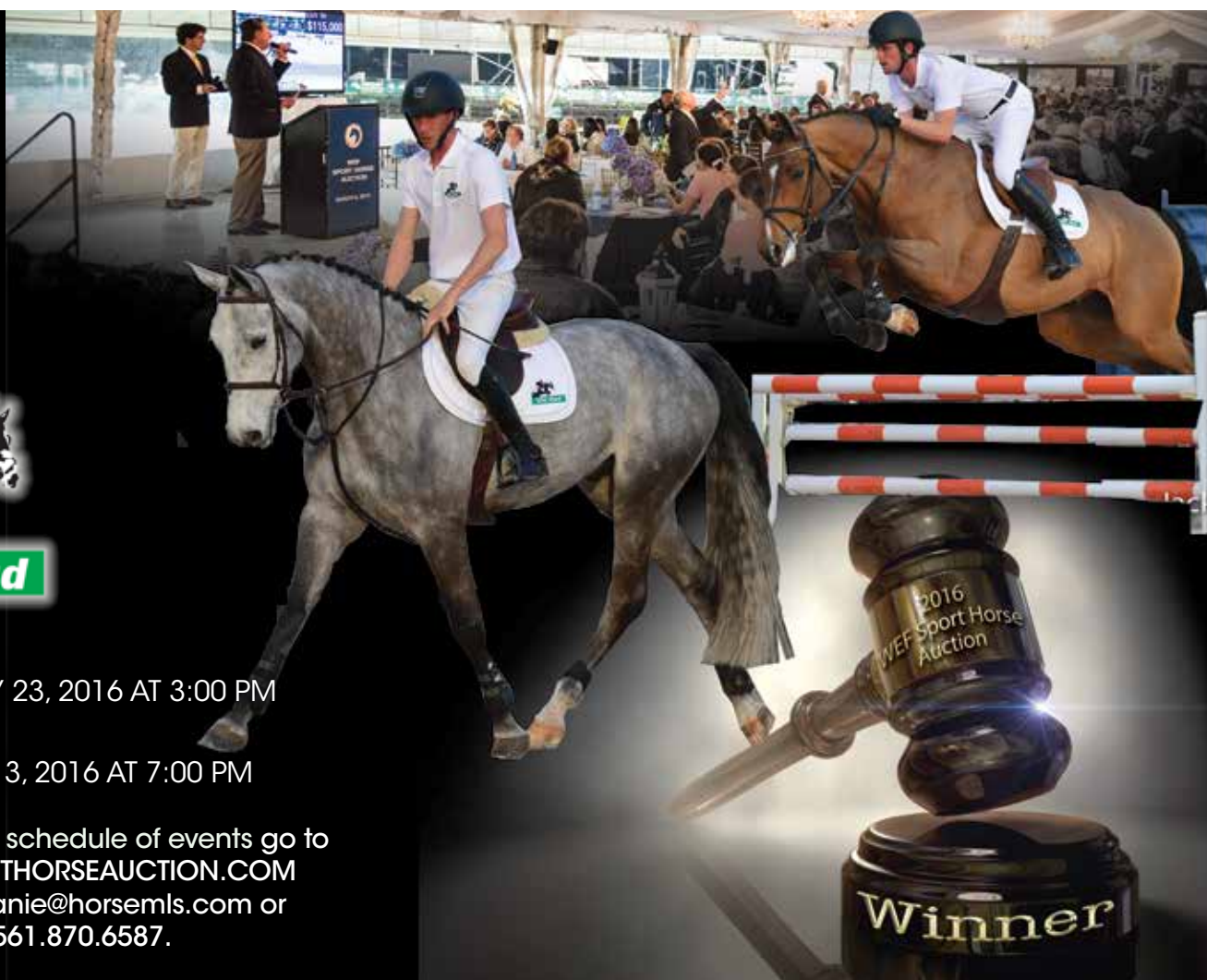
PRESENTATION:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 3:00 PM

AUCTION:

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

For the complete schedule of events go to
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call 561.870.6587.



WEF 7 Winners Photo Gallery ©Sportfot



Lorraine MacGuinness and Russian Gold were the Equiline Low Adult Jumper 18-35 champions.



Balou's Brightside, ridden by Gavin Moylan and Kristen Cunningham, was the Gold Coast Baby Green Hunter champion, as well as the Kastel Denmark Best Turnout Award winner.



Katherine Willner and Cedarglen's Master Plan won the Walk Trot championship.



Sabrina Lefebvre and Wedding Day were the Griffis Residential Children's Modified Jumper champions.



The Carolex Stables Younger Cross Rail Hunter championship went to Sterling Silver and Allie Monti.



Sterling Malnik rode Anakin to the Palm Beach Riding Academy Short Stirrup Hunter championship.



Jennifer Smith and Quinceto were the Camping World Adult Amateur 50 & Over Hunter champions.



Kat Fuqua and Hillcrest Leading Lady were the SOLIC Medium Pony Hunter champions.



Canada's Olympic Champion Eric Lamaze wore his SSG "Digital" Gloves to a fourth "Go Clean for the Green" victory with his win in the \$130,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round VII aboard Fine Lady 5. The gloves were new, but the outcome was a familiar one for Lamaze. "I decided that the other pair had won enough and it was time for a new pair of gloves," he said. "I could repackage these ones and sell them now that they are lucky!" © Sportfot



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award went to Undercover and Laura Sexton (pictured). Cadzand and David Oberkircher were the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award winners, presented by Laura Fetterman. © Sportfot

EXHIBITOR ALERT

Please lock your bikes and golf carts, don't leave personal belongings in carts, and please remember to keep your backpacks close by.

Reminder: No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed on the show grounds during Friday night's Nations Cup.



The Leading Lady Jumper Rider Award, presented by Martha W. Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman, went to Tiffany Foster. © Sportfot



Freddie and Jodi Vazquez are presented with the "Best Presented Horse" Award and prizes from Manfredi Equestrian by Elena Couttenye of Equis Boutique during Week 7 at the Winter Equestrian Festival. © Jump Media

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Weeks 1 through 5
Week 3 is a 2016 WCHR Member Event

Week 6 Features

\$50,000 Grand Prix
\$15,000 3'3" Hunter Derby



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win. He has ridden Apollonia, a 12-year-old Danish Warmblood mare (Bogegardens Apollo x Bogegardens x Capello), for 10 months and explained that she is very scopey and jumps well in big outdoor arenas.

Speaking of the night's competition, Smolders detailed, "I think it was a really tough course today. In the first round, Doda was first to go, and he was very fast I thought. Then the course designer did not decide to change the time, so I knew it was going to be tough. We did not have that many clears. That is why I was very pleased with my horse and that result. You always hope for more, but I think McLain and Azur deserved to win. It is a top horse, a top combination, and it is hard to beat them."

Doda de Miranda was not even supposed to compete in Saturday night's

class after a tough round in Thursday's qualifier, but after one rider scratched, he moved into the first position in the order. His mount for the night was AD Cornetto K, a 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Cornet Obolensky x Calido) that he owns in partnership with Victory Equestrian Sport BV, and has ridden for just five months.

"He is a very good horse; maybe one of the best horses I have ever ridden," the rider stated. "He was doing quite well, but I was not so happy with my round in the WEF (Challenge Cup). I am very happy because I thought I was not going to ride. Today, I made small changes to the bit, and earplugs, and spurs, and he was great. I was very happy with both rounds. In the jump-off, I decided to go fast, but not take too much risk because I do not know him very well. I am very happy, especially to see a combination that deserved to win."

Ward spoke highly of the course for Saturday night's competition and praised Santiago Varela on a job well done.

"I thought the course was excellent," he stated. "Santiago is, I think for the riders, one of the top three builders in the world, if not the most popular. He builds like a horseman; I think he has a super feeling. This is his first time here. In the WEF (Challenge Cup) there were a lot clear, but he tightened the screws today, and in a really good way because you saw problems all over the course. The time allowed made people hurry and caused late rails. For me, it was a brilliant course, and he had four very strong horse and rider combinations in the jump-off. That is great to see."

One of the people that has supported Ward for many years is Hunter Harrison, owner of Double H Farm. Harrison was on

hand for Ward and HH Azur's fantastic win and spoke of the incredible partnership.

"It is pretty exciting. As McLain has told me, this could be a one-time experience to have a horse of this caliber and talent," Harrison stated. "She is obviously special. I saw that at Spruce Meadows when I really became a true believer in her. She did some things there that were pretty special. It is exciting to be in the position to see a mount like this with a talented jockey like this and see what they can do."

Along with the top prizes for Saturday night's class, a special award was presented to Tiffany Foster (CAN) as the Leading Lady Grand Prix Rider for week seven's competition. Martha Jolicoeur presents the award in honor of Dale Lawler. The Groom's Award went to HH Azur's groom, Kirsty Bond. ■ Lauren Fisher

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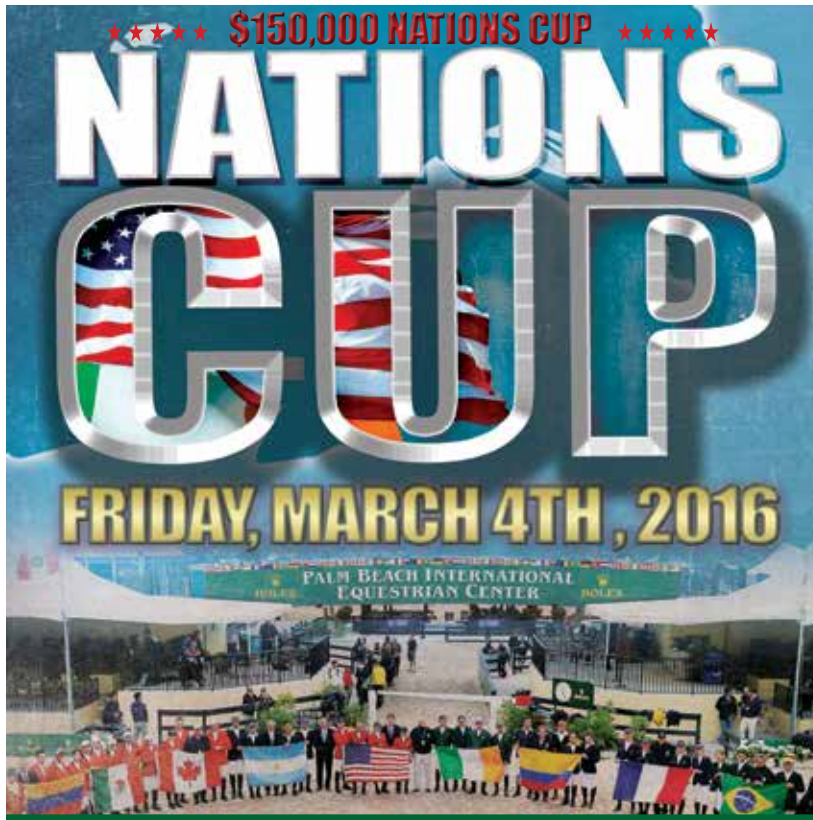
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Final Results: \$380,000 Suncast®

Grand Prix CSI 5*

- 1. HH AZUR:** 2006 Belgian Sport Horse mare Thunder van de Zuuthoeve x Sir Lui MCLAIN WARD (USA), Double H Farm & Francois Mathy: 0/0/42.99
- 2. APOLLONIA 23:** 2004 Danish Warmblood mare by Bogegardens Apollo x Bogegardens x Capello HARRIE SMOLDERS (NED), Copernicus Stables LLC: 0/0/45.64
- 3. AD CORNETTO K:** 2006 Hanoverian gelding by Cornet Obolensky x Calido DODA DE MIRANDA (BRA), A.A. de Miranda Neto & Victory Equestrian Sport BV: 0/0/45.90
- 4. GOOD LUCK:** 2006 Belgian Warmblood stallion by Canturo x Furioso II CIAN O'CONNOR (IRL), Adena Springs & Ronnoco Jump Ltd: 0/4/47.58
- 5. CAT BALLOU:** 2007 Holsteiner gelding by Cassini II x Lacantus MOLLY ASHE-CAWLEY (USA), Louisburg Farm: 1/85.04
- 6. CYNAR VA:** 2007 Zangersheide gelding by Clarimo x Alcatraz JESSICA SPRINGSTEEN (USA), Stone Hill Farm: 1/85.78
- 7. FAPE FOX TROT V D PADENBORRE:** 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Chin Chin x Fleuri du Manoir FABIO LEIVAS (BRA), Marco Antonio Alencar: 1/87.42
- 8. SIMON:** 1999 KWPN gelding by Mr. Blue x Polydox BEEZIE MADDEN (USA), Abigail Wexner: 4/82.29
- 9. HOPE VAN SCHERPEN DONDER:** 2007 Belgian Warmblood mare by Quadrillo x Balou du Rouet ABDEL SAID (EGY), AS Sport Horses: 4/83.03
- 10. LUCIFER V:** 2006 Westphalian gelding by Lord Dezi x Grandeur HARDIN TOWELL (USA), Jennifer Gates LLC: 4/83.66
- 11. TRIPPLE X III:** 2002 AES stallion by Namelus R x Cantango TIFFANY FOSTER (CAN), Artisan Farms LLC: 4/83.90
- 12. FIBONACCI 17:** 2005 Swedish Warmblood gelding by For Feeling x Corland MEREDITH MICHAELS-BEERBAUM (GER), Artemis Equestrian Farms LLC: 4/84.00



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Sarah Bian and Vodan were victorious in the THIS Children's Medal 15-17. ©Sportfot

champion title. The pair earned fourth in the under saddle, and finished with a fourth and three second place ribbons over fences. Cloudline is 12-year-old KWPN mare owned by Alexander Hamer.

WEF's younger exhibitors honed their equitation skills on "Pony Island" on Friday afternoon. Sydney Hamel took home the win in the USEF Pony Medal, which took place in Ring 11. She piloted AKM Concept LLC's Steal the Crowd to the win. Steal the Crowd is an 11-year-old Welsh/Warmblood X gelding. Devyn Marie Looney came in second aboard Cherrybrook Who's Lookin, which is an 11-year-old Thoroughbred Cross mare. Kat Fuqua and her own Powder Puff rounded out the top three. Powder Puff is a 19-year-old mare.

The big equitation classes also concluded on Sunday afternoon. Section A of the Pessoa USEF Hunter Seat Medal, presented by Randolph College, took place in Ring 9. McKayla Langmeier was the big winner aboard North Run's seven-year-old KWPN

gelding Hans. Francesca Dildabanian came in second riding her own mount Checkland. Checkland is an eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding. Rounding out the top three was Coco Fath, who rode her own Carte Blanche. Fath's mount is a 12-year-old Warmblood gelding.

Natalie Jayne piloted Candescence, who is owned by Clare Sargent, to the top of the UHealth Ear Institute Junior Hunter 3'3" division. Jayne earned two firsts, a fifth, and a second-place ribbon over fences aboard the 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding. The pair also placed seventh in the under saddle. Reserve honors were awarded to No Introduction, an eight-year-old Warmblood gelding ridden by owner Aizlynn Radwanski. Radwanski and No Introduction placed first and fourth over fences and earned a second place ribbon in the under saddle class.

Hunters return to action on Wednesday, March 2, for the eighth week of the Winter Equestrian Festival. ■ Callie Seaman



Annabel Revers and Quax won the Platinum Performance USEF Show Jumping Talent Search. ©Sportfot

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Faces of WEF: Audrey Coulter



At 23, Audrey Coulter is the youngest member of the U.S. team set to compete in the WEF Nations' Cup this week. But inexperience hasn't stopped her from training with some of the best riders in the world, developing a string of competitive international-caliber horses, and graduating from Dartmouth College with degrees in Economics and Chemistry last spring.

Getting her start by borrowing her next door neighbor's horses for trail rides in Woodside, CA, as a child, Audrey quickly found a dedication to horse sport and trained with Mary Manfredi and Peter Lutz for eight years during her junior career in the jumper, hunter, and equitation rings. Moving on to the direction of Meredith and Markus Beerbaum, Audrey began climbing her way to top-level competition.

Now based in Belgium and training with Harrie Smolders and Axel Verlooy, Audrey has her sights set on leaving her mark on World Cup Finals, Nations' Cup competition, and perhaps the Olympics.

HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT AUDREY COULTER:

What is it like working with Harrie Smolders? Harrie is a little more laid back. He's serious when it matters, but I have a lot of fun with him outside the ring – we are always laughing, and I really love that. You're in the ring for two minutes, and that's when you really need to focus. The other times you can relax a little more. He's very quiet in the warm-up – sometimes he doesn't speak and uses hand signals.

After graduating from Dartmouth, are your plans still to continue riding professionally? Yes. I think going to college was really important, and I would never have skipped that to ride. You can't trade having that background for the world, but if I wanted to do something else, having a college education is crucial. I have a really good group of horses right now, and I love this sport. That feeling when you're in the ring – there's nothing like it. It was so nice to switch to just riding, and I don't think I realized how hard it was to balance the two until I was only riding. Flying back and forth took a bigger toll on my riding than I realized, and I've seen a huge difference since being able to be in the saddle every day.

When you aren't with your horses, what can

we find you doing?

You'll find me with my family and friends. We have a summer house in Muskoka, Canada, and I love to water ski, swim, wake surf and go skiing. Mostly I'm just riding, but a lot of my friends from college are in New York City so I spend a lot of my time off there.

What was your reaction to being named to the U.S. Nations' Cup team at WEF?

I feel like I have a really great horse and to be in America on Team USA makes it that much more exciting.

How does it feel to be part of an all-female Nations' Cup team?

It's an awesome team, and it's even better that we can have a top team that is all women. Beezie and Laura are amazing, and Georgina has been doing so great. I'm really excited to be on a team with them. We can win and having it be all women makes it that much cooler.

What is your experience in Nations' Cup competition?

I did a developing riders team in Bratislava, Slovakia, this summer and then was on the team in Gijón, Spain.

What is your best competition moment so far?

It has to be two years ago when I won the 4* Grand Prix on Acorte and then the 1.50m on Victory DA. I don't think you can beat a day like that. I'm hoping Friday will be the new highlight.

You seem to have a relationship with all your horses. How do you get to know them so well?

It takes time, but I love spending time with them in the barn. They are like giant dogs you get to play with. You can never give up on them when you know you have a quality horse. It takes a little time for them to figure you out and you to figure them out, but I think it's important to put in that time.

Who is your show jumping idol?

I really admire Harrie – he is such a talented rider. The way he turns in jump-offs! Then there's obviously Scott Brash who has been so successful, and so many American riders it's hard to have just one.

What is your top goal right now?

To go to World Cup Finals and do well there. I would also really like to be named on the short list for the Olympics. ■

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WEF 7 Jumper Highlights



Richard Spooner and Chivas Z won the \$86,000 Suncast 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic. © Sportfot

Week seven of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), sponsored by Suncast®, began Wednesday morning at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL, with a win for McLain Ward (USA) and HH Carlos Z in the \$35,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m Jumper Classic. Third in the order of go, Laura Chapot (USA) and Quintreau Un Prince set the challenge with the first clear round in 66.17 seconds. Their opening pace held on to finish third in the end. Fifty-three rounds later, McLain Ward and HH Carlos Z stole the lead, clocking in almost three seconds faster in a time of 63.69. Near the end of the order, Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and Spy Coast Farm LLC's Cyklon 1083 jumped into second place in 64.53 seconds.

Also competing in the International Ring on Wednesday, the \$6,000 1.40m speed, sponsored by Illustrated Properties, was held in a California split. Laura Chapot and Mary Chapot's Zealous were the winners of Section A with the fastest time overall. Cian O'Connor and Chansonette Farm LLC's Balance topped Section B with the second fastest round.

WEF 7 continued on Thursday with the \$130,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 7 featured in the International Ring at PBIEC and a win for Eric Lamaze (CAN) and Fine Lady 5. The victory marked Lamaze's fourth win in the series this year, including wins in weeks two and three with Rosana du Park, and a win week four aboard Check Picobello Z.

Tiffany Foster (CAN) was the first rider to clear the jump-off track in 3777 seconds, eventually finishing third with her mount Victor, owned by Artisan Farms and Torrey Pines Stable. Hardin Towell (USA) and Jennifer Gates' Lucifer V were next to clear the track in 3783 seconds, holding on for fourth place. Todd Minikus (USA) then took the lead in 3742 seconds aboard Quality Girl, but soon settled for second as Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 raced to the finish in a time of 36.30 seconds.

Also competing in the International Ring on Thursday, Kent Farrington (USA) and RCG Farm's Creedance topped the \$8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m jump-off class. A \$2,500 MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper speed class was also held with a win for Rogelio Pellerano and Precieuse Platiere.

Italy's Lorenzo de Luca and StepheX Stables' Egano van het Slogenhof jumped to victory in the \$35,000 Illustrated Properties 1.45m Classic on Friday during week seven. Lorenzo de Luca and Egano van het Slogenhof set a blistering time of 64.72 seconds. Laura Chapot (USA) took second and third place honors, finishing second aboard her own and Mary Chapot's Thornhill Kate in 65.12 seconds, and placing third with her own and McLain Ward's Quintreau un Prince in a time of 65.41 seconds.

Also competing in the International Ring on Friday, Jorge Matte and Conquest

topped the \$2,500 MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY Power & Speed. The \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m Speed Challenge was held in the afternoon in a California Split with 113 entries in total. Georgina Bloomberg and Gotham Enterprises' South Street were the winners of Section A with the fastest time overall. Alex Granato and Paige Tredennick's Carthen W topped Section B with the second fastest round.

On Saturday, Alonso Valdez Prado and Chichester 3 topped the \$15,000 MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic, and McKayla Langmeier and Charlie won the \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper speed class.

Week seven concluded on Sunday featuring the \$86,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic. The win went to Richard Spooner (USA) aboard Little Valley Farms' Chivas Z, with Eduardo Menezes (BRA) and Caruschka 2 in second, and Eric Lamaze (CAN) aboard Artisan Farms and Torrey Pines Stable's Rosana du Park in third.

Also competing in the International Ring on Sunday, the win in the \$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Classic went to Emma Heise and Old Willow Farms' Viper Vrombautshoeve Z. The \$10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumper Classic saw a win for Madison Goetzmann and Coral Reef Wise Guy. ■



Week 7 Jumper Classic winners:

\$15,000 MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumpers - Alonso Valdez Prado and Chichester 3

\$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch SJHOF High Junior Jumpers - Emma Heise and Viper Vrombautshoeve Z

\$10,000 Animo USA Medium Amateur-Owner Jumpers (California Split) - Kelsey Thatcher and Hannah; Lillian Hahn and Victoria VII

\$10,000 Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Low Amateur-Owner Jumpers - David Oberkircher and Cadzand

\$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 - Taegan Long and Pollux de Shalimar

\$10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumpers - Madison Goetzmann and Coral Reef Wise Guy

\$10,000 Horseware Ireland Don Little Masters - Carolyn Lackey and Dignity

Week 7 Jumper Champions:

Palm Beach International Academy Children's Jumper 14 & Under - Taje Warrick and Dersey

Equis Children's Jumper 15-17 - Cheyenne Considine and Venturesome

FarmVet Adult Modified Jumpers - Gabriela Reutter and Tilghman

Griffis Residential Children's Modified Jumpers - Sabrina Lefebvre and Wedding Day

Equiline Low Adult Jumper 18-35 - Lorraine MacGuinness and Russian Gold

Pegasus Builders Low Adult Jumper 36 & Over - Bevo Tarika and Spice Girl

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WEF 7 Award Standings

Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate (after 14 qualifying events)



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Laura Kraut (USA): 698 | 3 Tiffany Foster (CAN): 562 |
| 2 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER): 596 | 4 Margie Engle (USA): 512 |
| | 5 Molly Ashe-Cawley (USA): 502 |

Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series (after 7 qualifying events)



- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER): 233 | 3 Eric Lamaze (CAN): 209 |
| 2 Shane Sweetnam (IRL): 222 | 4 Richard Spooner (USA): 201 |
| | 5 Laura Kraut (USA): 200 |



Hermès Talented Young Rider Award (after 31 qualifying events)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Jessica Springsteen (USA): 537 | 4 Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 365 |
| 2 Emanuel Andrade (VEN): 428 | 5 Katie Dinan (USA): 322 |
| 3 Chloe Reid (USA): 420 | |

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Nic Roldan's Sunset Polo and White Party Fundraiser, Hosted by Mark and Katherine Bellissimo, to Benefit The Brooke USA to Bring Together Equestrian Community for an Evening of Fundraising and Entertainment

Nic Roldan has become a household name in the world of polo, escalating to the top of the sport with a particular prowess and will to win. Alongside his dedication and motivation to bring the sport of polo to a new level, the mission of The Brooke USA has also settled close to his heart. In an effort to raise awareness for The Brooke USA, an international animal welfare organization dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules in the world's poorest communities, Roldan, alongside Mark and Katherine Bellissimo, will host an event at The Wanderer's Club on the evening of Friday, March 25, for a display of equestrian sport's finest, including a six-bar show jumping competition, followed by an exhibition polo match featuring some of the sport's top athletes.

"It's a great organization and they do tremendous things around the world. As they are an equine welfare organization, it impacts all of us - show jumping, polo, and dressage," said Roldan. "The whole idea behind this event was to bring the equestrian disciplines together on one evening for a night of fun and to raise funds for The Brooke."

Roldan, who recently became an appointed ambassador for The Brooke, is eager to begin representing the organization on the international platform the sport of polo provides and is looking forward to the event,

which will be a highlight of the winter circuit.

"I wanted to make sure that this event was open to the community and not overly expensive so that we can reach as many people as possible with The Brooke's message," he continued. "It's going to be a great evening, and I want to thank Mark and Katherine Bellissimo for their continued support and generosity helping to put this event together."

The polo match will serve as the main event of the evening and showcase the talents of Roldan, Martin Pepa, Grant Ganzi, Michael Bellissimo, Kris Kampsen, Brandon Phillips, Henry Porter, and Ricky Mershad, while a silent and live auction will also raise funds for The Brooke USA and include a number of specialty items.

"It's going to be a really fun group of guys to play with. I've combined four professional players with four up-and-coming players from the younger generations," explained Roldan. "I want this event to reach our entire community here in Wellington so that we continue to bring awareness and hopefully provide an opportunity for people to learn and give back as well."

For more information on The Brooke USA, please visit www.brookeusa.org and to purchase tickets for the event please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nic-roldans-sunset-polo-tickets-22259058443>.

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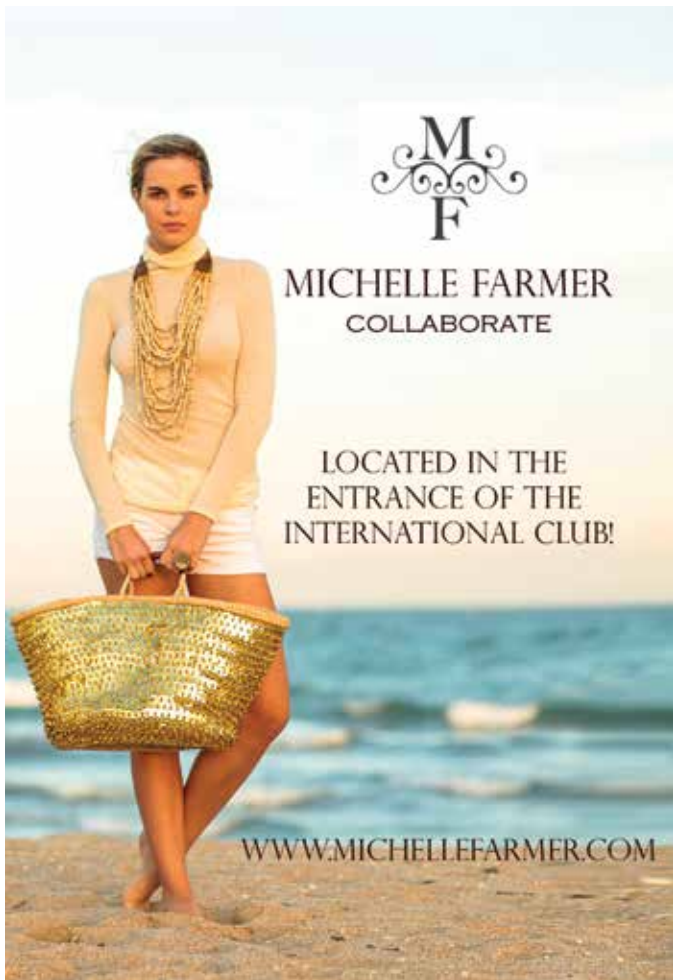
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