



WEEK 2 🐾 January 18-22, 2017

WEEKLY WIRE

🐾 EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

Daniel Coyle and Cita Top \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix



Daniel Coyle aboard Cita take top honors in the \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix. ©Sportfot

Week one of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) concluded on Sunday, January 15, with a win for Daniel Coyle (IRL) riding Ariel and Susan Grange's Cita in the \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL. Conor Swail (IRL) and Flower finished second, and Catherine Tyree (USA) and Bokai placed third.

The 12-week WEF circuit runs through April 2, 2017, featuring competition for hunters, jumpers, and equitation, with over \$9 million in prize money up for grabs. The Winter Equestrian Festival continues on January 18-22 with CSI 2* and Premier "AA" competition, sponsored by Marshall & Sterling.

2016 Olympic course designer Guilherme Jorge (BRA) set the tracks for WEF one competition in the International Arena at PBIEC. Jorge saw 52 starters over his first round track for Sunday's grand prix, yielding a 15-horse jump-off, with eight double clear rounds. The top three all finished within the same second, just fractions apart.

For the win, Coyle (22) bested his mentor and Cita's former rider, Conor Swail, who settled for second place riding Finca Horses' Flower. Coyle and the 11-year-old Holsteiner mare (Casal x Pik Ramiro) crossed the timers in 37.05 seconds, just ahead of Swail and Flower's time of 37.16 seconds. Tyree jumped into third place with Mary and Joe Tyree's Bokai in 37.49 seconds.

Coyle began riding for the Granges' Lothlorien Farm at the start of the 2016 season and worked together with Swail all year. After a five year partnership with Lothlorien, Swail left to pursue his own business this fall, and the split left Coyle in the irons of all of his top horses, including Cita.

"This is my first show with that horse and last week was my first week riding

her," Coyle detailed. "Conor did very well with her, so we knew she was a good horse. It takes me awhile to get used to them, and when I do, I feel very comfortable. I kind of knew her already from working alongside Conor, so I'm very happy. It is only my second week on her, and I really like her."

Speaking about the change at Lothlorien and his abundance of new mounts for the winter, Coyle stated, "Fortunately for me, Conor left. I have all of these new horses, good horses. I had very good horses before; a lot of younger ones there, but to get his horses as well as the ones that I had, I was very fortunate. It is just going to take me a little while to figure them out for myself, but today went well."

Swail went fifth in the jump-off and held the lead until Coyle came along four rounds later to best his time. Commenting on his trip, Coyle explained, "I had seen Conor's round. I was in the warm-up, and I watched his round because I knew it was going to be fast. Even when we worked together, we were very competitive against each other anyway, so I knew to watch him. Catherine had me very scared as well at the end. It was a great jump-off for somebody to watch, and it was a great jump-off for me to win."

For Swail, Nina Fagerstrom's (FIN) former mount Flower is a brand new ride this winter as well, and the rider is just getting to know the 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare (Bon Ami x Randal Z).

"Nine asked me just a few weeks ago if I would be interested in doing something with Flower and I said, 'Absolutely!'" Swail said. "I knew the horse well with her, and so far so good. We have been gelling quite well together. I thought today was her best round with the two of us together, so I am looking forward to the rest of the season."

Please turn to page 4 🐾

Women Win \$75,000 Wellington Regional Medical Center Battle of the Sexes



The men and women's teams celebrate a great night with Mark and Katherine Bellissimo of Equestrian Sport Productions, Wellington Regional Medical Center COO Pam Tahan, Nick Sama, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics, Robbin Lee, CEO, Adam Bromberg, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Emergency Services, and ringmaster Steve Rector. ©Sportfot

The atmosphere in the International Arena at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) was charged with excitement Saturday night, as the women took victory over the men in the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, during week one of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF).

Teams of ten men and ten women battled it out for this year's Battle of the Sexes title, with team captains Nicole Bellissimo and Charlie Jayne at the helm. Bellissimo led Heather Caristo-Williams, Amanda Derbyshire, Abigail McArdle, Jessica Mendoza, Schuyler Riley, Haylie Rolfe, Mavis Spencer, Alexandra Welles, and Julie Welles on her team. Jayne's team included David Blake, Daniel Bluman, Ernest Connell, Alex Granato, Darragh Kenny, Andy Kocher, Adam Prudent, Colin Syquia, and Hardin Towell.

The contest was held in three phases, consisting of a faults converted speed round, a relay race, and a match race. The men and women were pitted against each other in each phase over courses set by 2016 Olympic course designer Guilherme Jorge (BRA).

In round one, the men led the women seven to three in the speed rounds. In round two's relay races, the girls picked up an additional ten points, while the men earned just five, bringing the totals to 12 for the men and 13 for the women. With one point separating them, the men and women headed into the third and final round for match races, where the women took a decisive 18 points to the men's nine. The final tally of 21 to 31 gave the women the win. They have been victorious in the event eight out of nine years – with the class in 2015 ending in a tie.

Julie Welles was representing the women for her first time in Battle of the Sexes competition and had a fantastic night with her mount Centalyon, owned by Ardencote Farm. The pair jumped fast and clear to help their team earn points in all three rounds. Welles is working for 2016 Olympic Champion Nick Skelton (GBR) and two-time Olympic team gold medalist Laura Kraut (USA) this year, and saw the night as a perfect opportunity to give her mount some experience in an electric atmosphere.

"It was so much fun," Welles said. "The horse I rode is a lovely horse that Nick and Laura own. He was just unbelievable. I just kick, and off I went. I rode him last winter, and I had not ridden him since."

Welles continued, "His barn name is Smurf because he is so little, but he rides like a big horse. He is really fast, and he has a huge stride for such a small horse. We just cruised around."

Commenting on her team's win, Welles stated, "To be honest, we were a little nervous in the beginning because the boys had a pretty stacked team. If you look on paper, the boys should have won. I guess I would say they got a little cocky after the first round when they kept beating us. Then we came back strong. Laura Kraut was like our cheerleader. She said, 'You guys just have to win five of the match races. That's all that you have to do.' We kept counting down in the schooling area, screaming at the screen and cheering each other on."

Abigail McArdle was aboard Plain Bay Sales' Comeback de la Manade for her second year competing in the Battle of the Sexes and also had a fun night representing the ladies for their win.

Please turn to page 10 🐾

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PBIEC Week 2 Upcoming Events

RESCHEDULED – DON'T MISS IT! WEF/AGDF EXHIBITOR PARTY

Welcome back to Wellington! The WEF & AGDF Exhibitor and Trainer Party will be held on Wednesday, January 18, from 6-8 pm at The Wanderer's Club at 1900 Aero Club Drive in Wellington. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres served. Come join the fun and meet fellow exhibitors from both circuits. If you're interested in booking dinner reservations during that evening, at Duke's Bar or Stables Restaurant, please call 561-795-3501 or email reservations@wanderersclubwellington.com.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, January 19, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The topic is "Developing a Sustainable Model for the Future of Equestrian Sports" with Equestrian Sport Productions CEO Mark Bellissimo. This informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1112 or lbostwick@equestriansport.com for more information.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL CPEDI 3*

Head over to The Stadium at PBIEC on Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, to see the top Para-Equestrian athletes compete in their international competition. Riders will be competing to earn top scores and winning honors. General admission and parking are free.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are available on Saturday, January 21. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or suites@equestriansport.com today.

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

The grand prix competition continues at WEF 2 on Saturday, January 21, 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. General admission is free, parking is \$20/car, and valet is \$30.

HOLLOW CREEK FARM UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

The popular Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series, presented by The Dutta Corp. in association with Guido Klatte, returns to the Winter Equestrian Festival at WEF 2 with the \$10,000 Welcome on Saturday, January 21, in the International Arena. The \$25,000 Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix is in the International Arena at 8 am on Sunday, January 22. Watch some of the best young talent in the world compete in this ten-event series for \$215,000 in prize money and experience in FEI international competition.

U.S. POLO ASSOCIATION GLADIATOR POLO

The inaugural event of the U.S. Polo Association Gladiator Polo series will be held on Thursday, January 26 at Equestrian Village – The Stadium at PBIEC. With gates opening at 6 p.m., there will be free general admission and an Asado for \$30/per person.

U.S. Polo Association Gladiator Polo is the newest equestrian event to join the elite season in Wellington, FL. Hosted on select Thursdays at the Equestrian Village in The Stadium at PBIEC, also home of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), U.S. Polo

Association Gladiator Polo brings the exciting sport of polo to a 3 on 3 setting featuring teams of professional players. Spectator-friendly and offering family fun with free general admission; U.S. Polo Association Gladiator Polo is sure to entertain attendees of all ages with interactive activities in an engaging sporting atmosphere!

RIDE & LEARN WITH LOUISE SERIO PLAN AHEAD FOR WEEK 4!

The Ride & Learn Series will take place four times during WEF in 2017. 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 hunter rider and trainer Louise Serio who will be training with the theme of "Hunters" at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, January 31. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$75 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 6 riders, so sign up today! Each participant will receive a complimentary saddle pad per clinic, generously provided by Equestrian Team Apparel. 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.

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**INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB
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HAPPENINGS**

The 2017 Joe Barry Memorial continues at the International Polo Club this week. The semifinals are on Wednesday with games at noon and 3 p.m. All weekday games are free admission and free parking. The final of the Joe Barry Memorial is Sunday, January 22, at 3 p.m.

The savory brunch and after party will continue at The Pavilion this Sunday. New brunch packages are available to get guests closer to the action. For \$25, brunch ticket holders can upgrade their seats to the front row. Beverage package add-ons allow brunch goers to continue the party with bottles of Veuve Clicquot and Ketel One.

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

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

With bounce houses, big lawn games, and fun food, the free Kids' Fun Zone, sponsored by Wellington Regional Medical Center, allows children to have fun during the match. This Sunday, the area will have a face painter along with food trucks.

All three areas along with the after party are open to the public with general admission tickets. The new retail location on the west side of the stadium is also open and will sell merchandise from The Island Company.

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

Rosenbaum Grand Prix, Continued from Page 1

Swail continued, "Nina's still riding away. She just felt that the mare is quite careful, and maybe my strength would help her a little bit. It seems to be the case. The horse is fantastic. She is seriously careful and quite straightforward to ride. It's fun having a horse to ride around when you know they don't want to knock the jumps down. It makes the job easier for sure."

Despite getting edged out by his former protégé, Swail was happy with his start to the winter circuit and happy to see one of his favorite horses excel under her new rider.

"Last year when I was with Lothlorien, I needed another rider to do the young horses, and I thought Daniel was very well qualified to do that," Swail detailed. "He started here last year and he had done an unbelievable job with all of the horses that he had. Now the situation is a little different, and he has some nicer horses, and he is doing equally as good a job on them. It's great to see him going well, and that was one of my favorite mares there, so it is great to see her going well. I would prefer he was behind me to be honest with you, but it's still good. My new mare jumped very well today, and I was very pleased with my own situation going forward. Obviously leaving a top barn like Sue's and Lothlorien, there is a void. I'm trying to fill that void, and it's nice that I already have some good horses that I can be competitive with at the higher levels."

Sunday also saw a top result for young rider Catherine Tyree, who is returning to WEF competition this year after severely fracturing her foot almost to the day one year ago. After taking the time to heal and rehab, Tyree has made an impressive rise back to the grand prix level and has an exciting new partnership with her mount, Bokai. The 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Up To Date x Ferro) previously showed under Norway's Victoria Gulliksen and then The Netherlands' Harrie Smolders before pairing up with his current rider this summer.

"I just got him at the beginning of July, so it is a relatively new partnership, but he is such a competitive horse," Tyree noted. "I feel very fortunate to have him. This is his first show back

since he showed at the National Horse Show at the end of October and it is like he never missed a beat. He is very sharp, he is very smart, and he is very quick. I knew if I took a shot today, he would be right there with me. Unfortunately, Daniel and Conor are a little bit quicker than I am, but I could not be more pleased with him."

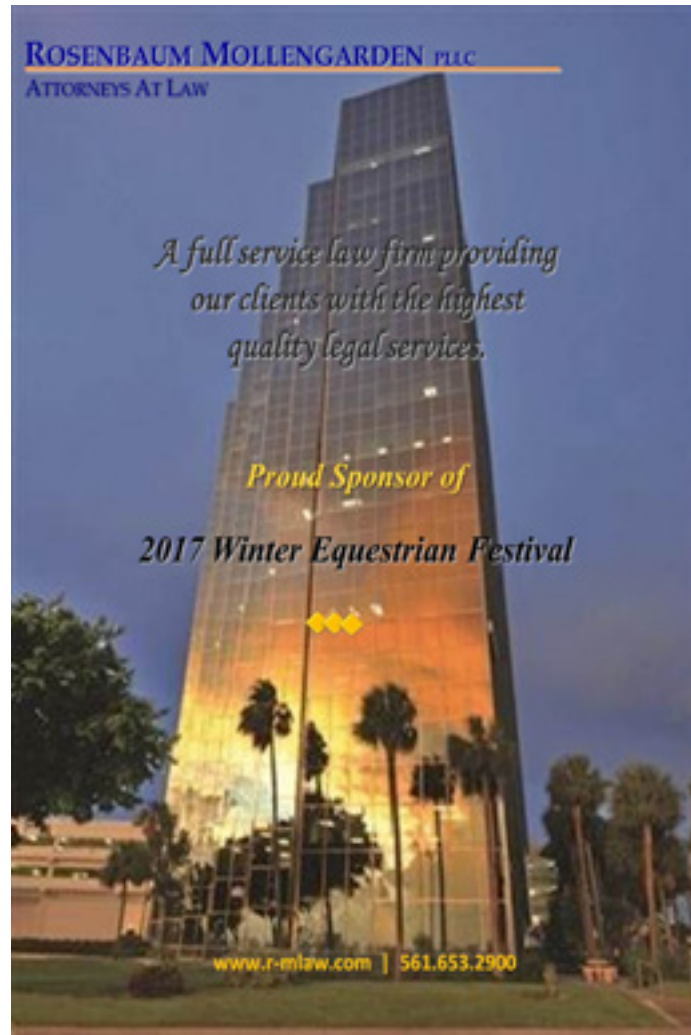
Remarking on her success since returning to the show ring, Tyree stated, "It is definitely a very good feeling. It was one year ago yesterday that I got hurt. To look back at the year, it is unbelievable the things that my horses have done for me. I owe it all to North Run and John (Brennan) and Missy (Clark). They are incredible trainers and incredible people. When I came back, my horses were ready to go, and I felt very confident throughout all of it. This is definitely a very good way to start the circuit, and hopefully it keeps continuing this way."

For her top result this week, Tyree was also presented the award for Leading Lady Rider for WEF 1 competition, the award presented by Martha Jolicœur of Douglas Elliman in memory of Dale Lawler. Tyree has her sights set on competing in some of the Saturday night grand prix classes this winter and hopes to continue gaining great experience in the top level classes throughout the circuit.

Representing Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC following Sunday's competition, Dan Rosenbaum commented on the fantastic day and top sport that took place.

"It is a highly rewarding experience to be a sponsor of such an excellent event," Rosenbaum said. "The riders were incredible. The competition itself was at a very high level. It was a beautiful day and everything went just as perfectly as it could have been. This is typical of the experience that we have had as a sponsor of the Winter Equestrian Festival since it began. We find it just getting better every year; every year reaches a new level. It is amazing what the Winter Equestrian Festival has become and what the Wellington Equestrian Partners have been able to accomplish."

 Lauren Fisher



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Final Results: \$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix

1. CITA: 2006 Holsteiner mare by Casall x Pik Ramiro
DANIEL COYLE (IRL), Ariel and Susan Grange: 0/0/37.05
2. FLOWER: 2005 Belgian Warmblood mare by Bon Ami x Randel Z
CONOR SWAIL (IRL), Finca Horses: 0/0/37.16
3. BOKAI: 2006 KWPN gelding by Up To Date x Ferro
CATHERINE TYREE (USA), Mary & Joe Tyree: 0/0/37.49
4. INDIGO: 2000 KWPN gelding by Indoctro x Unknown
MARGIE ENGLE (USA), Griese, Garber, Hidden Creek & Gladewinds: 0/0/39.66
5. BENTE: 2006 KWPN mare by Oklund x Boreas
CELSE ARIANI (BRA), Fatima Morales & Rodrigo Padilla: 0/0/40.90
6. RETIRO: 2005 Warmblood gelding by Rockefeller Z x Play Boy
PETER LUTZ (USA), Katherine Gallagher & Michael Meller: 0/0/41.53
7. BONZAY: 2006 KWPN by Numero Uno x Heartbreaker
JONATHAN MILLAR (CAN), Isotropic: 0/0/43.61
8. VENENO: 2008 Oldenburg gelding by Chacco Blue x Balou du Rouet
LIUBOV KOCHETOVA (RUS), Liubov Kochetova: 0/0/45.05
9. CONTESSINA DELLA CACCIA: 2008 Selle Francais mare by Contefino x Cassini
MCLAIN WARD (USA), McLain Ward: 0/4/38.27
10. COBOLT: 2006 Swedish Warmblood gelding by Cyklon 1083 x Camaro M
SHANE SWEETNAM (IRL), Shane Sweetnam & The Blue Buckle Group: 0/4/39.23
11. HH QUATUOR: 2004 Selle Francais gelding by Col Canto x Rosire
QUENTIN JUDGE (USA), Double H Farm: 0/4/40.98
12. SERINGAT: 2006 Selle Francais gelding by Chef Rouge x Guillaume Tell
CIAN O'CONNOR (IRL), Ronnoco Jump Ltd: 0/7/48.51

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EQUILINE *Enthusiasts*

Catherine Tyree

EQUILINE: What are you most excited about as WEF 2017 begins?

CATHERINE: I'm very excited to have the opportunity to show in some of the Saturday Night Grand Prixs this circuit. I'm lucky to have two great grand prix horses in Bokai and Enjoy Louis and hope to gain a lot of experience competing in the night time environment.



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EQUILINE: Do you have a favorite horse coming into the new season?

CATHERINE: I think all of the horses in my string are very special, but if I had to pick a favorite it would be Enjoy Louis. I've never had a partnership with a horse like I do with him and he's just an unbelievable athlete.

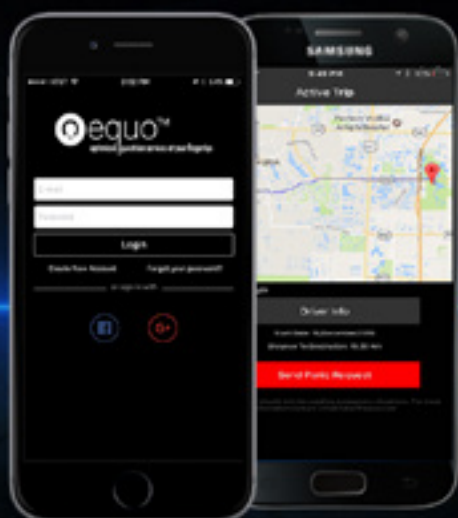
EQUILINE: What is your favorite Equiline product?

CATHERINE: I love everything Equiline, but one of my favorite products are the Equiline Ash breeches with the x-grip. I find the pants to be incredibly comfortable and flattering; I could wear them all day! I also like the feeling of the grip - it gives me a nice, close-contact feel as I ride.

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TRYON
INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

SPRING 1
April 6-9

SPRING 4
May 10-14

SPRING 7
May 31-June 5, CSI 3*

SPRING 2
April 12-16

SPRING 5
May 17-21

SPRING 8
June 8-11, CSI 5*

SPRING 3
May 4-8, CSI 3*

SPRING 6
May 24-28

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WEF Week 1 Standings and Awards



SUNCAST® 1.50M
CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER
CLASSIC SERIES

(after 1 qualifying event)
Wilhelm Genn (GER): 25
Jessica Mendoza (GBR): 23
Andrew Welles (USA): 22
Jeffery Welles (USA): 21
Leslie Howard (USA): 20

LEADING LADY
JUMPER RIDER

Sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
(after 2 qualifying events)

Catherine Tyree (USA): 125
Liubov Kochetova (RUS): 99
Margie Engle (USA): 95
Mavis Spencer (USA): 84
Molly Ashe-Cawley (USA): 83

Leading Lady Jumper Rider for WEF 1 was Catherine Tyree,
presented by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman. ©Sportfot

Style Awards



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award, presented by
Laura Fetterman, went to Zanzibar, ridden by Kaitlyn Lovingfoss.
©Sportfot

Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award:
Speedy Chicolina, ridden by Megan Winkhaus

WEF
WEEK 1
Photo Gallery

© Kate Kosnoff



VENDOR VILLAGE

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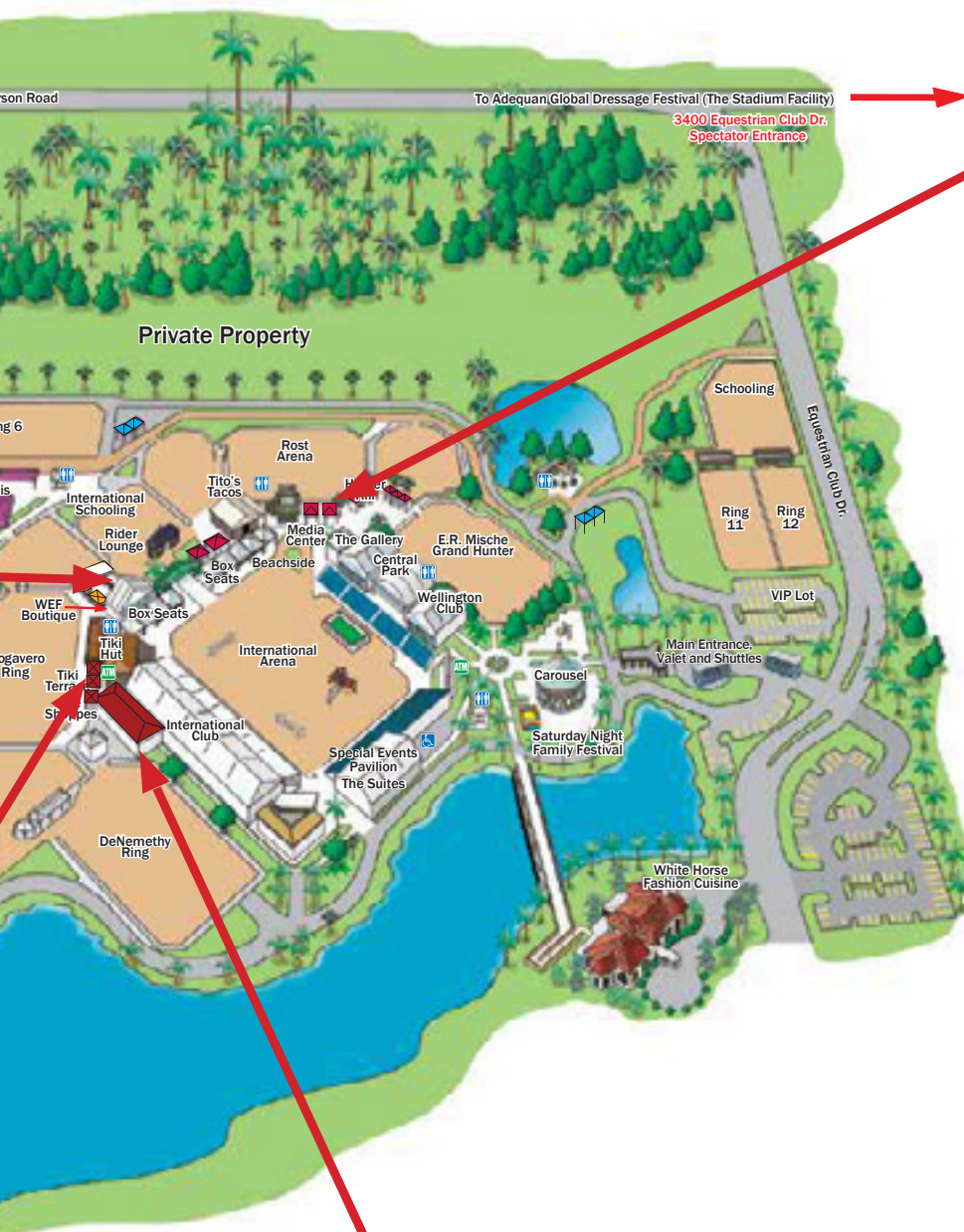
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Faces of WEF: Brandon King



©Emily Riden

Responsible for constantly getting riders in and out of the arena, the in-gate staff is an integral part of horse showing. Brandon King is no exception and you can find him directing traffic at Ring Ten. Born in Amarillo, Texas, King grew up in California, Oklahoma, and Chicago. He started riding at age six with course designer Linda Allen, who famously did the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, and he went on to ride with George Morris and Chris Kappler. Over the years, King has worked many roles including grooming for Peter Pletcher, managing barns, riding, and working different aspects of horse shows. King is a devoted father and now spends as much time as he can with his daughter while continuing to work horse shows.

HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT BRANDON KING:

WW: How did you start working at WEF?

BK: Steve Stephens, of Stadium Jumping, saw me. He was in Texas doing a horse show and asked if I wanted to come work jump crew. At the time, I was already hired by Brian Flynn to do Arizona, back when it was Good Year, it wasn't Thermal or anything. Three or four years later, I ended up coming on board here in Wellington.

WW: How does working the in-gate differ from other jobs you've had?

BK: It's really not that much different. I ended up raising my kid. I took 13 years off to raise my daughter and run Candice [King]'s business at the time. So, as far as doing the gate, it's simple compared to having to ride, organize a barn, and all that stuff.

WW: What do you do outside the horse show?

BK: I try to spend as much with my daughter, Alexandra King, as I can, in between fishing and going out on the jet skis. My daughter shows in the Low Junior Jumpers. She's currently in Ocala with her mom and comes back and forth between here. She played soccer. We did travel soccer. I managed a travel soccer team for seven years. That was a lot like managing a barn, between the parents and the logistics and everything. It was a lot of fun though.

WW: If you weren't doing this, what would you be doing?

BK: That's a good question. I think I would have had a lot of fun down in the Keys, ideally for me. Still dealing with people and having a bunch of rentals, whether it be skis, boats, or kayaks. I think it would be fun being one of those people. 🐾

\$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, Continued from page 1



Julie Welles and Centalyon scored points in all three phases to help the women's team take the win in the \$75,000 Wellington Regional Medical Center Battle of the Sexes, in front of a packed house at the first "Saturday Night Lights" of WEF.

"It was extremely thrilling," McArdle declared. "The girls went in losing in the first round, and my only feat was to beat Andy Kocher. I didn't think I could. Everyone told me I couldn't, and then sure enough we did! I thought that was a good inspiration early on for the girls in the last round."

"I think this is a fabulous event with great sponsors," McArdle added. "Everyone has a lot of fun every year, and I think it is a great thing to keep doing. We had a huge crowd; the horses and the people all feel the excitement."

Charlie Jayne was a disappointed team captain for the men Saturday night, and described his feeling after the class as "mixed emotions."

"It was not a good night for us," Jayne admitted. "We were up, we were down, and then we were so far away in the end. It's fun for the crowd. It's a very nice event for the sponsors - Wellington Regional Medical Center this year. We thank them every year, and we'll keep coming back because of the sponsors and the spectators."

🐾 Lauren Fisher



PBIEC was host to the annual Wellington Seniors Club Luncheon during opening day of WEF on Wednesday, January 11. One of the 260 guests who attended, Mary Alfalla celebrated her 75th birthday.

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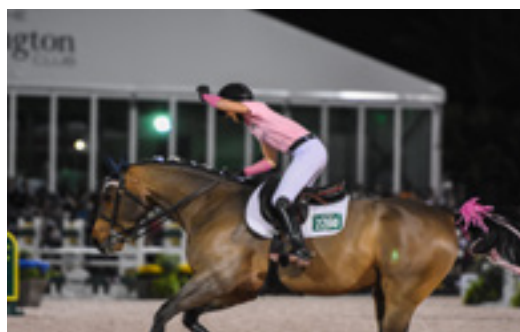
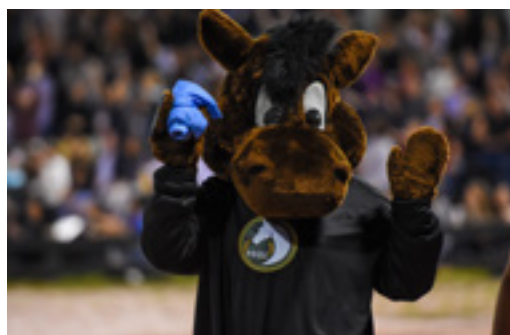
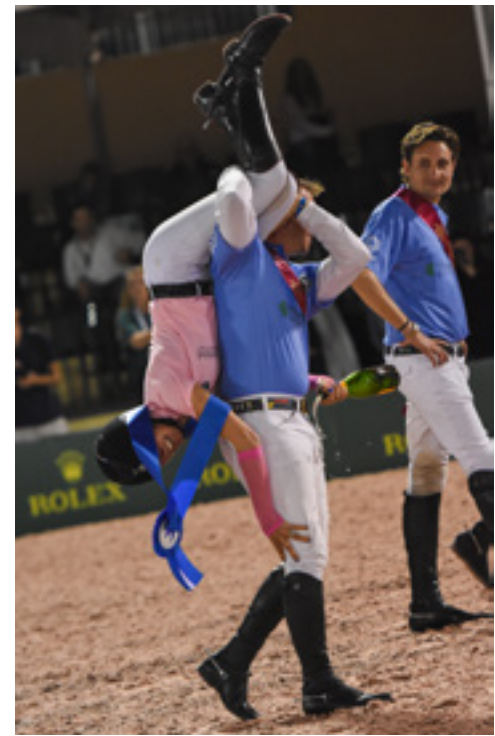
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HORSE SHOW MONDAYS

MONDAYS ARE THE ELUSIVE DAY OFF IN THE HORSE SHOW COMMUNITY. SEE HOW SOME OF THE TOP RIDERS SPEND THEM!

WW: What do you do on Mondays that's not horse related?

Laura Kraut: "Laundry, dry-cleaning, the grocery store and then on some Mondays we get to go to Eau Spa and have a little bit of pampering."

Todd Minikus: "Take my kids to school first thing, because I don't get the chance to take them any other day. Then usually come back to the farm, work – like mow grass and help clean stalls. Sometimes go fishing."

Scott Stewart: "Ideally, I like to try to play tennis."

Joe Fargis: "Pilates."



WET 1 Parade of Champions



Denise Monopoli and her own Joemay 12 were champions in the USHJA 2'3" Hunter division.



Lonestar, owned and ridden by Laurie Stevens, was champion in the Camping World Adult Amateur Hunter 50 & Over Section A.



Mary Gassib piloted Saltwood Tuscany to a Short Stirrup championship for owner Erica Robinson.



Moonshadow, owned by Black Ankle, LLC and ridden by Wynter Johnson, was named USHJA 2' Hunter champion.

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MARTHA W. JOLICOEUR



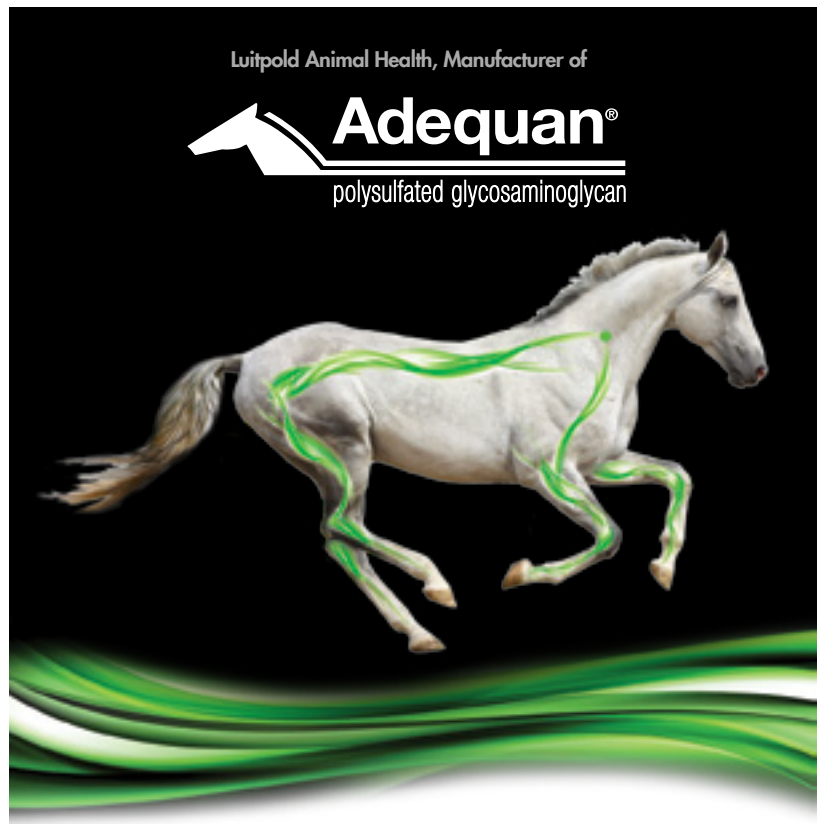
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Hunters Start Out Strong at WEF 1



Taylor St. Jacques and William Hill wowed the judges to win the championship in the Staller Small Junior Hunter 16-17.
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The first week of competition at the Winter Equestrian Festival showcased talented horses and riders contending for the championship title across all divisions. Hunter exhibitors rose to the challenge and put in strong performances to start off the 12-week circuit here in Wellington.

The green horses demonstrated their talents early on at WEF 1. The Equine Tack & Nutritionals Green Hunter 3'6" division concluded Thursday with Scott Stewart taking the championship aboard Dr. Betsee Parker's seven-year-old gelding, Celebration. Over the two days of competition, the pair placed first under saddle, second in the handy, second in the stake, and first and second over fences. Winning runs in the family for Celebration as he is the son of Dr. Betsee Parker's extremely successful horse, Dedication. Stewart also took the reserve honors on Rivers Edge's Luster, who earned second under saddle, first in the handy, seventh in the stake, and third and fifth over fences.

On Friday, the Triple Crown Blankets Adult Amateur Hunter 36-49 (A) finished with Tina Allen piloting her veteran partner, French Kiss, to the championship. French Kiss is a 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding that Allen purchased almost seven years ago here in Wellington, FL. The pair placed first under saddle and first, first, second, and fourth over fences. Allen described French Kiss as her 'steady-eddy.' Hillary Jean took reserve honors aboard her own D'Amour after winning two over fences classes, placing fourth and seventh over fences, and fifth under saddle.

Taylor St. Jacques and William Hill barely edged out Emma Kurtz and Wisdom for the championship title in the Staller Small Junior Hunters 16-17 on Saturday. Both riders earned the same number of points in the division; however, because St. Jacques had more points in the over fences portion, she was crowned champion. St. Jacques had nothing but high praise for six-year-old gelding owned by Rose Hill Farm. The pair received first in the handy and the stake, second and third over fences, and third under saddle. Kurtz and Wisdom, owned by Rivers Edge, placed first under saddle, first, second, second, and fourth over fences.

The men dominated the FarmVet Adult Amateur Hunters 50+ Sec. B with James G. Anderson winning the championship on his own Forever. The seven-year-old Westphalian gelding already has a winning record here at WEF. Last year, he won championship and reserve titles in the 3' Pre-Green and Adult Amateur Hunters. Over Saturday and Sunday, Anderson and Forever won the under saddle, and placed first, first, second, and fifth over fences. Brad Wolf and Libretto settled for reserve champion with first, first, third, and third place finishes over fences, and fourth place under saddle. Earlier in the week, Libretto also took the reserve honors in the Performance Working Hunters 3'3" with Victoria Colvin in the irons.

Hunter competition will resume for WEF 2 Marshall & Sterling Insurance CSI 2* on Wednesday, January 18.

👉 Sara Cook

WEF Week 1 Jumper Highlights

The 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) kicked off its first day of competition at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL, on Wednesday, January 11, with a win for Ireland's Kevin Babington aboard Debra Wycoff's Super Chilled in the morning's \$8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m speed class.

Olympic course designer Guilherme Jorge (BRA) set the jumper tracks in the International Arena at PBIEC for week one competition. Jorge began Wednesday with 13 entries in the 1.45m and six clear rounds. First to go, Conor Swail (IRL) set the pace in 62.36 seconds with Quite Cassini, owned by Vanessa Mannix, and finished in second place. Babington and Super Chilled soon took over the lead with their time of 59.97 seconds. Molly Ashe (USA) took third place in the end riding Audi's Dimple, owned by Maarten Huygens, through the timers in 64.16 seconds.

Also competing in the International Arena on Wednesday, the \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40 speed class was held in a California Split with 112 entries. Laura Chapot (USA) and Mary Chapot's Zealous were the winners in Section A, and Daniel Coyle (IRL) rode Ariel and Susan Grange's Cita to top honors in Section B.

It was a win for Todd Minikus aboard Wyndmont's 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding Valinski S (Nijinski x Julius) in the \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 1. The horse, an Olympic veteran that competed in Rio de Janeiro with Australia's Matt Williams in 2016, is a new mount for Minikus in January. The pair is already on its second win of the season after also topping the \$50,000 Nutrena National Grand Prix at Equestrian Sport Productions' Holiday Finale last Sunday.

Fifty-two entries started in round one of the WEF Challenge Cup, with ten advancing to the jump-off and another six clear rounds over the short course. Second to go, but first to clear the shortened track, Minikus and Valinski S set an unbeatable pace of 37.99 seconds for the win.

Marilyn Little (USA) and Karen O'Connor's Clearwater finished second in 38.33 seconds. Emanuel Andrade (VEN) and Dippsy placed third with their time of 40.99 seconds. Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and The Blue Buckle Group's Cobolt, Emily

Moffitt (USA) and Poden Farm's Harriri, and Quentin Judge (USA) aboard Double H Farm's HH Quatuor rounded out the top six with double clear rounds. Minikus had another Wyndmont mount, Zephyr, in the jump-off as well and finished seventh with a fast time, but one rail down.

Also competing in the International Arena on Thursday, the morning began with a victory for Peter Wylde (USA) riding Beechwood Stables LLC's Shakira Z in the \$8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m jump-off. Minikus was also the winner of the afternoon's \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m jump-off riding Wyndmont's Cas.

The Junior and Amateur-Owner Jumpers took to the International Arena for their first classes of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival on Friday. Jumping in the \$2,500 Engel & Völkers High Amateur-Owner Jumper Power and Speed, Addison Gierkink (21) of Lexington, MA, rode Kadley Holdings LLC's S&L Slingback to victory in the first competition of the day in a time of 29.65 seconds. Taylor Alexander and Alexander LLC's Ryanair de Riverland finished second in 30.49 seconds, and Benjamin Simpkins rode Grindstone Farm LLC's Vivaro B to third place in 31.71 seconds.

Also competing in the International Arena on Friday, Anna Beth Athey and Cantero da Lagoa won the \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper Power and Speed. The \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m Speed Challenge concluded the day in a California Split with 111 entries. Alex Grana-to (USA) was the winner of Section A riding Alliy Moyer's Beorn, and Sarah Scheiring (USA) rode Thomas Welsh's Newtown Jumping Jack to the win in Section B.

Competing in the International Arena on Saturday, the \$25,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic hosted its first event of the circuit, with a win for Wilhelm Genn (GER) aboard Eduardo

Leon's Bugatti. Twenty-four entries started over the first round track, with eight clear rounds, and four double clear. Genn and Bugatti clocked the winning time of 37.66 seconds. Jessica Mendoza (GBR) and Toy Boy finished second in 39.02 seconds. Andrew Welles (USA) rode Peter Welles' Boo van het Kastanjehof to a third place finish in 39.81 seconds, and Jeffery Welles (USA) placed fourth in 41.19 seconds riding Herbert Sambol's Broken Heart.

The morning began with a win for Addison Gierkink and Kadley Holdings LLC's Wisconsin III in the \$15,000 Engel & Völkers SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic. The \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper speed class was next to go with a win for Catalina Peralta riding Wendy Peralta's Conti. The \$1,500 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumpers also competed in their speed class for week one, which saw a win for Isabella Russekoff aboard Lexus Arbuckle's Castor van de Kranenburg.

On Sunday, Christina Antonucci rode Zonneglans to victory in the \$10,000 Equiline Medium Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic. The \$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch SJHOF High Junior Jumper Classic saw a win for Coco Fath aboard Hillside Farm LLC's Huckleberry.

Lauren Fisher



Wilhelm Genn and Bugatti captured the win in the \$25,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Classic during WEF 1. ©Sporfot

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Life After the Olympics



2016 Olympic Silver Medalist McLain Ward and HH Azur competing in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. ©Lindsay Berreth/Chronicle of the Horse

Fresh off a silver medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, McLain Ward is a name that needs no introduction. Having participated in the 2012 London Olympics and been part of the gold medal-winning U.S. team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2004 Athens Olympics, Ward is also no stranger to the Games. His Rio Olympic mount, HH Azur, owned by Double H Farm, took the show jumping world by storm shortly after he debuted her at the 2015 Winter Equestrian Festival. The ten-year-old Belgian mare has an astonishing jumping style that's impossible to miss and a winning record to back it up. We caught up with Ward to discuss Rio and his plans looking forward.

How was Rio different than other Olympic Games you've attended?

Ward: I think every Olympics, and for that matter championships, has its own personal flair. It's own touch that comes from the country. And your situation, your own career, the people around you and the horse you happen to be riding. We went to Rio with very high expectations with Azur. She's had an incredible year. She performed brilliantly. We would have liked not to have four faults in the final round, but it's a very fine line between four faults and clear. So I'm still thrilled with her performance – a medal in the team competition. The Brazilians are a great set of people, and they really pulled together to make that Olympic Games happen, despite having a lot of obstacles and some hardship. I think it was a really special event, as they all have been.

What was your favorite part about being in Rio?

Ward: I think winning the team silver medal. That was an incredible, hard-fought nations cup. When you see riders like Ludger Beerbaum, who have won just about everything in the sport, so elated to win the bronze medal you realize what a battle it was. I felt that we performed every bit up to what we intended to do coming in. The French just had an incredible day. In sports you can be at your best, and someone just has a slightly better day. I don't think you can beat yourself up too much about that.

Do you think Rio changed HH Azur in any way?

Ward: I think those events always give you experience. She was only ten years old. She's now, what I would say, coming into the prime of her career, the next two to

three years. Now we have a championship under her belt. We learned a few things, and we can apply them as future championships come.

What's your next big goal, both personally and with HH Azur?

Ward: We'd like to have a nice Florida circuit. Particularly when we start getting a little later in the season there are some really important events for us. Our next big goal with Annie I think is the World Cup.

Can you talk about any younger mounts that you believe have Olympic potential?

Ward: Olympic potential is hard to say. I have a very nice young horse, a mare called Tina la Boheme. I also have a couple exciting new mounts, one of which is in quarantine here and I haven't gotten the chance to show yet. It's early in the year and we're going to see how these horses develop. I'm lucky to have great supporters behind me and the ability to be well-stocked. I think that's one of the keys: the team behind us, not only in the stable, but also, from the horse-ownership point of view.

What's the most exciting thing, not horse-related, that has happened to you since the Olympics?

Ward: Having conversations with my daughter. She's a chatterbox now and to have this dialogue, it's a new world everyday.

Stay tuned and read next week's WEF Weekly Wire to discover what another U.S. Olympic Team Member has been up to since the Games.

Sara Cook

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