



# WEEKLY WIRE



EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

WEEK 9

MARCH 6-10, 2019

## USA WINS \$150,000 NATIONS CUP CSIO4\*



The team from the United States of America won the \$150,000 Nations Cup in a jump-off against Ireland, only the second time that has happened in the 18-year history of the class at WEF. ©Sportfot

In the 18-year history of the Nations Cup at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), there had only been one jump-off to determine the gold medal. On Saturday, March 2, 2019, another jump-off took place and garnered the United States of America their seventh victory in the history of the class. The team, consisting of Wilton Porter, Beezie Madden, Adrienne Sternlicht, McLain Ward, and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, took the gold medal in the \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO4\*, one of the highlight events of week 8 of WEF.

Saturday's Nations Cup consisted of two rounds over a course set by Steve Stephens (USA). Teams of four represented the nations of Argentina (the exception, which had three riders), Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Israel, Ireland, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela. After the first round, each team dropped their highest score. In the second round, the top six teams returned in order of highest to lowest total faults. The winner was determined by the lowest total of each team's top three riders from each round.

The six teams that returned for the second round in order from most faults to least were Mexico, Colombia, Israel, Ireland, Canada, and USA.

The winning nation was represented by Porter on Caletto Cabana, owned by Sleepy P Ranch LLC, Madden on Abigail Wexner's Chic Hin D Hyrencourt, Sternlicht riding Toulago for Starlight Farms 1 LLC, and Ward on the Beechwood Stables LLC-owned mount, Contagious.

The U.S. team led in the first round with a four-fault total, but they were tied with Canada and Ireland. Ward and Contagious were the pathfinders, putting in a clear in the first round but dropping the back rail at the final oxer in the second round.

"My horse was a little nervous and needed a little bit of hand-holding," said Ward. "I thought he jumped a much better round in the second round, and I think I thought it was done and just took it a bit for granted. He's not really gone two rounds like that before in one evening."

Porter, riding in his first senior Nations Cup competition, piloted Caletto Cabana, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Cassini I, to double clear rounds.

"I'm very excited to say the least," said Porter. "I'm honored to have been able to ride with three riders who have gold medals in senior championships. That's a pretty big honor for me, so I definitely felt like the rookie coming into it, but I have a great horse and he gave me a lot of confidence to get the job done tonight."

Sternlicht and Toulago had nine faults in the opening round and contributed four faults in the second. "I heavily relied on my teammates tonight for our win so I'm very grateful to them," said Sternlicht. "My horse is kind of a steady eddy. He's so reliable. I always know what I'm going to get from him. That being said he was unexpectedly spooky at the water tonight. It's definitely something I have to address, but again I was really happy with my

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## SAMUEL PAROT AND ATLANTIS FIND THE KEY TO WIN \$209,000 GRAND PRIX CSIO4\*, Presented by Lugano Diamonds



Samuel Parot and Atlantis were one of two in the jump-off to win the \$209,000 CSIO4\* Grand Prix, presented by Lugano Diamonds. ©Sportfot

The final day of week 8 at the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival featured the \$209,000 Grand Prix CSIO4\*, presented by Lugano Diamonds. With just two in the jump-off, it was Samuel Parot (CHI) and Atlantis who found the key to victory at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL.

The \$209,000 Grand Prix CSIO4\*, presented by Lugano Diamonds was the culmination of a week of international competition. Forty-three entries contested a course set by Steve Stephens (USA), but only two were clear to advance to the jump-off.

The first clear of the class and first into the jump-off were 20-year-old Eve Jobs and her own Venue d'Fees des Hazalles. While aiming for a clear round, they unfortunately had the final oxer down on the shortened course and finished on four jumping and three time faults in 48.84 seconds. They would finish in second place.

"He's always extremely fast," said Jobs of Parot. "You can always count on him to try his hardest and go as fast as he can. So I knew there was almost no way I was going to beat him on foot speed, so I was trying to leave all the jumps up. Unfortunately, I had the last rail. I pushed a little bit too hard. But, as always, he was very fast and very deserving of this win. I'm lucky to be in this company."

Jobs has ridden Venue d'Fees des Hazalles for two years and said the mare has helped bring her to the top level of the sport. "She's just a really phenomenal animal," she said of her 14-year-old SBS mare by President x Alcatraz. "She's so sweet, and she tries. She really fights for you. She really has helped me in my career, especially being a young rider with not that much experience - not like these guys who are always wonderful! I make a lot of mistakes, and she's very forgiving. She's taught me an immense amount about the top level of the sport. I'm really lucky to have her."

This was the first top three finish in a four-star grand prix for Jobs. "This is the best finish I've had," she confirmed. "That's really exciting for me and my whole team. My family actually was here today which was really fun. It was the first time in a while, so I was really happy that they got to see the horses going so well."

Parot and Atlantis were next in the jump-off, and while they had an early rail they were able to cross the finish line on four faults in 43.37 seconds for the win.

Regarding today's challenging course, Parot said, "You had many options. All the lines were very tricky in regard to determining the number of strides. [There were] a lot of half strides. It was big, wide, and high."

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## AMATEUR HOUR: Brad Wolf



Championships in 2018 with Victoria Colvin, and I just started showing him this year. I have only shown him twice in the 3'3" Amateur Owners and I was Champion the first weekend and Reserve Champion the next weekend. He was awesome! I have an older horse named Libretto and another one named Sunset Hill. I really only wanted two, but somehow I ended up with three.

### You mentioned you have a stressful job, what do you do?

I'm a heart surgeon. I do mostly heart bypass and valve surgery, those are my two main things. I also do heart transplants as well! It's a fun job.

### How do you balance showing and being a heart surgeon?

It's hard! I've been doing it for so long that I've gotten used to coming in on just the weekends and riding. I have a lot of help throughout the week with getting my horses prepared while I am back in Memphis working all week. I do have an old retired horse in Memphis that I go ride and there are a couple of practice horses that I ride on the weekends I don't show. Other than that, I just come down to show.



### How long have you been riding?

I used to ride as a kid back in my junior years growing up in Memphis, Tennessee and continued into my younger amateur years. Then I went to medical school and residency, and I took 20 years off from riding! Now I have been back riding for about 15 years or so and it really gives me a break from what I do. I have a very stressful job so it's great for me to just get out there on the weekends and ride.

### How many horses do you have right now?

I have three right now! One is Private Practice, who won USHJA International Hunter Derby



### Do you find riding helps your surgical career or vice versa?

I think both! I've been in a lot of stressful situations with my surgical career, so I can handle the stress of competition. My trainer will look at me and say, 'Brad, you're not doing heart surgery today! Just go in there and have fun!' Then the riding part really helps me because after a long week of really hard cases, I get to go enjoy a weekend of riding. I'm just so refreshed after riding. Even though I was doing a lot of hard work riding, it's totally different and your mind is not thinking about surgery.

**THANKS FOR CHATTING WITH US (AND SAVING LIVES) BRAD!**

## PBIEC WEEK 9 UPCOMING EVENTS

### LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 7, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The topic is "Sport Horse Health" and sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic. This informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses and businesses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. Contact Kailey Blasius at 561-784-1137 or kblasius@equestriansport.com for more information.

### \$5,000 USHJA PONY HUNTER DERBY PRESENTED BY NICKERDOODLES

The \$5,000 USHJA Pony Hunter Derby presented by NickerDoodles will be held on Friday, March 8, at 10 a.m. on the grass derby field at Equestrian Village (home of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival - 13500 South Shore Blvd.). Watch pony riders show off their skills! General admission and parking are free.

### CHALLENGE OF THE AMERICAS

The Challenge of the Americas, known throughout the equestrian world for its spectacular Grand Prix Musical Quadrilles, will continue its fight against breast cancer on Friday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at Equestrian Village (home of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival - 13500 South Shore Blvd.). This one-of-a-kind affair showcases the Olympic sport of Dressage and includes the "Who's Who" of top equestrian competitors from the United States, Canada, Latin America, and Europe. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join the Breast Cancer Research Foundation & Play for P.I.N.K. as international riders perform to world-class music and choreography in their efforts to find a cure in our lifetime. General admission tickets are \$20 at the door (does not include entry to the Gala), while tickets and tables are for sale at [www.ChallengeOfTheAmericas.com](http://www.ChallengeOfTheAmericas.com).

### \$10,000 USHJA NATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

The \$10,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 8:30 a.m. on the grass derby field at Equestrian Village. Watch some of the best hunters in the nation compete and show off their skills over the beautiful hunter derby course on the grass. General admission and parking are free.

### "SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" - \$391,000 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE GRAND PRIX CSI 5\*

The \$391,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate Grand Prix CSI 5\* will be the featured class during "Saturday Night Lights" in the International Arena on Saturday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The 5\* grand prix will feature the world's top horses and riders competing over the biggest jumps in one of four five-star events in the season. Admission is free and parking is \$20/car with \$30 valet available.

### THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES - AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are available on Saturday, March 9. 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. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

### \$50,000 GRIFFIS RESIDENTIAL GRAND PRIX CSI 2\*

It's Grand Prix Sunday at WEF on Sunday, March 10, with the \$50,000 Griffis Residential Grand Prix CSI 2\*! Enjoy the afternoon watching younger riders move up the international level and veterans campaigning new horses in this highlight of the two-star division.

### SAVE THE DATE

### EQUINE TECH COLLAB PRESENTS THE MASTERCLASS INNOVATION SERIES: A MINDFUL APPROACH TO HORSE AND RIDER

The public is invited to join top riders and industry experts on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 5 p.m. at The Wanderer's Club in Wellington, FL, for the first Masterclass Innovation Series: A Mindful Approach to Horse and Rider, presented by the Equine Tech Collaborative and benefiting the USEF Equine Disaster Relief Fund. The all-new discussion format event will feature two panel and question and answer sessions including: The Soundness Spectrum: Maintaining Horses' Soundness Through Proactive Management, featuring Dr. Tim Ober, Dr. Sheila Schils, Danny Ingratta, Daniel Bluman, and Liza Boyd; and In Good Company: Top Riders Discuss the Skills and Practices That Help Them with Mental and Emotional Challenges with Adrienne Sternlicht, Kasey Perry-Glass, and moderator Tonya Johnston, MA, a Mental Skills Coach. Additional panelists will be announced! Buy your ticket today - just \$25! - for this unique and thought-provoking event at Event Clinics: <https://www.eventclinics.com/a/on6LLE0f0OEwnxCISpwgg>

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**\$150,000 NATIONS CUP CSIO4\***  
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horse and the way he jumped the rest of the course. I'm grateful for my teammates putting in super performances."

As the anchor, Madden and her mount had four faults in the first round and clinched the all-important clear in the second round to take the U.S. into a jump-off with Ireland as both teams ended the two rounds with eight total faults.

"I was hoping for a double clear," said Madden. "He was a little wound up with the atmosphere tonight for the first round and didn't have the best warm-up. I felt like he was intense the first round, and I just tried to keep it more relaxed the second round; there were less horses out there warming up for the second round. I think he went the way he typically goes for that round."

In the jump-off, Daniel Coyle and Ariel Grange's Farena showed fatigue and ended up with 12 faults in 41.80 seconds. Ward and Contagious were able to cruise around clear in 43.69 seconds to secure victory.

"When Robert said there was a jump-off, I actually jumped at the opportunity because I felt he was jumping better each round," said Ward. "[The jump-off] was not such a hard job. But I thought it was nice the horse jumped his best round in the third round. I'm excited for all of his owners, and he's got a great future."

"This is what we were planning!" said Ridland. "It was a good day."

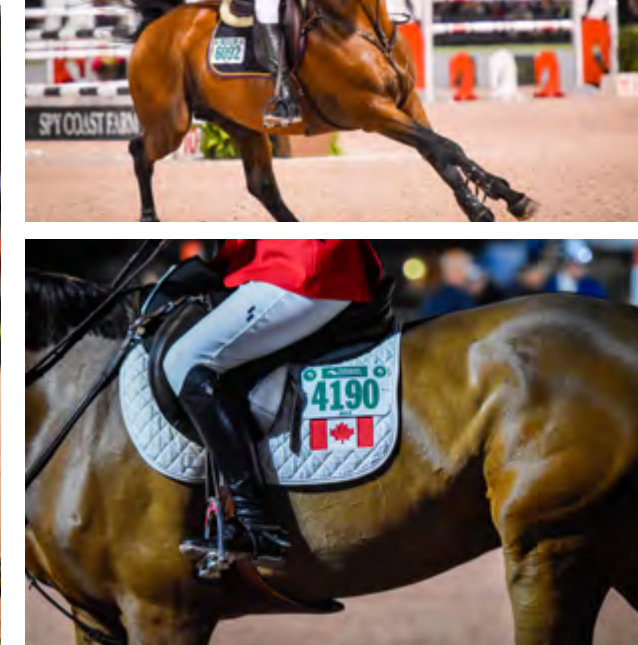
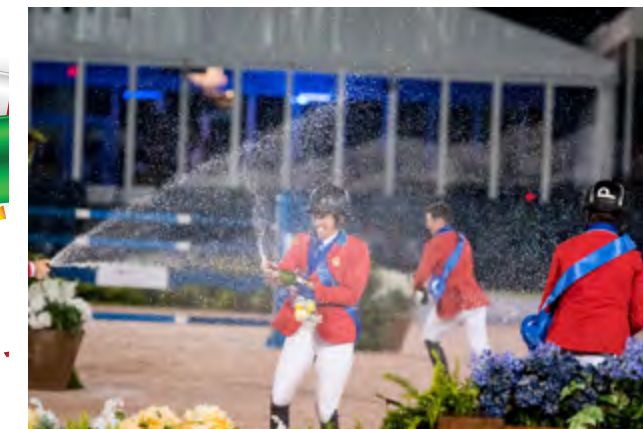
Ireland finished second with a team of four riders competing on horses that had never been in a Nations Cup competition before. Coyle, along with Lorcan Gallagher and Dacantos Group's Hunters Conlypso II, were double clear. Shane Sweetnam and Spy Coast Farm LLC's Kirschwasser SCF had four and eight faults, and Paul O'Shea riding Tequestrian Farms LLC's Imerald Van't Voorhof contributed four faults in both rounds.

Gallagher, who was competing in only his second senior Nations Cup, stated, "It's a bittersweet night, but I'm very happy and proud with my own horse tonight and the American team was very competitive. We were all on horses that were competing in a Nations Cup for the first time. Obviously we are disappointed we didn't get the win when we were that close. Each round, a couple of rails fell that maybe wouldn't have another day, but it's great to have this competition here for us and to see what the horses are capable of. [We are] building towards qualifying for Barcelona and for the European Championships to qualify for the Olympics. We still haven't done that, so that is the main goal."

Third place went to Canada on 13 total faults, led by the double-clear effort from Nations Cup rookie Nikki Walker riding her own Falco van Spieveld. Beth Underhill and Sandy Lupton's Count Me In had zero and four faults, Amy Millar and AMMO Investments's Heros tallied 12 and five faults, and anchor Mario Deslauriers rode Amsterdam 27, owned by Wishing Well Farm LLC, to four and eight faults.

"I thought he was very good in the first round but even better in the second round," said Walker. "He's such a reliable horse. I had a lot of fun with him tonight. It was very enjoyable."

 Jennifer Wood





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<b>Joe Barry Cup - 20 Goal</b> January 3 - 13, 2019	<b>Butler Handicap - 22 Goal</b> February 17, 2019	<b>Gay Polo League™ Tournament</b> April 4 - 7, 2019
<b>Yivisaker Cup - 20 Goal</b> January 11 - February 10, 2019	<b>U.S. Women's Open Final</b> March 23, 2019	<b>U.S. Open Polo Championship* 22 Goal</b> March 27 - April 20-21, 2019
<b>The Lucchese 40 Goal Challenge</b> February 16, 2019		

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## WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

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the auction's longtime organizer. "We had some spectacular horses selected for this year's auction and we're confident that we will see many of them at the top levels of the sport with their new respective owners."

In total, the evening saw more than \$1.8 million spent on this year's prospects, one of the highest total sales records in the auction's history.

### 2019 AUCTION GRADUATES

- VDL Hetarina - \$135,000.00
- VDL I Am Special - \$220,000.00
- VDL Chamonix De Ley - \$140,000.00
- VDL Jamorkus - \$120,000.00
- VDL Jasper - \$150,000.00
- VDL Doha - \$180,000.00
- VDL Ibiza - \$335,000.00
- VDL Just Me - \$85,000.00
- VDL Indygo Sollier - \$115,000.00
- VDL Imar - \$155,000.00
- VDL It's Andiamo - \$110,000.00
- VDL Ipad - \$85,000.00
- VDL Mewando - \$42,000.00

The WEF Sport Horse Auction, hosted on Thursday, February 28, at Equestrian Village, concluded another successful year, sending 13 elite prospects hand-selected by VDL Stud in Bears, Netherland, to new homes in the United States to further their prospective careers. This year's auction class featured a range of horses from five to seven years old, some competing up to the 1.30m level, all bringing with them top quality lineage and versatile athleticism.

The evening's highest bid of \$335,000 was credited to VDL Ibiza (Inshallah de Muze x Indoctro), a beautiful 2013 bay gelding with natural scope and talent to reach the highest levels of the sport. VDL I Am Special (I Am Special de Muze x Whitaker), a stunning 2013 gelding currently competing at 1.20m, was purchased for \$220,000, the second highest bid of the evening.

"The auction this year was an incredible success and we're very fortunate for our continued relationship with Janko van de Lageweg and the entire VDL team," said Melanie Peterson,



Past auction graduates have been incredibly successful in North America and have debuted in both the hunter and jumper arenas. Only two days after the 2019 WEF Sport Horse Auction, Farona (Baltic VDL x Lux), a WEF Sport Horse Auction graduate ridden by Daniel Coyle and owned by Ariel Grange, jumped two double clear rounds in the \$150,000 Nations Cup CSIO 4\* at PBIEC to help Team Ireland secure second place honors. Another auction graduate, Skara Glen's Machu Picchu (Silverstone x Matterhorn), ridden by Paul O'Shea and owned by Machu Picchu Partners, LLC, competed at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018 for Ireland, as well as finished twelfth individually and helped Team Ireland secure fourth place in the FEI Nations Cup CSIO 5\* in Wellington, FL, in February.

The Equestrian Sport Productions team wishes the 2019 graduates and their owners success in their new careers and endeavors! To learn more about the WEF Sport Horse Auction, please visit [www.wefsporthorseauction.com](http://www.wefsporthorseauction.com).

# Standings and Awards

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WEF WEEK 8

## Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate in memory of Dale Lawler

- (after 16 qualifying events)
1. Beezie Madden (USA): 609
  2. Catherine Tyree (USA): 464
  3. Erynn Ballard (CAN): 459
  4. Susan Horn 425
  5. Karen Polle (JPN): 423



Charlise Casas and Diamond M were the Griffis Residential High Junior Jumper champions.

## CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series

- (after 7 qualifying events)
1. Erynn Ballard (CAN): 162
  2. Francisco Jose Mesquita Musa (BRA): 145
  3. Luis Francisco de Azevedo (BRA): 144
  4. Peter Lutz (USA): 142
  5. Lorenzo De Luca (ITA): 140



## Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Standings

- (after 7 qualifying events)
- Week 2 Class 98, Week 2 Class 99, Week 4 Class 98, Week 6 Class 98, Week 6 Class 99, Week 8 Class 98, Week 8 Class 99=Total
1. Ailish Cuniffe (USA): 17, 40, 34, 14, 32, 13.5, 42=192.50
  2. Eugenio Garza Perez (MEX): 15, 42, 13, 22, 28, 17, 30=167
  3. Abigail McArdle (USA): 19, 26, 0, 16, 42, 19, 29=151
  4. Jacob Pope (USA): 18, 16, 0, 17.5, 39, 19.5, 36=146
  5. Maria Brugal (DOM): 7, 30, 18, 0, 37, 17.5, 32=141.5



Equestrian Sport Productions President Michael Stone presented Shane Sweetnam with the Niall Grimes "Cheers" Perpetual Trophy as the top Irish rider during the CSIO week.

## Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award:

Kingsford, ridden by Christina Plichta for Purple Lane Farm, LLC



## Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award:

MTM Flutterby, ridden by Brian Moggre for Major Wager LLC



Spencer Smith was presented with the Kate Nash Boone Award for the international equestrian who exemplifies best style of riding along with maintaining a sportsmanlike composure while competing in the CSIO at WEF.



Eve Jobs was named the Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider for WEF 8, presented by Martha Jolicoeur and Dr. Stephen Norton. © Sportfot



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman, went to Kingsford, ridden by Christina Plichta. The pair were also the Palm Beach Equine Clinic Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" 36+ champions.



Jessica Upham, Equine Specialist, and Jeff Fosenburg, Sales Consultant of Cargill Animal Nutrition, Ringmaster Steve Rector, and Laura Chapot, who won the \$25,000 ProElite® 1.45m Jumper Classic. Photo © Sportfot

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- TRYON WELCOME 2**  
March 28-31, A Level 3
- TRYON WELCOME 3**  
April 5-7, B Level 3
- TRYON WELCOME 4**  
April 10-14, AA Level 4
- TRYON WELCOME 5**  
April 18-20, B Level 3
- TRYON WELCOME 6**  
April 26-28, B Level 3

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# PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

## WEEK 8

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Maxima Lanasa and Maggie May were the WEF 7 Short Stirrup Hunter champions.



Steve Gregorio rode Dominik, owned by Bill Schaub and Aster Hill, to the Pre-Green 3 & 4 Year Old Hunter championship.



The Walk/Trot champion was Deja Blue, ridden by Blake Brumberg for Fait Accompli, LLC



Tony Stormanns and L'Ementa VD Moorskeshoeve, owned by HS Sportpferde GmbH, were the Carolina Arena Equipment Low Children's Jumper champions.



Elizabeth Johnson and Herault won the \$10,000 NAL/WIHS Adult Amateur Jumper 18-35 Classic and sealed the division championship.



Bartender and Jenny Carlson were the Rusty Stirrup champions at WEF 6 and reserve champions in week 8.



Jenny Fischer rode Ronny Lipitz-Mehrberg's Espero to a section championship in the USHJA Hunter 2'6" division.

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THE VEUVE CLICQUOT LOUNGE



**VENDOR VILLAGE**

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- Christian Schwetz Photography
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- CWD Custom Saddles
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- Stephex Horse Box
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**RING 6**

- Antarès Sellier France
- Horsegym USA

**BARN 1-4**

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- Farmvet Inc.
- RC Saddle & Tack Repair
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**INTERNATIONAL WARM-UP ARENA**

- Animo USA
- Bruno Delgrange Custom Saddles
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- Wellington Agricultural

**RINGS 9 & 10**

- Barn Savers
- Devoucoux Saddles & Tack
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- SportFot USA
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# FAMILIES OF WEF: THE SWEETNAM



Olivia Sweetnam. © Kate Pettersen.

On the east side of the Winter Equestrian Festival, there's a magical place where children's dreams are coming true. At least that's the case for Olivia Sweetnam, who regularly finds herself in the winner's circle on what is commonly known as "Pony Island" (in rings 11 and 12).

It all started when she was just four years old and hopped on her first pony. It's been a

perfect fit, full of great opportunities, as her parents Shane and Ali operate Sweet Oak Farm, a full-service training operation. Today, she's established herself as a talented rider and has a long list of ponies, both hers and catch rides, to compete with in Florida.

"I normally show five or six ponies per weekend," she said. We alternate them so everybody gets to rest. So far, I only show small and medium ponies, but I want to show a horse so badly! My goals are to move to horses soon and in a few years, do the jumpers. I want to jump the Grand Prix just like my dad!"

It's no surprise she's a talented equestrian, with the last name Sweetnam flashing on the scoreboard. Her dad is a fierce competitor and one of the most highly recognized riders on the circuit. He's always a contender on the international stage and regularly represents his country of Ireland in competition. Mom Ali is also a top rider and trainer at WEF.

It's apparent she's picked up on some of their veteran wisdom as the 10-year-old prodigy has an understanding beyond her years of the time commitment and dedication it will take to rise to the top of the sport.

"I think I have been successful because I work hard, and I try to be very consistent with all of my ponies," said Olivia. "I have learned, when riding, to always count distances, not to get too flat to the jumps, and to work hard every day and appreciate what we get to do!"

Her passion and enthusiasm do not go

unnoticed, and she does it all with a smile. According to dad, she's on track for a career even more successful than his.

"She is far better than me when I was that age," said Shane. "I have always been driven, even when I hadn't much talent at that age. So, lucky her, she has both. She works very hard and is a fanatic about horses and riding. When she falls or fails, she gets back up fighting and learns from it, which for anyone in any walk of life will get them far."

Olivia isn't the only next generation Sweetnam making a transition into the show ring. As Shane tells us with a smile, "Her younger brother Collin and sister Lucy have the riding bug too now, so it looks like retirement isn't far away for me."



Ali and Olivia Sweetnam.

▶ Kate Pettersen

# WEF 8 JUMPER HIGHLIGHTS



McLain Ward and Clintina won the \$36,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Cup Round 8. ©Sportfoto

The eighth week of the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) kicked off on Wednesday, February 27, with a victory for Israel's Ashlee Bond in the first international event of the week, the \$5,000 Lugano Diamonds Welcome CSIO4\*, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL. In the second section of the \$5,000 Lugano Diamonds Welcome CSIO4\*, Roberto Teran (COL) and Dena-Sienne took the win under the lights.

Bond took the early lead in the class, entering as the third rider into the ring and holding the top position right through to the end. Fifty-eight other horse-and-rider combinations also took the field, but none were able to contest Bond's speed and agility with Little Valley Farms' Donatello 141.

Time faults were a major aspect of the Steve Stephens-designed course, which Bond attributed to many riders using the round as technical preparation for the following days. Kristen Vanderveen (USA), Erynn Ballard (CAN), and Zoe Conter (BEL) were all close to Bond's time but suffered unfortunate knockdowns that kept them out of the top positions.

The closest clear round to Bond was laid down by Eve Jobs (USA) and her own 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Limbus x Ulla XV) Limbridge with a time of 64.88 seconds. Coming into third, on a time of 64.90 seconds and no faults, was Georgina Bloomberg (USA) with the Gotham Enterprizes LLC's 10-year-old Hanoverian mare (Contagio x Elba), Cessna 24.

While the first part of the \$5,000 Lugano Diamonds Welcome was held as a day session, a second \$5,000 Lugano Diamonds Welcome was held as a night session under the lights in the International Arena.

Taking the top place in the night session under the lights was Roberto Teran (COL) riding his own Dena-Sienne, an KWPN mare by Van Gogh x Animo. They completed the course in 63.41 seconds, the fastest of 13 clear rounds in 41 entries. Second place went to Martin Fuchs (SUI) riding Silver Shine, owned by Willow Grace Farm, with a time of 64.08 seconds, while Alejandro Karolyi (VEN) and Lincourt Gino, owned by Monica Carrera, finished third in 66.93 seconds.

The 2018 WEG team gold medal-winning duo of McLain Ward (USA) and Clintina outpaced a field of 68 entries to take victory in the \$36,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Cup Round 8 CSIO4\*.

Ward and Clintina, a 12-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Sagamore Farms, made short work of the course however, shaving more than two seconds off of Fuchs's time to stop the clock in a winning 72.52 seconds. None of the seven final riders that followed Ward would prove able to catch him or Fuchs, giving Ward the win and Fuchs the second-place honor. Finishing in third with a time of 75.33 seconds was Enrique Gonzalez (MEX) riding his own Chacna.

Laura Chapot (USA) and Out of Ireland topped a field of 92 entries to win the \$25,000 ProElite® 1.45m Jumper Classic on Thursday in the International Arena.

The large starting field was narrowed down to 11 entries qualified to return to jump off over the Steve Stephens-designed course, and once onto the jump-off, the early time to beat – and the first double clear effort – was turned in by the sixth to return, Kelli Cruciotti (USA), who tripped the timers in 30.76 seconds to move into the lead aboard Grandy de Laubry, owned by 3 Seas, LLC. Cruciotti's lead would prove to be short-lived however, as Chapot returned next, stopping the clock in 28.81 seconds to ultimately take the win aboard Out of Ireland, owned by The Edge.

With three of the remaining entries proving fast enough to catch Cruciotti, but not quite quick enough to catch Chapot, second place with a time of

29.58 seconds went to Lorenzo de Luca (ITA) and Soory de l'Hallali, owned by StepheX Stables, with a time of 29.79 seconds. Third place was awarded to Martin Fuchs (SUI) riding Faberlys for owner SPCS, and fourth place on a time of 29.84 seconds went to Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and Palina de l'Escaut, owned by Sweet Oak Farm, Spy Coast Farm, and Paul Tracy. The final double clear in the jump-off was Georgina Bloomberg (USA) on Gotham Enterprizes LLC's Tulara Colmine, who finished in 33.55 seconds.

It was a race to the finish for 43 competitors in the \$36,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.45m Classic CSIO4\* on Friday afternoon over a course designed by Steve Stephens (USA). There were eight clear rounds in a speed format, and the fastest of those was Kristen Vanderveen (USA) on Bull Run's Divine Fortune, who finished in a time of 62.43 seconds for victory.

It was a sweep for the ladies in the top five spots in the class. Zoe Conter (BEL) and StepheX Stables's Doltaire Chavannaise were second in 63.12 seconds, while Eve Jobs (USA) rode her own Limbridge to third in 64.45 seconds. Lauren Hough (USA) and her own Joblesse were fourth in 64.94 seconds, and Petronella Andersson (SWE) rounded out the top five with StepheX Stables's Bacardi 188 in a time of 65.11 seconds.

This was the sixth FEI ranking class win at the 2019 WEF for Vanderveen, which she has accomplished on four different horses. These classes mean a lot for the 29-year-old rider.

Switzerland's Martin Fuchs and his mount, Faberlys, owned by SPCS, topped a 39-horse field to win the \$50,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Grand Prix on Saturday afternoon in the International Ring.

Of those 39 entries, six navigated the first round, Steve Stephens-designed track without fault to advance to the jump-off, where Fuchs had what he considered the advantage of returning second to last. With the time to beat set at 44.14 seconds by Canada's Tiffany Foster and Caipiranja, owned by Artisan Farms, LLC, Fuchs elected to go for it, shaving nearly two seconds off of Foster's time to finish in 42.22 seconds for the win. Foster's time held up for second place, while third place with a time of 44.77 seconds went to David Blake of Ireland riding Keoki for owner Pine Hollow Farm.

## PADDOCK MASTER PRUNING RAISES

Over \$15,000 for Horsemen in Crisis



In an unprecedented fundraising initiative for the Equestrian Aid Foundation, three ingate staff at the world-class Winter Equestrian Festival raised over \$15,000 in just under two weeks...by pledging to shave their heads and beards as monetary goals were met.

The effort was the brainchild of Grand Hunter Ring paddock master Pat Duncan. "The shaving idea started as a joke, but then after planning a little we realized we could really do something that could help out people who are in real need," said Duncan. "Living in Wellington and traveling the country the rest of the year, we lead a pretty lucky life. It's important to remember how fortunate we all are and doing this let us give back to the sport and the people who make all of this possible."



Paddock masters Tom Carlson and Mo Duhon, both known for their signature beards, were also enthusiastic participants in the initiative. Liz Soroka, who manages the Exhibitor Services Center at WEF, lent her organizational and artistic prowess to fundraiser's execution.

While the initiative was the most gleefully unique way funds have been generated for EAF's mission in its 23 years of service to the community, the foundation was quick to point out the more serious import of the effort. "These individuals are the engine of one of North America's most prestigious equestrian events; they're the ones who keep our rings and our days moving along," said EAF board member Monique Keitz. "In the midst of all that they have on their plates, they prioritized equestrians in crisis, helping them to move along, too. It's a very powerful gesture."



The fundraiser culminated with a public shaving at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center on Saturday afternoon. For more information on the Equestrian Aid Foundation, visit

[www.equestrianaidfoundation.org](http://www.equestrianaidfoundation.org).

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# FACES OF WEF

## NICO GAMBOA

Aiken, SC, 19



### WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY?

My entire family has been involved with horses and I started riding before I could even walk. My father, Dr. Juan Gamboa, has been an equine vet for over 25 years, and my mother, Jennifer, works in the show office as secretary. They have both done their fair share in the amateur divisions, both hunter and jumper.

### WHAT BRINGS YOU TO WELLINGTON THIS WINTER AND HOW DID YOU GET THAT POSITION?

This winter I am spending my time with Ken and Emily Smith at Ashland Farms. Back in July, I started a working student position with them while I finished my junior year of high school. My relationship with them then grew from there! They have helped me so much in both the equitation ring and now in the Amateur Jumpers!

### WHAT HAS BEEN ONE OF YOUR BEST EXPERIENCES WHILE HERE?

I have spent a few seasons down here, but this is my first time with a large barn; so this year is definitely one to remember! I can honestly say my best experiences have come from being behind the scenes and watching the masters at work. So much goes on behind the scenes that people fail to notice, and I find that fascinating. There is no better way to learn than by watching and immersing yourself in the work."

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO WEF SPECIFICALLY AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE LEARNED/ACCOMPLISHED AT THE END OF THE SEASON?

I came down to WEF this winter to help Ashland Farms have a successful show season and to grow my business relationships and connections with as many people as possible in the industry.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS ONCE WEF IS OVER?

After WEF 2019, I plan on heading overseas to Europe. I want to experience their style of horse shows and the way the show management and farm management works there!

## CSIO4\* GRAND PRIX CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parot has been riding Atlantis, a 16-year-old Zangersheide gelding by Andiamo Z x Royal Bravour L, for four years, and they had success earlier in WEF, winning the 1.45m in week 6.

"It's a horse that has won a lot," said Parot. "He makes me very happy."

Third place went to the fastest four-faulter in the first round, Juan Manuel Gallego (COL) and Coulash van de Broy Z. They had a time of 77.46 seconds.

Gallego has ridden his 13-year-old Zangersheide gelding by Cadence VT Gelutt x Lys De Darnen for three years, but the horse had six months off in 2018. "He's coming better and better," said Gallego.

With a rail down early in the first course, Gallego made the decision to go for speed in order to have a higher placing in the class. "I made my plan to be clear, but the rail came really, really fast, so I started to go forward," he said. "I did one less [stride] everywhere, so I think that helped me a lot to go in the time."

Jennifer Wood

LUGANO  
DIAMONDS

## FINAL RESULTS:

\$209,000 GRAND PRIX CSIO 4\*, PRESENTED BY LUGANO DIAMONDS

1 ATLANTIS: 2003 Zangersheide gelding by Andiamo Z x Royal Bravour L SAMUEL PAROT (CHI), Samuel Parot: 0/4/43.37

2 VENUE D'FEES DES HAZALLES: 2005 SBS mare by President x Alcatraz EVE JOBS (USA), Eve Jobs: 0/7/48.84

3 COULASH VAN DE BROY Z: 2006 Zangersheide gelding by Cadence VT Gelutt x Lys De Darnen JUAN MANUEL GALLEGO (COL), Juan Manuel Gallego: 4/77.46

4 HESTER: 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding (Wandor van de Mispelaere x Palestro vd Begijnakker) LUCY DESLAURIERS (USA), Lisa Deslauriers: 4/77.55

5 H5 SUNSHINE: 2006 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Diamant de Semilly x Hardi CARLOS HANK GUERREIRO (MEX), H5 Sport Horses, LLC: 4/77.97

6 CHACCIAMA: 2007 Oldenburg mare by Chacco Blue x Andiamo Z RODRIGO LAMBRE (BRA), Rodrigo Lambre.: 4/78.78

7 DAVIDOFF DE LASSUS: 2009 Belgian Warmblood stallion by Ugano Sitte x Ksar-Sitte ZOE CONTER (BEL), Stephex Stables: 4/79.44

8 MTM VIVRE LE REVE: 2009 Westphalian gelding by Ustinov x Chello II BRIAN MOGGRE (USA), Major Wager LLC: 8/76.63

9 FELLINI S: 2010 KWPN gelding by Vermont x Rash R ERYNN BALLARD (CAN), Ilan Ferder: 8/77.23

10 CATUNGEE: 2006 Holsteiner gelding by Contact Me x Liatos CATHERINE TYREE (USA), Mary Tyree: 8/77.51

11 ALEJANDRO: 2009 Rheinländer gelding by Acorado's Ass x Continue SHANE SWEETNAM (IRL), Seabrook LLC, Spy Coast Farm LLC, Sweet Oak Farm: 8/77.64

12 COACH: 2008 Holsteiner gelding by Con Air x Corofino I BEEZIE MADDEN (USA), Abigail Wexner: 8/78.28

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## Hunters Continue to Shine at Week 8 of WEF



Allison Coleman and Radiance won Section A of the Always Faithful Equestrian Club Medium Pony Hunters. © Sportfot

As the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival continues to march on with only four weeks of competition left, hunter riders are bringing their "A" games to each and every round. The show will return Wednesday, March 6, for the ninth week of competition as some of the best hunter riders in the country strive for championships in the final few weeks.

The Equine Tack & Nutritionals Green Hunter 3'9" crowned Sandra Farrell and Moonshot as the champions after they scored almost a six-point lead over the runner up. Farrell and Stephanie Bulger's nine-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Calido I x Valeri VA) pinned two firsts, a second, a third, and a fourth for a 32 point total. With 26.5 total points, Melissandre Lincourt and Shannon McLean's Capital Base took home the reserve. Lincourt and the eight-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Cassiano x Pajera) picked up a first, two seconds, a third, and a sixth for their efforts.

The up and coming young horses saw plenty of winning efforts including an almost clean sweep in the Pre-Green 3 & 4 Year Olds for Steve Gregorio and Dominik. Gregorio piloted Bill Schuab and Aster Hill's four-year-old Warmblood gelding to a first place ribbon in three out of the four classes to a total of 31 points. The reserve went to young hunter professional Victoria Colvin and Cake Walk on a total of 22 points. The four-year-old Canadian Warmblood gelding (Hero's Tribute x Inka W), owned by Melissa Burns, maintained a second place finish in every class except for one where he finished on the third.

Colvin picked up another reserve in the WEF Open Hunter 3'3" division aboard Google It. Veteran hunter rider Peter Pletcher took the champion ribbon for the class with Amy Strunk's 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Stand Up x Fichte), Stand By Me. The pair picked up impressive placings of three firsts and two seconds for 42 point finish. Colvin and James Lala's seven-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding trailed slightly behind Pletcher on a total of 36 points after rounding out two firsts, two seconds, and a third across the division.

For the USHJA Hunter 2'3", a total of 42 points kept Maggie Gould untouchable by the other competitors to take home the champion title. With three firsts and two seconds, Gould and Lisa Petersen's 16-year-old Westphalian gelding Klooney held a one point lead over reserve champion Molly Sewell. Sewell ended on 20.5 points after collecting a first, second, third, and sixth with Leslie Campbell's six-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Graf Top x Ella), Inverness.

Thirty ponies guided by fierce young riders took to Ring 11 on Sunday for the final day of competition in the Always Faithful Equestrian Club Medium Pony Hunters. The division was held in a California split format due to the large amount of entries in each

class and therefore crowned both a Section A and Section B winner when it came time to name the champion. On a total of 30 points, the Section A champion title was awarded to Allison Coleman and Radiance, while Alexa Elle Lignelli earned 26 points to become the Section B champion with Fox Creek's Curious George.

Coleman piloted her own 11-year-old Connemara mare to two first place ribbons, a second, and a third and said that she feels the mare's consistency is what helps her to come out on top. Lignelli was paired with the Lignelli Family's 12-year-old Half Welsh gelding (Trefaestaran x Mayon Princess) and was hot on Coleman's heels with ribbons of one first, two seconds, and a third. 🐾 Summer Grace



Alexa Elle Lignelli and Fox Creek's Curious George were the Section B champions. © Sportfot

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## DAVID OBERKIRCHER AND UPPER Earn Second Consecutive Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Victory



David Oberkircher and Upper made it two wins in a row in the series by capturing the \$36,000 Hermès Under 25 Semi-Final Grand Prix. © Sportfot

For the second time in a row, David Oberkircher (USA) rode Upper to an Under 25 grand prix victory at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL, this time topping the \$36,000 Hermès Under 25 Semi-Final Grand Prix CSI U25 on Friday, March 1, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC).

David Oberkircher and Upper topped a field of 46 entries to win the \$36,000 Hermès Under 25 Semi-Final Grand Prix CSI U25, marking the pair's second consecutive Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series victory after having also won the \$25,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix during week six of WEF.

On their way to the win, Oberkircher and the 11-year-old Selle Francais gelding owned by Southfields Farm, LLC, were one of six entries to qualify to jump off over the Steve Stephens-designed short course. As the second to return, Oberkircher set a time to beat of 35.10 seconds that would prove untouchable through the remainder of the class. Coming the closest for second place was Ireland's Daniel Coyle, who stopped the clock in 36.19 seconds aboard his own CHS Krooze. Finishing in third with a time of 36.22 seconds was Ailish Cunniffe (USA) riding Baloucento 2, owned by Whipstick Farm Ltd.

"It's been amazing!" said 23-year-old Oberkircher. "I did the series last year.

I had some good results, but I was just looking to improve this year and maybe jump a few more clear rounds. To come out on top two weeks in a row has been amazing. My horse has been feeling great and jumping great, so I'm thrilled.

"I have a slower moving horse, but he's got a massive stride, so I just basically had to do the least amount of strides possible everywhere [in the jump off]," said Oberkircher. "I ended up doing six home where most did seven, so that's probably where I got them. But it was very close!"

With only a second separating Oberkircher and Coyle, Coyle was happy with his runner-up finish aboard his relatively new mount, CHS Krooze.

"These guys were brilliant," said Coyle of Oberkircher and Cunniffe. "The horse I have tonight is one of my own horses; it's a little new to me. I walked the course and thought 'This is big,' so I'm very happy. This is the first big step for [CHS Krooze], and she really came through so I'm excited for her.

"She's not everybody's cup of tea," continued Coyle in speaking of the nine-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare. "She's just special in lots of ways - like if a horse canters past her or somebody spooks her or even tractors or simple things. For me, when horses jump as good as she does though, the rest you put up with. When I've put pressure on to ask her to do a little more, she's always done it so much better, which is always the sign of a good horse. Like I say, she's not the simplest, but the jump is there. I'll just take my time until I have something in the end!"

Cunniffe, who led the Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series standings coming into the night, was also happy with her Friday night performance aboard her partner of two years, Baloucento 2.

"I felt a little pressure coming into tonight for sure, but my horse jumped great," said Cunniffe, 21. "He loves big atmospheres; he's great on the field, great under the lights. He was really consistent last year, and he's been even more consistent this year. I went for it in the jump-off, but I was a little wide in places; these boys got me beat!"

All three riders will look to contest the \$50,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Final during WEF Week 11. For Oberkircher, who purchased Upper a year and a half ago, he will also be looking to step up into more CSI 2\* and CSI 3\* competition, while also juggling a full-time job as a financial analyst with Freddie Mack.

"He's a very reliable horse," said Oberkircher of Upper. "He's so brave and solid. I can point him at any jump, any distance, and he's going to go and try his hardest. As an amateur like myself, it's a good horse to sit on."

Emily Riden

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## INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB HAPPENINGS

The USPA Gold Cup® continues this week at the International Polo Club with the feature match taking place on Sunday at U.S. Polo Assn. Field 1. Check out this week's full game schedule below.

**Tuesday, March 5**  
4 p.m.: Santa Clara vs. Cessna

**Wednesday, March 6**  
10 a.m.: Coca Cola vs. Las Monjitas  
12:30 p.m.: Iconica vs. Equulues  
3 p.m.: Stable Door Polo vs. Postage Stamp Farm

**Thursday, March 7**  
10 a.m.: Daily Racing Form vs. SD Farms  
12:30 p.m.: Tonkawa vs. Aspen  
4 p.m.: Old Hickory Bourbon vs. Pilot

**Sunday, March 10**  
10 a.m.: Stable Door Polo vs. Las Monjitas  
12 p.m.: Park Place vs. La Indiana  
3 p.m.: Iconica vs. Cessna

Join us for the exciting highlight match of the week on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. on the U.S. Polo Assn. Field 1. Enjoy brunch in the Pavilion or in the Celebrity Cruises® Polo Lounge or watch the game from stadium seats or tailgate spots. All tickets for Sunday can be purchased online at [www.internationalpoloclub.com](http://www.internationalpoloclub.com).



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