



W I N T E R   E Q U E S T R I A N   F E S T I V A L

# WEEKLY WIRE

WEEK 9 • MARCH 6, 2025



LADIES' NIGHT AT  
FLORIDA COAST EQUIPMENT  
NATIONS CUP

TIM BRENNAN  
LEAVES HIS MARK

LAURA KRAUT INDUCTED INTO  
SHOW JUMPING HALL OF FAME



# GLORY IN GOLD

## for U.S. Jumping Team

The U.S. Jumping Team earned their tenth team victory in Wellington on Saturday in the \$150,000 CSIO4\* Nations Cup, presented by Florida Coast Equipment. Nine nations brought forth teams to compete in the 'Saturday Night Lights' highlight event of Week 8 at Wellington International's Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), which runs through March 30 in Wellington, FL.

During the 24-year history of the event at WEF, the U.S. last won in 2021. Teams from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Mexico and Venezuela joined the home nation in the opening round with the top eight teams returning for round two. After a disappointing first round, Israel did not advance.

Heading into the second round, Natalie Dean on Marigold Sporthorses' Acota M, Carly Anthony riding Heavenly W for owner Portfolio Horses, Charlotte Jacobs aboard Playboy JT Z owned by North Star and Laura Kraut in the irons of St. Brides Farm's Tres Bien Z were the only ones sitting on a score of zero after three clear rounds.

Ireland on four, Belgium with nine and Canada holding on with 10 faults remained in



PHOTO © LAILA KLINSMANN

the hunt between rounds.

Returning to again impress over tracks built by USA's Nick Granat and Steve Stephens, the up-and-coming members of the all-female U.S. team—Anthony (34), Jacobs (30) and Dean (25)—kept the team on five faults after a rail from Dean and time fault from Jacobs. In the end, the effort was enough to seal the victory and prevent anchor rider

Kraut from needing to return in the second round.

"Very rarely does the anchor rider on any winning team get to sit it out," said Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, who recently announced he will continue in the role through 2028. "We put together a team that we felt was very competitive; that's the number-one thing. With this Nations Cup in particular, it has always

been an opportunity for the up-and-coming—whether it's horses or a rider."

Finishing on a total of 12, Ireland took second and Belgium third with 17 faults.

Making her senior team debut, Anthony posted the only double-clear of the day for the U.S. and gave all credit to her 2012 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Calvaro F.C. x Quidam de Revel)—Heavenly W.



PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

"We wouldn't be here without the horses, so I definitely owe everything to Heavenly and to my team that supports me every day to be able to achieve this incredible opportunity and goal," she said.

Dean used the experience of Acota M, a 2013 Oldenburg mare (Toulon x Quattro 7), to start the team off right on a clear. "She's a super special horse for me. I've had her for four years now, and I've jumped all over the world with her. She's just an incredible athlete. To me, she's a pony but she jumps the biggest

classes in the world and I'm thrilled to win this one."

For Jacobs, the win is a step towards big things to come. "I would love to jump for another Nations Cup or two this year. I think my horse is really good with this format. I thought he actually got better in the second round," she said of Playboy JT Z, a 2015 Zangersheide gelding (Presley Boy x Plot Blue). "Hopefully there's a few opportunities for me over the summer. He's still only ten so these are still stepping stones that can build him up to some day jumping some of the biggest Nations

Cups in the world."

In her ninetieth Nations Cup appearance for the U.S., Kraut was mounted on a still inexperienced Tres Bien Z—2015 Zangersheide gelding

(Toulon x Nabab de Reve).  
"This was the nicest anchoring I've ever had to do," she joked. "From the beginning when Robert told me who the team was, I was really pumped. These three amazing riders have been on fire for a while now, not just recently but for years. The way they rode the first round, it was textbook. I think building towards the Los Angeles Olympics we have three exciting young girls here that I think have a strong chance if things go right.  
For the win, Ridland accepted the Denis Quinlan Perpetual Trophy from Jenny Quinlan.



PHOTO © ASHLEY NEUHOF

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# ARTURO PARADA VALLEJO

## Brings a Win Home for Mexico

**M**exico ended Nations Cup week in winning fashion at Wellington International with Arturo Parada Vallejo topping the \$200,000 CSIO4\* Grand Prix, presented by JTWG, Inc., aboard Fellow van't Moerven.

Parada and David Bustillos' 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (VDL Zirocco Blue x Farmer) were the sole double-clear effort over Nick Granat and Steve Stephens' (USA) courses. One of four to jump clear over the first track, Parada showed that a clear round was attainable, but he didn't leave anything to chance come jump-off time.

"My plan is always the same: go as fast as I can," Parada joked, especially considering he was second of four to jump, so he wasn't sure how much it would take to win. "Since I know [Fellow] is a big horse with a big stride, I tried to do one less in every line."

Both final riders were indeed faster, but each one brought one rail down, finishing on fast 4-fault

scores. Mark Bluman (COL) captured the second-place position aboard S&L Maracana', owned by S & L Farms, and Charlie Jones (GBR) was third with Capitale 6, owned by Morning Star Sporthorses.

It was luck that brought Fellow van't Moerven into Parada's string.

Based in Guadalajara, Mexico, Parada works closely with Bustillos in California, splitting his

time between top shows in his home country and top shows in the United States.

"This horse came through [Bustillos' program] and I thought, 'Yeah I'll ride it,'" he shared. "It came out of nowhere and it was with an amateur rider. She sent the horse to [Bustillos] and we figured we'd try it."

There were two reasons the horse stood out: "A: he was available," Parada continued.

"B: it has a lot of strength, it's really brave, and really straightforward. I like those kinds of horses."

The pieces fell into place quickly, and a win at the four-star level proves this pair—only matched together last fall—do suit one another. "[The horse] responds well every time a question is asked," he went on about the horse's way of going. "We understood each other really quickly and even though he's not the fastest horse, he's responding well to one stride less or a quick turn.

"Winning any grand prix is nice, but this is especially nice but this is great because it's a top start list of riders," continued Parada. "The course was not built to be an easy win, and giving a win to Mexico outside of Mexico is always really special so I'm really emotional."

Parada's grooms, Edgar Ramiro Minero and Gerson Ramos, were presented with the \$500 Double H Farm Grooms Award after the win in recognition of their care of Fellow van't Moerven.





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# TIM BRENNAN

## Takes BrainJuice U25 Semi-Final Grand Prix for Ireland

Under the lights of the International Arena, the \$32,000 BrainJuice U25 Semi-Final Grand Prix—the penultimate competition of the series—was won by Ireland’s Tim Brennan.

The track, designed by USA’s Steve Stephens and Nicholas Granat, proved difficult with only six returning for the jump-off. Out of the returning six, two cleared the short track but it was Ireland’s Tim Brennan that took the title aboard his own Diadema Della Caccia (Diamant de Semilly x Cardento 933).

“She’s deadly careful, she’s got the heart of a lion; he will jump anything for you once you ask her and I just have to be on the ball,” said Brennan of the 10-year-old Italian Sporthorse mare. “I’ve been very lucky to have her for five years now. She’s taken me all the way up through the ranks in Ireland and now we’re lucky enough to bring her out here.”

After winning at Youth Nations Cups with the mare in Germany and Italy over the summer, Brennan is making the most out of his

first season in Wellington, something the nineteen-year-old has had his sights on for several seasons.

“I was always thinking about coming out here; it’s a great experience to get more mileage under my belt,” said Brennan, who hails from Kilkenny and was cheered on ringside by his family visiting from Ireland. “I’m looking

forward to carrying this experience home—hopefully for a good year.”

Riding with fellow Irishman John Roche while stateside, Brennan continued. “He has a good eye, good feel and a strong bond with that mare,” said Roche. “A good grey mare they try for you. They’re great and he gets on very well with her.

“This series brings great development,” said Roche, who gave credit to the whole team at JR Show Stables, especially Brennan’s groom Juan Luis “Guicho” Rebollo. “For juniors or amateurs, it gives great opportunities for team involvement, and there’s no one route to success. I can’t say enough positive things about the division.”





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHOW JUMPING HALL OF FAME

## Class of 2024

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame Induction Gala—held March 2 in Wellington—welcomed a new class of celebrated members. In front of a sold-out audience of supporters, 18 Hall of Famers were in attendance to honor their contributions to the sport of show jumping.

### CLASS OF 2024 INDUCTEES:

**Laura Kraut** - five-time Olympian, three-time Olympic team medalist, former champion hunter rider and passionate coach of the next generation

**Sandsablaze** – mount of owner/rider USET member Buddy Brown, star in the equitation and hunter ring before winning Pan American Gold and an appearance in the 1976 Olympics

### SPECIAL HONOREES:

Last year's inductee **Pancho Lopez**, a consummate horseman, groom extraordinaire and manager, and friend and mentor to many.

Recipient of the International Award, Canadian Olympian **Mario Deslauriers**—the youngest rider to win the FEI World Cup™ Final at 19, which set up a career still going strong.



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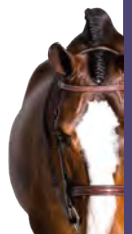
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# AROUND THE GROUNDS



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# WEF STANDINGS



## MARTHA JOLICOEUR DOUGLAS ELLIMAN



Leading Lady Rider Award

1. Natalie Dean USA – 496 pts
2. Emilie Conter BEL – 383 pts
3. Mimi Gochman USA – 373 pts
4. Lillie Keenan USA – 370 pts
5. Alessandra Volpi USA – 327 pts



Lillie Keenan accepts the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award for CSIO4\* WEF 8 and moves up one spot in the season standings.

PHOTO © SPORTFOT



## \$25,000 LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER BONUS

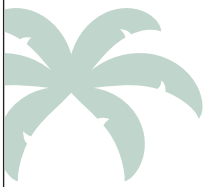
*Presented by  
Michael & Wendy Smith*

1. Ben Maher GBR – 465 pts
2. Spencer Smith USA – 383 pts
3. Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 381 pts
4. Mark Bluman COL – 366 pts
5. Nayel Nassar EGY – 361 pts

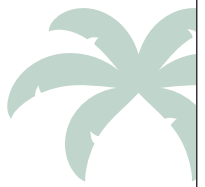
## HERMÈS SELLIER PARIS

## 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES

1. Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 196 pts
1. Nicola Philippaerts BEL – 183 pts
3. Spencer Smith USA – 173 pts
4. Nayel Nassar EGY - 166 pts
4. Cian O'Connor IRL – 152 pts



# WEF STANDINGS



## DON LITTLE MASTERS HORSE & RIDER COMBINATIONS

*presented by*



1. Lauren Brody riding Nutou – 144 pts
2. Jeanne Reid riding Atalante d'Uhart – 135 pts
3. Camille Pacheco Cesarski riding Flint T.S. ET – 128 pts
4. Bonnie Orlowski riding Locato van het Kapelhof – 110 pts
4. Michael Smith riding Quality Time 4 – 110 pts



## UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

1. Hallie Grimes USA – 310.5 pts
2. Tim Brennan IRL – 298 pts
2. Emily Dehoff USA – 259 pts
4. Isabelle Ehman USA – 236.5 pts
5. Taylor Cawley USA – 218 pts



## \$5,000 LEADING HUNTER HORSE & RIDER BONUS

*presented by* THE IN GATE

AS OF WEF 7: 3.2.25

1	SANDORI	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	436 PTS
2	AVENTUS	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	385 PTS
3	TRADEMARK	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	326 PTS
4	FOREVER ROMANCE	SCOTT STEWART	325 PTS
5	CARTER	BRADY MITCHELL	320 PTS

**COMPETITION RINGS**

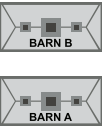
- International Arena
- Mogavero Ring
- DeNemethy Ring
- Rost Ring
- Grand Hunter Ring
- South Ring
- Rings 6 -12

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- 1 Exhibitor Services
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- 4 Admin Parking
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- 7 Stabling / Dever

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- Bridge Deck Shops
- Farm Stand
- Hunter Hill
- Pony Island
- Ring 6 Vendors
- South Ring Vendors
- Vendor Village
- Tiki Terrace
- The Shops at Int'l Club



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- 3 Ring 6
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- 10 Ring 10
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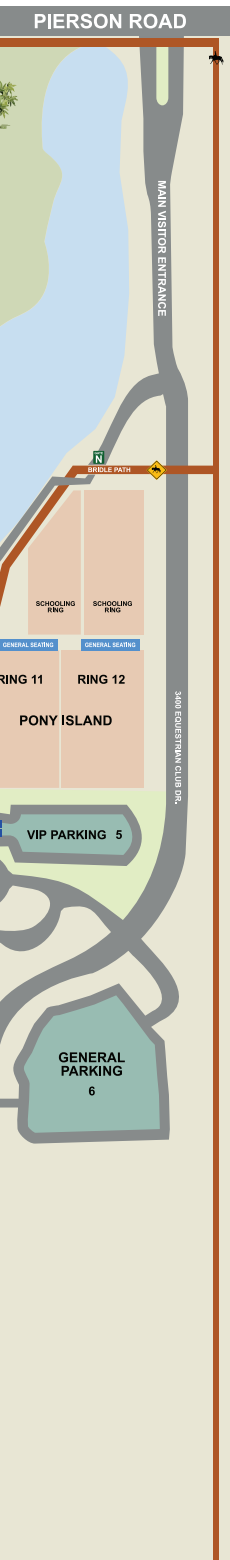


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- Michel McNabb (WEF P-2)
- Helgstrand Jewellery (WEF 3-4)
- Carol Morano Equine Art (WEF 5-6)
- Equisite Elements of Style (WEF 7-12)
- Alexander Academic Access (WEF P-1)
- DELGÉ (WEF 2)
- J Wilder Imports (WEF 3-5)
- The Calvert Collection (WEF 6-10)
- Maya Delorez (WEF 11-12)

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- Vanner House
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- Lash LaRue (WEF 7-12)

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- Sportfot
- Muddy Paws Ice Cream
- Nathalie's Café

**RING 10**

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- Zest
- KP Concessions



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- Florida Snow ..... Pony Island
- Harry's Lemonade..... Vendor Village
- Loopy's Crepes..... Vendor Village
- Magdalena's Mexican .... Ring 10
- Muddy Paws..... Ring 9
- Nathalie's Café ..... Ring 9
- Oasis Café..... Vendor Village
- BrainJuice Tiki Hut ..... International Arena
- Toasties ..... Vendor Row
- Farm Stand..... Pony Island
- Silvia's Tacos..... Pony Island
- KP Concessions ..... South Barns



# DENISE MORIARTY

## Loves Watching Kent Farrington's Horses Grow

**This article is part of a collaboration between HorseGrooms, Wellington International and Paper Horse.**

**By Sarah Eakin**

Denise Moriarty grew up in County Mayo, Ireland. Her foray into the horse world started after her mother sent her to a riding school in her early teens. She has worked as head groom for Kent Farrington for 14 years and was on hand as he took home the Lugano Grand Prix CSI5\* with Greya—the team's second consecutive five-star victory this season.

### What led to your job working with Kent Farrington?

When I finished college, I came to the States to work for Marilyn and Lynne Little at Raylyn Farm. Kent used to show horses for them, so that is how I met him. After working for eight months for Ronan McGuigan, I went to work for Kent, and I've been with him ever since.

### How would you describe Greya's personality?

She's a very feisty mare, and she's very opinionated. Thankfully, she uses that fight for the good in the ring and she's a very determined mare. In the stall, she greets you with her ears pulled back—even if you have a carrot. It's just her way.

### How did you prepare Greya for the Lugano Grand Prix?

We keep the routine pretty simple. We feed in the morning, hand walk and then we normally run the blanket in the morning one time. We'll have a walk again at lunchtime, and then Kent normally rides her around 4. She'll have a small snack for dinner, and then we leave her alone before we come back and get her ready for the class. When she sees the lights from the stands, she starts to march to the ring because she knows where she's going.

### What do you love most about your job?



**Denise Moriarty accepts the Double H Farm Grooms Award after Greya won the Lugano CSI5\* Grand Prix with Kent Farrington.**

Watching the horses grow. We have had Greya for many years, so it's exciting to see her step up and do the big stuff now and do it well. She's been on form now for the last two years. She's figured it out. She took a little bit longer than some of the others, but she has a lot of quality, so she was worth the wait.

### What advice would you give to someone wanting to work as a groom at the top level of the sport?

You have to love the horses and love what you do. The horses come first, and it's not just a simple 9 to 5 job. It consumes a lot of time to reap the rewards of the success in the ring. Love the horses and observe other people so you're always learning.

## ABOUT HORSEGROOMS

HorseGrooms is the leading platform dedicated to supporting and empowering grooms worldwide while elevating the standards of horse care. Through education, resources, community initiatives, and the exclusive HorseGrooms Insiders membership (a great gift for your groom!), HorseGrooms provides tools to help grooms grow professionally and connect with like-minded peers. Wellington International proudly supports this mission by highlighting the invaluable work of grooms through exclusive interviews at their venue. Visit [HorseGrooms.com](https://www.HorseGrooms.com) for more information.



# CHAMPIONS GALLERY



*Jennifer Padovani and her own Moreno ES jumper to a top tri-color in the Don Little Masters, presented by Rushy Marsh Farm.*



*Sherry Levin Wallach and Dondoctro Ryal K accept their tri-color for the JTWG Inc. Amateur Jumper 36 & Over division.*



*Laura Fetterman presents Dima, ridden by Lily Epstein, with the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award after the SJHOF Junior Jumper Classic.*



*Sophia Walker and One Up, owned by Reagan Thoennes, Champions of the Low Child/Adult Amateur Training Jumper division.*



*Princeton is honored with the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award by Laura Fetterman after winning the 3'6" Small Junior Hunter Handy with Paige Walkenbach.*



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