

FEATURING



RIDER SPOTLIGHT  
Mavis Spencer . . . page 10

UPDATES FROM WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL



# Weekly Wire

LINDSAY BROCK  
Editor



WEEK 9

MARCH 8, 2023

## Irish Flag Flies for Daniel Coyle on Final Day of CSIO4\* Competition

A blink would have missed Ireland's Daniel Coyle and Ivory TCS in the \$226,000 JTWG, Inc. CSIO4\* Grand Prix on Sunday afternoon. The 28-year-old stole the win mounted on Dutch-bred Ivory TCS, a 10-year-old mare (Falaise de Muze x Ukato) Coyle owns together with Ariel Grange's Canadian-based Lothlorien Farm.

Four horses battled for blue in a jump-off speed duel over a course designed by Anthony D'Ambrosio (USA). Returning second, Coyle watched Beth Underhill (CAN) pull two rails and was conscious of fellow Americans Lacey Gilbertson and McIn Ward packing a double punch of speed behind him.

"I had to leave very little room, give them something to chase, but not leave very much," he said before stopping the jump-off clock at 38.06 seconds over the short course. "I think I was beatable but there wasn't much of a gap, which was my plan. Ivory is a very

fast horse in every jump-off. She might take two extra strides than a big horse, but that doesn't mean she's necessarily slower because she does it so fast. I tried to use that today because there were no related distances; it was single fences then turn back and gallop halfway across the track, so I tried to use the quickness that she naturally has to my advantage."

Gilbertson and Karlin van't Vennehof gave it a respectable effort, crossing the timers in 39.3 seconds to take second for owner Seabrook, LLC. Ward and Callas, owned by Beechwood Stables, LLC finished third with one rail in the jump-off.

Coyle started his week with all his focus on Sunday's grand prix. "I wanted to give her a nice easy day in the qualifier. Coming out today I felt like we had a good shot. I told Ariel earlier that it might be our day and I'm thrilled that it was. Everything

*Continued on page 11*



## Canada Nabs CSIO4\* Nations Cup presented by IDA Development

Despite being on U.S. soil, Wellington International was brimming with Canadian pride last Saturday evening as the Canadian Show Jumping Team gave a dominating performance in the \$150,000 CSIO4\* Nations Cup, presented by IDA Development. Team members Erynn Ballard, Mario Deslauriers, Tiffany Foster and Beth Underhill were led by 10-time Canadian Olympian Ian Millar in his debut as chef d'équipe.

In the 22-year history of the Nations Cup at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Canada has stood atop the podium six times, making Saturday evening's performance lucky number seven.

Eleven teams, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Great Britain, Ireland, Mexico, the

United States and Venezuela competed in the opening round earlier in the day, and the top eight returned for round two during 'Saturday Night Lights.'

With the pressure on, Canada rose and produced three clears from Ballard, Deslauriers and Foster, giving Underhill the opportunity to sit out the round. Deslauriers finished the night fault-free aboard Emerson, the 11-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding (Eldorado vd Zeshoek x Berlin) owned by Wishing Well Farm.

"My plan was to try and jump another clear and lock it up," said Deslauriers, who guided Emerson through the mount's first Nations Cup experience. "He's jumped some bigger tracks at Spruce [Meadows] on the field so he was very capable.

*Continued on page 3*

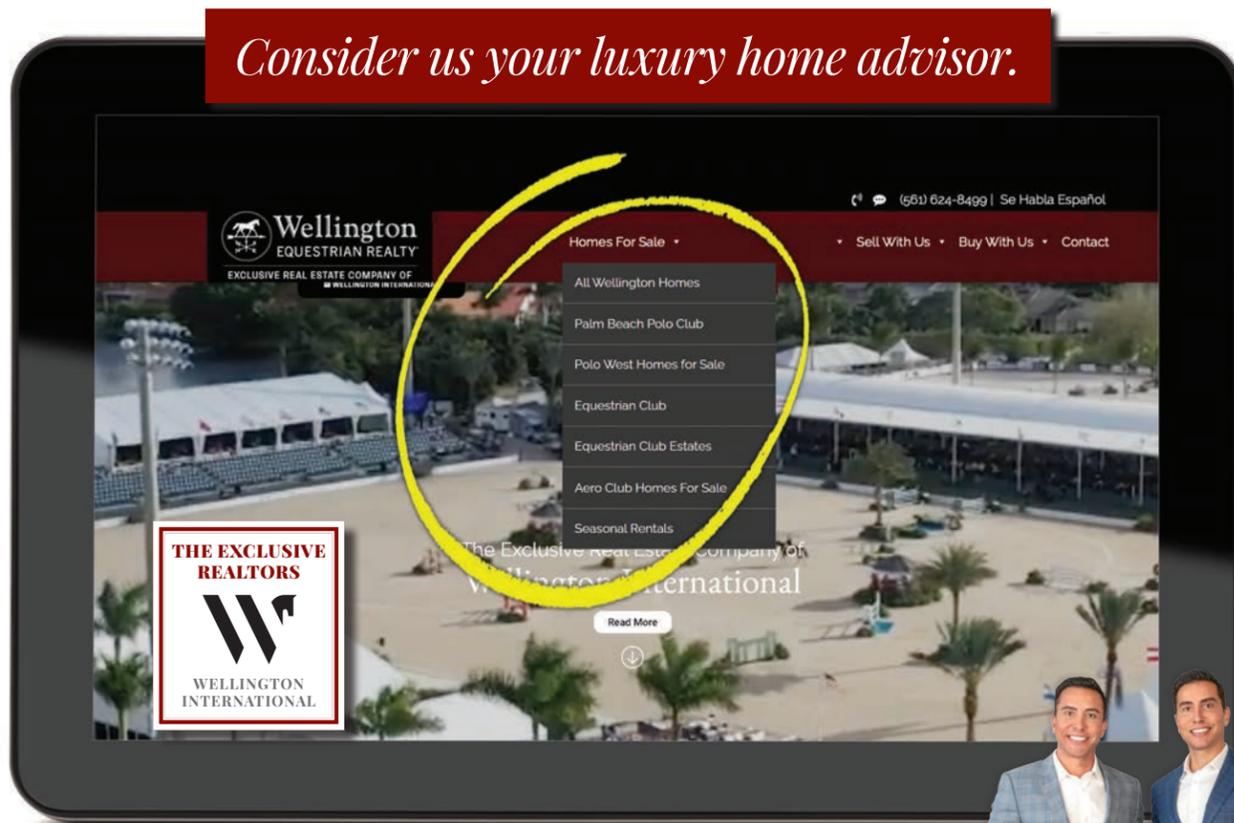


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## Nations Cup *continued from page 1*

I had high expectations so it's a huge relief. I must thank my teammates and our chef d'équipe for a great night. Everybody rode well and it was a great win for us."

Leading off with winning momentum, Foster and seasoned mount Hamilton produced the first clear of the second round in front of a considerable Canadian cheering section.

"I think the Canadian audience are some of the best in the world. This nations cup almost feels like a home nations cup for us because it's on North American soil and we have so many Canadians here in the winter," said Foster, who rode Hamilton, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Quadros 3 and owned by the Hamilton Group. "Hamilton was a little green when we got him as an eight-year-old, so it's been a process to get to know him. He's mature now and he's a reliable partner and teammate that I'm grateful to have for events like this."

Underhill sat the second round out to preserve her team's zero count, but noted their faith was high from the start. "I think we had

great confidence and we really wanted to give it a good shot for a win, especially with our new leader, Ian Millar. I think all of us together are friends and have been for many years, so there's been this great synergy and strength among us."

Underhill rode in the irons of Nikka vd Bisschop, a 10-year-old Belgian-bred mare (Emerol NOP x Nabab de Reve) for the Rein Family.

Ballard and Gakhir, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Spartacus TN, owned by Esperanza Imports and Ilan Ferder, echoed Foster's second-round clear to further her team's lead. "This is my third year jumping in this class, but this was the first year I felt we had a great shot," admitted Ballard. "Gakhir has proved that he keeps getting better and better. I think it's his blood and ability to keep going round after round that has helped us be so consistent."

Millar was named leader of the Canadian Show Jumping Team in early February and spoke about his first stab at team selections, saying, "I work with a committee,

and we looked at the declared athletes together. Within a couple of minutes, it was unanimous. It's a great group of riders; I've ridden with all of them, and I know how good they are. It was a great

pleasure to be the chef d'équipe tonight. This is the biggest and most prestigious circuit in the world in the winter, so this nations cup was a very important win for our Canadian team."

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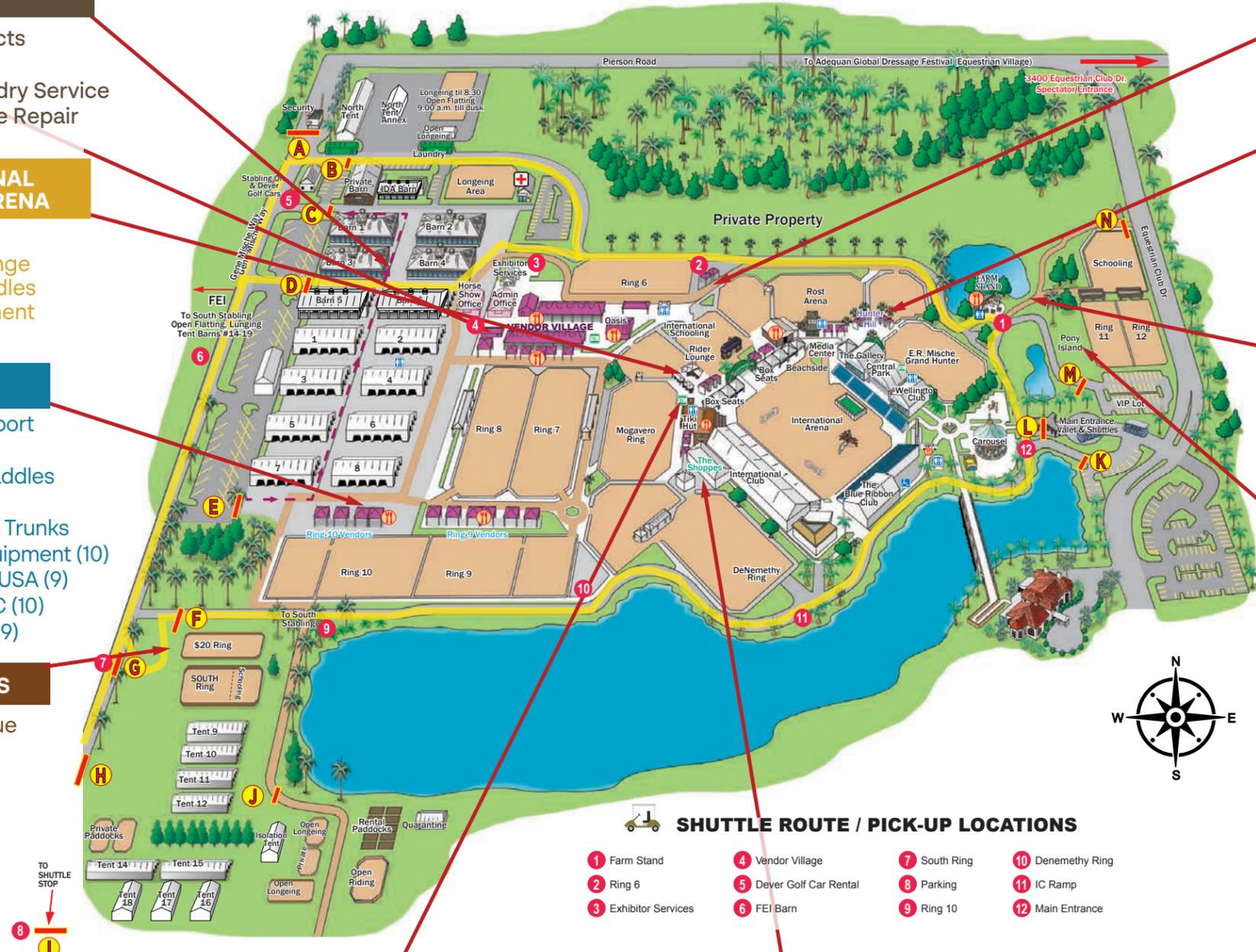
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# SPONSOR AWARDS



Daniel Coyle accepted the Niall Grimes "Cheers" Perpetual Trophy from ESP President Michael Stone as top money-earning Irish rider during CSIO week at WEF.



Fachoda de Hus, ridden by Natalie Dean (USA) and owned by Marigold Sporthorses, LLC, earned the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award after winning the \$15,000 SJHOF High Amateur Jumper Classic, presented by Lugano Diamonds.



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award was presented to Corras, ridden by Amira Kettaneh and owned by Robert Ruckh, after winning the Voltaire Designs 3'6" Large Junior Hunter 16-17 handy.



Winning groom and Ivory TCS' caretaker Greg DeBie was honored with the \$500 Grooms Award, presented by Double H Farm, by Lenore Brown of Wellington International, after the \$226,000 JTWG, Inc. CSIO4\* Grand Prix during WEF 8.



Congratulations to North Star of East Aurora, NY, and Wellington, FL, on winning this week's Vita Flex Tack Room Award. Pictured left to right: Owner Joan Jacobs, Charlotte Jacobs and Matthew Calderwood.



Canada's Tiffany Foster was honored with the Kate Nash Boone Style Award, presented by Michael Meller, for her style of riding and ability to maintain sportsmanlike composure while competing during CSIO week at WEF.

## WEEK 8 • PARADE OF CHAMPIONS



Mattelyn Morrissey and Honey Bunches of Oats took top honors in the Walk/Trot division once again during WEF 8.



Sofi Beccar Varela and What A Bean celebrated a championship in Section A of the Short Stirrup division during WEF 8.



Lillian Corteen and Buenos took the tri-color in Section B of the WEF 8 Short Stirrup division.

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2. Summer Hill (USA) .....265.5
3. Mimi Gochman (USA) .....263
4. Sheer Levitin (USA).....254.5
5. Zayna Rizvi (USA) .....242.25

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2. Darragh Kenny (IRL) ..... 252  
Richard Vogel (GER) .....252
4. Laura Kraut (USA)..... 206
5. Eduardo Menezes (BRA) ..... 200



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## RIDER SPOTLIGHT: Mavis Spencer

Mavis Spencer debuted in her first Nations Cup in 2022 and donned her pinque coat once again on Saturday night under the lights as part of the NetJets U.S. Jumping Team. From growing up as a kid in Hollywood to becoming one of the top names in U.S. show jumping, Spencer has never been afraid to work for what she wants. After a successful junior career, she became a working student and groom for some of the top equestrians in the game, including Kent Farrington, Darragh Kenny and Neil Jones. Spencer considers this time in her life as one of opportunity that got her where she is today. Spencer runs her own program at Whitethrone LLC and paved her own path to success. Read on to hear more about Mavis Spencer.

### When did you start riding?

In the most cliché of fashions, my parents always told me that "horse" was my first word. I was the kid that made my parents pull over on the side of the road to look at the horses in the field. My aunt is the horse person in the family, and she's the one that put me on my first horse. Funny enough it was the famous stallion, Galoubet, that she had retired at her farm in Massachusetts. I wasn't allowed to take lessons until I was five, so on my fifth birthday, I ran into my parents' room at six in the morning begging to get on a horse.

### What did you take away from your time as a groom and working student?

Working your way up in this sport is a path that I think people take for granted. I am under no illusion that I didn't have lots of opportunities as a junior, but I know I wouldn't be where I am without my time as a working student and groom. So many people just want to be a rider and don't realize that walking into the position I'm in now is so rare. I'm always open about being a working student because it taught me to always put your best foot forward and give one hundred percent to every opportunity that presents itself.

### How did it feel to put on the USA team jacket and compete for your country?

When I got the phone call to be

a part of the Nations Cup team for the USA during the Sunshine Tour last year, it was a big deal, especially being from the West Coast. It felt a lot like a panic attack the first time. It's such an honor and it really is such a small percentage of people who get to be a part of it, regardless of how hard you work and how lucky you are. Something that really stuck with me from the experience was how fantastic the entire group was. From my teammates to the managers, to the Chef d'Équipe; everyone was out there rooting for you.

### What is your favorite part about traveling east for the winter season?

The last time I competed here at WEF was in 2018. I returned here this year with a group of horses that were ready to compete at the level of competition that Wellington provides, and it makes all the difference. The caliber of show jumping and the atmosphere here is something you don't really get anywhere else, especially at this time of year. I remember jumping my first Saturday Night Lights a few years back and it being the largest two-star grand prix I had ever jumped. To be able to return this season, with a horse like Curly who can use this competition as experience under his belt is great for his future, and for the whole team.



# Jean McLaren's New Partnership Pays Off in \$10,000 Barnwalkers Masters Jumper Classic

Jean McLaren will be the first to tell anyone that riding and competing at her age 'is a gift,' and that gift continued to give this weekend as McLaren closed out competition in the International Ring during WEF 8 with a win in the \$10,000 Barnwalkers Masters Jumper Classic.

McLaren's years of experience were put to good use as she piloted new partner Pearl Of Grey VHL to two flawless rounds and a first-place finish against 14 horse-and-rider combinations. The class was the pair's debut in the International Ring and only McLaren's second time showing the recently imported eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare (Cordess 2).

McLaren saved the best for last



in a five-horse jump-off as she returned towards the bottom of the order. The Masters division features jumper riders exclusively over the age of 50 and highlights them with classics taking place in the coveted International Ring.

To hear McLaren tell it, it's the reason to come to WEF.

"To be able to ride in this ring is such a fabulous treat," she stated. "It really is the reason to come here for those of us who have been riding all of our lives and have never been able to get there under normal circumstances."

McLaren is a lifelong horsewoman, having ridden all

through her junior years including competing at Maclay Finals at Madison Square Garden during her final year of eligibility. She put her time in the saddle on a ten-year hiatus as she attended school and started her career, then found her passion once again in the jumper ring.

"To be able to come back to this sport as an adult makes you appreciate all aspects of it so much more," McLaren continued. "You are much more mature to begin with, and even though I'm not as strong as I was when I was a kid, I know I'm a much better rider now. I have more patience and more miles – age is a gift and I'm grateful for it."



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## Final Day of CSIO4\* Grand Prix Competition

continued from page 1

worked exactly to our plan."

Ivory TCS was purchased at the 2020 WEF Sport Horse Auction as a seven-year-old and has been climbing the ranks with Coyle. Their most recent successes include a CSI5\* 1.50m win in Thermal, CA, and second in the CSI4\*-W in Las Vegas, NV.

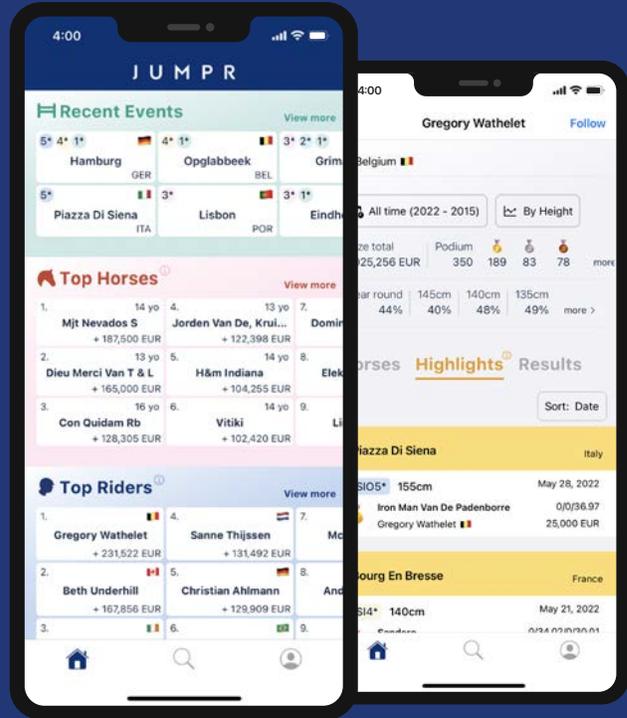
"She was bought to be sold and I've had a few people try her, but I have to say I'm delighted that she has not gone yet," admitted Coyle, who was presented as winner of the \$226,000 JTWG, Inc. CSIO4\* Grand Prix by Jaqui and Travis Gould, and William Harvey of JTWG, Inc.





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