



Rider Spotlight . . .page 8



# Weekly Wire

LINDSAY BROCK  
Editor



WEEK 3

JANUARY 25, 2023

## Collin Keeps Giving Back to Luiz Francisco de Azevedo

Luiz Francisco de Azevedo first saw Collin the mount's seven-year-old year. The horse was undeniably talented, but unavoidably difficult to ride. Previous riders have tried to harness the raw scope and try the horse possessed and let it shine in the show ring, but Collin was a problem that seemingly could not be cracked.

Enter, Didier Jackmen, an equine dentist in Belgium and close friend of Francisco de Azevedo. "He called me about a horse that was about to be sent to slaughter and said I need to check it out."

With some trepidation, Francisco de Azevedo took a chance on Collin. If you asked him today, that was a decision that landed him a "once-in-a-lifetime horse."

Francisco de Azevedo was beaming after jumping Collin, now a 16-year-old KWPN gelding (Colandro x Amethyst) owned by Santa Cecilia Stables, to victory in the CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic during WEF 2. "His situation was really devastating, so I'm really proud to share this story because he's one in a million. I cannot say how many classes he's already won in his life and how many victories he's given to me, so honestly, I have no words for this horse. I try but I always have the feeling I'm not saying enough about him.

"All I tried to do was give him the chance to show his confidence," continued Francisco de Azevedo. "With a lot of patience we learned exactly what he needs to be happy."

*Continued on page 4*



Photo by Hannah Stephens

## From Three-Phase to the Hunter Ring: Westport Shines in WEF Debut



Photo by Shelby Phillips

Not many horses transition from the eventing world filled with ditches, up banks, logs, keyholes and skinnies to the hunter ring and win at their very first show. However, spectators around the Rost Ring saw a talented young horse called Westport do just that.

The ShopHSH 3' Young Hunter 6yr & Under division was packed with rising talent during WEF 2. Among them was the lovely Westport, a 2017 Irish Sport Horse gelding by Clinton Jack. The mount, owned by Chris Brown and piloted by Geoffrey Hesslink, came away with the champion ribbon at his very first hunter show.

"We tried him about a month ago and I've only ridden him about a handful of times," said Hesslink of the horse that joined his string

just a few weeks prior. "Last week was Westport's first time showing as a hunter. He's been nothing but amazing ever since we started with him, so we are all very impressed."

Even though Westport is only five years old, he was produced to be an event horse. "I have had horses that have done eventing in the past, but this is the first time I've had one that's transitioning from that discipline to the hunters," said Hesslink. "He's super brave and doesn't care about any of the jumps or his surroundings so it's been really neat to work with him."

As far as goals for this season Hesslink noted, "He has done nothing but impress us so far and actually I think he's ready for more, so we are going to stay at this

*Continued on page 4*

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## GRAND PRIX Sunday Brunch

Join us for a lavish Sunday brunch with friends and family during our 1.50 Grand Prix Jumper Classic Series.

Doors open at 10:30am.

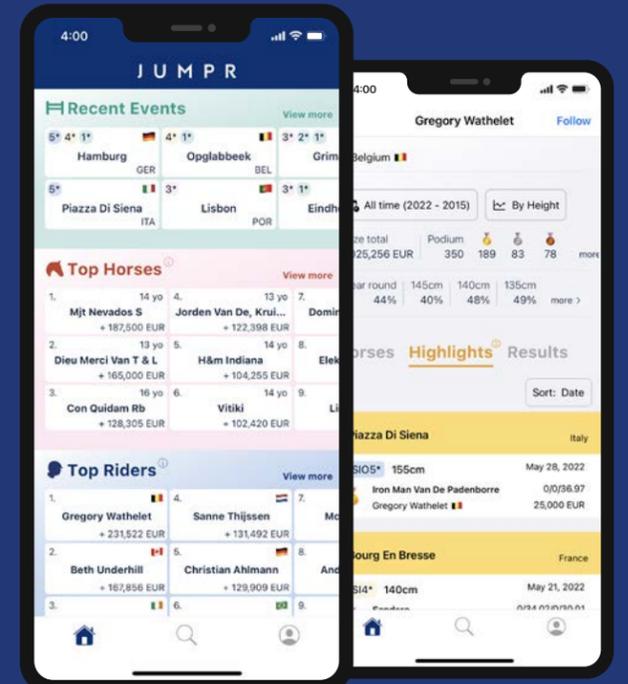


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Photos by Hannah Stephens

**Collin Keeps Giving Back**  
*continued from page 1*

Francisco de Azevedo likens Collin to a dog – he follows him everywhere and is one of the most intelligent horses he’s ever thrown a leg over. The program his team developed to channel Collin’s energy and temperament in a positive direction is one that hinges on as much time in the paddock as possible. Francisco de Azevedo doesn’t jump at home because he says he doesn’t need to. He flats Collin in the field and does a little conditioning work, but when the

horse sees a jump, he knows it’s “go time.” As a result, they save that energy for the show ring.

Collin certainly knew his job on Saturday when he cruised around the derby field with impressive foot speed. “In this kind of competition, the plan is to use the horse’s speed otherwise you don’t even need to go to the jump-off,” joked Francisco de Azevedo.

Speaking to how Collin has made a home in his string, Francisco de Azevedo concluded by saying, “He’s super intelligent, he knows he’s mine forever and now he’s like part of the family.”



# HUNGRY?

Places to eat at Wellington International

Chik Monk	Nathalie’s Café
Tiki Hut	Magdalena’s Mexican
Harry’s Lemonade	Anonymous Coffee
Loopy’s Crepes	Florida Snow
Oasis Café	Silva’s Mexican
Muddy Paws Ice Cream	Island Kitchen



**Westport**  
*continued from page 1*

level for a minute, but the goal by the end of Florida is to be jumping some bigger jumps, some 3’3”, maybe some 3’6”. He’s the only one who knows that really, but he has not put one foot wrong yet.”

Eventually, Brown will take over the reins in the Amateur-Owner Hunters, but for now Westport will

be campaigning with Hesslink in the green hunters.

When asked about Westport’s personality and how he acts, Hesslink concluded by saying, “He’s very sweet and honest and a very kind horse. I would say he’s very calm by nature. He’s young but never suspicious, and very charismatic. We all just really enjoy working with him.”

# Moments from the WEF Photography Collective



Photo by Kate at the In Gate



Photo by Sportfot



Photo by L. White Media



Photo by Boss Mare Media



Photo by Anasofia Vazquez Photography



Photo by Gianna Terranova Photography



Photo by Natalie Suto Photography

**VENDOR VILLAGE**

- ActivoMed
- Anne Gittins Photography
- Charles Ancona NY
- CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc.
- CWD Custom Saddles
- Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue
- Der Dau Custom Boots
- Equestrian Team Apparel
- Equiline
- Equine Tack & Nutritionals
- Equis LLC
- ES Equine Photography
- Eyes of Wellington
- F.LLI. Fabbri Inc.
- Fab Finds by Sarah
- Four Oaks Creative
- Jods Equestrian Apparel
- Kingsland Equestrian
- Kocher Tack Shop
- Miki Saddlery
- Parlanti
- Personalized Products
- Ride Equisafe
- Röwer & Rüb
- Running Fox Equestrian
- Sofie's Boutique
- Stephex Horse Box
- Susan J. Stickle Photography
- Tack n Rider
- Tony Hanley Horse Supplements
- Vogel
- Voltaire Design Fine Saddlery

**BARN 1-4**

- Dandy Products
- Farmvet Inc.
- Josey's Laundry Service
- Woody's Shoe Repair

**INTERNATIONAL WARM-UP ARENA**

- BarnWalkers
- Bruno Delgrange
- Custom Saddles
- IDA Development
- Shop HSH

**RINGS 9 & 10**

- Arion Horse Sport Tack (10)
- Devoucoux Saddles & Tack (9)
- McGuinn Tack Trunks & Stable Equipment (10)
- Prestige Italia USA (9)
- Show MDs LLC (10)
- Sportfot USA (9)

**SOUTH BARN**

- Riders Boutique
- Zest

**TIKI TERRACE & BRIDGE DECK**

- |                         |                      |                              |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Anastasia Gioielleria   | Karina Brez Jewelry  | Nouvelle/Silk 95 Five        |
| Aztec Diamond           | Kask                 | Sam Edelman                  |
| Dada Sport              | Kaval                | Taroo                        |
| Dismero Italian Fashion | Keyes Art            | The In Gate                  |
| Double Trouble Boutique | Kingsland Equestrian | Weatherly Stroh Studio       |
| Equisite                | Lauracea             | Wellington Equestrian Realty |
| Etalon Equestre         | MDVii                | Yagya                        |
| Gold No8                | North of Grey        |                              |
| Hermès                  |                      |                              |

**THE SHOPPES AT INTERNATIONAL CLUB**

- Ari
- Gavi Home
- Helgstrand Jewellery
- Hunt LTD
- Lugano Diamonds

**RING 6**

- Antarès Sellier France
- Kind Media

**HUNTER HILL**

- Chloe's of Middleburg Style Mobile
- Calvert Collection
- Elegant Equis Photography
- Enise Jewelry
- Gladiator Therapeutics
- The In Gate
- Wellington Antiques

**FARM STAND**

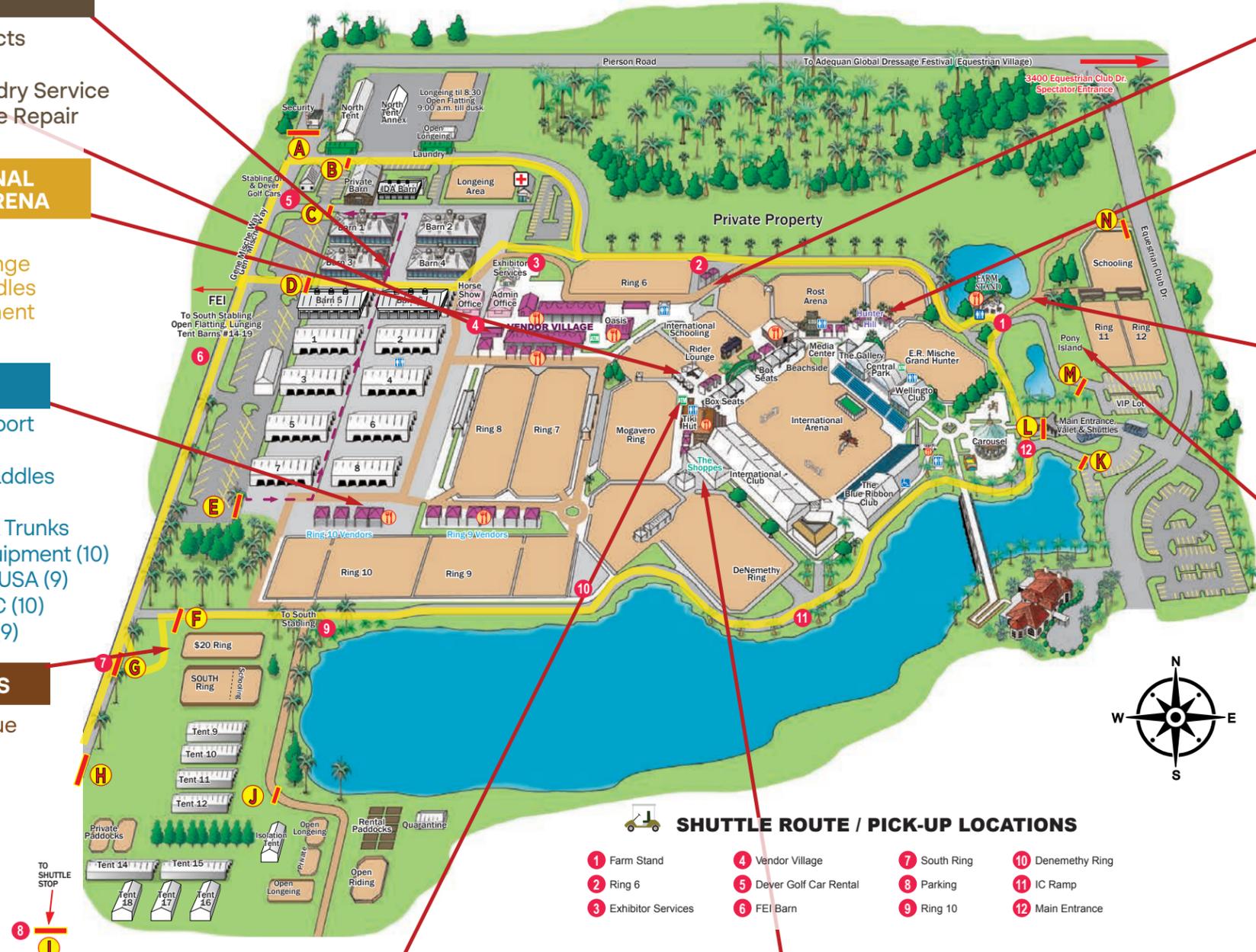
- The Shop at Farm Stand
- Akuma
- Bustle & Brew
- Meraki Juice Kitchen
- Pop-Up Markets

**RING 11 (Pony Island)**

- Palm Beach Int'l Academy

**PLACES TO EAT**

- INTERNATIONAL ARENA**
- Chik Monk
  - Tiki Hut
- VENDOR VILLAGE**
- Harry's Lemonade
  - Loopy's Crepes
  - Oasis Cafe
- RING 9**
- Muddy Paws Ice Cream
  - Nathalie's Cafe
- RING 10**
- Magdalena's Mexican
- BARN 4**
- Anonymous Coffee
- PONY ISLAND**
- Florida Snow
  - Silva's Mexican
- SOUTH BARN**
- Island Kitchen



- SHUTTLE ROUTE / PICK-UP LOCATIONS**
- |                      |                         |              |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 Farm Stand         | 4 Vendor Village        | 7 South Ring | 10 Denemethy Ring |
| 2 Ring 6             | 5 Dever Golf Car Rental | 8 Parking    | 11 IC Ramp        |
| 3 Exhibitor Services | 6 FEI Barn              | 9 Ring 10    | 12 Main Entrance  |



## RIDER SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL COYLE

Daniel finished out 2022 on the top of the FEI North American League leaderboard and is currently ranked 23 in the world. Coyle and Legacy were fourth in last year's \$500,000 Rolex CSI5\* Grand Prix. Coyle has returned to WEF for the 2023 season and has already seen success; winning the Battle of the Sexes alongside his teammates and placing second in the Florida Coast Equipment CSI3\* Grand Prix just a few days ago. Catch up with Coyle on his road to success, the advice he takes with him into every round, and what a day in the saddle looks like for this Irishman:

### How did you start riding? What's your first memory on a horse?

I started on ponies in Ireland. My father Fergal had ponies, so my brother Jordan and cousin Christian all grew up on ponies. It was part of the family. I was never very good at ponies, so I moved to horses very early and jumped my

first grand prix when I was 12 on a horse named Laramel.

My earliest memory is probably falling off. I fell off a lot on ponies and couldn't wait to get to horses. I did win a 12.2 final at the Odyssey, which is a very popular show in Ireland, on a pony name Calypso. That was probably my best early riding memory.

### What does a normal day of training look like for you?

The younger horses need to do a lot of jumping, trot poles, canter poles and flatwork. I'm constantly giving them things to do, but with Legacy and the older horses, it's about just keeping them fresh. That might mean going and cantering along the water or on the trail, or doing the hard work on the flat, or maybe 20 minutes of jumping and the flat all in one. It changes every single time, but it's nice here that you can go out around the canals because otherwise you're just stuck in one spot all the time and it makes it very monotonous for them.

### What are your goals with each for WEF 2023?

This is the first show for a lot of my young horses. We may be starting at 1.0m or 1.10m and they are going to be answering the question of how far we get, not me. For the older ones, it's about just getting them to the top of their game. I grew up riding the youngest horses and the cheapest horses while trying to get them to be the best horses. Sometimes it may take three weeks to accomplish what we think should happen in one day. You must change your plan depending on what they tell you.

### Which has been the most special horse of your career?

Legacy. We got her as an eight-year-old, set all these big plans for her and she keeps accomplishing them. She's been to two championships already and won so much while only just turning 12 this year.

### What is a piece of advice you have carried with you throughout your career? Who gave it to you?

I get hung up on watching what other people are doing in the jump-offs and Jeroen always says, "it's only you and your horse out there, Daniel." So, anytime I get lost, I always tell myself that it's only me and my horse.

### What piece of advice would you give an up-and-coming rider?

If you don't like something, change it. Too many good riders get stuck in one place, doing one thing, riding one kind of horse. There's so much opportunity in this sport. If something doesn't work for you, don't be afraid to change it.



Photo by Sportfot

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### IN THE RING

#### Thursday, January 26

CHF8,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.45m Open Jumper  
CHF50,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup CSI4\*  
CHF6,000 Beerbaum Stables 1.45m CSI2\*

#### Friday, January 27

CHF6,000 Bainbridge 1.40m Open Jumper Speed Challenge  
CHF37,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.45m CSI4\*  
CHF37,000 Beerbaum Stables 1.45m CSI2\*

#### Saturday, January 28

CHF10,000 Beerbaum Stables 1.40m CSI2\*  
CHF216,000 NetJets Grand Prix CSI4\*

#### Sunday, January 29

CHF75,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic CSI4\*  
CHF50,000 Beerbaum Stables Grand Prix CSI2\*

### WEF GIVES BACK

The 14th annual Great Charity Challenge sponsored by Fidelity Investments® returns to Wellington International Saturday, February 4. Over 13 years, \$17.7 million has been distributed to 294 Palm Beach County non-profit organizations. Come watch that number climb! Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Learn more at [GreatCharityChallenge.com](http://GreatCharityChallenge.com).

### DON'T MISS DRESSAGE

Dressage returns to Equestrian Village for AGDF 3, a CSI4\* week. The Grand Prix Freestyle CDI4\*, presented by U.S. P.R.E. Association, is the highlight of "Friday Night Stars" and will welcome spectators to watch these equine stars dance under the lights. Start time is 7:00 p.m., admission is free, parking \$20/car.

### U25 GRAND PRIX



## GRAND PRIX SERIES STANDINGS

1. Natalie Dean (USA) .....109.5
2. Mimi Gochman (USA) ..... 104
3. Summer Hill (USA)......95.5
4. Grace Debney (GBR) ..... 95
5. Zoe Conter (BEL) .....92.5

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# WEEK 2 • PARADE OF CHAMPIONS



Royal Mint Julip and Elliena Apollo made their WEF debut together as champions of the USHJA 2'6" Hunter division.



Mila Meredith and Powder Puff took champion honors in the Younger Cross Rail Hunters.



Rachel Chandley piloted Clarina to a tri-color in the FarmVet Modified Adult Jumpers.



Mattelyn Morrissey rode Honey Bunches of Oats to champion in the Walk/Trot division.



Floriano MLW was named champion of the ActivoMed Adult Amateur Hunter 18-25 with Hannah Koon in the tack.



Wendy Dixon and Hardwish 711 claimed the championship in the ProElite Low Child/Adult Amateur Jumpers

# SPONSOR AWARDS



Winning groom Denise Moriarty was honored with the \$500 Grooms Award, presented by Double H Farm, after Kent Farringotn and Landon won the CHF 140,000 Florida Coast Equipment CSI3\* Grand Prix during WEF 2.



Campbell Brown riding Indira for Ashwood Farm LLC earned the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award in the Röwer & Rüb Low Junior Jumper Classic during WEF 2.



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award was presented to Kelly Sims and her own Private I during WEF 2 after they won the handy in the NetJets Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 & Over division.

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## SPONSOR AWARDS

Congratulations to BlackJack Farms and Adam Skalansky from Birmingham, Alabama, on winning the WEF 1 Vita Flex Tack Room Award.

Well done to Willow Wood and Kim Rachuba Williams from Woodbine, Maryland, on winning VitaFlex Tack Room Award during WEF 2.

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– THE NEW YORK TIMES  
“HOW TO HIDE \$400 MILLION”

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