



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 11 • MARCH 19, 2025

HALLIE GRIMES CLAIMS
BRAINJUICE U25 SERIES TITLE

CARLOS HANK GUERREIRO
ENDS WEF SEASON ON A HIGH

YOUNG HORSES SHINE
AT WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL



TIM BRENNAN DOUBLES DOWN

in BrainJuice Under 25 Series Final



GRIMES CLAIMS OVERALL TITLE

The BrainJuice Under 25 Series came to a thrilling close during WEF 10. Featuring some of the world's most promising talent, the qualifying pairs all gave everything they could in the grand final; the \$50,000 BrainJuice U25 Grand Prix Series Final. Ultimately, Tim Brennan (IRL) took the top call in the class, and Hallie Grimes' top-five placing awarded her the overall BrainJuice U25 Grand Prix Series title.

Brennan had a fantastic first season in Wellington, winning both the BrainJuice U25 Semi-Final under the lights during WEF 8 and Sunday's Final, both on the same horse—Diadema Della Caccia—a 10-year-old Italian Sport Horse mare. "It's been an absolute dream,"

Brennan, 19, said of his success in the BrainJuice U25 Series at WEF. "My horse has been incredible. To me it's been a massive experience. She's only 10 so it's brought her along too. It's been great for both of us; jumping under the lights and here today. It was two fantastic classes."

The success he had this season reflects well on his thoughts of the venue, but regardless of results Brennan is hoping it's not his last season in Wellington. "I'd love to come back next year," he continued. "It's a very nice place to be because there's not a lot going on at home in Ireland. I've learned a lot here so I'd love to come back again."

The U25 Series creates an on-ramp to higher levels for young show jumpers, featuring



various challenges like change in venue, jumping under the lights, jumping the open water, team formats and more. Brennan has big goals even in the immediate future, and success in this division will pave the way for upcoming goals, including the European Championships and the Dublin Horse Show on home soil.

Young professional Grimes was double clear and quick Sunday afternoon with Karoline of Ballmore, owned by Can We Keep It? LLC. The series title was a goal she set very early in the season.

"This was the only goal I had for all of WEF," Grimes, 22, said after earning her title. "I'm really glad it worked out because it's show jumping and anything can happen."

There's much more ahead for Grimes, as well as all the other U25 competitors, but what echoes from all participants is how much the series prepares them for the higher levels of the sport.

"This is my fifth year and I've done a lot of horses in the series," Grimes continued. "It's an important series for us; being able to jump at all the different venues with top course designers. What I've taken from it is invaluable and I'll carry that experience with me when I go to jump five-stars."

For her title, Grimes was awarded the coveted series final prize: a branded 2025 Honda "Metropolitan" European Scooter, highlighting BrainJuice's inspired dedication to the U25 Series as a whole.

Carlee McCutcheon (USA) was second in the Final with Aaralyn Blue, owned by Ann C Thompson.



"This is my third year to do the U25 Series and my second year as a professional," McCutcheon, 19, said. "It's a great stepping stone between the junior ranks and the higher-level FEI ranks. For me, the competition is always great. These are some of the best up-and-coming riders and that makes me ride better. It makes me more competitive and it's really a wonderful series."

Campbell Brown (USA) and Caiam d'Ivraie, owned by MMK Equestrian LLC. Brown, 17, is newer to the U25 ranks but put in a stellar double-clear with a fast jump-off for a podium finish on Sunday.

"I just recently started doing U25 last May," Brown shared. "We've been trying to figure it out over the last 10 weeks but it really came together this week. It's nice to step up from the junior jumpers and compete against people who are jumping five-stars and have more experience. It pushes me to try a little harder and dig a little deeper."

Lisa Ellis, CEO and CMO of BrainJuice, reflected on

another spectacular season of U25 jumping at Wellington International, saying. "Every season you're seeing such a diverse group of riders with different training backgrounds, different access to horses, and the theme here is that all of you took advantage of this to take it to the next level of competition. That's what we're so proud of. We want this to be a model for show jumping throughout the world where the next riders will break out of and into the grand prix level."

Behind Grimes in the overall ranks, Brennan finished runner-up and USA's Emily Dehoff was third after a consistent season of top finishes.





A Transformative Vision: ElevateED Brings a World-Class School to Wellington

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This article is brought to you by ElevateED—where innovation meets purpose in education, inspiring students to explore, create, and lead with impact.

**By Marianne Rehn,
President of ElevateED**

In a groundbreaking step for education in Wellington, ElevateED has secured approval from the Village of Wellington to develop a premier private nonprofit school on a 35-acre site in the heart of the nation's equestrian capital. With doors set to open in August 2028, this Pre-K to 12th-grade institution promises a transformative learning experience, shaping the next generation of innovators, leaders, and global citizens.

Partnering with leading U.S. developer Related Ross, ElevateED is set to

deliver a state-of-the-art educational hub, complete with cutting-edge STEAM facilities, dynamic arts and music programs, a world-class auditorium, and premier sports complexes. Designed to be seamlessly integrated into a mixed-use community, the school will sit alongside vibrant shops, inviting restaurants, and lush green spaces, creating a thriving environment where learning extends beyond the classroom.

Beyond academic rigor, the New School Wellington will foster a deep connection to the environment, ensuring students develop as thoughtful, creative, and globally conscious individuals.

Through a personalized approach, students will have access to innovation centers, interdisciplinary learning experiences, and global networks, positioning them to lead with purpose and adaptability in an ever-evolving world.

The visionary behind ElevateED, Karen Yung, brings a wealth of experience as co-founder of Education in Motion (EiM), an organization that has successfully built 14 schools worldwide, serving over 11,500 students across Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and beyond. With ElevateED, Karen's mission continues—to create world-class institutions

that redefine education, preparing students to shape a better future.

Wellington is poised for a new era in education, and ElevateED stands ready to lead the way.

Scan the QR code to learn more.





LUCK ON HIS SIDE: CARLOS HANK GUERREIRO

Wins Horseware Ireland CSI4* Grand Prix

Mexican Olympian Carlos Hank Guerreiro had luck on his side when he topped a 14-horse jump-off to win the \$215,000 Horseware Ireland CSI4* Grand Prix during WEF 10.

Piloting his Paris Olympic mount H5 Porthos Maestro WH Z, Guerreiro tackled Oscar Soberon's (USA) jump-off track with unmatched speed, challenging the rest of the field to chase him down. He and

the 11-year-old Zangersheide gelding (Picasso Z x Ogano Sitte) stopped the short-course clock at 39.98 seconds.

"I have a very fast horse in Porthos, and it was a big enough jump-off with some very fast riders behind me," said 24-year-old Guerreiro of the H5 Sport Horses owned gelding. "I didn't want to leave it all out on the line because you still have to leave the jumps up. I wanted to take the risks I knew I could, and it paid off today."

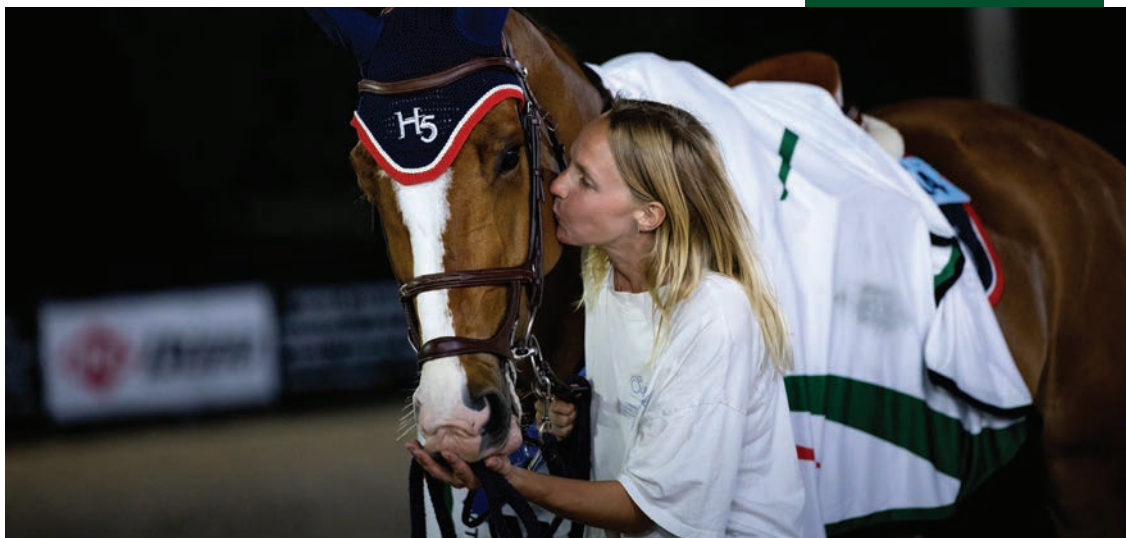




Giving their best effort, Marilyn Little (USA) and her own mare La Contessa (License x Cornet's Prinz) finished less than a second off the pace in 40.55 to finish the runner up. Ireland's 20-year-old Tom Wachman rounded out the podium in 40.61 seconds for third riding Coolmore Showjumping's (Vigo Cece x Laeken) gelding, Do It Easy.

Winning under the lights at Wellington International is the continuation of a dream for Guerreiro and H5 Porthos Maestro WH Z. "He's been an amazing horse since day one. I've had him since he was seven, and last year he took me to achieve my childhood dream of going to the Olympics."

After a long break following the 2024 Games in Paris, H5 Porthos Maestro WH Z was meant to ease back into competition this week.



"This was his first grand prix at WEF this season, and I wasn't expecting much since he's been on holiday," said Guerreiro. "He surprised us all and gave everything out there."

In front of a packed house with eclectic energy, Guerreiro rose to the occasion. "The atmosphere here has always been unbelievable; I've been jumping here for a few years

now and these 'Saturday Night Lights' are very special. It's what motivates us during the week. To win one has always been a dream of mine so I'm very grateful."

After 10 weeks of international jumping, Guerreiro concluded his WEF season with a bang on Saturday, saying, "It's a very tough place to win. If you can win here, you can win anywhere."



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From the Wellington International Photography Collective





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WEF STANDINGS



MARTHA JOLICOEUR DOUGLAS ELLIMAN



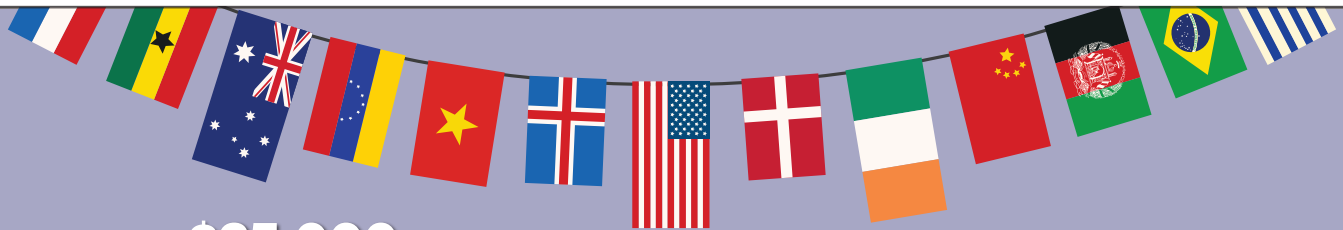
Leading Lady Rider Award

1. Emilie Conter BEL – 653 pts
2. Natalie Dean USA – 577 pts
3. Lillie Keenan USA – 502 pts
4. Alessandra Volpi USA – 457 pts
5. Lacey Gilbertson USA – 392 pts



Marilyn Little, aboard La Contessa, accepts the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award from (left to right) Isabel Jolicoeur, Dr. Stephen Norton and Martha Jolicoeur for the CSI4* WEF 10.

PHOTO © SPORTFOT



\$25,000 LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER BONUS

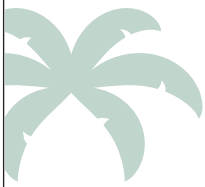
*Presented by
Michael & Wendy Smith*

1. Ben Maher GBR – 494 pts
2. Spencer Smith USA – 483 pts
3. Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 473 pts
4. Emilie Conter BEL – 442 pts
5. Nayel Nassar EGY – 440 pts

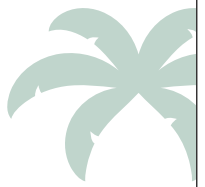
HERMÈS SELLIER PARIS

1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES

1. Spencer Smith USA – 260 pts
2. Cian O'Connor IRL – 238 pts
3. Nicola Philippaerts BEL – 234 pts
4. Max Wachman IRL – 215 pts
5. Nayel Nassar EGY – 200 pts



WEF STANDINGS



DON LITTLE MASTERS HORSE & RIDER COMBINATIONS

presented by



1. Lauren Brody riding Nutou – 161 pts
2. Jeanne Reid riding Atalante d'Uhart – 150 pts
3. Michael Smith riding Quality Time 4 – 131 pts
4. Nora Keefe riding Case-Tout Z – 129 pts
5. Camille Pacheco Cesarski riding Flint T.S. ET – 128 pts



\$5,000 LEADING HUNTER HORSE & RIDER BONUS

presented by THE IN GATE

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1	SANDORI	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	436 PTS
2	AVENTUS	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	421 PTS
3	VALOR	JACOB POPE	418 PTS
4	CATENDER PS	JACOB POPE	376 PTS
5	TRADEMARK	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	326 PTS



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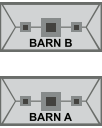
- International Arena
- Mogavero Ring
- DeNemethy Ring
- Rost Ring
- Grand Hunter Ring
- South Ring
- Rings 6 -12

OFFICES & PARKING

- 1 Exhibitor Services
- 2 Administration
- 3 Show Office
- 4 Admin Parking
- 5 VIP Parking
- 6 General Parking
- 7 Stabling / Dever

SHOPPING AREAS

- 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



SHUTTLE STOPS #

- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Farm Stand
- 3 Ring 6
- 4 Exhibitor Services
- 5 Vendor Village
- 6 Dever Golf Cart Rentals
- 7 FEI Barns
- 8 South Ring
- 9 South Parking
- 10 Ring 10
- 11 DeNemethy Ring
- 12 International Club
- 14 Grass Lot 5 Parking

LEGEND

- Medic
- Fire Rescue
- Gate Entry
- Restrooms
- Food Vendors
- ATM
- Handicap Parking
- Horse Crossing
- Shuttle Stop
- Shuttle Route

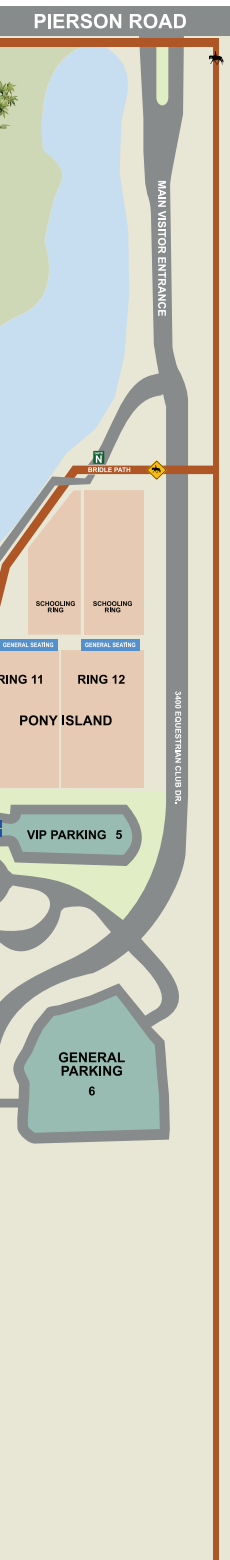


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- KAVAL
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- Equestrian Stockholm (WEF 7-10)
- Julie Keyes Art (WEF 11-12)
- Serenella

BRIDGE DECK AT TIKI TERRACE

- Dada Sport
- 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)

THE BARN AT HUNTER HILL

LeMieux

HUNTER HILL

- Ola' Mair Boutique
- Vanner House
- Ryde Equestrian (WEF 5-6)
- Lash LaRue (WEF 7-12)

INTERNATIONAL RING WARM UP

- Prestige Italia
- Equitan
- Bruno Delgrange Maître Sellier
- Barnwalkers
- IDA Development

RING 6

- Antarès Sellier
- Voltaire Design
- THEAULT

OASIS

- Charles Ancona
- La Enovesé Designs
- Devoucoux
- 70 Degrees

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- Fab Finds by Sarah
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- Der Dau
- Human Touch (WEF P-4)
- Gladiator Equine (WEF 5-8)
- Shop Cou (WEF 9-12)
- Equiline
- Turner & Co
- Running Fox
- Kocher Tack Shop
- Tony Hanley Supplements
- Stephex
- CWD
- Tack n Rider
- Personalized Products
- Equine Tack & Nutrition
- CM Hadfields

VENDOR VILLAGE NORTHSIDE

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- Harry's Lemonade

PONY ISLAND

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- Silvia's Tacos
- Palm Beach Int'l Academy
- Florida Snow
- Hunter's Landing

THE BARN

- Dandy Products
- FarmVet
- Josey's Laundry
- Anonymous Coffee
- Paddock Paws Veterinary Clinic

RING 9

- Arion Sellier
- Forestier Sellier
- Sportfot
- Muddy Paws Ice Cream
- Nathalie's Café

RING 10

- Ringside Health Clinic
- McGuinn Farms
- Magdalena's Mexican

SOUTH BARN

- Rider's Boutique
- Zest
- KP Concessions



PLACES TO EAT

Anonymous Coffee.....	Barn 4	Oasis Café.....	Vendor Village
Florida Snow	Pony Island	BrainJuice Tiki Hut	International Arena
Harry's Lemonade.....	Vendor Village	Toasties	Vendor Row
Loopy's Crepes.....	Vendor Village	Farm Stand.....	Pony Island
Magdalena's Mexican	Ring 10	Silva's Tacos.....	Pony Island
Muddy Paws.....	Ring 9	KP Concessions	South Barns
Nathalie's Café	Ring 9		

GROOMS CLASS PROVES THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

This article is part of a collaboration between HorseGrooms, Wellington International & Paper Horse Media

By Sarah Eakin

Efren Zebello of Serenity Show Stables came prepared for the \$10,000 Grooms Class, presented by YETI, with his charge Zeven and the attention to detail paid off when he won the jumper section of the contest. A staggering 35 grooms from the hunter and jumper disciplines took to the ring at Wellington International during WEF 10.

Efren finished sixth in the first YETI Grooms Class earlier in the season. This time, he said, “the judges really took their time asking questions and looking into the backpacks.” Professional show jumpers Erynn Ballard and Michael Murphy were joined in the judging responsibilities by Tiffany Letaltec, groom to Belgium rider Nicola Philippaerts.

Francisco Hernandez with Artemis Equestrian's Eclat Du Cerisier was chosen in second place while Shelby Speer with the Why Worry Group's Mazzy Star took home third for Henri Prudent and Plain Bay Farm.

Efren was not expecting to win but when he did, the viewing stand erupted as Caitlin Critchlow, owner of Zeven; Ruth Nicodemus, owner of Serenity Show Stables; and Efren's wife Rosemary burst into applause.

“Everybody was really excited,” said Efren. “They



had sunglasses on, but when they came to take the picture after the class I could tell there were some tears.”

Efren, who has groomed for 19 years, spent two hours—including one hour getting his braids to perfection—preparing for the class.

During her five years at Winter Equestrian Festival, Letaltec had never seen a Grooms Class, much less competed in

one. “I never have time for that,” she said. This winter, she was asked to join the judging and note, “It was a good experience for me to be involved in that way. It was hard; the first three were really great so it quickly became more difficult.”

Abel Sanchez took his YETI Grooms Class win by showing off his skills with





Louisa Attenborough's Hoopla for Jennifer Hannan and Ocean Echo Farm. "I've done the Grooms Class eleven times," Abel said. "Last time I finished fourth and this one is my ninth win."

The hunter section was judged by Ali Wolff and Torrey Hardison and the standard was high. When asked what his secret was in winning so many times, Abel had nothing to hide. "I don't really have any secrets," he said. "I just spend time shining my horse's coat, organizing my grooming bag and checking everything."

Lester Apicano representing Amanda Mecca and Baxter Hill, claimed the runner-up spot with Gochman Sport Horses' Charlie Be Good Z. Heritage Farm had swept monopolized the top placings at the first YETI Grooms Class this season, and Edin Ventura with Cisy Zhou's Fortnite was one of five grooms from Heritage to place in the top eight this

time when he claimed third place in the Hunter side of the ring.

The YETI Grooms Class at WEF sees a very different atmosphere from other classes at the show. Owners, trainers and supporters are many and the consensus is that the grooms deserve the recognition. The class, sponsored by YETI, has a number of additional sponsors supporting the event, including Mclain Ward, JET Show Stables, Evergate Stables, North Star, Pomponio Ranch, Peter Lutz Show Jumping, Chansonette Farm, North Run, Paddock Equine Vet, Beacon Hill Show Stables, and Southern Arches.

"I would like to say a big thank you to every single person that is involved in organizing this Grooms Class," concluded Efrén. There are no better words to say besides thank you. Thank you for taking the time to do that for us—it means a lot to us."





CHAMPIONS GALLERY



J.J. Torano accepts the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award from Laura Fetterman for Tiara, owned by Morgan Naivar after they were champion of the T&R Development 3'6" Large Junior Hunter 15 & Under division.



Sybil Moylan and Luv U Too, Champions of the Walk division.



Evelyn Moylan and Rosenhof Julie jumped to Champion of the Younger Crossrail Hunter division.



Pavarotti van de Schutskooi, owned by Heathman Farm, is honored with the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award by Laura Fetterman after carrying Cormac Hanley to win the Manestream 5-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final.



Katie BursSENS and Mighty Mouse jumped to a tri-color in the Younger Crossrail Hunter division.



CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Elana Paporello and Brunotti VDL were Champions of the BrainJuice 1.0m Amateur Jumper 18-35 division.



Mariah Brantley claimed the top tri-color in the 11 & Under Equitation aboard Dolce Vita de San Isidro.



Georgie Murdoch and Heartspot sporting a tri-color in the Karlswood Itty Bitty Jumper division.



Joy Michel accepts the Double H Farm \$500 Grooms Award for her care and preparation of H5 Porthos Maestro WH Z for the Horseware Ireland CSI4 Grand Prix from Gillian Hughes, Global Sales Director, Horseware Ireland.*



KMS ALI SHINES

in Lövsta Future Challenge 7-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final with Michael Hughes

With an all-American podium in the \$25,000 Lövsta Future Challenge 7-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final, the future of show jumping in North America was bright during WEF 10 at Wellington International. Michael Hughes and KMS Ali, owned by Sweet Oak Farm, took top call after only six weeks together.

The Lövsta Future Challenge is a well-established Swedish concept for talent development aimed at young grand prix horses in both dressage and jumping. The development tour's vision is to provide the best possible conditions to strive for the highest level of international show jumping.

Eight of the returning 14 jumped double-clear rounds—with no horse having more than 4 faults in the jump-off. Hughes and KMS Ali were the quickest by a noticeable margin.

"I've been riding him for about six weeks only," Hughes said of the Irish Sport Horse gelding (Tyson x Heartbreaker). "At the end of last year Shane [Sweetnam] got him and his daughter Olivia was riding him. She did a great job giving him experience and I took over the ride to work on the dressage. He has improved so much. You can see in the jump-off today; I would not have been able to do that six weeks ago."

KMS Ali was spotted by Sweetnam at the Dublin Horse



Show in 2024, jumping nothing but clear rounds in the 6-year-olds as well doing some eventing. For being only 7 years old now, Hughes believes he has vast experience already.

Hughes, who hails from New Jersey, spent the past five years working for training operations in Europe, coming back stateside this year with Sweetnam's Sweet Oak Farm. Having been a part of Lövsta Future Challenge prior to his time in Europe, he's impressed by how popular they are and the pathway they provide for up-and-coming show jumpers.

"I think the young horse division has changed a lot since I was here before," he remarked. "There were 50 that qualified to do the final this week. Last time I was here you wouldn't see more than 15 doing the young horse finals."

In second place was fellow U.S. rider Charlotte Jacobs with North Star's Nadim il Faut, a horse that initially appealed to her because of similar breeding to another young one of hers, Miro NS, who placed well in the 7-year-old final in 2024.

Rounding out the U.S. clean sweep, Michael Tokaruk ended in third with Napardi, owned by Thomasa Sanchez.

"He's one of those young horses that just gets it," Tokaruk said of the Dutch Warmblood gelding (Aparid x Dulf van den Bisschop). "I go to a lot of shows across the country and the standards really can vary from show to show. I've been happy that every time I've come to the ring to do the 7-year-olds they've been set appropriately and have very fair tests and questions. Especially a lot of credit to



Oscar [Soberon]. I think most people walked away better for the experience, whether they're up [on the podium] or not."

Antonia Ax:son Johnson, owner of Lövsta Stuteri and founder of the Future Challenge, was thrilled with the turnout and performance of the 7-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final. This is the 14th year Lövsta is providing opportunities for young horses in Wellington, and every year the interest grows and the success is even higher.

"I'm enthusiastic because year after year, there is a very strong idea behind it," she shared. "In our DNA we have wanted to develop international equestrian sport and we've always said the horse has to be at the heart of it, otherwise we will not succeed. True horsemanship is important."

Unstoppable Takes Command of \$15,000 North Star 6-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final

Aptly named, Unstoppable had an incredible debut outing in the International Arena during

WEF 10, finishing the week by taking the win in the \$15,000 North Star 6-Year-Old Young Jumper Final with Nora Nauss (USA) in the irons. The gelding, owned by Jessica Rosenfeld, was the fastest of a very competitive group of 6-year-olds to take the top placing. "This was his first [jump-off] format and he handled it so well," Nauss shared after the win. "He hadn't been in this ring before Wednesday—he won that class as well—and his big stride is really suited for the big ring. It was fun to go in there with him and take a shot at it today."

Nauss has piloted "Uno" since the beginning of the season in Wellington, and she rode him to his first 6-year-old start as well as his first victory. The entire team behind Uno knows there is something special coming to life as he takes on bigger challenges, but his owner is especially pleased to see her homebred accomplishing such big things.

"I bred Uno about six years ago, and I've had him ever since," Rosenfeld said, breeding her own eventing mare to the stallion Untouchable. "It's

very special because I never thought we'd be here today. He's won so many classes this season so I'm proud of him."

Patience has paid off for both Rosenfeld and Nauss in their development with the young horse, and Rosenfeld credits the success so far to her groundwork practice as well as the horse's overall great attitude.

"I spent a lot of time with him on the ground," Rosenfeld continued. "He's become my best friend. I'm so attached to him and he's known me since birth. He has the most amazing brain and knows his job. He wants to please and he's game."

Eighteen-year-old Nauss is gaining an extra perspective from riding young horses that she's carrying over to her mindset at the higher levels.

"I've learned a lot from riding young horses and it translates into my made horses as well," Nauss shared. "It's helpful to learn horse development and how you can produce a horse because you can carry that

into the higher jumpers. It's special to get to do this on a young horse and see them succeed."

Joan Jacobs of North Star was thrilled with the enthusiastic turnout of impressive 6-year-olds in the final and is confident there are incredible horses—as well as riders—coming up the pipeline in the United States.

"I think it's really nice to see some young riders stepping up with the young horses because I think that's the future for developing not only young horses but also young riders," Jacobs remarked. "It's good to see these kids being multifaceted and taking this on because it's really good for their riding."

Pavarotti van de Schutskooi Earns \$10,000 Manestream 5-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final Victory

Ireland's Cormac Hanley unveiled a star in the \$10,000 Manestream 5-Year-Old Developing Jumper Final by piloting Pavarotti van de Schutskooi to an impressive victory. The horse, owned by Heathman Farm, only arrived on American soil earlier this winter, and he's proving to be one to watch.

"What he's done today is pretty special," Hanley said of the Dutch Warmblood stallion (Amadeo van't Vossenhof Z x SIEC Vigar). "He was purchased by Heathman Farm as a 3-year-old; they bought him off a video. He came to the States at the start of this year and jumped his first 5-year-old class last week. We thought he was ready to go straight into the big stuff this week. He handled it unbelievably. This was his first ever jump-off and to win it in the style he did was incredible.



"He's so smart," Hanley continued. "He's quite a big horse so he'll take time for his body to develop but he's got all the scope. It's a little unexpected that he was able to go as quick as he did in the jump-off today. I didn't know how much I could've asked of him, but everything I asked he kept giving it to me."

Hanley's approach with a horse like Pavarotti van de Schutskooi is simple: don't overcomplicate things. This horse had a good training foundation in Europe, so Hanley is having an easier time presenting bigger challenges.

"[These finals] are very important to try to grow the grassroots level of horses in the U.S.," Hanley remarked. "It's getting harder to find the top horses. Even if you find them you can't afford them, so you have to find them younger and younger. You need a platform to develop them and that's what we're doing at Heathman Farm, trying to aim for the future. The young horse finals are growing and getting more difficult, but that's what it needs because if you don't develop the young horses, you have nothing for the bigger sport in the future."





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SO LET'S TALK HORSE TRAINERS



Perfect Products owes much of our success to the trainers who have adopted our formulas for their programs, and because of this, I am honored to have enjoyed longstanding relationships with many trainers who frequent

Wellington each year.

The other day I was talking to a trainer who, due to a tragic event at his facility, was considering leaving the industry. I began expressing what a terrible loss it would be to lose yet another trainer

in his industry and wondering where his clients would go, should he close up.

My conversation led me to reflect on the value my trainer brings to my life and, for that matter, all accomplished horse trainers

“For most of us, a good ride with a good word from our trainer can sweeten the rest of an otherwise bad day.”

bring to their clients' lives.

We expect our trainers to shop for the appropriate horses for us, and provide daily care and custody for our equine partners. Then they must train them, instruct us, transport their entire operation to shows, and prepare the horses, and us, for the competitions.

Besides managing a crew of support staff, the average trainer deals with more emotions and drama in the course of a day than a psychiatrist, and falls into bed exhausted on any night – only three hours short of having completed the day's work.

But along with the obvious job description, without realizing it, the trainer in our lives provides much more. The unwavering and unconditional

support, intense individual caring and the sense of belonging you experience during your time in a trainer's program is important at any age.

As your connection with your horse improves, and each step forward is validated and applauded by your trainer, you develop a deep and unique sense of accomplishment.

Whether you're just starting, or at the most advanced levels of your sport, you internalize and bask in that success. For most of us, a good ride with a good word from our trainer can sweeten the rest of an otherwise bad day.

Like many of you reading this, our horse-centered family has benefitted through

the years from a number of exceptional training programs. Only as I reflect back do I realize the impact on character and values along with horsemanship, they have imparted.

The accomplished horse trainer brings an undefinable value to our industry and our lives, and Perfect Products takes this opportunity to salute them and offer our appreciation for all they do.

We look forward to enjoying an exciting 2025 WEF season and the unique Wellington horse show culture with you. Thank you, Wellington International, for another great show season.

Jeff Morgenstern
CEO, Founder
Perfect Products



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