



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 12 • MARCH 26, 2025



Winter
Equestrian
Festival



ROLEX



AVENUE OF



BEN MAHER (GBR)

SARENA

2016



SERGIO MOYA (ESP)

CHARMEUR

2017



MARGIE ENGLE (USA)

ROYCE

2018



RICHARD VOGEL (GER)

CEPANO BALOUBET

2023



CHRISTIAN KUKUK (GER)

CHECKER 47

2024

CHAMPIONS



MCLAIN WARD (USA)

HH AZUR

2019

DANIEL DEUSSER (GER)

SCUDERIA 1918 TOBAGO Z

2021

ASHLEE BOND (ISR)

KAROLINE OF BALLMORE

2022



SCAN HERE
TO GUESS OUR
WINNER



Winter Equestrian Festival



CHRISTIAN KUKUK'S STELLAR YEAR

Triumphs at Wellington International and Beyond

By Cassidy Klein

Christian Kukuk, the German showjumping sensation, has solidified his place in equestrian history with numerous monumental victories in 2024. Among these standout achievements are his stunning win at the Rolex Grand Prix at Wellington International and a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Kukuk's back-to-back triumphs showcase his exceptional skill, unwavering focus, and the unique bond he shares with his horse, Checker 47.

Victory at Wellington International's Rolex Grand Prix

In a dramatic display of athleticism and precision, Kukuk captured the prestigious Rolex Grand Prix at Wellington International. The competition brought together the world's top riders, and Kukuk's performance stood out amidst the intense competition. His mount, Checker 47, a striking grey stallion known for his agility and sharpness, delivered flawless rounds, leaving both spectators and judges in awe.

"These [Rolex classes] are the best grand prix events in the year—we all know that—and we all work for them in the end," said Kukuk. "This crowd and this stadium are special. To be last to go and win is an incredible feeling."

Kukuk's ability to stay composed under pressure proved vital during the jump-off. With the course set to test even the most experienced riders, Kukuk navigated each fence with calculated



PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

efficiency. His victory not only marked a significant achievement in his career but also underscored his growing dominance in the sport.

"The pressure was a bit on and I could feel it in the warm-up, but I need that to be honest," continued Kukuk. "I knew I could not do the same strides [as McLain], but I could try to turn a bit tighter after the double and that worked very well. When I landed, I knew I could be close so I tried everything I could and left one out to the last."

Olympic Gold at the 2024 Paris Games

Just months after his triumph in Wellington, Kukuk's journey reached its pinnacle at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Facing immense pressure on the world's grandest stage, Kukuk and Checker 47 once again proved unbeatable. Their electrifying rounds led the German rider to capture individual gold, earning him the highest honor in equestrian sports.

Kukuk's Olympic performance was marked by a level of consistency that has become synonymous with his riding style. Tackling a technically demanding course, Kukuk executed perfect rounds, culminating in a nerve-wracking jump-off. His tactical prowess shone as he shaved crucial seconds off the clock, finishing with the gold in a thrilling final.

"The Olympics are every athlete's dream, and to win gold is beyond words," Kukuk expressed on his win. "Checker was brilliant throughout, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner. This is a victory for the whole team, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved."

A Rising Legacy

Kukuk's legacy in the equestrian world extends far beyond his partnership with Checker 47. His victories at Wellington International and the Paris Olympics highlight his versatility and adaptability across different horses and events. Kukuk has built a reputation for his technical precision, his ability to form lasting connections with a range of top horses, and his strategic brilliance under intense pressure.

Kukuk's success is not confined to a single mount. While Checker 47 has certainly played a pivotal role in his career, his triumphs with Mumbai and other

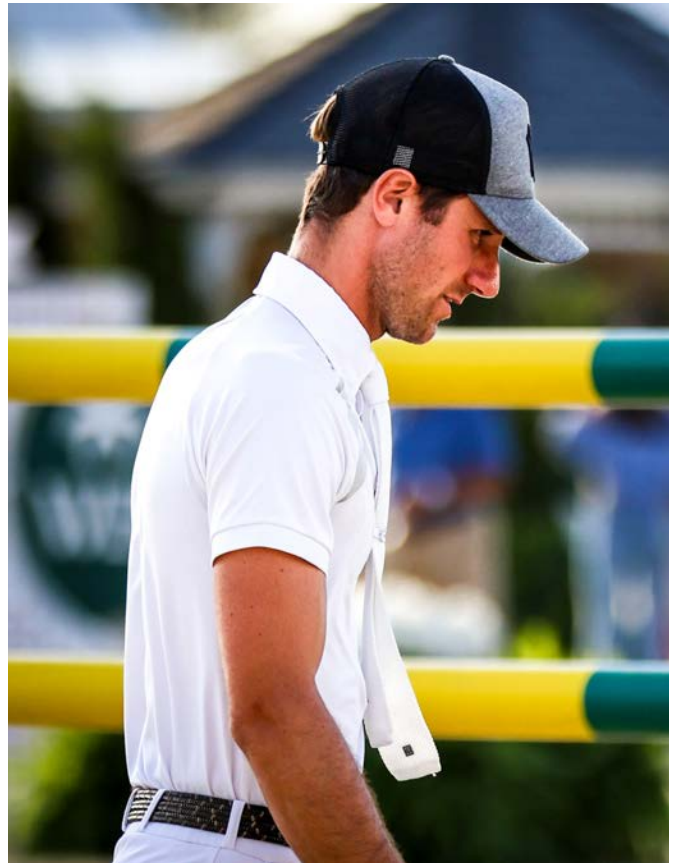


PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

“His calm yet determined presence in the ring has made him a feared competitor, while his humility off the field endears him to fans and peers alike.”

horses demonstrate his exceptional horsemanship and commitment to the sport. His calm yet determined presence in the ring has made him a feared competitor, while his humility off the field endears him to fans and peers alike.

As the sport of showjumping continues to evolve, Kukuk's achievements position him as a key figure driving its future. His victories are not only personal milestones but also moments that elevate the global standard of excellence in show jumping. Kukuk's career is already rich with accolades, and it is clear that he is building a legacy that will inspire the next generation of riders. Equestrian enthusiasts will eagerly follow his journey as he continues to push boundaries and redefine what it means to be a world-class competitor.



ROLEX CHAMP

CSIO ROMA
PIAZZA DI SIENA
Roma, Italy



KARL COOK
and Caracole de la Roque

JUMPING
INTERNATIONAL
DE LA BAULE
La Baule, France



KENT FARRINGTON
and Greya

BRUSSELS STEPHEX
MASTERS
Wolvertem, Belgium



JOSE MARIA LARocca
and Finn Lente

Wint Eques Fes

SERIES PIONS



JUMPING
INTERNATIONAL
DE DINARD
Dinard, France



KEVIN STAUT
and Beau de Laubry Z

DUBLIN HORSE
SHOW
Dublin, Ireland



MARTIN FUCHS
and Conner Jei

SCAN HERE
TO GUESS OUR
WINNER



?

\$750,000 ROLEX
US EQUESTRIAN OPEN
CSI5* GRAND PRIX
CHAMPION ?

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSE FOR GUILHERME JORGE



Growing up in Campinas, Brazil, Guilherme Jorge first sat atop the back of a horse at age 10. That experience saddled him with a lifetime dedication to horses, eventually leading him to becoming a world renowned course designer.

Jorge was assistant course designer at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 before being named an FEI steward at Sydney in 2000. He was also assistant course designer for both the Athens 2004 and London 2012 Games, which lead to a head course designer appointment on home soil in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Most recently, Jorge served as the FEI technical delegate at the Paris 2024 Olympics and is the designer of the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix at WEF.

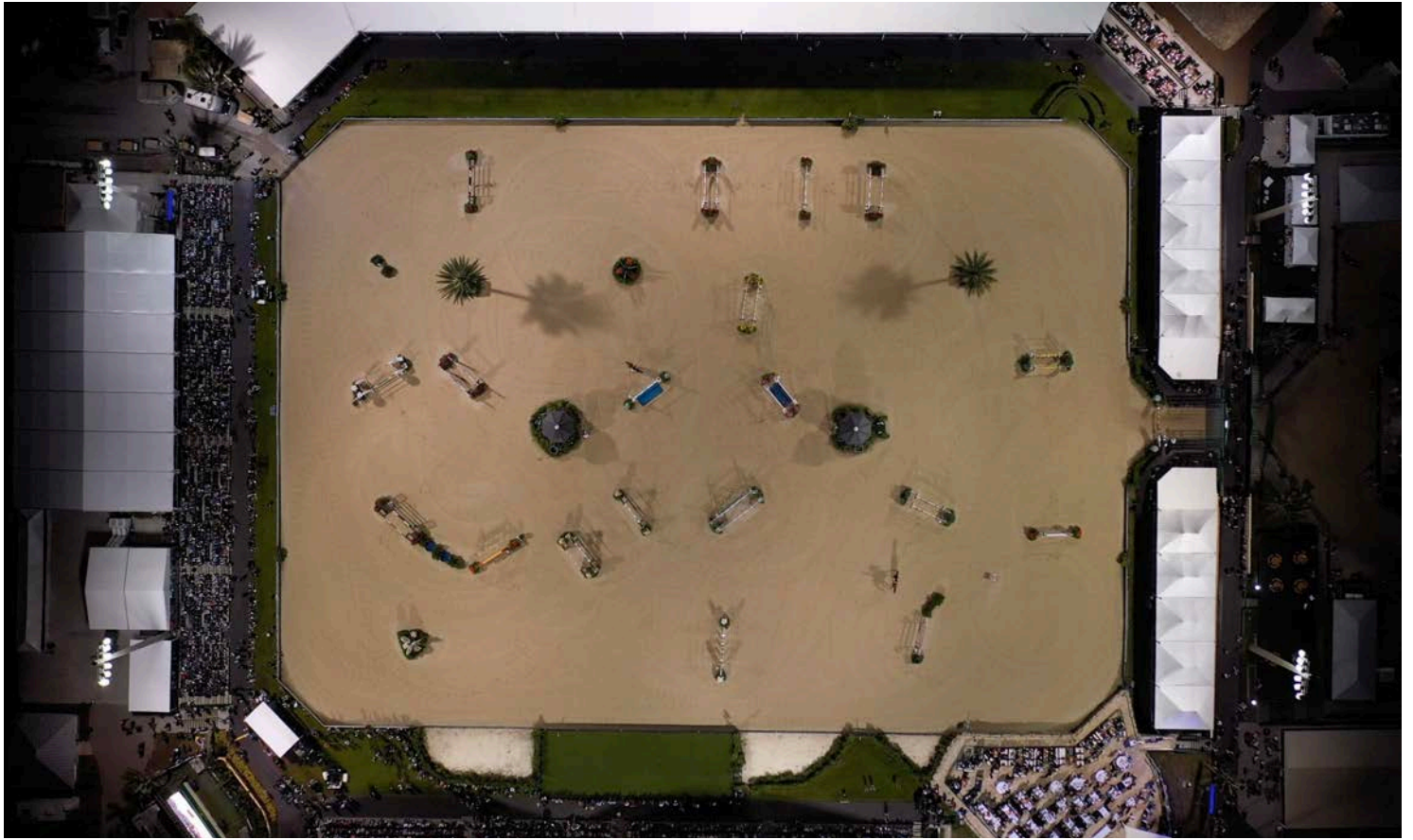
For Jorge, the role is equal parts recognition of his dedication to the sport and service to the horse. A trained veterinarian, Jorge graduated as a veterinarian and practiced as an equine vet for eight years before becoming a course designer. In 2025, he will again design and build the course for the coveted Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix during Rolex Finale Week at WEF.

"I've designed this class going on ten times now and each time I feel such pressure to deliver for the athletes, the horses, and the fans," said Jorge, who spends his winters in Wellington. "I've been coming to Wellington for almost 25 years now, and there's something special about having the responsibility of building for this [Rolex] Grand Prix. Wellington feels

like my hometown now. It's my job to make sure that we end the season on a high note that showcases the absolute best of the riders, the horses, and the sport as a whole."

With six of the top ten ranked riders in the world making a bid at the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix, the field is stacked with both international and U.S. talent. Some of the biggest pressure for Jorge, however, is carrying on a theme of excellence at Wellington International.

"To design the course for the last grand prix of the season is always a challenge because we have seen some of the top course designers in the world in action here this season," said Jorge of a list



that includes Paris course designer Gergory Bodo, famed Irish builder Alan Wade and many others.

Of his approach, Jorge noted, "I always try to design a course where all the fences are related even if they are not in a line. The riders need to be focused and make a good plan in the walk and the questions need to be clear to the horse."

"There is a lot of discussion about how horses see the jumps," he continued. "My time as a vet and a rider has taught me that they may see it differently than we do, but it's about understanding how they see certain elements."

A major benefit to Jorge's residency in Wellington has been getting to study competition all season long. "I watch very closely throughout the season and pay attention to what the other course designers

are doing week-in and out, so I don't repeat ideas, combinations, or look of the course," said Jorge. "I always like to play with ideas and can get going once I see where they place the open water in the ring. I knew for this year, we were going to have some new top European combinations competing in this final [Rolex] Grand Prix, so I wanted to build a strong course."

While building courses for the world's best, Jorge must also keep in mind the challenge beyond the initial track. "When you think about designing the jump-off, you want to really give thought to allowing the riders and horses the best chance at going as fast as possible. With a competition as elite as this, you also want to be sure that it's about the jumping, and I love the idea of finishing the course on a fast open gallop," said Jorge.

The 2025 season is his 11th year planning the season's finale five-star track and as ever, it's sure to be show stopping.



PHOTO © ALDEN CORRIGAN



CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Rusty Stirrup champions Kelly Gardner and mount Shirley Bassey.



Cece Sisto piloted Monkey to champion honors in the TRM 1.0m Junior Jumper division.



Hulst Summer took the top tri-color in the Large/Medium Pony Jumper division with Zara McGuigan in the irons.



Penelope Earle rode Thistle to champion of the USHJA Junior/Amateur 2' Hunter division.



Amanada Eakins was champion of the CMJ Sporthorses 1.15m Amateur Jumper Classic 36+ aboard Bright Side.



Nava Goodhart rode to champion in the 11 & Under Equitation Flat aboard Contigo VA.



CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Delphine Morrissey accepts her WEF tri-color with Vanilla Twilight.



The Carly Anthony Showjumping Junior Sportsmanship Award, given in memory of Candida C. Forstmann, is presented by Carly Anthony to 17-year-old Clayton Farrell.



Woodviews Willow, owned by Jessica Mendoza, earned the Champions Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award from Laura Fetterman after winning the 1.15m Junior Jumper 15-17 Classic.



The David E. Burton Jr. Perpetual Trophy for Extraordinary Service is presented to dedicated Wellington International ring crew members Francisco Gomez "Lefty" and Ramon Huerta.



The Champions Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award was presented to Colter, owned and ridden by Sophie Gochman in the Amateur-Owner 3'6" 18-35 division.



The 2025 WEF Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by Wellington International President Michael Stone to trainer, USEF judge and USHJA Zone 2 chef d'equipe Ralph Caristo.



HYDRATION FOR EQUESTRIANS

Why it Matters

By Carolina Schneider, MS, RD

Staying hydrated is important for everyone, but for equestrians, it's essential. Long hours in the saddle, intense training and hot weather can leave you sweating more than you realize. And when you sweat, you're not just losing water – you're also losing key electrolytes like sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium.

THE ROLE OF ELECTROLYTES

Electrolytes are minerals that help regulate muscle contractions, prevent cramps and keep your energy levels steady. Without them, dehydration can lead to fatigue, dizziness and poor endurance – all of which can affect your performance. While drinking water is crucial, replenishing lost electrolytes is just as important, especially during long rides, competitions or training in the heat. The good news? You can get electrolytes from food.

BEST FOODS FOR STAYING HYDRATED

Fruits and vegetables are your best friends when it comes to staying hydrated – they are rich in water and electrolytes. Fruits like watermelon, oranges, grapefruit and strawberries are excellent options, as they have high water content and provide key electrolytes like potassium and are

also a good source of vitamin C. Veggies like leafy greens, celery, cucumber and bell peppers are also great choices, packed with water, magnesium and calcium that support muscle function and hydration.

EASY WAYS TO STAY HYDRATED

- Drink smoothies: Blend hydrating fruits like berries, leafy greens and coconut water for an easy and nutrient-packed hydration boost. Daily Harvest's easy-to-prepare smoothies make this easy and convenient.
- Keep a reusable water bottle: Carry a water bottle during training, competition or even on long rides to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Snack on fruits and veggies: Pre-cut watermelon and cantaloupe, sliced cucumbers, and oranges are great to keep you hydrated, while bananas, cherry tomatoes and mini bell peppers provide potassium to help maintain electrolyte balance. These are easy to pack and perfect as quick snacks between training sessions and carry along to competition grounds.
- Beverages like unsweetened tea, coconut water and natural juices are also great ways to stay hydrated. Hydration packets can help too, but be aware of excessive sodium and sugar content.

HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I BE DRINKING?

Aim to drink at least eight cups, or 64 fluid ounces a day, or better yet: consume half your body weight in ounces of still or unsweetened sparkling water.

Staying hydrated is key to maximizing performance and recovery. By fueling up with water and electrolyte-rich foods, you can ensure your body is ready to perform at its best, whether you're competing or training for your next race.

Looking for nourishing, quick-to-prepare food that fits your busy lifestyle? Check out dailyharvest.com or scan the QR code and use code **DHWEF2025** for 20% off your first plan order over \$100. Learn more about Carolina's approach to nutrition at hungryforplants.com.



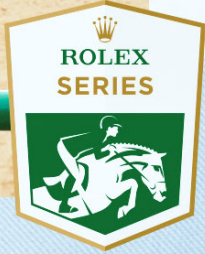


WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL
WELLINGTON, FLORIDA

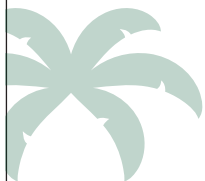


JUMPING FINAL

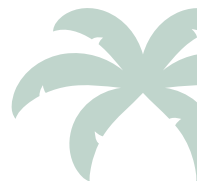
★ March 29, 2025 ★



THE ROLEX US EQUESTRIAN OPEN GRAND PRIX



WEF STANDINGS



\$5,000 LEADING HUNTER HORSE & RIDER BONUS

presented by THE IN GATE

AS OF WEF 11: 3.23.25

1	AVENTUS	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	533 PTS
2	SANDORI	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	521 PTS
3	VALOR	JACOB POPE	473 PTS
4	CATENDER PS	JACOB POPE	430 PTS
5	TRADEMARK	GEOFFREY HESSLINK	326 PTS



\$25,000 LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER BONUS

Presented by
Michael & Wendy Smith

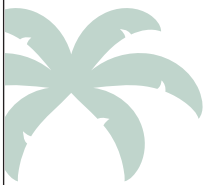
1. Spencer Smith USA – 579 pts
2. Ben Maher GBR – 572 pts
3. Nayel Nassar EGY – 530 pts
4. Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 529 pts
5. Emilie Conter BEL – 442 pts

DON LITTLE MASTERS HORSE & RIDER COMBINATIONS

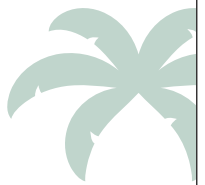
presented by



1. Jeanne Reid riding Atalante d'Uhart – 180 pts
2. Lauren Brody riding Nutou – 170 pts
3. Camille Pacheco Cesarski riding Flint T.S. ET – 152 pts
4. Michael Smith riding Quality Time 4 – 131 pts
5. Nora Keefe riding Case-Tout Z – 129 pts



WEF STANDINGS



MARTHA JOLICOEUR DOUGLAS ELLIMAN



Leading Lady Rider Award

1. Natalie Dean USA – 662 pts
2. Emilie Conter BEL – 653 pts
3. Lillie Keenan USA – 502 pts
4. Cathleen Driscoll USA – 477 pts
5. Alessandra Volpi USA – 457 pts



Zoe Conter accepted the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award from Dr. Stephen Norton and Martha Jolicoeur for consistent placings during CSI4 competition in WEF 11.*

PHOTO © SPORTFOT



PHOTO © SPORTFOT

DOUBLE H FARM GROOM'S AWARD

Caesar Gonzalez accepts the Double H Farm \$500 Grooms Award for his care and preparation of Cashew CR for Alex Matz's win in the Hermès CSI4 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Final.*

COMPETITION RINGS

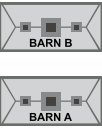
- International Arena
- Mogavero Ring
- DeNemethy Ring
- Rost Ring
- Grand Hunter Ring
- South Ring
- Rings 6 -12

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



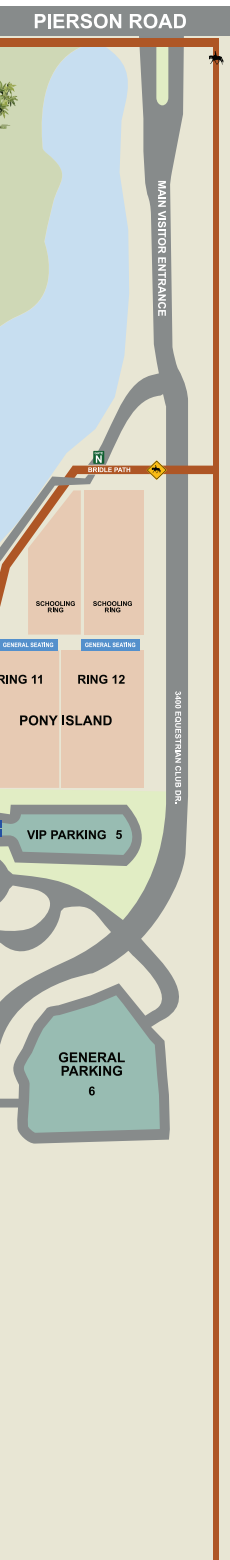
SHUTTLE STOPS #

- 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





INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Lugano
 Kition
 NetJets Business Centre
 Weatherly Stroh Artist
 LAURACEA
 Wellington Lifestyle Partners

TIKI TERRACE

WEF Store
 Hermès
 Karina Brez Jewelry
 KAVAL
 DandyLion (WEF 1-6)
 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

VENDOR VILLAGE SOUTHSIDE

Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue
 Equestrian Team Apparel
 Optic Nirvana
 Fab Finds by Sarah
 JODS
 Sofie's Boutique
 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

Loopy's Crepes
 The In Gate
 Ride EquiSafe
 Miki Saddlery
 Hunt LTD
 Parlanti
 Fratelli Fabbri
 EQUIS
 Vogel NYC
 Harry's Lemonade

PONY ISLAND

Farm Stand
 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		



A WIN IS ICING ON THE CAKE

for Ansgar Holtgers, Jr.
in KASK CSI4* Grand Prix



Ansgar Holtgers, Jr. (USA) scored the biggest victory of his career on Sunday of WEF 11 by ending his season with a bang in the \$200,000 KASK CSI4* Grand Prix aboard Pixel-K van't Kattenheye.

Among the class's contenders were nearly 20 Olympians, all testing Andy Christiansen's (ECU) course to snag a spot in the jump-off. Ultimately, 12 were successful, but no match for 20-year-old Holtgers Jr.

"We're over the moon, and I couldn't be more excited," he said of the emotion he and his team were feeling. "Any win feels nice, but this is definitely the icing on the cake. This is one of the hardest show circuits in the world—most competitive, best course designers, best horses—so to be able to come out here and win is spectacular."

"My horse is a little bit green to this level; it's only his third 1.60m," continued Holtgers, Jr., whose best international placing before Sunday was a three-star grand prix win during the 2024 WEF. "I knew there were fast riders behind me so I thought I'd take my shot. It all worked out, thankfully. I was going to be happy at the end of the day either way."

The time they posted was quick, crossing the timers in 40.04 seconds. Second-place finisher Spencer Smith (USA) almost caught him as last to go, finishing in 40.13 seconds aboard HHS Seattle, owned by Ashland Farms. In third was Shane Sweetnam (IRL) with Gilona AO, owned by himself, Popish Farm, and Seabrook LLC.



Holtgers has been developing his partnership with Pixel-K van't Kattenheye over the past two years since purchasing the now 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding (I Am Moerhoeve's Star x Chin Chin).

"We saw him in Germany as an 8-year-old," he explained of the day he met the horse. "He jumped just as he does now; super scopey, careful, and a joy to ride. We knew he was special from the beginning so we took it nice and slow, jumping a lot of 1.40m-1.45m rounds to get to know each other. This is just the beginning."

As for what appealed to him about Pixel-K, Holtgers responded, "Honestly, everything. I'm a tall guy and he's a bigger horse, so that's a good fit. He has so much blood and he has the heart to do it"

WEF 11 was Holtgers, Jr.'s final week competing in Florida. Up next for Holtgers and Pixel-K is some time off for the month of April before heading to Europe for the summer season.

"I've had a very good season," he reflected. "I jumped my first five-star grand prix on my other horse Good Morning B. Then I showed Pixel in a four-star on the grass; he was clear there and placed fifth. I think I learned a lot and my riding got better as a whole and my horses got better which is the biggest thing."



VOGEL

NEW YORK 1879



ALEX MATZ CLAIMS VICTORY

in Hermès 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Final

Twelve weeks of Hermès 1.50m competition came to a peak in the \$150,000 Hermès CSI4* 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Final during the penultimate week WEF. From a field bursting with international talent, Alex Matz (USA) sealed the deal with longtime partner Cashew CR from a 15-horse jump-off with less than a half a second to spare. After a season of consistent placings, fellow American, Spencer Smith, claimed the Hermès 1.50m Championship Jumper Series overall title.

Fifty qualified entries moved forward to the Hermès Final during the KASK sponsored WEF 11 over courses designed by Andy Christiansen (ECU).

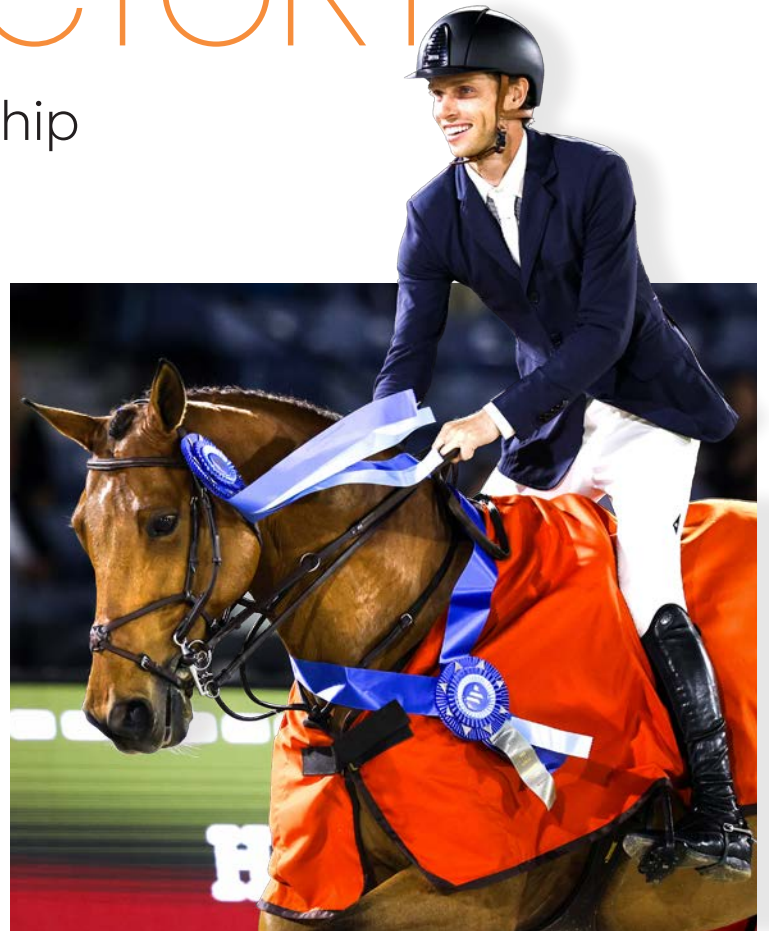
Matz and Cashew CR, a 17-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Cassini II x Quinar Z) owned by his mother, Dorothy A. Matz, raced down the last line of the short course to pip Ireland's Jordan Coyle riding For Gold, owned by Falkirk Farm. Matz stopped the clock at 35.31 seconds to Coyle's 35.68. Nayel Nassar (EGY) claimed third aboard Igor van de Wittemoere in 36.15 seconds.

Alex Matz, son of 1996 U.S. Olympic team silver

medalist Michael Matz, says every class on Cashew CR is a blessing.

"He is such a competitor and shows up at the biggest moments; he loves competing at night in front of a crowd," said Alex. "It's a testament primarily to him, but also to the team behind me that has him in such good shape.

"I saw Jordan Coyle go—he had a great round—and Nayel was behind me, but I knew that Cashew naturally has ground speed," continued Matz, 28. "If I rode my plan, I knew I had a chance, and it played out."





For the overall Hermès 1.50m title, Smith was awarded a \$10,000 Hermès store credit after most recently finishing atop the podium in third during the WEF 10 edition of the Hermès 1.50m Classic riding Tulara Colmine.

"Hermès is a great supporter of the sport and I'm very happy to be here," said Smith, who piloted several horses throughout the WEF season thanks to support from owners that include his family's Ashland Farms, Donald Stewart, Georgina Bloomberg and Dennis Sisco. "Twelve weeks is a lot of jumping and to be in it every week with a few big results is tough, so it's great to be consistent. The level [at WEF] was really elevated this season with amazing riders. It gets better and better every year, and this year we had most of the top 10 in the world."

"Alex is one of my best friends and I'm really happy to see him win the final tonight," concluded Smith.



FINAL 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES STANDINGS

1	SPENCER SMITH USA	260 PTS
2	NAYEL NASSAR EGY	248 PTS
3	MAX WACHMAN IRL	239 PTS
4	CIAN O'CONNER IRL	238 PTS
5	NICOLA PHILLIPPAERTS BEL	234 PTS
6	MARK BLUMAN COL	213 PTS
7	LUIS FERNANDO LARRAZABAL VEN	196 PTS
8	BETRAM ALLEN IRL	182 PTS
9	JORDAN COYLE IRL	182 PTS
10	PETER LUTZ USA	181 PTS



SHOP ROLEX SERIES EXCLUSIVE MERCHANDISE

AT THE WELLINGTON
INTERNATIONAL
SHOP



 Wellington
International
Shop

LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE BRAINJUICE TIKI HUT

Ringside Health

Urgent & Emergency Care

IV Hydration

Telemedicine across all 50 States

Primary Care Management

On site labs, pharmacy, and x-rays

Sick visits & injury assessments

Medication refills

Metabolic Weight Loss

Concierge Health

Health Care for Equestrians by Equestrians!



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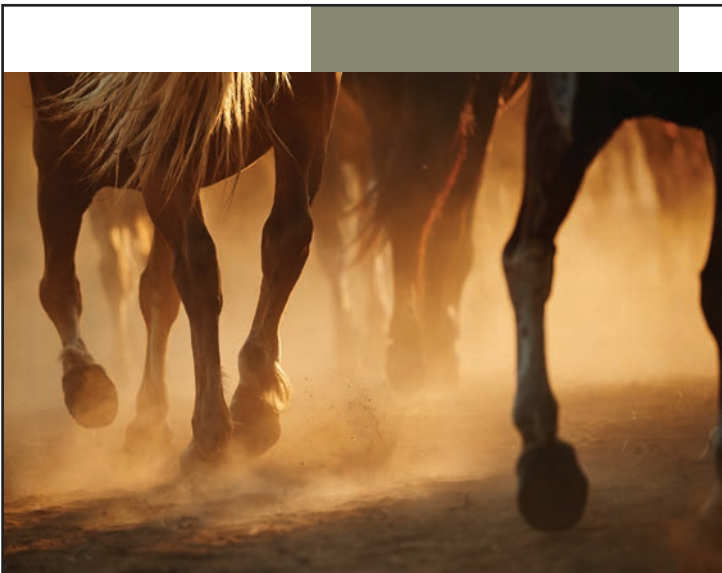
MARCH 29

6:00–7:30 P.M.

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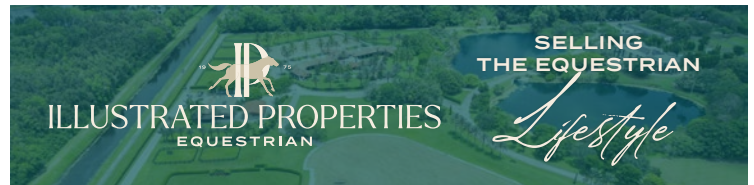
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OLIVIA SWEETNAM

Captures WEF Equitation Championship, Presented by Arion Sellier

Rising equitation stars took to the International Arena for the WEF Equitation Championship, presented by Arion Sellier, where all eyes were on junior riders as 40 qualified rising stars took to the big ring.

The win was earned by 16-year-old Wellington-based Olivia Sweetnam, who opened competition with a high-score of 95 in the first round. She coupled it with a 91.5 in the second round aboard Efendi for owner Ashland Farms. Following in the footsteps of her sister's 2024 runner-up finish, Baylee Rowan, 15, of Little Compton, RI, took

second on Quantum, owned by Missy Clark. Adriana Forte of Water Mill, NY, rounded out the top three riding Heritage Farm's Candescant.

"I am so proud of myself and my horse, and a bit relieved to be honest. I was very nervous going into this," said Sweetnam, who is trained by Ken and Emily Smith of Ashland Farms, and Danny Arendt of her family's Sweet Oak Farm. "I've been working on staying focused during important finals and championships, and I hope I can produce more results similar to this."

Andy Christiansen (USA) designed the equitation track, over which the top 12 were called back in reverse order for a second round. Four riders returned—without stirrups—for further testing: Sweetnam, Rowan, Forte and J.J. Torano, 14, of Wellington, FL, on Favorite Edition Z. Their test included showing off at a hand gallop, a trot fence, counter canter on both leads and halt after the last fence.

"I was nervous going into the final test because I felt like there was a lot of pressure on me," said



Sweetnam, who returned last in the test. "I'm not weak without stirrups, but I'm not the strongest either. I tried to focus on what was best for my horse and my plan and it all worked out."

The unique format of the WEF Equestrian Championship removes trainers and all outside help from the equation. Riders must walk the course, make their plan and warm up without the assistance of a trainer. Riders hand in their cell phones at the start and can only be assisted by one groom in the schooling area.

"I definitely relied on some of my peers throughout this class," admitted Olivia whose trainers were spectators on Thursday night. "It's a nice group of riders who are super positive and friendly. It's nice to have them in my corner, and I try my best to

be in their corners."

Diane Landreville and Jean Bonsall observed the warm-up for the first two rounds and awarded riders a score ranging from minus two to plus two points based on their time management, horsemanship and effectiveness in the schooling area. Those points were either added or subtracted from their overall score. Sweetnam earned both available points from the schooling ring judges.

Of her horse, Olivia concluded, "Afendi is super seasoned in the ring, which makes me feel like I can step into any class and win it. He stepped up to the occasion tonight. He's been under the lights a number of times, so I wasn't too worried about it. He jumped amazing, felt amazing and his quietness level was perfect; he gave me everything and more tonight."

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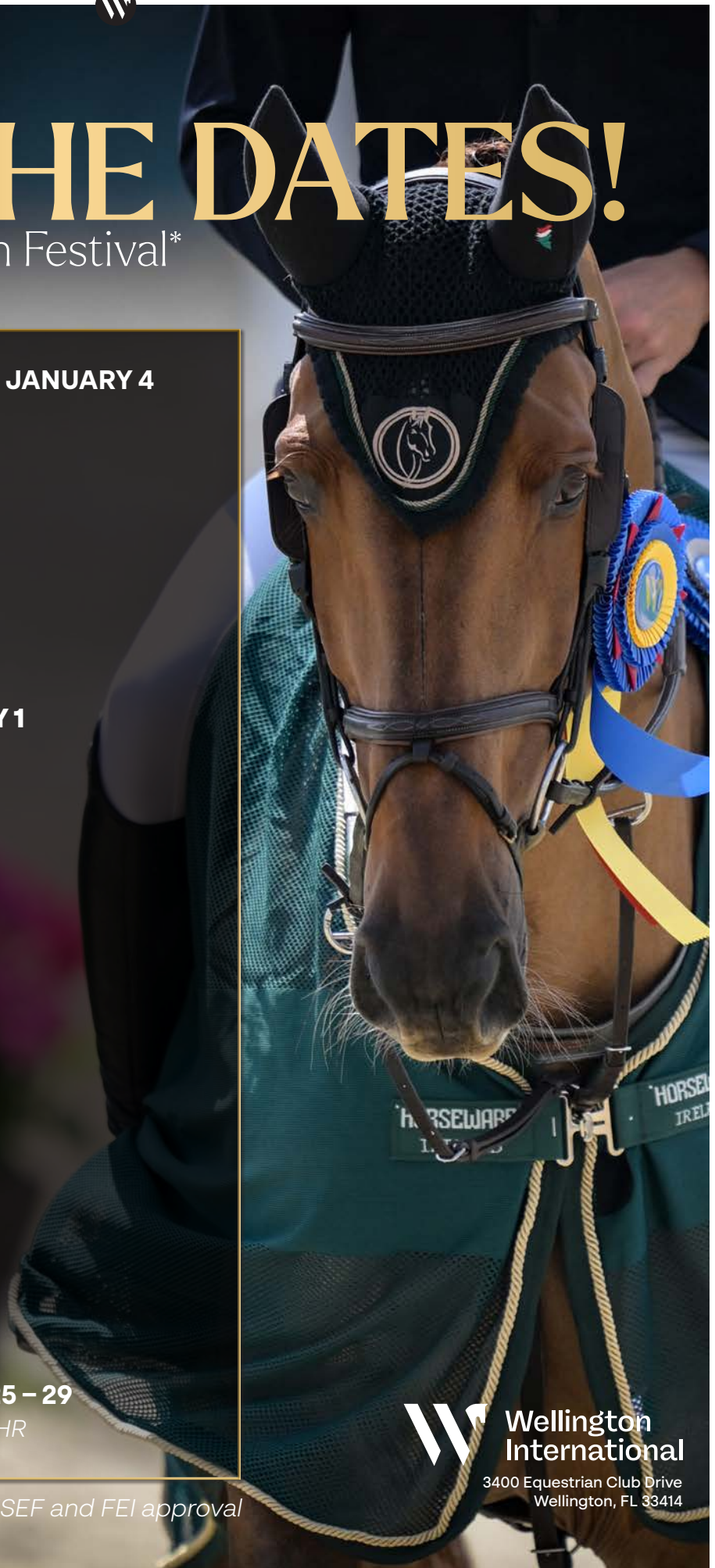
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