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McLain Ward's newest partner, Clinta, topped the \$382,800 Longines Masters Of New York Grand Prix at the inaugural Longines Masters Of New York.



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Clinta Clinches A Big Win At The Longines Masters Of New York

The latest addition to McLain Ward's stable proves herself in outstanding company.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MOLLIE BAILEY

Mclain Ward has long had a special way with mares, and the newest one to join his string has already proved she belongs. In just her third show under Ward's saddle, Clinta won the \$382,800 Longines Masters Of New York Grand Prix, the feature class of the Longines Masters Of New York that took place April 26-29.

"I've always had a lean toward mares; I like mares better to be honest," said Ward, Brewster, New York. "I like their personalities and quirks, and I've always been fond of them."

"Clinta is sensitive," Ward continued. "She looks like a bit of a diesel, but she's actually really sensitive. But the quality is there."

Clinta had a chance to show off that quality over Louis Konickx's big track, and she had outstanding competition on the way to her victory. Ten top European riders with two mounts apiece flew over especially for the five-star competition, which serves as one of the three legs of Christophe Ameeuw's EEM Longines Masters tour, with the other stops in Paris and Hong Kong. The U.S. leg enjoyed three editions on the West Coast then went on hiatus for 2017 before this year's revival, this time on the opposite coast at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, outside of New York City.

Ward and Clinta put in one of 14 clear goes out of the 30 starters over a track where rails fell all over the course, but the time didn't play much of a role. One especially dramatic moment came when Laura Kraut and Curious George both showed off incredible athletic ability and talent after they chipped at fence 3, a vertical, but managed to leave the delicate fence up. Kraut urged him



forward, and Curious George rose to the challenge, galloping up to the oxer four strides later and getting across it. They finished clear to qualify for the jump-off, claiming eventual 10th.

Pathfinders Erynn Ballard and Fantast set a tough pace no one else could touch until Ward, 12th to return, came in on the 11-year-old German-bred Oldenburg (Clinton—Last Flight, Lord Pezi). There the big-jumping mare showed off her allergy to wood as she made it through a hairy moment after turning back to a combination.

"I thought that was a good place to take a chance," said Ward of his tight turn. "She's so careful; she really doesn't want to hit the fences. I kind of felt like we squirreled over it. Somehow she got all four legs over it. I thought, 'OK, just stay on it and don't make a big mistake.' That horse really was there for me. That's what happens when you roll

back: The horse really has to make an extra effort, and she did.

"I didn't watch a few of the heavy hitters before me because I was pretty set on [my plan]," he continued. "It never comes off exactly the way you want, but like I said, the horse made a great effort, and it was my day. It's inches, you know, and I'll take it."

Sure enough, the final two riders Daniel Bluman (Bacara d'Archonfosse) and World No. 3 Peder Fredricson (Hansson WL), couldn't quite catch him. Fredricson came close, finishing around half a second behind Ward for the runner-up position, while Ballard took third.

Fredricson, who rides for Sweden, had no complaints about second place aboard the 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood (Hip Hop—Indra WL, Iowa). Like Ward he just paired up with his ride recently, with the Masters representing their sixth show together. Fredricson took over the ride on Hansson WL from fellow Swede Robin Ingvarsson at the start of the 2018 season, and this is their best five-star grand prix finish so far.

A "Two-Punch Combination"

Clinta spent her early years with British rider Daniel Neilson and was sold to Ukrainian Oleksandr Onyshchenko before German Philip Rüping took over the ride for Paul Schockemöhle.

"I saw her in Aachen last summer and fell in love with her and tried her right after," explained Ward, who just stepped up to sixth in the world rankings as of May 1. "It took me seven months to acquire her. I finally was able to purchase her with great support and a lot of effort this January, and I got her in late February. But it was a

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lot of determination. I think I called the previous owner every Tuesday, and I often got the answer, ‘No, there’s no deal.’ Finally one day, I got a deal. I believed in her, and people believed in me to support me with it. It’s great to see her showing all that I thought she could be.”

Ward showed the horse he co-owns with Sagamore Farms twice at the Winter Equestrian Festival (Florida), winning a national 1.50-meter class. She’ll stay stateside for the late spring season, heading to Old Salem Spring (New York) and Devon (Pennsylvania) before joining two of Ward’s other top mares—HH Azur and HH Callas (who won a speed class earlier in the week in Uniondale)—in Europe.

Despite Ward’s fondness for his new partner, his superhorse, HH Azur, is still very much No. 1 in the barn.

“Azur is the horse for [the FEI World Equestrian Games (North Carolina)],” he said. “She’s in the prime of her career, and she’s going brilliantly. I would think this year Clinta is a backup. But it’s really exciting to have two horses that could win at that level, and we have some really nice developing ones too. Having two that can win at that level, with this many events in the sport allows you to do more, and of course it’s better for the individual horses to have a backup. They last longer.

“[HH Azur and Clinta] are different horses,” he continued. “They’re both really good, and they both have a lot of blood. They complement each other really well, and it’s a hell of a two-punch combination.”

The Timing’s Finally Right For Ballard

Ballard also has a new partnership that’s been paying off with Fantast. Two of her three podium finishes at the Longines Masters Of New York came on the 13-year-old Belgian-bred Belgian Warmblood (Toulon—Candra van het Indihof, Rubens du Ri d’Asse) in just their second show together. And those podium finishes included a win in the \$100,000 Longines Masters Speed Challenge.

Early in the class, the horse owned by Sagamore Farms sliced the turns to take the lead, despite one rail tipping out of the cups to add 2 seconds to the



Swedish rider Peder Fredricson had a strong weekend, including a second-placed finish in the Longines Masters Of New York Grand Prix aboard Hansson WL.

\$382,800 LONGINES MASTERS OF NEW YORK CSI***** Uniondale, N.Y.—April 29

HORSE/RIDER/NATION	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Clinta/McLain Ward/USA	0-0	34.92	\$126,324
2. Hansson WL/Peder Fredricson/SWE	0-0	35.43	76,560
3. Fantast/Erynn Ballard/CAN	0-0	35.89	57,420
4. Vendome D'Anchat HDC/Kevin Staut/FRA	0-0	36.26	38,280
5. Cristalline/Adrienne Sternlicht/USA	0-0	38.35	22,968
6. S & L Sage/David Raposa/USA	0-0	39.21	17,226
7. Chalou/Emanuele Guadiano/ITA	0-4	36.04	11,484
8. Cornwall BH/Amanda Derbyshire/GBR	0-4	39.04	9,570
9. Chaventynto/Todd Minikus/USA	0-4	39.65	7,656
10. Curious George/Laura Kraut/USA	0-4	39.87	7,656
11. Cas 2/Harrie Smolders/NED	0-8	38.12	3,828
12. Bacara D'Archonfosse/Daniel Bluman/ISR	0-8	39.21	3,828
13. Aquila HDC/Patrice Delaveau/FRA	0-8	47.49	—
14. Darkos Promise/Alberto Michan/ISR	0-12	50.11	—

Also competed: 15. Rebeca LS/E. Levy/FRA, 4; 16. Cristallo A LM/P. Rozier/FRA, 4; 17. Dontez/S. Scheiring/USA, 4; 18. Viva Colombia/B. Goutal-Martreau/USA, 4; 19. Kahlua/A. Kocher/USA, 4; 20. HH Messenger/Q. Judge/USA, 4; 21. Coach/B. Madden/USA, 4; 22. Izmir Van De Baeyenne/J. Philips/SUI, 8; 23. Bull Run's Faustino De Tili/K. Vanderveen/USA, 8; 24. Cooper/D. Ryan/USA, 8; 25. H&M Forever D'Arco Ter Linden/O. Philippaerts/BEL, 8; 26. Iphigeneia De Muze/G. Wathélet/BEL, 8; 27. Manodie II H/G. Bloomberg/USA, 12; 28. Hester/L. Deslauriers/USA, 13; 29. Chicago Hof Eversem Z/M. Tromp/USA, 16; Waterford/L. Hough/USA, VW.

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time. Brianne Goutal-Marteau was the only rider to make it around the course without any jumping faults to take second with Fineman ahead of Kristen Vanderveen and Bull Run's Faustino de Tili.

Ballard was ecstatic to win her first Longines watch, a milestone on her quest to increase her footprint on the international scene. Her career in the main ring has been an upswing since she's started regularly throwing a leg over horses for Israeli dealer Ilan Ferder this winter. She's had international-quality mounts before—horses like Robin van Roosendael and Appy Cara—that have earned her a slots on Nations Cup teams for Canada, but this is the first time she's had several top grand prix jumpers in the barn at once, which, in her words, "changes everything."

That means the 37-year-old rider from Tottenham, Ontario, has been steadily climbing the Longines World Rankings. After starting this winter around No. 300 in the world, as of May she's leapfrogged up to 124, well ahead of her goal of 150. Her success also makes her the fifth-highest ranked Canadian at the moment.

Before this winter her No. 1 focus had been her family's training business, Looking Back Farm, with a full stable of hunter and jumper clients. But now with a strong assistant trainer in Katie Uloth in place, her father, international course designer David Ballard, lending a hand at home, and supportive clients eager to cheer for her through the computer screen, she's got the resources and support to keep the business going and think about her own riding career.

"Once you're somewhat established that's a lot to leave behind," said Erynn. "It's hard to say, 'I'm going to pack my suitcases and leave.' But I also said, 'If I turn 40, and I've never done anything but this business I'll be disappointed in myself.' Because I have a talent that's more than just running a business at home. So this winter it started that I would ride a few for [Ferder]. One got sold, and it snowballed into what we have here. It finally feels like the timing is right."

While Erynn's marked Spruce Meadows (Alberta) on her calendar in permanent marker and hasn't

Thanks to a partnership with Ilan Ferder, Erynn Ballard has been on the rise, scoring her latest win with Fantast in the \$100,000 Longines Speed Challenge at the Longines Masters Of New York.



\$100,000 LONGINES MASTERS SPEED CHALLENGE CSI***** Uniondale, N.Y.—April 27

HORSE/RIDER/NATION	TIME	PURSE
1. Fantast/Erynn Ballard/CAN	60.62	\$33,000
2. Fineman/Brianne Goutal-Marteau/USA	61.86	20,000
3. Bull Run's Faustino De Tili/Kristen Vanderveen/USA	62.04	15,000
4. H&M Zaloubet/Peder Fredricson/SWE	62.10	10,000
5. Esmee/Daniel Bluman/ISR	62.18	6,000
6. Vestale De Mazure HDC/Patrice Delaveau/FRA	62.60	4,500
7. HH Callas/McLain Ward/USA	63.28	3,000
8. Florida/Devin Ryan/USA	64.50	2,500
9. Rafale D'Hyverniere/Edward Levy/FRA	65.00	2,000
10. Paola 233/Georgina Bloomberg/USA	65.11	2,000
11. Quinta 106/Mattias Tromp/USA	65.82	1,000
12. Jiva/Beezie Madden/USA	66.62	1,000

Also competed: 13. Volage Du Val Henry/J. Springsteen/USA, 67.15; 14. Calinesse De Guldenboom/J. Philips/SUI, 67.36; 15. Glasgow De Muze/A. Michan/ISR, 67.54; 16. Kahlua/A. Kocher/USA, 67.97; 17. Reveur De Kergane/P. Rozier/FRA, 68.32; 18. Quality Girl/T. Minikus/USA, 69.93; 19. Einstein/E. Gaudiano/ITA, 72.22; 20. MJT Nevados S/G. Wathelot/BEL, 74.55; 21. Goofy Van T Laerhof/O. Philippaerts/BEL, 80.11; 22. Iliona/D. Raposa/USA, 82.03; 23. Lady Maria BH/A. Derbyshire/GBR, 90.58; Ayade De Septon Et HDC/K. Staut/FRA, VW.

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ruled out a trip to Europe to compete against the best in the world, she's still got one foot firmly—and happily—in the national-level scene. She's also headed to shows like Devon, Upperville Colt And Horse Show (Virginia), the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival (Michigan) and HITS Chicago.

“This dream has been 20 years in the making,” said Erynn. “I said to [former trainer Missy Clark] last night, ‘I don’t think I’ve been this famous since I won ASPCA Maclay Finals [in 1998].’”

Goetzmann Wins Big In Sam Edelman CSI**

Madison Goetzmann outrode a long list of seasoned international riders to take the top prize in the biggest two-star competition at the Longines Masters Of New York. Not bad for a 17-year-old.

Not that this is a new tact for the Skaneateles, New York, rider. She's been earning ribbons against the pros for a while now, and since she paired up with Prestigious 1 ½ years ago it's become a habit.

She and that 11-year-old Westphalian gelding (Con Centro—Iduna VI, Corofino) took their time getting to that level, starting in the 1.30-meter classes to build a solid partnership.

“When I first got him he was a little green,” she said. “He was 10 but didn’t have the most rideability. Probably five months after I had him I jumped my first 1.45-meter class [with him], and we’ve been staying that level and a bit higher. I did my first WEF Challenge Cup [at the Winter Equestrian Festival (Florida)], and we had a clear round.

“He’s been such an amazing horse for me,” she continued. “I’ve learned so much, and by now our partnership is quite strong. He’s a horse I hope to keep moving up on to higher fences.”

At the Longines Masters Goetzmann was one of seven to jump off in the \$35,000 Sam Edelman Grand Prix CSI**, and she left a stride out of the last line and hugged the turns to take the top check over Mario Deslauriers (Bardolina 2).

Goetzmann trains her jumpers with John and Bezie Madden, and the 2017 ASPCA Maclay Finals winner trains with Stacia Madden and the Beacon Hill Farm team in the equitation.

17-year-old Madison Goetzmann outrode the pros to take the top spot in the biggest two-star class of the weekend, winning the \$35,000 Sam Edelman Grand Prix at the Longines Masters Of New York.



“One thing that’s helped me with this horse is to stay smooth and poised,” said Goetzmann. “If you get rough it doesn’t go well. He tends to make a little bid before the fence. John and Bezie remind me to stay confident and ride every round like you’re trying to have a clear.”

For John, who’s been training Goetzmann for about four years, what stands out about his student isn’t just her talent in the saddle but her perspective on the sport.

“Yes, she’s maturing as a rider, which is natural, but she’s taking her whole education with the horses very seriously,” he said. “She really has and is putting in a lot of work not just on the horse, but learning about the sport and the business. Her family is fantastically supportive, but she’s not in a position to have a huge string of horses. I hope we can be helpful in teaching her about the sport as a whole, and that other people recognize that and her talent and help give her opportunities.” 🐾

\$35,000 SAM EDELMAN GRAND PRIX CSI** Uniondale, N.Y.—April 29

HORSE/RIDER/NATION	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Prestigious/ Madison Goetzmann/USA	0-0	35.55	11,550
2. Bardolina 2/Mario Deslauriers/CAN	0-0	35.70	7,000
3. Tizimin LS/Megan McDermott/USA	0-4	35.42	5,250
4. Sweet Tricia/Mavis Spencer/USA	0-4	37.28	3,500
5. Darlon Van Groenhove/ Clementine Goutal/ USA	0-4	38.04	2,100
6. Loughnavatta Indigo/Jonathan Corrigan/IRL	0-8	34.72	1,575
7. The Puglist/Bretton Chad/CAN	0-12	61.85	1,050

25 horses competed.

▶ *Want more photos and stories from the Longines Masters Of New York, as well as an in-depth interview with World No. 1 Harrie Smolders? Visit chronofhorse.com/keyword/2018-longines-masters-of-new-york*

► Tidbits

► Team Europe won the second edition of the **RIDERS MASTERS CUP**, a team competition designed to pit one U.S. rider directly against a European one in each of five rounds. In Round 1 the better round of the two competitors earns a point for their team, and in Round 2 the stakes went up, with 2 points per win up for grabs. In the end the competition came down to the final pair of riders, and **HARRIE SMOLDERS** clinched the win for Team Europe with a speedy clear on **CAS 2**.

Fans, riders and U.S. Senior Chef d'Equipe **ROBERT RIDLAND** praised the team format as easy to understand—in contrast to, say, the Global Champions League team competition, which has a complicated scoring system confusing to many show jumping aficionados.

“We went down to the wire in [Longines Masters Of Paris]; we went down to the wire again tonight,” said Ridland. “That final duel was really one for the ages. We put up one hell of a fight and a great second half comeback. I think everybody got their money’s worth tonight. We’ll be back again. It’s a great format.”

► Even though **CATHERINE WACHTELL** just stepped up to the 1.45-meter level this season, she’s already getting good results. And in Uniondale she and **INDY VAN DE ROTEN** topped the \$25,000 EEM Under-25 Grand Prix.

“She’s been a very good babysitter, and she’s very forgiving,” said Wachtell, Long Valley, New Jersey. “She’s a lot of horse, so it’s been an adjustment for me. She’s so different from any other horse I’ve ridden—10 times the horse I’ve ever had.”

Wachtell credits much of her success this season to her trainer, Todd Minikus.

“I’ve only been with Todd for a year and a half, but since I’ve been with him my riding has improved tenfold,” said the 23-year-old. “There’s a 14-year-old boy at the barn now, and I think, ‘Man, if I got all this information I’m learning now when I was 14 I’d be really good!’”



Catherine Wachtell scored her biggest win to date, topping the \$25,000 EEM Under-25 Grand Prix with Indy van de Roten at the Longines Masters Of New York.

Wachtell is enjoying a gap year after graduating from Georgetown University (District of Columbia), and she’ll head to Fordham University School Of Law (New York) in August.

► Belgium’s **GREGORY WATHELET** went home with a big check after riding **IPHIGENEIA DE MUZE** to the top of the \$60,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.50 Masters One Trophy.

That Belgian-bred Belgian Warmblood mare (Erco van t Roosakker—Exellentia de Muze, For Pleasure) is a relatively green 10-year-old. Though she and Wathelet paired up three years ago, it took a while to find the key to keeping her fit and happy. Stress at shows caused the big mare to drop weight and develop ulcers. Once

Wathelet figured out how to keep her relaxed, healthy and happy, she managed to pick up a small injury that kept her out of the ring for a few months again.

Lately she’s been collecting more and more ribbons. After she had a single pole down in the feature event of the Longines Masters Of Paris, Wathelet decided to try his luck at the second leg of the tour in Uniondale as it’s set in a similar venue.

“In the past few months we’ve found the right balance,” said Wathelet, 37. “But it took time. Now she just keeps getting better.”

► **DEVIN RYAN** and **FLORIDA** topped the \$20,000 Lamborghini Masters Power Six Bar. The catty mare was the only horse in the class to clear 1.80 meters (almost 5’11”).

“I decided I was going to do [the class] for the spectators,” said Ryan, 36. “She’s a really careful mare, and it’s always good for a horse to go in a ring and do something a little different. It was just like doing a gymnastic at home. I don’t normally jump this high at home, but if the horse can do it, it can do it. She’s super easy to deal with, but when she puts her eye on a jump she turns into a spitfire, and she lights up.”