



The Past Met the Present and Future at the 60th Anniversary of the Washington International Horse Show

By Molly Sorge/Jump Media

The Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) has become a much-beloved fixture on the U.S. show circuit with its unique big-city setting, enthusiastic crowds, and rich history. This year's edition marked the 60th anniversary of the show, set in the heart of the nation's capital of Washington, D.C., at the Capital One Arena, and that week of October 23-28 highlighted just what makes WIHS so special for so many.

Even as the best of today's hunter/jumper sport competed for coveted prizes, the competitors who made WIHS history were remembered in special anniversary exhibits on the concourse in a unique juxtaposition of present and past. You could learn about a 1965 hunter champion on the way into the building, then sit down and watch a 2018 champion perform. Legendary horseman and individual Olympic gold medalist Joe Fargis, who sold programs for \$1 at one of the first WIHS shows as a child and later won the grand prix there, was inducted into the WIHS Hall of Fame.



Joe Fargis by Shawn McMillen Photography



Beezie Madden and Breitling LS by Shawn McMillen

Combining top sport with engaging entertainment and community involvement has become a hallmark of WIHS and this year was no different. Australian horseman Guy McLean captivated the crowds with his remarkable horsemanship, while the pint-sized racers and jockeys of the WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Series, presented by Charles Owen, provided thrills and laughs. Events like Barn Night and Kids' Day welcomed local fans to get involved with the show and the horses in unique ways.

The Future Is Bright

Beezie Madden has certainly established herself as a star of show jumping today, with two Olympic team gold medals, team and individual silver and bronze from the FEI World Equestrian Games and an FEI Jumping World Cup Final win (with Breitling LS in 2018). It's no surprise that she added the \$135,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington, presented by Events DC, with Abigail Wexner's Breitling LS to her list of accomplishments on Saturday night of WIHS.

But the future of show jumping was chasing Madden this year, as young riders Katie Dinan and Lucy Davis placed second and third in the grand prix. "Beside [trainer Beat Mändli], I don't think there's anyone else in the world I'd rather be second to besides Beezie," Dinan, 25, said. "She's been a longtime idol of mine and Lucy is one of my oldest and best friends in the sport, so to have the three of us here is a great night."

Dinan rode Grant Road Partners LLC's Dougie Douglas to second place, while Davis, 26, captured third riding Old Oak Farm's Caracho 14. Four horses of the original 24-horse field qualified for the jump-off over Olaf Petersen, Jr.'s course, but Madden and Breitling LS stopped the jump-off clock more than two seconds faster than the others. "It shows why he was good at the [2018 Longines FEI World Cup Final];



Catherine Tyree and Bokai by Shawn McMillen

he walked right in here and was clever, rideable, adjustable, careful, and he can handle tight spaces like this," Madden said.

For her victory, Madden accepted The President of the United States Perpetual Cup, donated by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. Additionally, she collected The Margaret Chovnick Memorial Trophy as winner of the \$10,000 Leading International Rider Award, sponsored by Robin Parsky, and the Leading Lady Rider Award, sponsored by The Linden Group at Morgan Stanley. Breitling's owner, Abigail Wexner, was presented with Leading Jumper Owner Award, sponsored by The Reid Family.

Young riders were on fire in the international jumper classes at WIHS, with Brian Moggre, 17, dressing up in a costume from "Grease" to ride Major Wager LLC's MTM Flutterby to the blue in the \$35,000 International Jumper Accumulator

Costume Class. Catherine Tyree, 24, was second in that class and also won the \$40,000 International Jumper Welcome Stake aboard Mary Tyree's Bokai. For her remarkable week, Tyree was awarded the Juliet Weber Reid Trophy as winner of the \$10,000 Leading Under 25 Rider presented by Sleepy P Ranch

Daring To Win

Earlier on Saturday evening, Elli Yeager, 16, claimed the coveted Lindsay Maxwell Charitable Fund WIHS Equitation Finals riding Copperfield 39. Yeager earned the highest cumulative score over three phases of competition: a hunter phase held on Friday, a jumper phase held on Saturday afternoon, and a final work-off held during Saturday night's featured session. She and Coco Fath had identical scores heading into the work-off and traded horses for the final round, with Fath taking over the ride aboard Copperfield 39, and Yeager taking the reins on Fath's mount, equitation championship veteran Class Action, who won the Finals in 2008 with Katherine Newman.

Opting for a daring inside turn in the work-off paid off for Yeager, who executed the turn flawlessly, and earned her the 2018 WIHS Equitation Finals victory. For the win, Yeager was presented with the WIHS Equitation Classic Trophy, donated by Mr. & Mrs. G. Ralph Ours, III, and, as the winning horse, Copperfield 39 was awarded the Lugano Memorial Trophy, donated by Stoney Hill.

"This is my favorite horse show, and it went better than I ever could have imagined!" said Yeager, who trains with Stacia Madden at Beacon Hill Show Stables. "I didn't think this was ever going to happen to be honest – especially just being 16. But it happened, and I'm just elated that it happened here at my favorite horse show with my favorite horse who is the best partner that I could ask for."



Elli Yeager and Copperfield 39 by Shawn McMillen



McLain Ward, Laura Kraut, Adrienne Sternlicht, Robert Ridland, Beezie Madden, and Devin Ryan by Shawn McMillen Photography

Just after Yeager added another step on her path to the top of the sport as a young rider, a ceremony honoring the gold-medal U.S. team from the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon in September took place. Team members McLain Ward, Laura Kraut, Adrienne Sternlicht, and Devin Ryan stepped into the ring with Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland and team alternate Beezie Madden to much applause. Ward himself won the WIHS Equitation Finals in 1991, showing how the class helps cultivate future champions and the threads that link the future of the sport to the present.

Nice Surprises

The theme of the future of the sport nipping at the heels of the present stars continued in the hunter competition at WIHS. Tessa Downey, 13, traveled all the way from Houston, TX, and rode her own Anisette to capture the Grand Pony Hunter Championship and Best Child Rider on a Pony titles while veteran pro trainer Hunt Tosh captured the Grand Hunter Championship aboard Ceil Wheeler's Bastogne.



Ashley Vogel and Legacy by Shawn McMillen



Tessa Downey and Anisette by Shawn McMillen Photography





Lindsay Maxwell and Belgravia by Shawn McMillen

"I grew up watching Maddie Schaefer and everyone who is now in the big eq win this trophy, and I'm just super excited," said Downey. "We came here just with our goal being to jog in every class. We just wanted to be consistent. Then this happens, and we're over the moon!"

Ashley Vogel of Mequon, WI, claimed the Grand Junior



Hunter Championship and Best Child Rider on a Horse honors with her Legacy. "It's pretty incredible," said Vogel, 17. "I wasn't expecting it at all, so it was a really nice surprise. This is my favorite horse show, and I was hoping for some good rounds – the same as last year. We had some good ribbons last year but not like this. It's pretty incredible. I'm still in awe."

Hunt Tosh and Bastogne by Shawn McMillen

Meanwhile, in the amateur-owner hunter divisions, Lindsay Maxwell of Beverly Hills, CA, took Grand Champion honors in the 3'3" section on Belgravia while Becky Gochman of Palm Beach, FL, claimed the Grand Championship in the 3'6" section with Catch Me. "It's incredible to be able to show horses in a venue like this – in a city center, to have people who have never seen or smelled or touched horses, to be able to just pop in here and watch an event like this. There aren't a lot of shows that can attract such a big crowd and introduce people to the sport in this sort of way," said Maxwell.

Making Memories

But blue ribbons aren't the only treasured memory from WIHS—fans of the sport got to create memorable moments of their own during events like Barn Night, Military Night and Kids' Day.

Local equestrians come out in force for Barn Night, joining forces in large groups to compete in various competitions for prizes recognizing the theme of "Riding Through The Decades." The Iron Bridge Hounds Pony Club's creative video earned them a 2019 clinic with top equitation trainer Stacia Klein Madden, thanks to BarnManager. Other groups won a golf cart, Dover Saddlery gift certificates, and more. The hospitality event that same evening was the Buck Breast Cancer Benefit, which provided donations to the Capital Breast Care Center.

And Military Night, presented by Caterpillar, Inc., saw a horse from the Baltimore Police Mounted Unit, Big D, receive the annual Klinger Perpetual Award for Honor and Service, presented by EQUUS Foundation and the Stephens Family. The WIHS official military charity is Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), and during the \$50,000 International Jumper Speed Final, each time a rider cleared the TAPS jump, a donation was made to the program. In addition, the Armed Forces Reception held during Military Night benefitted TAPS.

Children took over WIHS on Saturday as Kids' Day, a free and family-friendly event, welcomed local families to Capital One Arena for hands-on educational and fun activities. Children took advantage of face painting, a coloring station, pony rides, the Discovery Communications Horseless Horse Show, pony brushing lessons, and more.

WIHS thanks its dedicated sponsors, supporters and fans for making the 60th year successful and special in bringing the past, present and future of the sport together in the heart of the nation's capital. The 61st Washington International Horse Show returns on October 22-27, 2019, at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C.! For more information, visit www.wihs.org.