



[LEFT] Matthew Metell and Donchalant made a speedy track to take the win. [RIGHT] Placing in third was Jimmy Torano and Sans Soucis Z.

# Vermont Summer Festival Concludes

*With a Third Grand Prix Win for Matthew Metell and Donchalant*

MATTHEW METELL OF WELLINGTON, FL, returned to southern Vermont to win the \$50,000 Vermont Summer Celebration Grand Prix on Saturday, August 12, during the final week of competition at the six-week Vermont Summer Festival at Harold Beebe Farm in East Dorset, VT.

Course designer Gerry Briggs of Smyrna, TN, saw five horses jump clear over his first-round track to qualify for the jump-off. Metell was the only rider to produce a double-clear performance in a time of 42.77 seconds riding Donchalant, a nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Wolver Hollow.

David Jennings of Franklin, TN, jumped clear but incurred three time faults riding Aventador for a second place finish. Jimmy Torano of Wellington, FL, rode three mounts in the Grand Prix, placing third with a score of four faults in a time of 46.32 seconds with Sans Soucis Z.

The win marked Metell's third grand prix victory at the 2017 Vermont Summer Festival. The 27-year-old earned the first grand prix victory of his career in the \$30,000 Vermont Summer Special Grand Prix during week one, followed by another win in the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix during week two.

"She went so well here earlier in the season, I wanted to come back and take a shot at the big grand prix," said

Metell, who gave Donchalant some time off and made an appearance in Saugerties, NY, before returning to the Vermont Summer Festival. "Last weekend, I over-rode her in the grand prix in Saugerties, so today I told myself to trust her everywhere. I made a mistake or two in the first round today and she really helped me out. She knows her job so well!"

In addition, the Vermont Summer Festival presented Metell's groom, Armando Valenzuela, with the weekly Grand Prix Groom Award in recognition of his hard work to prepare Donchalant for grand prix competition. **E**

PHOTOS: TERISE COLE

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