

Washington

★ INTERNATIONAL ★

Horse Show

Shines in the City

By Lauren Fisher



© Shawn McMillen

For one week each October, the Penn Quarter neighborhood around Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., transforms into a festival of horses. Streets close for stabling and community events, and pedestrians and vehicles make way for hundreds of horses to compete at the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS), one of the most prestigious and engaging equestrian events in the country, and a D.C. tradition since 1958.

In October, WIHS wrapped its 58th year with one of the most successful events in its history. The show hosted business, military, and diplomatic leaders, local and military charities, community events, and more than 26,000 fans of all ages, making it one of the largest indoor equestrian events in the United States.

President's Cup Night: Celebrating Equestrian Stars

On Saturday night, WIHS celebrated the best horses and riders in the world. Saturday night's \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC, brought out a star-studded lineup of top international show jumpers to take on the biggest jumps and most challenging course of the week. The competition also awarded the famed President of the United States Perpetual Cup, donated to the show by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961.

U.S. show jumpers Lauren Hough, Laura Kraut and Kent Farrington finished in the top three following a thrilling jump-off, with Hough and Ohlala taking the victory, Kraut and Confu, second, and Farrington aboard Creedance, third.

Course designer Alan Wade (IRL) saw 28 starters over his first-round course, with seven advancing to the jump-off and two double clear rounds in the race against the clock. Carrying on their winning momentum from Thursday's \$35,000 International Jumper Welcome Stake, presented by CMJ Sporthorse, Hough and Ohlala earned another exciting victory.

"She was incredible the whole week," said Hough of the 12-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare (Orlando x Cardento) owned by The Ohlala Group. "Thursday was a really nice warm-up for her. All the stars were lined up for me this week, so I'm thrilled."

Junior Riders Shine in WIHS Equitation Finals

Champions of tomorrow are often found in the ranks of the WIHS Equitation Finals. This prestigious year-end championship for junior riders is a touchstone for future international equestrian stars.

Forty of the nation's top junior riders qualified to compete in this year's championship, which is held over three phases of competition. Riders jumped a hunter course on Friday, a jumper course on Saturday afternoon, with the top 10 returning Saturday night for a final work-off where they switched horses and jumped the same course one more time.

It was Hunter Holloway, 18, of Topeka, Kan., who led through the three phases to win this year's WIHS Equitation Finals. Madison Goetzmann finished second and Lucy Deslauriers, third.

George Morris, one of four judges with Rob Bielefeld, Kitty Barker and Danny Robertshaw, remarked on the class and Holloway's winning characteristics.

"It was excellent. I was very honored to be asked to judge," said Morris. "At the top of these finals, it is always incredible (to see the rider) position, the use of aids, and the execution. It is very important when you are judging to judge what you see and be as objective as possible. Hunter's basics are so correct. The top ten were wonderful, but she won the class."

Special Team USA Recognition

WIHS saluted Team USA for its outstanding performance at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, winning medals in all three equestrian disciplines—individual bronze in Eventing, team bronze in Dressage, and team silver in jumping.

A special ceremony was also held to induct equestrian legend Frank

Lauren Hough and Ohlala, winners of the \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography



2016 WIHS Equitation Finals winner Hunter Holloway and Any Given Sunday with trainer Don Stewart. Photo by Alden Corrigan Media



Beezie Madden, McLain Ward, Laura Kraut, Kent Farrington, and U.S. Show Jumping Team chef d'equipe Robert Ridland in a special ceremony honoring the 2016 Olympians. Photo by Alden Corrigan Media

Chapot into the WIHS Hall of Fame. Chapot, who passed away in June at age 84, leaves an enduring legacy of horsemanship and patriotism in the sport of show jumping. His relationship with WIHS spanned its 58-year history, as he was the first rider to win the grand prix (prior to it becoming the President's Cup in 1961) in 1958, then went on to win it again in 1965. The Olympic medalist, rider, chef d'equipe, trainer and breeder of champions became the 12th inductee into the WIHS Hall of Fame.

Military Night: Honor, Power and Speed

Friday's Military Night, presented by The Boeing Company, was all about power and speed. The \$25,000 Puissance high jump competition, presented by The Boeing Company, is a WIHS fan favorite as horses and riders take on the great wall in an extraordinary display of power and courage. Six horses and riders attempted the impressive wall this year, and USA's McLain Ward and Aaron Vale tied for first place jumping clear for five rounds to a height of 7'.

Vale rode *Thinks Like a Horse* and Don Stewart's *Finou 4*, and McLain Ward was aboard his own *ZZ Top v/h Schaarbroek Z*. They are two veterans of Puissance competition, with Ward having won this class seven times, and Vale twice.

Friday's \$50,000 GE International Speed Final was won by Amanda Derbyshire (GBR) riding David Gochman's *Luibanta BH*. The pair was first to go, and cleared Alan Wade's (IRL) speed course in a time of 54.72 seconds that held on through 21 rounds for the win over McLain Ward (USA) and his own *Malou*, and Jessica Springsteen (USA) aboard the always speedy *Stone Hill Farm's Davendy S*.



Aaron Vale riding *Finou 4*, and McLain Ward aboard *ZZ Top v/h Schaarbroek Z*, tied for first place in the \$25,000 International Jumper Puissance, presented by The Boeing Company. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Barn Night: Costumes, Contests and Camaraderie

Held on Thursday, WIHS Barn Night, presented by Dover Saddlery with the generous support of The Peterson Family Foundation and National Harbor, is a favorite with young riders and horse lovers of all ages who attend in groups and have a chance to enter contests, win big prizes, and enjoy a fun, horse-filled evening. Almost two thousand children representing 64 regional barns and groups were among the spectators watching the \$35,000 International Jumper Accumulator Costume class presented by The Gochman Family, with riders and horses decked out in Halloween attire.

Laura Kraut (dressed as Little Red Riding Hood) and *Stars and Stripes' Andretti S* won the competition. The pair cleared the course and the high side of the joker fence for a 65-point total in the fastest time of 44.47 seconds.

Also on a perfect score of 65 riding Eagle Valley Partners LLC's *Ciana*, Andrew Kocher (USA) finished fourth with a time of 51.63 seconds, but won the Best Costume Award, presented by Equestrian Sport Productions, for their impressive clown attire.

Laura Kraut (dressed as Little Red Riding Hood) and *Andretti S* topped the \$35,000 International Jumper Accumulator costume class, presented by The Gochman Family. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography





Internet sensations Dally and Spanky perform with owner Francesca Carson. Photo by Alden Corrigan Media

The wildly popular WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Series, presented by Charles Owen, brought down the house again this year. Additional activities included autograph signings with top riders, a scavenger hunt, a tee-shirt toss plus a visit from Major, the WIHS Mascot, and internet sensations Dally and Spanky.

Hunter Competition

Scott Stewart, of Wellington, Fla., earned the WIHS Leading Hunter Rider title at this year's WIHS after winning both the WIHS Grand Hunter Championship and WIHS Grand Green Working Hunter Championship aboard David Gochman's Catch Me. Gochman was also presented an award as the Leading Hunter Owner. Stewart earned a \$5,000 bonus for the Leading Hunter Rider Award, sponsored by Dr. Betsee Parker. It was fittingly renamed this year as The Scott Stewart Leading Hunter Rider Award, for Stewart who has earned the title nine times now in his great career.

Custom Made and Shaw Johnson Price earned the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" Grand Championship, and Carma and Virginia Fout won the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" Grand Championship. Price and Fout were also named Leading Amateur-Owner Hunter Riders in their respective divisions.

In the Junior Hunters, Annabel Revers and Beechwood Stables' MTM Hands Down earned the Grand Championship sponsored by Shamrock Ventures, and Revers was named Best Child Rider on a Horse, sponsored by Gotham North.



Grand Hunter Champion Catch Me with Leading Hunter Rider Scott Stewart. Photo by Alden Corrigan Media



Custom Made and Shaw Johnson Price earned the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'6" Grand Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Sophie Gochman and Storyteller came out on top in the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals. Last year it was Sophie's sister, Mimi, who rode Storyteller to win the same class. Storyteller also won the 2016 Grand Pony Hunter Championship with Mimi this year. Emily Aitken was named 2016 Best Child Rider on a Pony.

WIHS Children's and Adult Championships

Riders earning the most points in WIHS Championship classes held throughout the country earned a place in the WIHS Finals at Verizon Center where the ultimate champions were determined. The winner of



Mimi and Sophie Gochman say goodbye to their pony careers and Storyteller. Photo by Jump Media



Rollingwoods Knee Deep & Alexa Lignelli. Photo by Alden Corrigan Media

the \$10,000 WIHS Children's Hunter Championship was Chapman, owned and ridden by Kathryn Crenshaw. The \$10,000 WIHS Adult Hunter Championship was won by Contina, owned and ridden by Jacquelyn Maggiore.

Top honors in the \$10,000 WIHS Children's Jumper Championship, presented by The Klein Family & Lance Williamson Stables, went to Sarah Boston riding her own Herminas. Dean Dignelli and Heritage Farm, Inc.'s Redefin won the \$10,000 WIHS Adult Jumper Championship, presented by The Treacy Family.



Kathryn Crenshaw and Chapman won the \$10,000 WIHS Children's Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

The Winner's Circle

When all the numbers were tallied, WIHS presented 20 division championships, 75 trophies, 1,200 ribbons, 53 embroidered championship coolers from The Clothes Horse and more than half a million dollars in prize money and rider bonuses.

WIHS thanks its dedicated sponsors, supporters and fans for making the 58th year successful and special in the heart of the nation's capital. The 59th Annual Washington International Horse Show returns on October 24-29, 2017, at Verizon Center in Washington, DC!

For more information, visit www.wihs.org.