



Top Sport Converges

BY LINDSAY BROCK/JUMP MEDIA

IN THE HEART OF WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR ACCLAIMED
WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

As the race for FEI world ranking points continues in preparation for the 2018 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final in Paris, France, the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) will host its 59th annual competition in the U.S. capital of Washington, D.C., this fall. Highlighting North American League competition, WIHS was added to the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League during its inaugural year in 2015. Since then, it has attracted top North American riders, as well as show jumping talent from around the world, to the heart of the U.S. capital city.

One of seven East Coast qualifying events, WIHS returns October 24–29, 2017. The \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington CSI4*-W, presented by Events DC, will be the feature event of WIHS on Saturday evening, October 28. The grand prix will award the show's most prestigious prize, the President of the United States Perpetual Cup, a trophy given to the show in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

With impressive prize money, prestige, and an unmatched rider experience, WIHS attracts an extraordinary roster of international show jumping competitors. In 2016, the list included members of the U. S. Olympic silver medal show jumping team fresh from the Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, including top-ranked U.S. riders Beezie Madden, Kent Farrington, Laura Kraut, and McLain Ward.

"Each year, the show seems to get better and better by drawing the very top-ranked U.S. riders," said WIHS President Victoria Lowell. "WIHS is such a unique and historic show, and we work hard to make it special to competitors by celebrating all riders, but most notably Team USA, in the nation's capital."

In addition to North American talent, WIHS is also a prime qualifying location for international riders. In 2016 there were riders from five visiting nations, which included Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, and Russia. International riders like Harrie Smolders of The



U.S. Olympic team gold medalist McLain Ward and ZZ Top vh Schaarbroek Z topping the \$25,000 International Jumper Puissance, presented by The Boeing Company.

© Shawn McMullen '16



Four-time U.S. Olympic medalist Beezie Madden and Quister competing at the Washington International Horse Show.

Netherlands often earn valuable FEI World Cup™ points at WIHS. Smolders was the winner of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington CSI4*-W, presented by Events DC, aboard Emerald in 2015.

Belgian Olympic rider Nicola Philippaerts is also often spotted competing at WIHS. He noted, "The show is very nice for Americans as well as international riders. The best U.S. riders always compete at WIHS, so there is always great sport for the public and horse sport fans.

"I think the equestrian sport is going very global, so for me, it is important to compete in the USA," continued Philippaerts. "The date of the show fits perfectly into my program, and I think the atmosphere is so great. Personally, the experience is special for me because everything takes place right in the middle of the city."



U.S. Olympian Lauren Hough and Ohlala on their way to winning the 2016 \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington, presented by Events DC.

In addition to grand prix competition, a full schedule of international show jumping is featured each year at WIHS, including a \$35,000 Welcome Stake, a \$50,000 Speed Final, and a fan-favorite \$25,000 International Jumper Puissance, presented by The Boeing Company.

Prize money awarded during WIHS eclipsed a half million dollars last year and includes coveted cash bonuses for leading riders. In 2017, WIHS will again award \$10,000 to the Leading International Jumper Rider, as well as a \$10,000 bonus and the Juliet Weber Reid Trophy, presented by Sleepy P Ranch, to the Leading International Jumper Rider 25 years of age or under.

Thanks in part to prize money, innovative competition, and a setting like no other, WIHS has captured the hearts of show jumping riders from both the U.S. and abroad. As one

of the few events located in the middle of an urban setting with a bustling city as their host, WIHS offers a special atmosphere for the Longines FEI World Cup™ competition and engages the local communities to explore, and perhaps fall in love with, horse sport at its finest.

The 59th annual Washington International Horse Show returns October 24–29, 2017, at Verizon Center in downtown Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.wihs.org.

ABOUT THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious and entertaining equestrian events, attracting more than 26,000 spectators annually to Washington, D.C., for Olympic-level competition plus community and charity events. More than 500 top horses and riders arrive from all over the globe to jump for more than a half million dollars in prize money. Highlights include the \$130,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Washington for the President's Cup, presented by Events DC; the \$25,000 Puissance High Jump and \$50,000 Speed Final on Military Night; and Kids' Day, a free, fun, and educational community event. WIHS, an official USEF Heritage Competition, is rated CSI4*-W by the Fédération Equestre Internationale, the world governing body for horse sports. The Washington International Horse Show Association, Ltd. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization based in Washington, D.C.



Lauren Hough was named the \$10,000 Leading International Jumper Rider Award winner in 2016.

