



HITS Culpeper Showday National

Finishes Successful Week of Competition

HUNTER, JUMPER, AND equitation riders returned to HITS Commonwealth Park in the heart of Virginia's Horse Country for the HITS Culpeper Showday National, which featured over 400 classes, including the \$20,000 Ulcergard Open Prix and qualifiers for the Marshall & Sterling Insurance League Finals and the HITS Championship.

A successful week in the Grand Prix Ring ended with the \$20,000 Ulcergard Open Prix. Three riders returned to

the jump-off, all in hopes of securing top honors in the featured class of the Showday National. All riders completed the shortened course with four-fault scores, meaning the standings would be determined by who was the fastest. Jennifer Brennan and Mac soared to a first place finish in a time of 41.938. Following Brennan, in second place was Ashley Foster and Luminous in a time of 44.252. Brian Murphy rounded out the top three in a time of 49.212 aboard Mimmo T.Z. Not returning to the jump-off but rounding out

Jennifer Brennan and Mac soared to a first place finish in the \$20,000 Ulcergard Open Prix.

the top five was Gavin Moylan and Don Fernantes Z in fourth and Sarah Hubbard and Latino Van De Looise Heide in fifth.

In the Hunter Rings, Moylan and String Of Pearls were victorious in the \$1,500 Devoucoux Hunter Prix with scores of 87 and 84, for a two round total of 171. In second place, with a combined score of 169, was Riley Hogan and Ronaldo, scoring an 83 in round one and 86 in round two. Foster and Summerlin were awarded third place with scores of 79 in round one and 87 in round two, for an overall score of 166.

Junior and amateur riders competed in the \$1,000 Platinum Performance Hunter Prix. Lydia Davidson and Park Avenue secured first place with a score of 73 in the first round and an 86 in the second round for a combined score of 159. Jumping to a second place finish was Lilly Pollin and Pura Vida, receiving scores of 74 and 80 in her two rounds for a combined score of 154. Rounding out the top three in the HITS Championship qualifier was Kathryn Piper Martin and Andiamo with an overall score of 148. Martin received scores of 70 in round one and 78 in round two.

Taking home top honors in the Culpeper Equitation Classic was Lauren Miller. The Culpeper Equitation Classic is open to both junior and amateur riders and is held at both 3' and 3'6". Miller received a score of 78 to secure top honors while Riley Hogan placed second with a score of 74 and Natalie Tezsla placed third with a score of 70. **[E]**

Vermont Summer Festival

Crowns Jennifer Kocher Winner of the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix

JENNIFER KOCHER OF CHESTER, NY, stormed to a victory in the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix, presented by The Equinox Resort, riding Carlos on Saturday, July 14, during the 25th annual Vermont Summer Festival, which runs through August 12 at Harold Beebe Farm in East Dorset, VT.

Alan Wade of Tipperary, Ireland, set the course for a field of 19 with only two horses advancing to the tie-breaking jump-off. Irish rider Kevin Mealiff returned first aboard Goldbreaker, owned by Maarten Huygens, and pulled one rail in 42.36

seconds, leaving the door open for Kocher. She and Carlos, owned by her husband Andrew Kocher, also knocked one rail for four faults but had the foot speed to stop the clock at 42.21 seconds for the win.

"We bought Carlos off a video two years ago," said Jennifer of the 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding formerly piloted by Dutch rider Peter Geerink. "Andy bought him as a horse for him to ride, but he has turned out to be perfect for this level as well as the high amateurs. I started showing him in Florida this year, and he was

really big and strong for me—I didn't think I was going to be able to ride him."

"I spent a lot of time with him, took my time getting to know him really well, and I think once he realized he didn't have to jump that big he was a different horse," continued Jennifer. "The best thing about him is that he is 100% brave and will never let you down. I'm getting to know his stride now, so he is much easier for me to ride."

Mealiff also picked up third riding
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Vermont Summer Festival

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Itile Horta, owned by Huygens, with just three time faults keeping them from the jump-off. After a banner two weeks at the Vermont Summer Festival, Matthew Metell of Wellington, FL, produced the fastest four-fault trip in the first round to finish fourth riding Donchalant for owner Wolver Hollow. David Jennings of Franklin, TN, rounded out the top five riding Gracieux van Seven Oaks, owned by Mary Katherine Hargreaves, with four faults in the opening round.

In recognition of her victory, Jennifer was awarded an embroidered scrim as well as a crystal trophy. In addition, the Vermont Summer Festival also recognized her groom, Sara Zeerip, with the weekly Grand Prix Groom Award in honor of her hard work preparing Carlos for grand prix competition. She was presented with a monogrammed jacket and coolerette. 📧

Jennifer Kocher and Carlos topped the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix.



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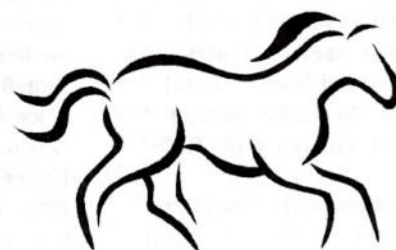
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