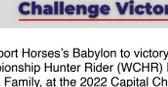


WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

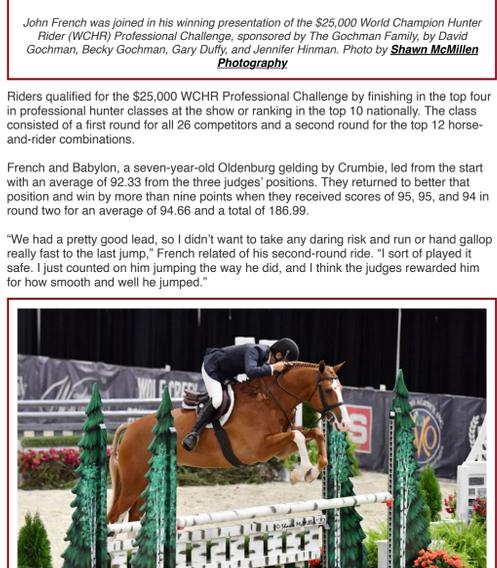


Results and Orders

Live Stream

French and Babylon Repeat \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge Victory

John French rode Marnell Sport Horses's Babylon to victory for the second year in a row in the \$25,000 World Champion Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Challenge, sponsored by The Gochman Family, at the 2022 Capital Challenge Horse Show. The class was the highlight of the schedule on Wednesday, October 5, at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

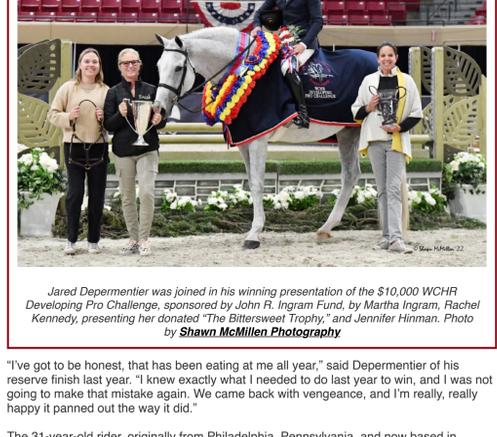


John French was joined in his winning presentation of the \$25,000 World Champion Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Challenge, sponsored by The Gochman Family, by David Gochman, Becky Gochman, Gary Duffy, and Jennifer Hinman. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Riders qualified for the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge by finishing in the top four in professional hunter classes at the show or ranking in the top 10 nationally. The class consisted of a first round for all 26 competitors and a second round for the top 12 horse-and-rider combinations.

French and Babylon, a seven-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Crumbie, led from the start with an average of 92.33 from the three judges' positions. They returned to better that position and win by more than nine points when they received scores of 95, 95, and 94 in round two for an average of 94.66 and a total of 186.99.

"We had a pretty good lead, so I didn't want to take any daring risk and run or hand gallop really fast to the last jump," French recalled of his second-round ride. "I sort of played it safe. I just counted on him jumping the way he did, and I think the judges rewarded him for how smooth and well he jumped."



John French and Babylon. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Circumstances have followed for both French and Babylon since their victory in 2021; French had hip surgery requiring a severely broken femur in May, and Babylon has been competing in the junior hunters with owner Ariana Marnell. French did not show Babylon in the professional hunters this week, choosing to just compete in the WCHR Professional Challenge since the horse will show in the junior hunters later this week.

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Depermentier and Sebastian Rise to the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge Win

Redemption for Jared Depermentier came in the form of the champion ribbon and leading the victory gallop in the \$10,000 WCHR Developing Professional Challenge, presented by John R. Ingram Fund. After a second-place finish in 2021, Depermentier returned with Sebastian, owned by Brad Wolf, to take the win.

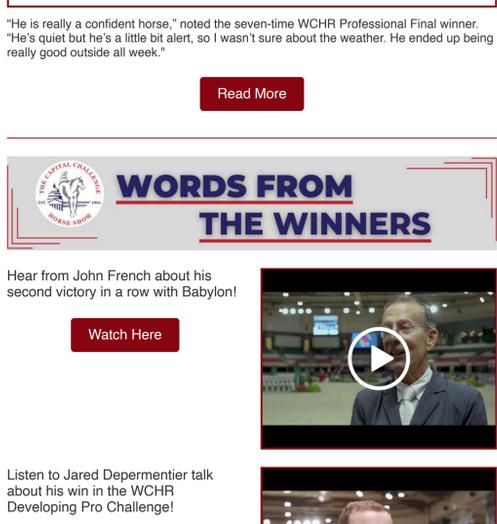
Depermentier started out round one with the high score of 89.16, putting on the pressure when he was last to go in round two. The pair stayed consistent, scoring 89 for a total of 178.16 for victory.



Jared Depermentier was joined in his winning presentation of the \$10,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge, sponsored by John R. Ingram Fund, by Martha Ingram, Rachel Kennedy, presenting her donated "The Bittersweet Trophy," and Jennifer Hinman. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"I've got to be honest, that has been eating at me all year," said Depermentier of his reserve finish last year. "I knew exactly what I needed to do last year to win, and I was not going to make that mistake again. We came back with vengeance, and I'm really, really happy it panned out the way it did."

The 31-year-old rider, originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and now based in Nashville, Tennessee, has been working for the Ingram family and Brad Wolf for two years, since he turned professional.



Jared Depermentier and Sebastian. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"When I turned pro and started riding with Tom [Wright], there was a huge learning curve, and I tried to soak in as much as I could," he said. "They've been incredibly patient with me. I feel like every day at work is like a lesson, and I don't know how I got that lucky. It's fun, and it doesn't even feel like a job."

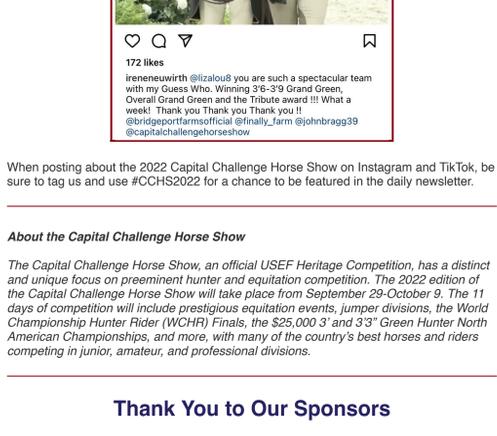
Depermentier started riding Sebastian, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Cancara, one year ago and felt that their evolving partnership is what led to victory this year.

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Scott Stewart and Florian Fly to Victory in the \$25,000 KASK/Vogel Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" and 3'3" North American Championship

Earlier in the day, 26 horse-and-rider combinations entered the Show Place Arena for the \$25,000 KASK/Vogel Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" North American Championship. After posting scores of 87.16 in round one, and 88.50 in round two, Scott Stewart, of Wellington, Florida, and Betsee Parker's Florian came out on top with an overall score of 175.66.

"I love these special classes at Capital Challenge," expressed Stewart, who won this class last year with Betsee Parker's Ackergill Castle. "The best riders are here with their best horses, so I think it's a spectacular horse show."



Scott Stewart and Florian won the \$25,000 KASK/Vogel Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" North American Championship, sponsored by the Wheeler Family. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

The class was overseen by three panels, each with two judges. Tammy Provost and Dale Pederson sat on the first panel, while David Beisel and Gavin Moylan made up the second, and Tom Brennan and Bobbi Reber were the third. Each panel awarded a score with the average representing the rider's overall mark. Horses competing at either the 3' or the 3'3" heights were scored equally, and the top 12 returned in reverse order for the second round.

Stewart noticed the six-year-old Westphalian gelding by Like Angel x Lupicor on a video and called René Tebbel in Germany to purchase him, but at the time, he wasn't for sale. With some persistence, Parker was able to buy the handsome bay during the winter show season, and the horse made its U.S. horse show debut in the spring. Now in just their fourth competition together, Stewart was able to make it memorable, tacking this win onto the championship title they picked up in the Green Hunter 3' Colts and Geldings division, sponsored by Boggs Hill/ Mr. & Mrs. Tim Goguen.



Scott Stewart and Florian are joined by Andrea Nannarelli of KASK, Richie Solter, Nia Godoy of Vogel, and Jennifer Hinman. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"He is quietly but he's a little bit alert," noted the seven-time WCHR Professional Final winner. "He's really but he's a little bit alert, so I wasn't sure about the weather. He ended up being really good outside all week."

Read More

WORDS FROM THE WINNERS

Hear from John French about his second victory in a row with Babylon!

Watch Here



Listen to Jared Depermentier talk about his win in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge!

Watch Here



WINNER GALLERY

Elizabeth Boyd and Guess who in their presentation for the Grand Green Hunter Champion, sponsored by Balmoral - Traci & Carlton Brooks.

Can Can and Christopher Payne picked up the Grand Conformation Hunter Champion award, sponsored by Snowfield Farm.

Nick Hanes and Circa were the Grand Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Champions, sponsored by David Belford and Christopher Payne, New Hope LLC.

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

#CCHS2022

Be sure to tag us and use #CCHS2022 for a chance to be featured in the daily newsletter.

About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2022 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 29-October 9. The 11 days of competition will include prestigious equitation events, junior divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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