

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

THE CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 9, 2022

PRINCE GEORGE'S EQUESTRIAN CENTER - Upper Marlboro, MD

[Results and Orders](#)
[Live Stream](#)

First-Timer Nick Haness is Unbeatable in \$25,000 WCHR Professional Finals

On Friday, October 7, at the 2022 Capital Challenge Horse Show at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Nick Haness of Temecula, California, made his debut in the \$25,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Finals, sponsored by The Rein Family, a winning one.

The class featured seven of the country's top professional hunter riders going head-to-head. Elizabeth Boyd, Michael Britt-Leon, Amanda Steege, Scott Stewart, Geoffrey Hesslink and Nick Haness qualified by being highest in the WCHR national standings. As the winner of the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge, held earlier in the week on Wednesday, October 5, John French earned a wild card spot in the final as well.

All seven riders competed in the opening Playoff Round over a handy hunter course set by Ken Krome on a horse of their choosing. Their scores from round one of Wednesday's \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge served as their first-round scores for Friday's WCHR Professional Finals.

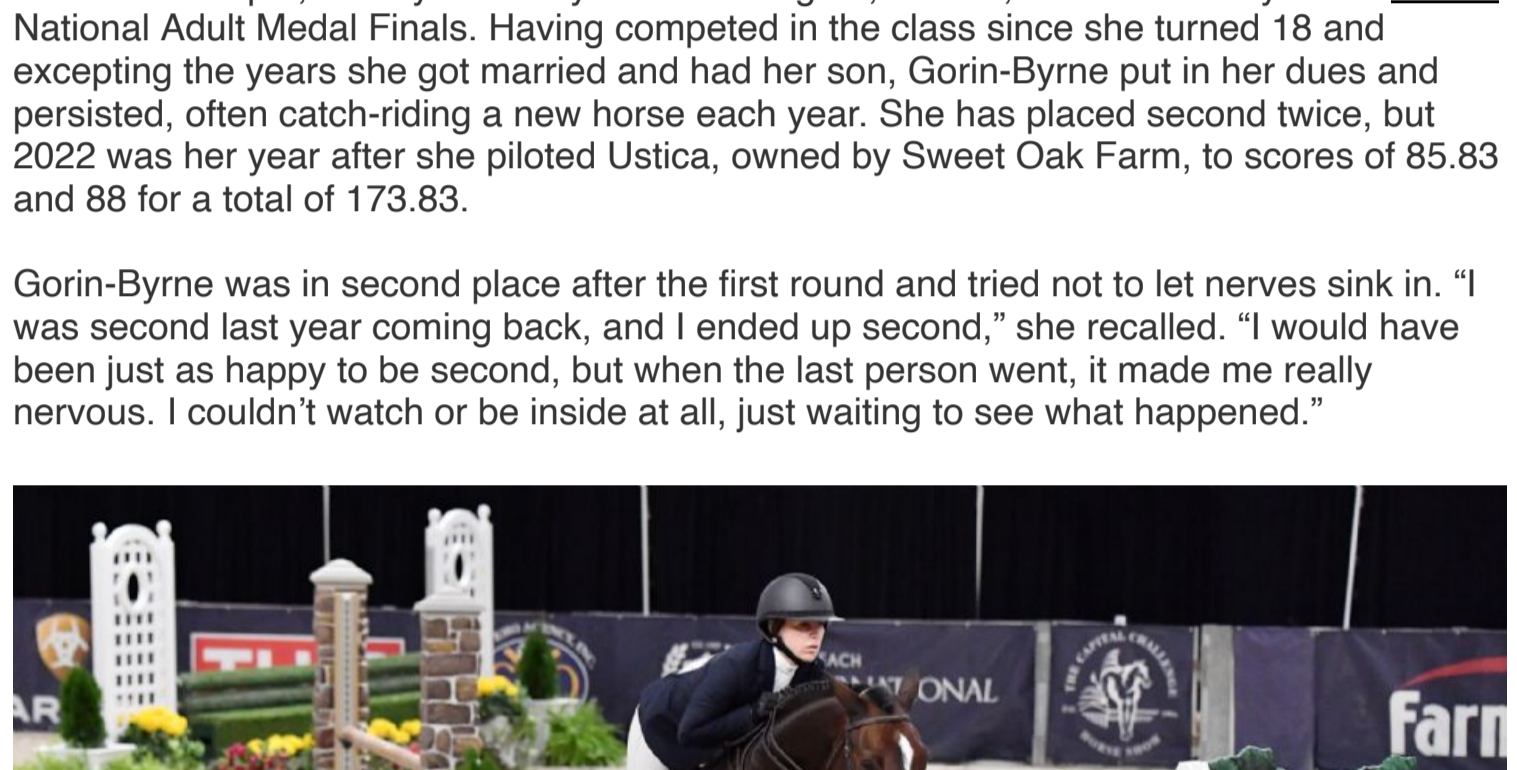


Three teams of two judges oversaw the class, with Tom Brennan and David Beisel making up the first panel, Shane George and Bobbi Reber on the second, and Gavin Moylan and Dale Pederson sitting on the third. Each team awarded one score, and the average of those three scores represented the rider's overall second-round mark. The riders with the four highest totals then advanced to the Final Four, where they took turns riding unfamiliar horses.



"This has been an extraordinary year for my career, absolutely," reflected Haness. "The WCHR program throughout the year and all the shows for qualifying were a lot. Obviously, it takes a lot of teamwork, great horses, trainers, owners, and sponsors, so this year I definitely have to thank all of them for all of that support leading up to this moment because without them that wouldn't be possible."

Britt-Leon, Stewart, Haness, and French returned for the Final Four on a clean slate, each jumping four courses, rotating turns on horses generously donated by their owners.



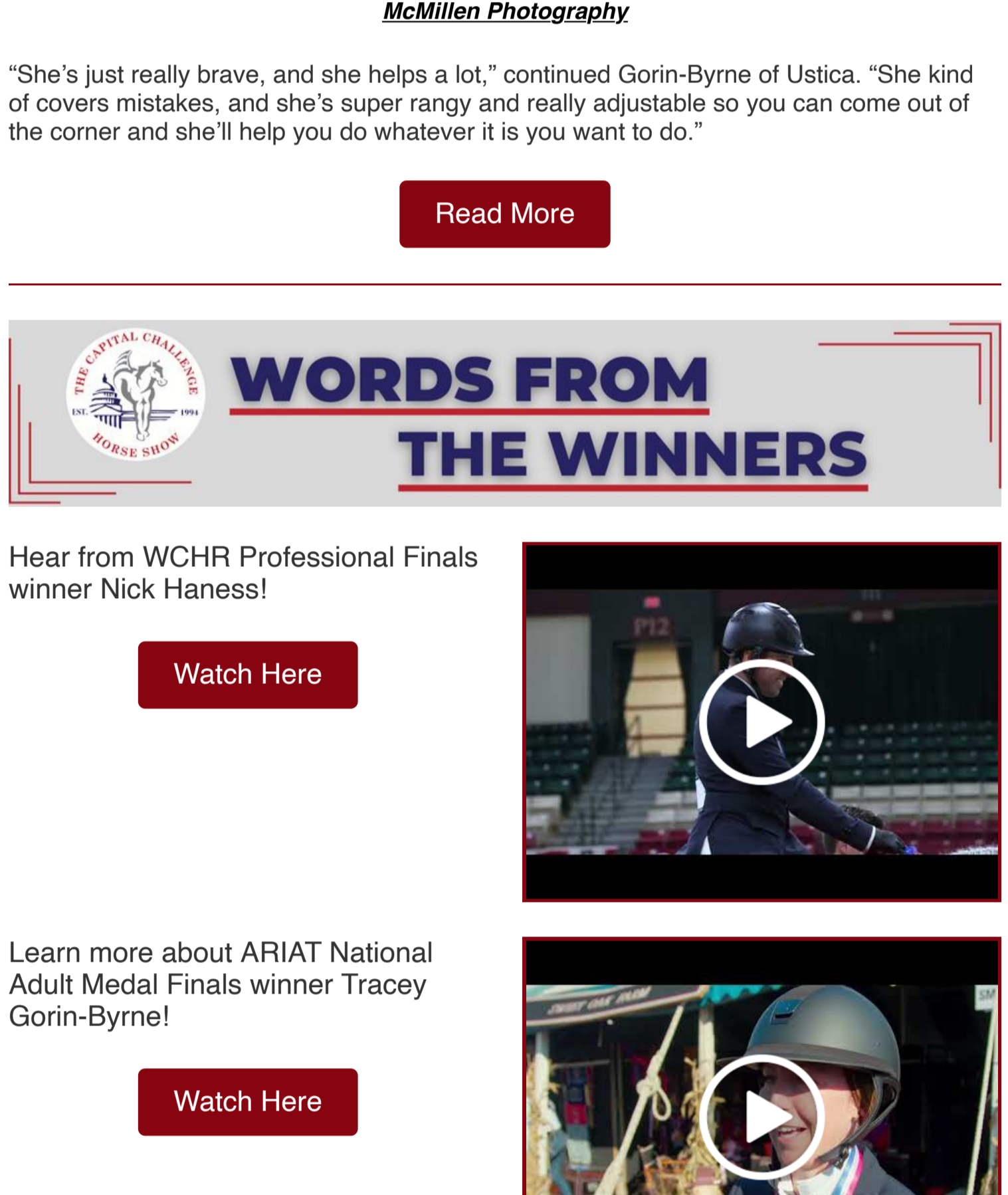
In the first rotation, Haness led the way after his ride on Etiquette, an eight-year-old Rheinlander mare by Cachassini provided by Elise lafrate, garnered a 90.66 score. Haness then topped the second round with a 92.66 aboard Nabisco, a nine-year-old Zangersheide gelding also provided by lafrate. His hot streak continued into the third round, earning 90.16 for his ride on Daniel Bedoya's Singani, a seven-year-old Hanoverian gelding. As the only rider to score in the 90s with each ride, Haness capped off his evening's performance with a 94.33 on Kynaz, a 12-year-old Warmblood gelding provided by Laura Shatzko. At the end of four rounds, Haness simply could not be caught, totaling 366.65.

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Gorin-Byrne Persists to Win ARIAT National Adult Medal Finals

After 14 attempts, Tracey Gorin-Byrne of Wellington, Florida, clinched victory in the ARIAT National Adult Medal Finals. Having competed in the class since she turned 18 and excepting the years she got married and had her son, Gorin-Byrne put in her dues and persisted, often catch-riding a new horse each year. She has placed second twice, but 2022 was her year after she piloted Ustica, owned by Sweet Oak Farm, to scores of 85.83 and 88 for a total of 173.83.

Gorin-Byrne was in second place after the first round and tried not to let nerves sink in. "I was second last year coming back, and I ended up second," she recalled. "I would have been just as happy to be second, but when the last person went, it made me really nervous. I couldn't watch or be inside at all, just waiting to see what happened."



Relying on Ustica's talent, Gorin-Byrne picked up her second win of the 2022 Capital Challenge, having already piloted Checker 69 to the win in the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championship.

"I was lucky enough to get to hop on and borrow her for a couple Ariat classes this summer and get to show her this week," said Gorin-Byrne of the 11-year-old Warmblood gelding by Ustinov that is the usual equitation mount for Olivia Sweetnam. "She's a lot improved every time I get to ride her, so sometimes it's a little like a different horse, but she's just learned so much. It's really fun to see how she's improved every single time."



"She's just really brave, and she helps a lot," continued Gorin-Byrne of Ustica. "She kind of covers mistakes, and she's super rangy and really adjustable so you can come out of the corner and she'll help you do whatever it is you want to do."

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WORDS FROM THE WINNERS

Hear from WCHR Professional Finals winner Nick Haness!

[Watch Here](#)

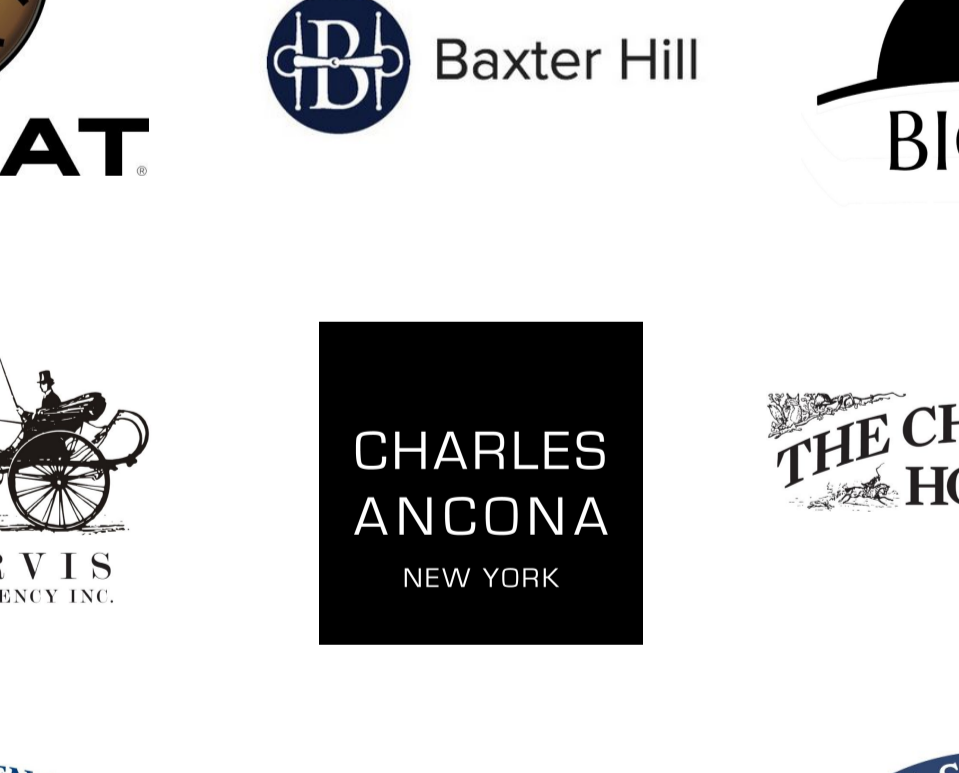


Learn more about ARIAT National Adult Medal Finals winner Tracey Gorin-Byrne!

[Watch Here](#)



WINNER GALLERY



Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

#CCHS2022



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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, jumper 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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