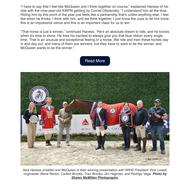
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

SCHEDULE | RESULTS | LIVESTREAM | WEBSITE

LIGHTNING STRIKES FOR MCQUEEN AND NICK HANESS TO WIN 2023 WHIS GRAND HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

The 2023 Washington International Horse Show, presented by MARS Equestrian™, continued on Tuesday, October 24, and at the conclusion of the professional hunter divisions in The Show Place Arena, it was McQueen and Nick Haness who ruled supreme. The formidable duo won the Grand Hunter Championship and the Professional Hunter Championship, and the overall WHIS Grand Hunter Championship title.

On the opening day of WHIS, McQueen was second in the model and was both over fences champion and reserve champion in the Professional Hunter Division. On Day 2, after deciding day of competition, Haness then piloted the beautiful bay to victory in the class clean with a score of 96. A ten in the under saddle sealed the deal for the numerous Championship titles for Haness.

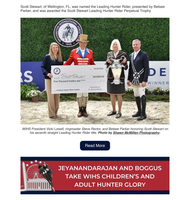


McQueen and Nick Haness in their way to the Grand Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

"I have to say that I feel like McQueen and I have together on course," explained Haness of his ride with the nine-year-old KWPN gelding by Cornet Obolensky. "I understand him all the time, and he knows what I want. We have a great partnership. He's very honest, and he tries his best. He allows me to think, I think with him, and we think together. I just know the cues to let him know what I want, and he knows what I want. We have a great partnership."

"That horse is just a winner," continued Haness. "He's an absolute dream to ride, and he knows when it's time to shine. He has to be handled a lot because he's very sensitive and very high strung. That is an unusual and exceptional feeling in a horse. He ride and train these horses day in and day out, and I've had a lot of winners, but they have to want to do the winner, and McQueen wants to be the winner."

Read More



Nick Haness (middle) and McQueen in their winning presentation with WHIS President Kate Lowell (signature Show Rider), Carlton Weeks, Ted Brown, Jim Hagerman, and Rodney Hugo. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

Scott Stewart, of Wellington, FL, was named the Leading Hunter Rider, presented by Bessen Parker, and was awarded the Scott Stewart Leading Hunter Rider Perpetual Trophy.

WHIS President Kate Lowell, (signature Show Rider), and Bessen Parker honoring Scott Stewart as his seventh straight Leading Hunter Rider. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

Read More

JEYANANDARAJAN AND BOGGUS TAKE WHIS CHILDREN'S AND ADULT HUNTER GLORY

Children's and Adult Hunters wrapped up the action-packed day of competition, where Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan rode Rabbel to the top of the $10,000 Children's Hunter Championship, sponsored by MARS Equestrian™, and Rachel Boggus guided Cherdo to the win in the $10,000 Adult Hunter Championship, also sponsored by MARS Equestrian™.

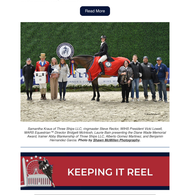
Twenty-nine horse-and-rider combinations contested the first round of the children's championship, with the top ten back for a second round. Jeyanandarajan and Rabbel were the combined best score from the two efforts yesterday for their round, Jeyanandarajan and Rabbel were the only combination to score a 90 in the second round. Jeyanandarajan and Rabbel were the round two, Jeyanandarajan delivered when it counted most with a foot-perfect lap and the high score of 92 in a two-round total of 177 and the win.

Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan with Rabbel in their way to the $10,000 WHIS Children's Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

"I was very focused on the plan that my trainers had laid for the round," said Jeyanandarajan, who trains with Mimi Endicott and John Bragg of Bridgeport Farms in San Juan Capistrano, CA. "I knew that I needed to be very careful, I knew that I needed to be very careful, I knew I needed to maintain my rhythm and not have with my horse that my trainers knew, and I knew, if I did that, I would be in the ribbons. I was very, very, very careful, and I knew that I had to be very, very, very major way and everyone the plan as well as we did, I'm really happy with that overall. It's my first championship above $5,000. My previous best was $5,000, so it's to get a round like $5,000 is really great."

Jeyanandarajan has had the ride on Rabbel, affectionately known as "Mick" in the barn, for almost two years. Together, they've come up the levels from the Short Stirrup division through the Children's Hunters.

Read More



Rabbel and Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan were joined in their winning presentation by signature Show Rider Jim Hagerman, WHIS President Kate Lowell, Bessen Parker, Rodney Hugo, and Kamala Mitch Cultural and John Bragg. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

In the adult championship, 22 combinations made up the competitive field. The class followed the same format as the children's, with the top 10 returning for the second round.

Last to go in round one, Boggus of Fort Wayne, IN, earned an 85 to return for round two sitting in fifth place. With nothing to lose, she delivered the high second-round score of 90 for a total round two of 175 to secure the victory.

Rachel Boggus and Cherdo received Wednesday's selection clinic at the 2023 WHIS in the $10,000 WHIS Adult Hunter Championship, sponsored by MARS Equestrian™.

"I do a lot of my showing at WEC in Wellington, Ohio, so I have a lot of intensive practice with him, which was really, really helpful for me here because I'm used to being two-star," explained Boggus. "Typically, I don't ride him as late at night, so he was a little brighter than I expected, but he was very, very good. I'm very, very, very happy with him. I'm very happy with my two rides, my trainer Mary Blackwood told me. You sure have much movement there when in the ribbonings in the children's class after the second round, so don't give up. Give it your all, and you can do anything you want to do. I'm very, very, very happy with the ride, and I felt like I nailed the second round. I was really happy with it."

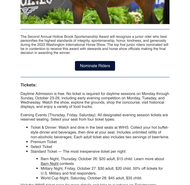
Boggus has been partnered with the 14-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Cheyenne owned by 18 Stables LLC. Boggus said she purchased "Cherdo" was available and knew it would be a good fit for Boggus to chase her aspirations.

"I really want to thank Cross for making my dreams come true," expressed Boggus. "He is an experienced. He has done like a million times, and I knew I could count on him. I wanted to ride him well because I thought he deserved it."

Read More

Samantha Knox of Three Ships LLC, (signature Show Rider), WHIS President Kate Lowell, MARS Equestrian's Director Bridgett Brickman, Leon Stern presenting the Dave Blake Memorial Award, Hunter Jumper Division Director Jim Hagerman, and Hunter Jumper Director Benjamin Hernandez-Garcia. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

KEEPING IT REEL



Find out more about Scott Stewart, who took home the Leading Hunter Rider title for the seventh year in a row.

Watch an interview with WHIS Children's Hunter Champion winner Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan

Watch an interview with WHIS Adult Hunter Championship winner Rachel Boggus.

PHOTO GALLERY

BY ALDEN CORRIGAN MEDIA

PHOTO OF THE DAY

BY SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Second Annual Hollow Brook Sportsmanship Award will recognize a junior rider who best demonstrates the spirit of sportsmanship, fairness, and good horsemanship in competition during the 2023 Washington International Horse Show. The top five junior riders nominated will be in contention to receive this award with stewards and horse show officials making the final decision in awarding the winner.

Nominate Riders

Tickets:

Daytime Admission is free. No ticket is required for daytime sessions on Monday through Friday, October 24-28, and Wednesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 2. Starting Wednesday, Watch the show, explore the grounds, shop the concourse, visit historical displays, and enjoy a variety of food trucks.

Evening Events (Thursday, Friday, Saturday): All designated evening session tickets are reserved seating. Select your seat from four ticket types:

- Ticket & Dinner: Watch and dine in the best seats at WHIS. Collect your hot buffet-style dinner and beverages, then dine at your seat. Includes unlimited refills of non-alcoholic beverages. Each adult ticket also includes two servings of beer/wine.
- Premium Ticket
- Select Ticket
- Reserved Ticket — The most inexpensive ticket per night.
  - Barn Night: Thursday, October 26: $20 adult, $15 child. Learn more about Barn Night contests.
  - Friday Night: Friday, October 27: $30 adult, $20 child. 50% off tickets for U.S. Military and first responders.
  - World Cup Night: Saturday, October 28: $45 adult, $35 child.

Visit the WHIS ticket page for more details and links to purchase on Ticketmaster. Tickets may also be purchased in person at The Show Place Arena Box Office upon arrival, while available.

Buy Tickets

For more information about WHIS, visit wihs.org, join WHIS on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and YouTube. Tag using #WHIS2023, #TheJumpingWorldCup, and #Longines.

About Washington International Horse Show, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization:

Established 1853, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for hunters, jumpers, and equitation riders. Presented by MARS Equestrian, the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5 by the President's Cup, the WHIS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, and the Washington International Horse Show Foundation Scholarship Program, the WIHS is an official USEF Heritage Competition. For more information, visit wihs.org.

LONGINES
FEI
JUMPING
WORLD CUP
WASHINGTON
LONGINES