Thursday, October 26, 2023

SCHEDULE | RESULTS | LIVESTREAM | PLAYBILL

DITTMER DOMINATES OPENING NIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL JUMPER COMPETITION AT 2023 WHIS

The 2023 Washington International Horse Show (WIHS), presented by MARS Equestrian™, heated up on Thursday, October 26, at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, with a packed house of spectators watching the first opening session, featuring the opening international jumper classes during WIHS Barn Night presented by MARS Equestrian™ and the Grand Prix of Washington, a $75,000 Welcome Stake, and then starting to victory in the $40,000 International Jumper Accumulator class.

FEI Level 4 Course Designer Bernardo Costa Cabral (POR), assisted by Nick Dwyer (USA), set a challenging course for the Grand Prix of Washington, presented by Rex Rexrode. Rexrode managed to hold first for advancing to the jump-off.

"I was very happy with my first round," said Dittmer. "Conrad did everything now. I knew I could go fast, but I knew I had to be careful. I was the first, and the time wasn't very short today, so it all worked out fine."

Kent Farrington, riding Gazelle, finished third in the Grand Prix of Washington. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

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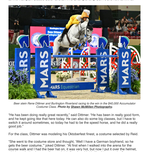
Victoria Cassidy Appelbaum, longtime Prince George's Horse Show and Washington International Horse Show Secretary and Treasurer, is the recipient of the Washington International Horse Show Lifetime Achievement Award.

After the Welcome a new time to speed timings up and turn the excitement up a notch, weighing the course crowd in attendance for WIHS Barn Night, the 2023 International Jumper Accumulator class. Riders earned points for each clear fence they jumped, and the rider with the most points at the end of the two rounds would be the winner and pick up the Grand Prix of Washington Rosettes with a purse of $40,000 and a Longines Hourglass Trophy. Ultimately, the victory was taken by Conrad Dwyer, Coach Royal Trophy and Burrington Rosettes was presented with the Sue Ann Dwyer Memorial Trophy by Sue Ann Dwyer and Longines Timing.

Dittmer is in a hot streak with the 12-year-old Stefan Diergarten gelding Abbrio Carthago*HS in Dittmer by Diamant owned by Lue Clair Plantation LLC. They scored wins at the Hampton Classic CSI5* and at a WEF2 Championship CSI4*, and now at WIHS.



Jean Ann Dwyer, Conrad Dwyer and Kingston Rosenberg presenting the trophy at the $40,000 Accumulator. Conrad Dwyer. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

The has been doing really great recently," said Dittmer. "He has been in really good form and he kept going like that today. He ran also do some big classes, too! I have to thank Conrad for everything, as today I'm lucky to be on the podium. It's really a really good job."

For the class, Dittmer was modifying his Oldenburine Stakes, a costume selected by Fleur.

"She went to the costume store and thought, 'Well I have a German boyfriend, so I'm going to dress up like a German,' and she came back with this outfit," said Dittmer. "I thought it could work and I had the lower hair on, it was very hot, but now I put it over the helmet, which was better. I was really crazy this. I could ride like this every day!"

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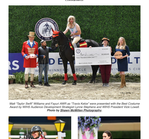

Rexa Dittmer and Brooklyn Rosenbach both among unseasoned, left-handed Grand Prix competitors in Grand Prix of Washington, presented by Rex Rexrode. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

Jack Dwyer, Coach Royal Trophy and Mitsi Dwyer, Dwyer Medical Trophy presented by Jack Dwyer and Longines Timing. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

Jack Dwyer, Coach Royal Trophy and Mitsi Dwyer, Dwyer Medical Trophy presented by Jack Dwyer and Longines Timing. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

Emma Fischer was the 2023 winner of the Lucky Pitch Trophy presented by Kim Hoover, presented on the day in memory of Hoover. Photo: Kim Hoover, Kim Hoover, Kim Hoover,