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### Scott Stewart Triumphs for Eighth Time in \$30,000 WCHR Professional Finals

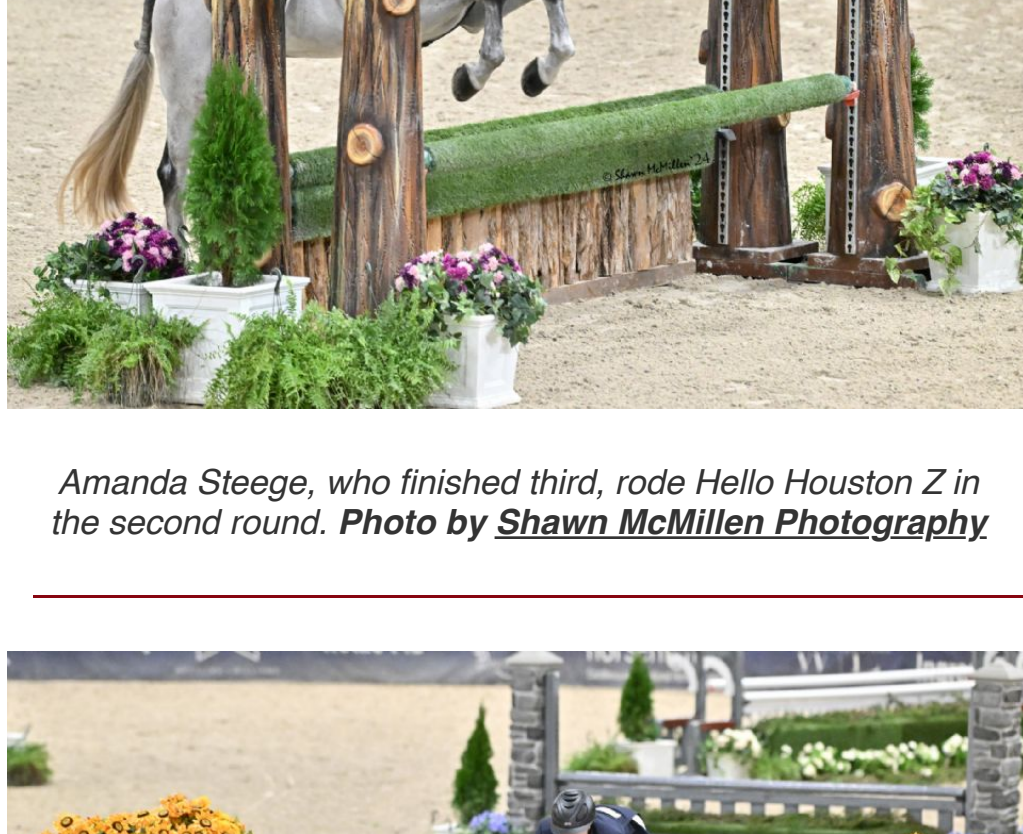
Upper Marlboro, MD – Two highlight events were held on Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, which runs at Prince George's Equestrian Center through Sunday, October 6. The evening competition featured the top four hunter riders in the country going head-to-head in the \$30,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Finals, presented by Walkenbach Equestrian, and it was Scott Stewart who triumphed by riding four unfamiliar horses, taking home his eighth win out of 23 appearances in the 31 years of the class.

The top three riders in the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) National Professional Rider standings – Nick Haness, Geoffrey Hesslink, and Scott Stewart – qualified for the WCHR Professional Finals along with Wednesday's WCHR Professional Challenge winner, Amanda Steege.



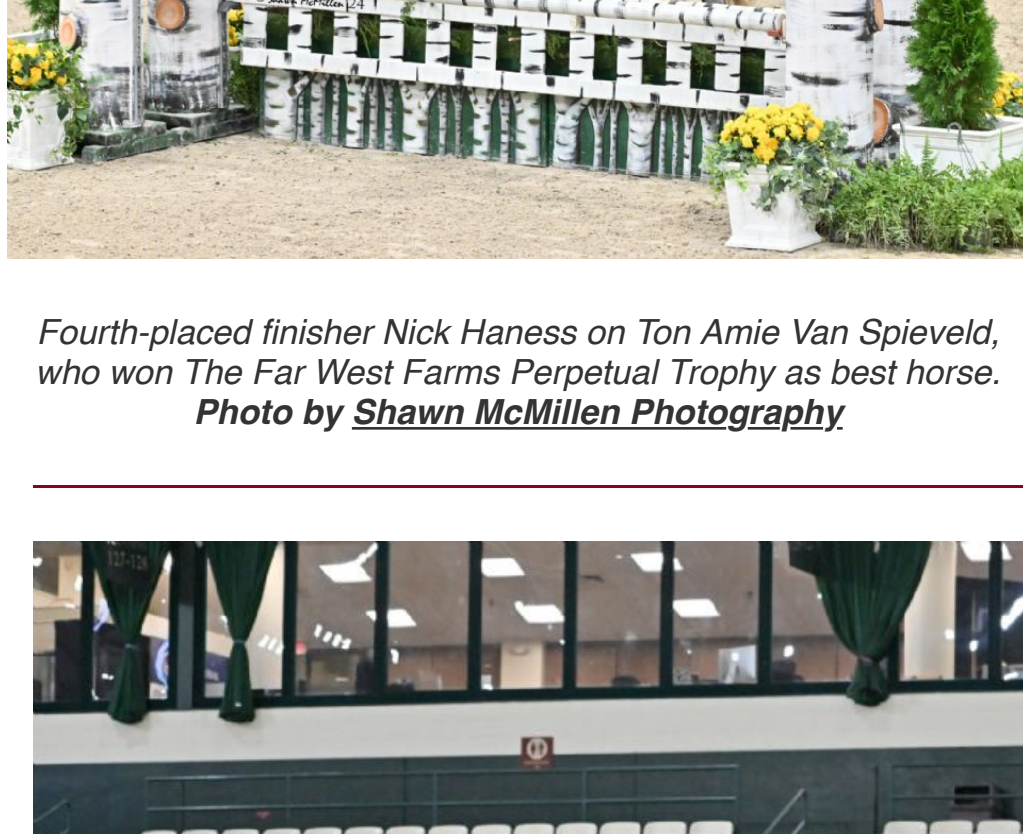
"I still get nervous," conceded Stewart. "It's a great honor to be included in these group of riders. I'm hopeful that I'll get to keep doing it. I've won it enough, and I just enjoyed doing it, so I wasn't really expecting to win, but I was, I would say, probably the most relaxed I've ever been."

Shown here on RSH Kallahan, Scott Stewart won the WCHR Professional Finals. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography



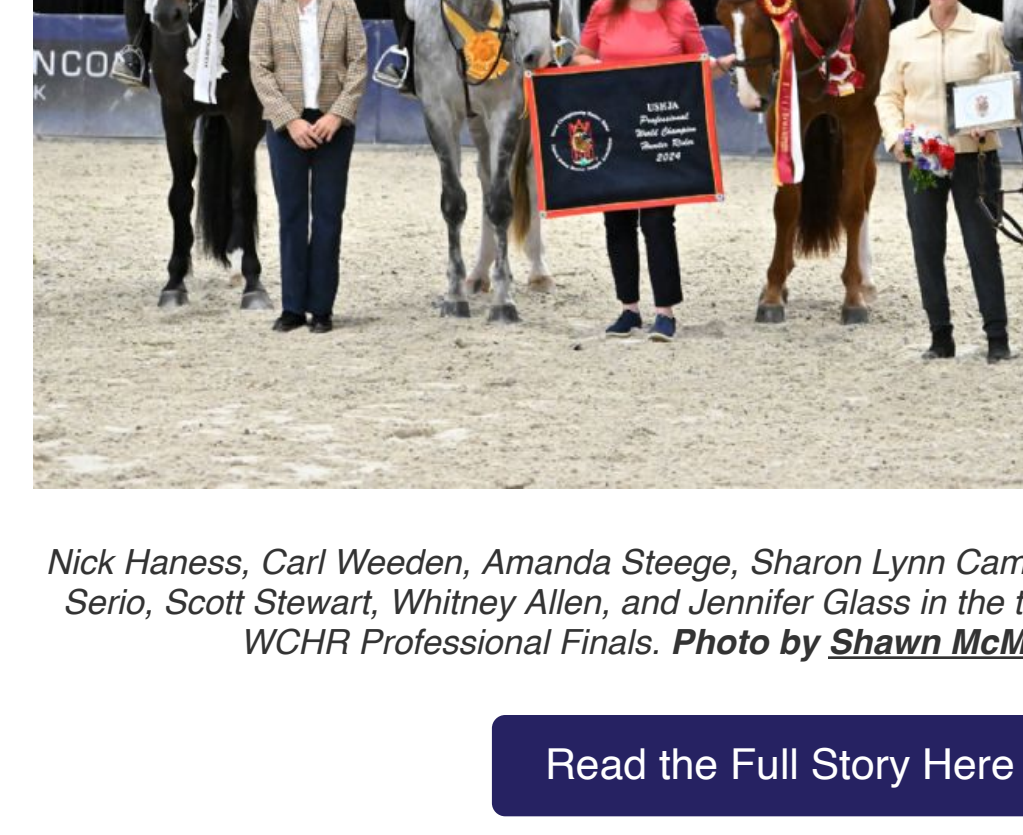
"I was just happy to be in the top three," said Hesslink, who aims to gain points in order to compete in the WCHR Pro Finals. "I grew up watching this class as a young kid and remember idolizing every rider, literally dreaming of one day doing it, and thinking it was so out of reach. To be here means a lot to me, and I'm really grateful for every time I get to do it."

Second-placed rider Geoffrey Hesslink and Chantino PS scored 94.33. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography



"All the horses were wonderful," said Steege. "We were so thankful to the owners and trainers and people that spent all day getting those horses ready so that we could have so much fun."

Amanda Steege, who finished third, rode Hello Houston Z in the second round. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography



"Honestly, it feels great to win," said Haness, who won this class in 2022, "but it feels great to watch what just happened, and Scott just gave us all a riding lesson. It was great to see him be so magical out there. It was really admirable to see what he could accomplish with those horses, and that inspires me as a young professional to look forward to trying to do more."

Fourth-placed finisher Nick Haness on Ton Amie Van Spieveland, who won The Far West Farms Perpetual Trophy as best horse. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography



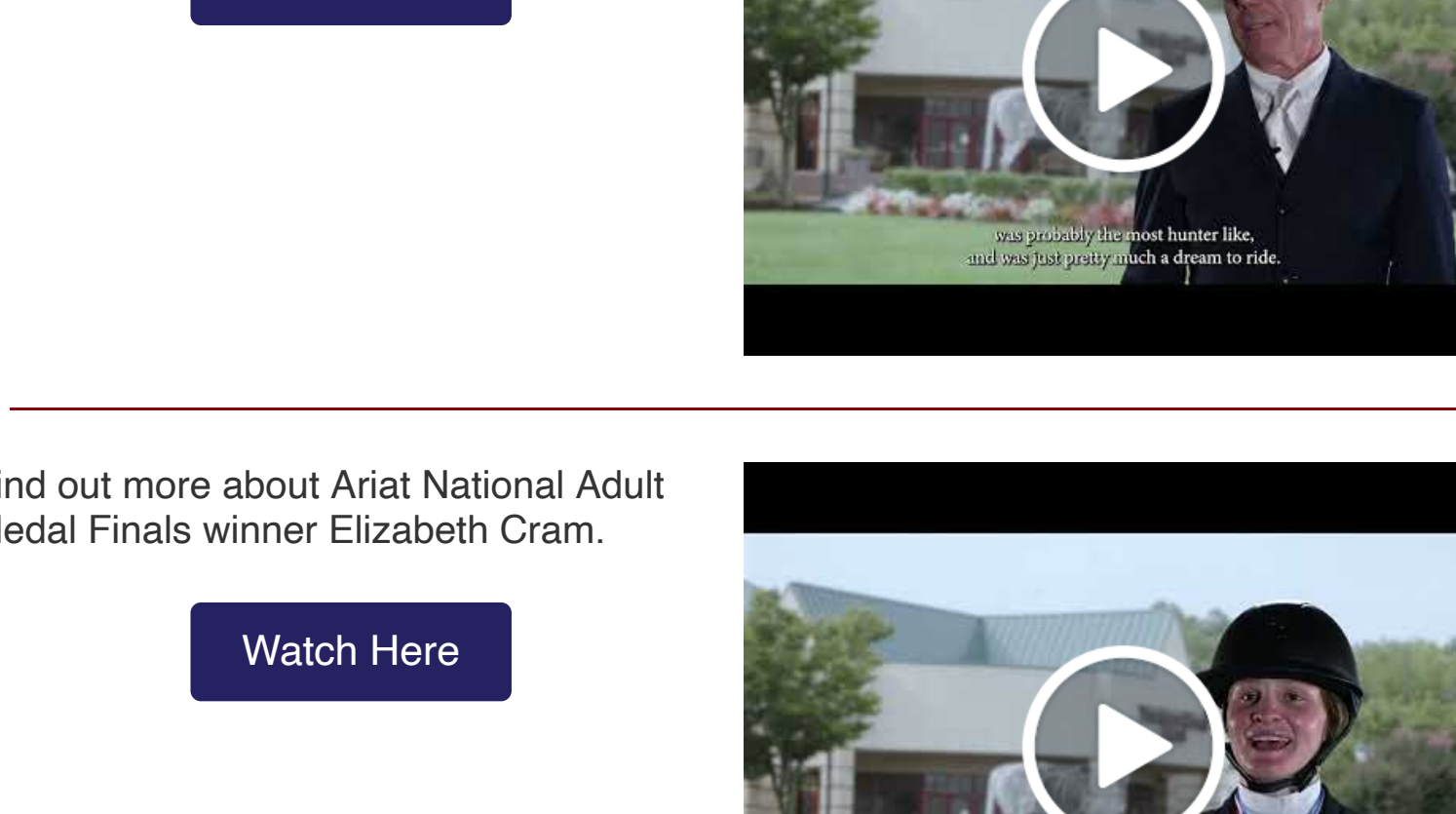
Nick Haness, Carl Weeden, Amanda Steege, Sharon Lynn Campbell, Geoffrey Hesslink, Louise Serio, Scott Stewart, Whitney Allen, and Jennifer Glass in the top four rider recognition for the WCHR Professional Finals. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

[Read the Full Story Here](#)

### Change of Pace for Liverno

Twenty-year-old Elizabeth Cram had the good fortune to have her winning equitation mount, Liverno, "fall into her lap" in May of 2024 as he made the transition from eventing to equitation. The horse arrived at her family's farm, and it became a quick connection between "Vern" and Cram.

"We weren't actually looking for him," admitted Cram. "Someone sent him to us to sell, and he ended up being the perfect match for me. My mom Cathy was amazing and bought him. She was going to show him herself, but I kind of took over the reins myself over the summer. We started showing in the Ariat classes, got qualified, and now we're here."



Elizabeth Cram and Liverno won the Ariat National Adult Medal Finals. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

After a second-place finish in last week's North American Adult Equitation Championships, Cram had to return to school at the University of Georgia, where she rides on the equestrian team and studies accounting and finance. She flew back to Maryland on Thursday evening and was in the Show Place Arena with Vern to impress the judges Friday afternoon. The judges rewarded them with a score of 91.5, which put them into the lead at the end of the first round.

The top ten riders returned for a second round which included places to shine, inside turns, a bounce, and a gallop to the final oxer. Cram completed a neat, mistake-free ride, and her score of 89.16 and total of 180.66 was enough to place first without need for additional testing.

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## WORDS FROM WINNERS

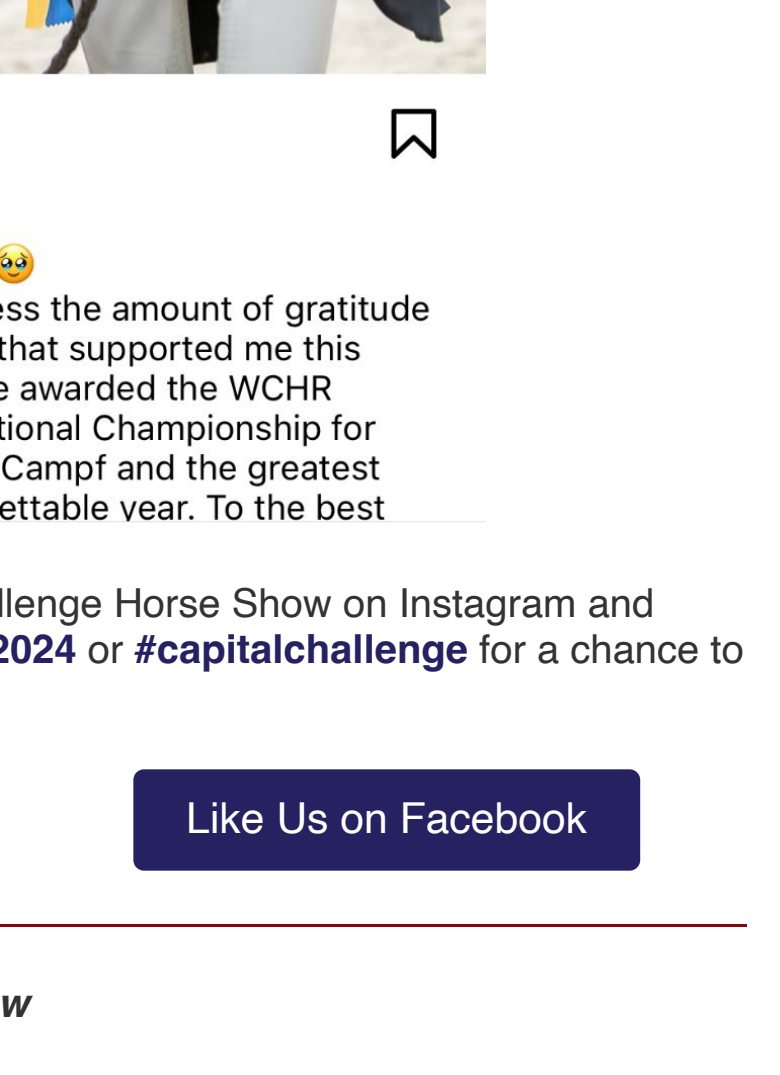
Watch an interview with WCHR Pro Finals winner Scott Stewart.

[Watch Here](#)



Find out more about Ariat National Adult Medal Finals winner Elizabeth Cram.

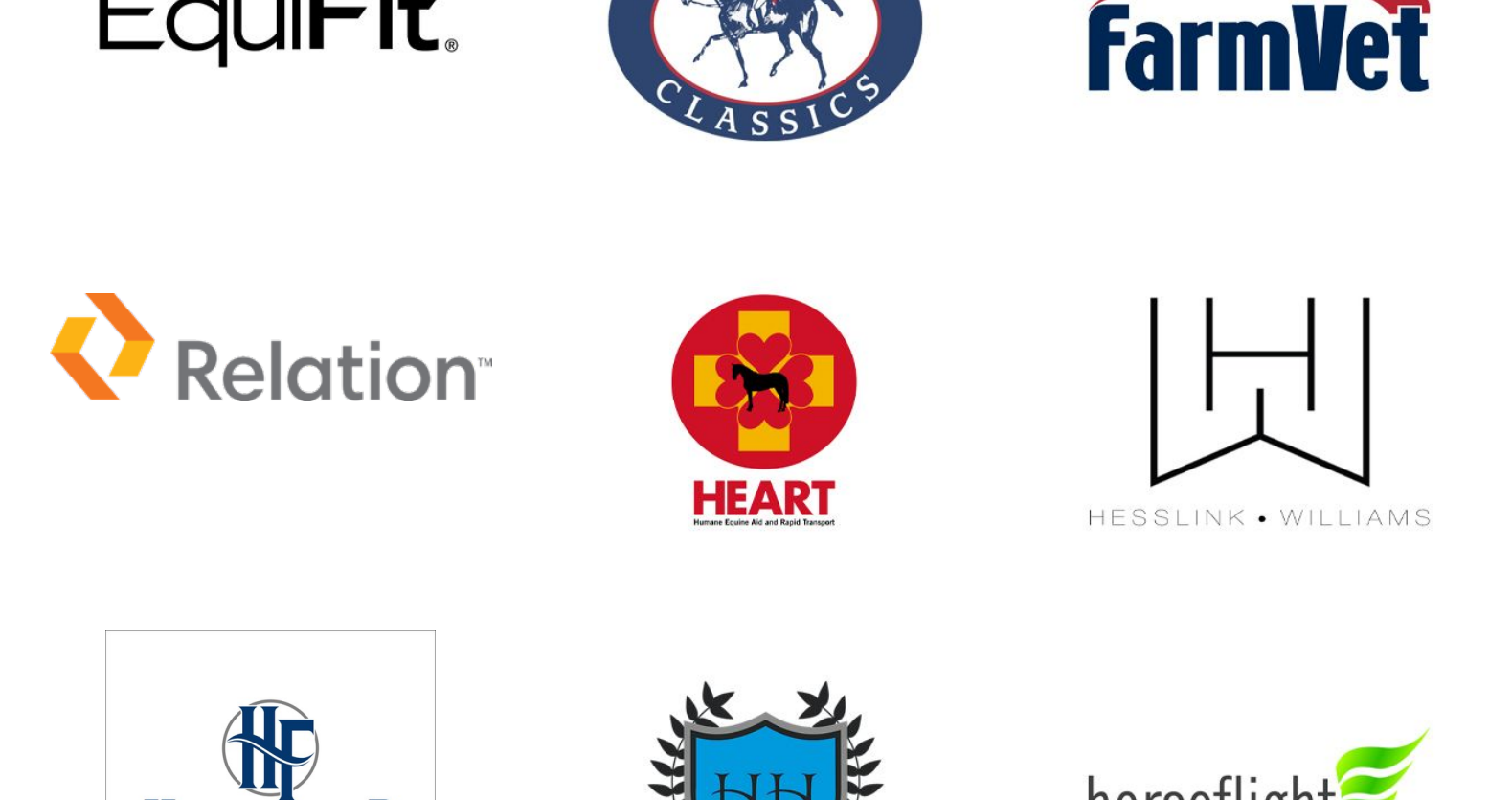
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## WINNER GALLERY

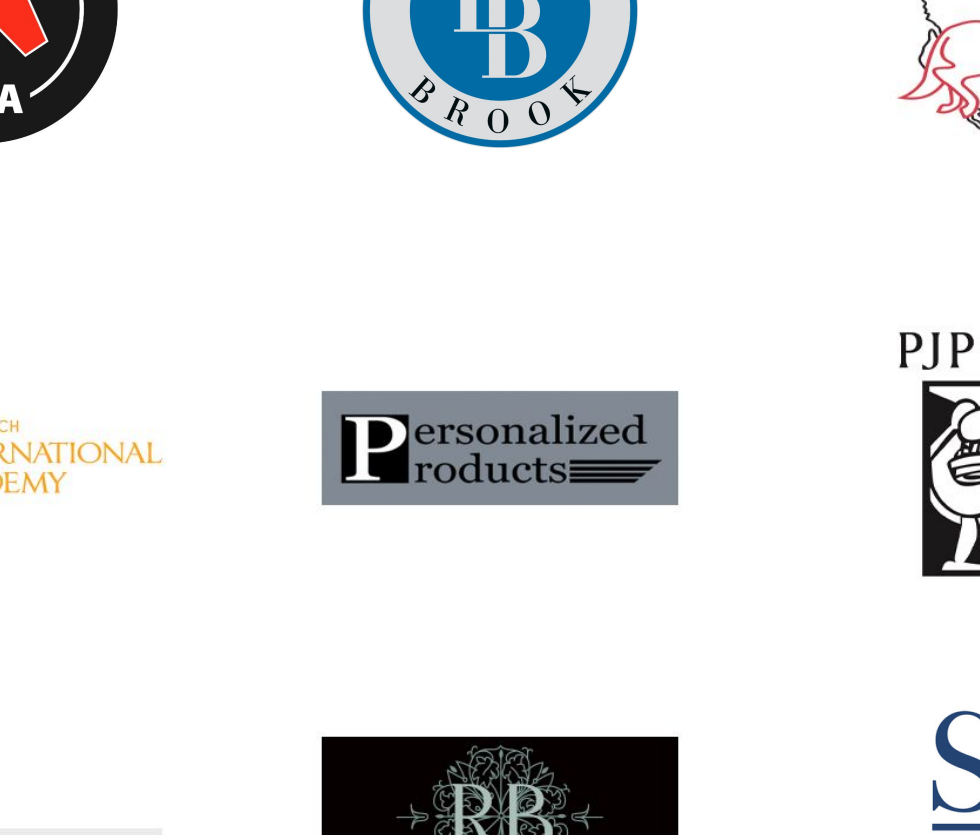


Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography



Photos by Flaxen Mane Media

## #CCHS2024



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emily.liperkins Speechless 🥰  
There are no words to express the amount of gratitude I have to the amazing team that supported me this year. It is truly a dream to be awarded the WCHR Developing Professional National Championship for 2024. Thank you to Shelley Campf and the greatest team @oz\_linc for an unforgettable year. To the best

When posting about the 2024 Capital Challenge Horse Show on Instagram and TikTok, be sure to tag us and use #CCHS2024 or #capitalchallenge for a chance to be featured in the daily newsletter.

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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 2023 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 28-October 8. 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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