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WASHINGTON
INTERNATIONAL
HORSE SHOW
OCTOBER 19-25, 2026 CSI5★-W/CSI2★
THE SHOW PLACE ARENA
PRESENTED BY
MARS Equestrian™

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Live Stream Results Tickets

Keenan Comes Full Circle with Kick On in World Cup Victory at 2026 WIHS

Upper Marlboro, MD – With an electrifying jump-off ride, Lillie Keenan (USA) rode Kick On, owned by Chansonette Farm LLC, to win the $340,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup ™ Washington CSI5*-W on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Keenan added another accolade to her record at the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS), presented by MARS Equestrian™, which started 23 years ago for her on small ponies. The grand prix was the highlight event of the week at WIHS, which is held at The Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD. Earlier in the day, JJ Torano (USA) rode I Am Inge, owned by Ilan Ferder, to win the $50,000 Ambassador's Cup Grand Prix CSI2*. Emi Richard and Diaceur triumphed through three rounds to win the WIHS Equitation Final. WIHS concludes on Sunday, October 25.

Riders representing eight countries took to the ring over a track by course designer Colm Quinn (IRL), and 13 were clear to advance to the jump-off.

Lillie Keenan added to her WIHS record with victory in the grand prix riding Kick On. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

The pathfinder in the class and the jump-off was U.S. Olympic team gold medalist McLain Ward and Jordan Molga M, owned by Michael Smith. Their clear-round time of 38.44 seconds held for three trips until Daniel Coyle (IRL) and Farrel entered the ring. With breathtaking turns, Coyle lowered the winning time to 37.13 seconds with his longtime partner. He would finish in second place for the second year in a row, while Ward slotted into fourth.

"My plan didn't go according to plan at all," admitted Coyle. "Already from the third to fourth jump, I tried to leave in seven strides and didn't make it, same as Lillie, but also to the last fence. Farrel was very, very handy and very, very fast. I was still quite fast, but I knew I left the door open a little bit."

At 16 years old, Farrel continues to impress and landed second place with Daniel Coyle. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Sweetnam and his spicy chestnut mare, Pia Maria H, finished third. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

With a quick trip after Keenan, Irish Olympian Shane Sweetnam slotted into third place with a time of 38.09 seconds on Pia Maria H, owned by Sweetnam and Seabrook LLC.

"Even though she's 11, she's a green 11, and she didn't have the kind of mileage that she's gotten this summer," said Sweetnam of the BWP mare by Kasanova de la Pomme x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve. "In her development, she's gotten better and better all year, and she's jumped in places like Aachen and Dublin. This is probably the first time doing indoors ever in her life, and third in the World Cup is pretty good. I think we're really making good steps for her, and I'm looking forward to the future."

Lillie Keenan and Kick On in their winning presentation with FEI foreign judge Lisa Osachoff, WIHS Executive Director Sue Harada, WIHS Board of Directors Co-Chair Anne Poulson, WIHS President Vicki Lowell, WIHS Board of Directors Co-Chair Claudia Frost, and ringmaster Phil Thomas. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Keenan was thrilled to be able to add her name to the President's Cup trophy after a long career of victories at WIHS. She is the third rider to win both the WIHS Equitation Final and the grand prix at WIHS following her trainer, McLain Ward, and U.S. Olympic team silver medalist and world number two Kent Farrington.

"I've been coming to Washington since I was seven or eight years old on a pony," she related. "I was champion in the pony divisions here, I was champion in the junior hunters, and I won the equitation final here when I was 13. I rode in the open jumpers when I was 16 or 17.

"Now I'm 30, so I've been here for a long time," she laughed. "It's really incredible to be able to jump in front of my home crowd for the President's Cup, which is a class I've watched since the first time that I came here on a small pony. My mom always wanted me to see the best riders in the world, so it's pretty awesome to now be one of them."

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Emi Richard Rides a Strategic Plan to Win the WIHS Equitation Final

The country's top 40 junior riders took to the ring three times in a hunter phase, a jumper phase, and a final work off with a horse swap to determine this year's winner. With consistency throughout, Emi Richard of Middlefield, CT, swept to victory aboard Diaceur, in the WIHS Equitation Final. Following hot on her heels, Kaitlyn Linck finished in second, while Elizabeth Rinehart rounded out the top three.

Fifteen-year-old Richard set the tone with a combined score of 91.5 from judges Katie Dinan and Sloane Coles in the opening hunter phase which was held in a handy format for the first time. Despite not taking the win in the jumping phase, her score of 89.125 kept her ahead of the pack as the top 10 riders returned for a work off in which they swapped to an unfamiliar horse. With a grand total of 271 points from scores of 91.5, 89.125, and 90.375, she and the 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by Heritage Farm Inc. sealed the deal.

Richard's highest scores came from the hunter phase, a handy track which she described as “one of the most challenging handy courses” she's ever done.

Emi Richard's consistency with Diaceur and in the work off gave her the WIHS Equitation Final win. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Kaitlyn Linck of Clinton Corners, NY, earned the second spot on the podium with her longtime partner Don Touch de Tiji Z, a 10-year-old Zangersheide gelding. The duo totaled just fractions shy of Richard, earning an overall score of 270.875. Linck dropped from second to third at the completion of the jumper phase, but a solid performance in the final work off on Rylynn Conway's Castlefield Spartacus bumped her back into the reserve spot.

“I knew Castlefield Spartacus a bit because he's at Beacon Hill, but I've never actually ridden him,” explained Linck. “I'm extremely familiar with catch rides because I catch ride almost every day.”

Linck, 15, explained that her original plan was “just staying consistent; I really wanted to put in the best round I could, and give it all I had.”

Kaitlyn Linck and Don Touch de Tiji Z put forward top trips for second place. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

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Elizabeth Rinehart and Charlie Brown rounded out the top three. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Sixteen-year-old Elizabeth Rinehart (Carmel, IN) landed in the final spot of the all-female top three with a big move up from sixth to third after a performance that earned her a 90.5 in the work off on Brooke Hagerty's The Original. Tallying that alongside scores of 84.375 in the hunter phase and 91 in the jumper phase on Charlie Brown, Rinehart's overall score of 265.875 placed her over two points ahead of the closest competitor.

“The jumper phase is definitely Charlie's strong suit, so we were able to move up nicely there,” she described of Charlotte Rossetter's 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding she has partnered with for almost a year. “Just qualifying for this final is so special. Coming here was really exciting for us, and we just wanted to have a good performance.”

Richard added, "Qualifying for this final is on the harder side, with only the top 40 juniors in the country making it. When you are doing the work off, all of the riders that are about to do the grand prix are watching, and it's really exciting to get to show off and have your day in front of them.”

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Emi Richard and Diaceur in their winning presentation. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

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JJ Torano Speeds to 2* Win

The winner of the inaugural $50,000 Ambassador's Cup Grand Prix CSI2*, presented by SHF Enterprises Inc. was JJ Torano (USA) riding I Am Inge, the horse that brought him double silver medals at the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships in August.

Torano and “Inge” thundered around the jump-off course to finish with a winning time of 32.22 seconds. Coming closest to Torano was Daniel Coyle (IRL) riding Nord Face VDL, an eight-year-old KWPN gelding by Insider x Tinka's Boy owned by Ariel Grange, who placed second in a time of 33.37 seconds. Laura Kraut (USA) and Cinnamon, an eight-year-old AES stallion by Christian x Clinton owned by Cherry Knoll Farm, Inc., were third in 33.49 seconds. Kraut and Cinnamon took home the championship in the CSI2* division as well, while Torano was reserve champion.

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DELTA

Riding I Am Inge, JJ Torano soared to his two-star grand prix victory. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

“I came in a little hotter maybe than I wanted to the double combination, but she really soared over ‘A’ and backed up at ‘B’ and went high,” recalled Torano of his jump-off ride. “Then at the next jump we got there a little slow but again, she went high, so I was really happy with her over there. She did a great job with that line.”

Torano started riding Inge this year for Ilan Ferder. The tall, broad mare's size belies her speed and handiness.

“Standing next to her she's a bit of a bigger horse,” he said of the 10-year-old Holsteiner by Uriko x Clearway owned by Ilan Ferder, “and she seems like a slower going horse, but she's quicker than you might think. She's been a great horse for me, and I'm thankful to have her because of Ilan. She's an amazing horse; she's super quick, competitive, and wants to win as much as I do.

“She's super sweet on the ground,” he continued. “She's fun to play with in the stall. She's very amped up and hot when she comes up to the ring, but at the barn she's pretty laid back and chill.”

Daniel Coyle also placed second in the two-star grand prix, this time with Nord Face VDL. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Laura Kraut and Cinnamon placed third in the grand prix. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

Torano made it a goal to win this class with Inge. "Once I made it to the jump-off, the only goal in mind was to go fast and try to win. It feels nice to end on the win, and she'll be done for the year after today."

The 2026 WIHS, presented by MARS Equestrian™ concludes on Sunday, October 25, with the pony hunter champions and the WIHS Pony Equitation Final.

JJ Torano and I Am Inge in their winning presentation. ***Photo by Erin Gilmore Photography***

IN CONVERSATION

Emi Richard talks about her WIHS Equitation Final victory

Watch

Hear from JJ Torano about his two-star grand prix win

Watch

I'm very thankful to her owner, Ilan Ferder.

IN FOCUS
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Leading International Jumper Owner
Leading International Jumper Rider Award
Leading Foreign Rider Award
International Open Jumper Champion: Farrel, Daniel Coyle, Ariel Grange

Leading Lady Rider Award, presented by Martha Jolicoeur Properties
Lillie Keenan

Leading U25 Rider Award
Skylar Wireman (USA)

Elizabeth Rinehart was awarded the Hollow Brook WIHS Junior Equitation Sportsmanship Award.

Peter Pletcher was inducted into the WIHS Hall of Fame.

2026 Ethos Award recipients Zoie Brogdon, Geñay Vaughn, Sophie Gochman, Rob Van Jacobs, Dr. Miguel Wilson, and Berry Porter were recognized.

PHOTO OF THE DAY
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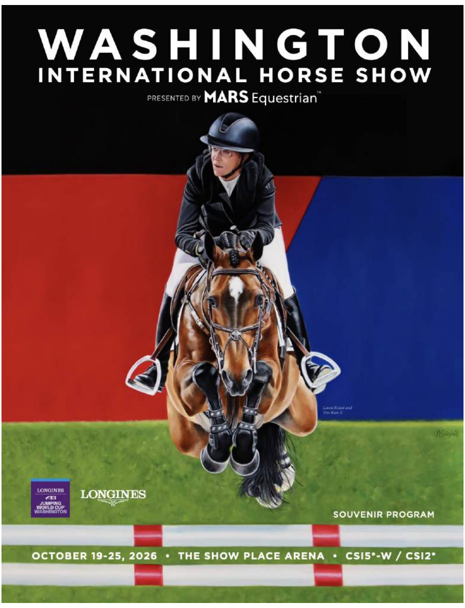

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SOUVENIR PROGRAM

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Read the 2026 WIHS Souvenir Program

For more information, visit www.wihs.org.

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

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for international, professional, amateur, junior and child riders. Highlights include the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5-W for the President's Cup, the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, top national hunters and jumpers, plus popular community and charity events. WIHS is an official USEF Heritage Competition. For more information, visit wihs.org.*
