



W I N T E R   E Q U E S T R I A N   F E S T I V A L

# WEEKLY WIRE

WEEK 12 • MARCH 25, 2026





# WALL OF CHAMPIONS



**MCLAIN WARD (USA)**  
HH CARLOS Z  
2015



**BEN MAHER (GBR)**  
SARENA  
2016



**SERGIO MOYA (ESP)**  
CHARMEUR  
2017



**MARGIE ENGLE (USA)**  
ROYCE  
2018



**MCLAIN WARD (USA)**  
HH AZUR  
2019



**DANIEL DEUSSER (GER)**  
SCUDERIA 1918 TOBAGO Z  
2021



**ASHLEE BOND (ISR)**  
KAROLINE OF BALLMORE  
2022



**RICHARD VOGEL (GER)**  
CEPANO BALOUBET  
2023



**CHRISTIAN KUKUK (GER)**  
CHECKER 47  
2024



**CHRISTIAN KUKUK (GER)**  
CHECKER 47  
2025



A Rolex Series Event



# THREE CHAMPIONS CROWNED, ONE TO GO: THE STORY OF WEF 2026

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  


The 2026 Winter Equestrian Festival has reached its final chapter and one champion remains to be crowned. Richard Vogel, McLain Ward, and Darragh Kenny each delivered a Wellington CSI5\* Grand Prix victory that will stand out as some of the defining moments across this year's 12-week run. Three riders, three horses, three huge moments. We take a look back at those moments ahead of the season finale - the 2026 Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix CSI5\*. These three will likely all be contenders again on Saturday night but so will many others. The season isn't done writing its story just yet.

## VOGEL: PERFECTION BY THE NUMBERS

The Week 5 CSI5\* Grand Prix at the 2026 Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington was won by Richard Vogel (GER) riding Gangster Montdesir in the \$500,000 Fidelity Investments Grand Prix. Richard Vogel is generally

considered as one of the most talented riders in the sport and it seems that in Gangster Montdesir he has found his next superstar. Gangster is just 10 years old, but he has been nothing short of immaculate at CSI5\* 1.60m: five rounds, five clears, and two wins. This pair were fourth at Week 7 (one down in the jump-off). A young horse with a perfect record paired up the fast and talented rider, and a recent winner of this class. It would be no surprise if they win again this weekend.

## WARD: HOME IS WHERE THE HISTORY IS

Week 7's CSI5\* Grand Prix was won by McLain Ward riding High Star Hero in the \$500,000 Modon CSI5\* Grand Prix. No rider in the last 15 years has won more often at Wellington than McLain and this is the week he often shines. This victory with High Star Hero was his fourth WEF Week 7 Grand Prix win since 2010, following previous successes in 2016, 2017, and 2020. Together,

Ward and High Star Hero have now won three CSI5\* 1.60m classes and if they make the jump off on Saturday will have a big chance. If there is one rider who knows how to perform when Wellington asks its

biggest questions, it is Ward. He is the most recent US rider to win the class (2019) and will be desperate to repeat the trick.

## KENNY: A PARTNERSHIP FINDING ITS PEAK

Week 9's CSI5\* Grand Prix was won by Darragh Kenny (IRL) riding Eddy Blue in the \$500,000 Bainbridge Companies CSI5\* Grand Prix. Darragh Kenny and Eddy Blue are one of Ireland's top rated combinations based on huge consistency and clear rounds and high placings in tough fields. The only surprise is that they haven't won more. This victory was only their second CSI5\* Grand Prix/World Cup win together, (following a

## Season Finale Champions

Which combinations have won the **WEF CSI5\* Rolex Grand Prix** over the past decade?

Date	Winners	Elo	Elo Field Strength	Winning Margin
2025	Christian Kukuk Checker 47	758	730	0.29
2024	Christian Kukuk Checker 47	753	718	0.42
2023	Richard Vogel Cepano Baloubet	648	714	8.62
2022	Ashlee Bond Karoline Of Ballmore	603	713	0.20
2021	Daniel Deuser Scuderia 1918 Tobago Z	781	711	1.26
2019	McLain Ward HH Azur	773	706	0.41
2018	Margie Goldstein-Engle Royce	716	679	3.16
2017	Sergio Alvarez Moya Charmeur	639	684	0.55
2016	Ben Maher Sarena	683	682	Only clear
2015	McLain Ward HH Carlos Z	728	685	0.40



London World Cup triumph in 2024). They like it here and before this win had finished on a WEF Week 7 podium last year. They are in form and likely to be in the jump off. What happens from there, we will see.

## A DECADE OF WEEK 12 CHAMPIONS

Three champions made and one more still to come - the last and most coveted title Wellington has to offer: the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix. The crown has gone to Germany in four of the last 5 years and with Richard Vogel and Christian Kukuk returning, the trend might well continue.

Christian Kukuk is the only rider to win it back-to-back in that span, taking both with his Olympic gold medal

partner Checker 47 in 2024 and 2025. Last year's win also ensured he became the first ever winner of the US Equestrian Open.

McLain Ward is the only two-time winner in the period across different horses — HH Carlos Z in 2015 and HH Azur in 2019 — while the full list of champions includes Ben Maher, Sergio Alvarez Moya, Margie Goldstein-Engle, Daniel Deusser, Ashlee Bond, and Richard Vogel.

Of the 9 winning riders across that span, just one had never previously won a CSI5\* 1.60m Grand Prix or World Cup before claiming this title. Margie Goldstein-Engle and Royce in 2018 are the exception that proves the rule. Every other champion arrived with that

experience already banked. This is a class that tends to find riders who already know what winning at the top looks like.

By Saturday night, this list will have a new entry. The only question is whose name goes on it.

## WELLINGTON SIGNS OFF

As WEF 2026 draws to a close, three five-star champions have already written their names into this season's story: Vogel's precision with a superstar young horse still finding his ceiling, Ward's unmatched WEF pedigree, and Kenny's surging momentum. This season has given us three worthy champions and on Saturday, a fourth will join them.



RELAXED SOPHISTICATION ON  
 PALM BEACH ISLAND'S *BEST BEACH*





# HOW TO EXPERIENCE ROLEX FINALE WEEK

at Wellington International



The Rolex Finale Week at Wellington International marks the thrilling conclusion of the 13-week Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). WEF is one of the largest and longest running equestrian competitions in the world and is considered the unofficial training ground for equestrian Olympians, including when LA28 brings the Games to the U.S. Each year, the week crescendos to the \$1,000,000 Rolex US

Equestrian Open Grand Prix, a Rolex Series Event, that brings together the sport's top athletes and horses for an unforgettable evening of sport.

If you're planning to attend, or watch from home, this guide will show you how to experience the Rolex Finale Week at Wellington International, from shopping and autograph signings to electrifying competition



## Rolex Finale Week Schedule

### All Week

#### Shop the Exclusive Rolex Series Collection

Visit the Wellington International Shop to browse the exclusive Wellington International x Rolex Series Equestrian merchandise collection, featuring apparel and accessories designed to commemorate the most exciting week of the season.

### Thursday

#### Rolex Series Equestrian Games & WEF Challenge Cup Qualifier

Thursday kicks off the first major qualifying opportunity for riders hoping to compete in Saturday's grand prix. The Adequan® CSI5\* WEF Challenge Cup will be the first opportunity for athletes to earn a coveted qualifying spot on Saturday night.

Don't miss fun games hosted by Rolex Series Equestrian, where you can win autographed merchandise, saddles and more. Visit [RolexSeries-Equestrian.com](http://RolexSeries-Equestrian.com) to play.

### Friday

#### Speed Qualifier

Friday brings the Bainbridge Companies CSI5\* Speed—a race against the clock to secure one of the remaining qualifying spots for the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix.

### Saturday

#### Autograph Signings and Saturday Night Lights

Saturday is the big night and one of the most exciting days in international show jumping. At noon, start your day by heading to Central Park for rider autograph signings, free event posters and photo opportunities with top athletes and our mascots, Welly and Rosie.

The highlight of the Rolex Finale Week is Saturday Night Lights (SNL), featuring the \$1,000,000 Rolex US Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix. Spectators can enjoy:

- World-class show jumping
- Live entertainment and music

- An opportunity to walk the course
- Kids activities such as face painting, pony rides, petting zoos, games and more
- Food and shopping vendors located across the promenade
- An in-ring meet & greet after the prizegiving ceremony
- General admission is free, gates open at 6 p.m. ET.

### SNL

#### How to Watch the Grand Prix Live

If you can't attend in person, there are several ways to watch the \$1,000,000 Rolex US Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix live:

- ESPN+
- Wellington International website
- Wellington International Facebook and YouTube
- USEF Network/ClipMyHorse.TV

Fans around the world tune in to watch this iconic event. The evening will kick off with the WEF Grand Prix Show hosted by Steven Wilde at 6:30 p.m.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSE FOR GUILHERME JORGE



Growing up in Campinas, Brazil, Guilherme Jorge first sat atop the back of a horse at age 10. That experience saddled him with a lifetime dedication to horses, eventually leading him to becoming a world renowned course designer.

Jorge was assistant course designer at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 before being named an FEI steward at Sydney in 2000. He was also assistant course designer for both the Athens 2004 and London 2012 Games, which lead to a head course designer appointment on home soil in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Most recently, Jorge served as the FEI technical delegate at the Paris 2024 Olympics and is the designer of the Rolex US

Equestrian Open Grand Prix at WEF.

For Jorge, the role is equal parts recognition of his dedication to the sport and service to the horse. A trained veterinarian, Jorge graduated as a veterinarian and practiced as an equine vet for eight years before becoming a course designer. In 2026, he will again design and build the course for the coveted Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix during Rolex Finale Week.

"I've designed this class many times, and each time I feel such pressure to deliver for the athletes, the horses and the fans," said Jorge, who spends his winters in Wellington. "I've been coming to Wellington

for almost 25 years now, and there's something special about having the responsibility of building for this [Rolex] Grand Prix. Wellington feels like my hometown now. It's my job to make sure that we end the season on a high note that showcases the absolute best of the riders, the horses, and the sport as a whole."

With seven of the top ten-ranked riders in the world making a bid at the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix, the field is stacked with both international and U.S. talent. Some of the biggest pressure for Jorge, however, is carrying on a theme of excellence at Wellington International.

"To design the course for

the last grand prix of the season is always a challenge because we have seen some of the top course designers in the world in action here this season," said Jorge of a list that includes Paris course designer Gergory Bodo, famed Irish builder Alan Wade and many others.

Of his approach, Jorge noted, "I always try to design a course where all the fences are related even if they are not in a line. The riders need to be focused and make a good plan in the walk and the questions need to be clear to the horse.

"There is a lot of discussion about how horses see the jumps," he continued. "My time as a vet and a rider has taught me that they may see it differently than we do, but it's about understanding how they see certain elements."

A major benefit to Jorge's residency in Wellington has been getting to study competition all season long. "I watch very closely throughout the season and pay attention to what the other course designers are doing week-in and out, so I don't repeat ideas, combinations, or look of the course," said Jorge. "I always like to play with ideas and can get going once I see where they place the open water in the ring. I knew for this year, we were going to have some new top European combinations competing in this final [Rolex] Grand Prix,



so I wanted to build a strong course."

While building courses for the world's best, Jorge must also keep in mind the challenge beyond the initial track. "When you think about designing the jump-off, you want to really give thought to allowing the riders and horses the best chance at going as fast as possible. With a competition as elite as this, you also want to be sure that it's about the jumping, and I love the idea of finishing the course on a fast open gallop," said Jorge.

The 2026 season is his 12th year planning the season's finale five-star track and as ever, it's sure to be show stopping.

## CHROME HORSE SOCIETY® TEQUILA



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Panama Rolex Series Hat



International Travel Bag



Rolex Series Collector's Vest

# Suit Up For Rolex Finale Week

Shop the Rolex Series Equestrian x Wellington International collection at the Wellington International Shop in person or online at WellingtonInternational.com.



Rolex Series Polo Shirt in Navy



Unisex Rolex Series - Wellington Sweatshirt in Navy



Rolex Series - US Equestrian Open Baseball Cap in Navy



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# FLORIDA TO FRANCE

## A SISTER SHOW SERIES

**Words by Raelyn Baker**

Rooted in rich history, the Normandy Summer Tour brings heritage, culture and sport together by creating a unique summer competition experience. Offering much more than just sport, it is a true testament to equestrian excellence by boosting local economies, investing in equestrian infrastructure with dedication to innovation and strengthening equine heritage.

When you're done wintering in Wellington, the next best stop is to spend the summer

in Normandy and support a connection that serves as a transatlantic alliance for equine excellence. Working together to strengthen the ties between American and European show jumping, the Normandy Summer Tour and the Wellington Equestrian Festival work to promote shared values of performance, innovation, and excellence.

Normandy is the embodiment of France's equestrian heartland, serving as a landmark for breeding, sport and trade to come together with the support of

world-class facilities and unwavering regional support.

Celebrating a deep history in equestrian sport breeding, the region of Normandy is the birthplace of the Selle Français—a worldwide studbook. Where equestrian sport meets culture and heritage, the World Horse Library unites the University of Caen Normandy and the Normandy Region with the additional support of the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI). With over 18,000 works and 34 different languages represented, the World Horse Library makes



centuries of historical equine knowledge and culture readily accessible to the public.

Since its establishment in 2023, the Normandy Summer Tour has become one of Europe's leading equestrian circuits. With world-class venues and top athletes from across the globe, this unique collection of thoughtfully planned events enhances Normandy's global stance and continues to develop its equestrian industry. With ten shows hosted across the Region of Normandy in seven renowned venues, 30 nations will be represented across 200 events with \$2,000,000 in prize money.

The series begins on May 7 with a CSI3\* at the Le

Touquet Paris-Plage Equestrian Park for the Le Touquet Classic, featuring the Grand Prix of Le Touquet taking place on Sunday, May 10.

The season continues through August with the last stop of the summer landing at the Haras de la Vallée for the Notre-Dame D'Estrées, on August 20.



### A SUMMER IN NORMANDY 2026 SCHEDULE

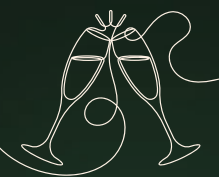
<b>LE TOUQUET CLASSIC</b> ★★	CSI 3*, CSI 1*, YH, AM Paris-Equestrian Le Touquet Paris-Plage	MAY 7-10
<b>CABOURG CLASSIC</b> ★★	CSI 4*, CSI 1*, YH, AM Hippodrome de Cabourg	MAY 28-31
<b>CSIO DEAUVILLE</b> ★★	CSIO 5*, CSI 1* Pôle International du Cheval Longines Deauville	JUNE 4-7
<b>CHANTILLY CLASSIC</b> ★★	CSI 4*, CSI 2*, CSI 1*, YH Hippodrome de Chantilly	JUNE 17-21
<b>DEAUVILLE</b> ★★	CSI 1*, CSI 1*, YH, AM GOLD TOUR Pôle International du Cheval Longines Deauville	JULY 8-12
<b>DEAUVILLE</b> ★★	Pro, Amateur, YH Pôle International du Cheval Longines Deauville	JULY 23-26
<b>SAINT-LÔ</b> ★★	CSI 4*, CSI 2*, CSI 1*, YH Hippodrome de Saint-Lô	AUGUST 6-9
<b>LONGINES DEAUVILLE CLASSIC</b> ★★	CSI 4*, CSI 1* Pôle International du Cheval Longines Deauville	AUGUST 13-16
<b>NOTRE-DAME D'ESTRÉES</b> ★★	CSI 4*, CSI 1*, YH Haras de la Vallée	AUGUST 20-24

#### QUESTIONS & INQUIRIES

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SCAN ME



## SIP & SHOP

**MARCH 28**

**6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION:**  
INTERNATIONAL CLUB LOBBY

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres & cocktails prior to the \$1,000,000 Rolex US Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix, a Rolex Series Event

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



# 2026 WEF VENDORS

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB

- Lugano
- Stefano Ricci
- Ritz Carlton Residences, West Palm Beach
- Sean Rush
- Wellington Lifestyle Partners
- Human Touch

## TIKI TERRACE

- Wellington International Store
- Hermes
- Karina Brez Jewelry
- Dandyion
- Serenella
- French Boutique (WEF P-2)
- Flor De Campo (WEF 3-4)
- Irene Neuwirth (WEF 5-6)
- Zoe (WEF 7-11)
- SR Blackinton (WEF 12)

## BRIDGE DECK AT TIKI TERRACE

- DADA Sport
- Coastal Steel Structures (WEF 5-7)
- Weatherly Stroh Studios (WEF 8-11)
- US Equestrian (WEF 12)
- Cara VL (WEF P-1)
- Horsehair Jewellery (WEF 3-4)
- Hangai Mountain Textiles (WEF 5-7)
- The Calvert Collection (WEF 8-12)

## THE BARN AT HUNTER HILL

- LeMieux
- Gladiator Therapeutics
- Lash LaRue
- Odette Boutique (WEF 9 & 10)
- Coastal Steel (WEF 11-12)

## INTERNATIONAL RING WARM UP

- Prestige Italia
- Horcery
- Bruno Del Grange Maître Sellier
- Barnwalkers
- IDA Development

## RING 6

- Antarès Sellier
- Voltaire Design
- THEAULT

FOOD VENDOR

## OASIS

- Charles Ancona
- La Enovese Designs
- Devoucoux
- 70 Degrees
- Erica Wilson (WEF P-4, WEF 7 & 8)
- J Wilder Imports (WEF 5-6)
- Ryde Equestrian (WEF 9-10)
- Paulina Velez Designs
- The Oasis Café

## VENDOR VILLAGE SOUTHSIDE

- Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue
- Equestrian Team Apparel
- Optic Nirvana
- Fab Finds by Sarah
- JODS
- Sofie's Boutique
- Best Buds Florist
- Odette (WEF P-8, WEF 11 & 12)
- Flor De Campo (WEF 9-10)

## VENDOR VILLAGE NORTHSIDE

- Loopy's Crepes
- The In Gate
- Ride EquiSafe
- Miki Saddlery
- Parlanti
- Equ Lifestyle Boutique
- EQUIS
- Vogel
- Kelly's Lemonade

## TRAILER ROW

- CWD
- Stephex
- Tony Hanley Horse Supplements
- Kelly Kocher Tack
- Running Fox
- Turner & Co.
- Personalized Products
- CM Hadfield's
- Equine Tack & Nutritionals
- Equiline
- Tack N' Rider
- Toasties Gourmet

## PONY ISLAND

- Scarlet Technologies (WEF 1-2)
- Fashion Farm Girl (WEF 3-4, 6, 10-12)
- The In Gate Academy
- Palm Beach International
- Sylvia Tacos
- Best Pizza Heaven
- Florida Snow
- Farm Stand

## THE BARN

- Paddock Paws
- Dandy Products
- FarmVet
- Josey's Laundry
- Anonymous Coffee

## RING 9

- Arion (WEF P-8)
- The Dad Den (WEF 9-12)
- Forestier
- Graceful Oaks
- Nathalie's Café

## RING 10

- Ringside Health
- McGuinn
- Magdalena's Mexican

## SOUTH BARN

- Rider's Boutique
- Zest
- Blue Ribbon Carts
- Tampico Hermoso



# BEYOND WELLINGTON:

## TAKING YOUR HEALTH WITH YOU

What's next? As the Winter Equestrian Festival comes to a close and barns begin to empty, many of us turn our focus north for the summer season. Equipment is carefully packed, travel plans are mapped out, and every detail of our horses' care is accounted for. But while we go to great lengths to ensure our horses receive consistent, top-quality care year-round, it's worth asking: are we doing the same for ourselves?

At Ringside Health, we believe your health and wellness shouldn't be seasonal or tied to a single location. Equestrians are constantly on the move, and your healthcare should move with you. That's why we've reimaged what accessible, high-quality care looks like for riders, trainers, managers, and grooms alike.

Through our telemedicine program, expert care is always within reach, no matter where the summer takes you. Whether you're in New York, Kentucky, or anywhere in between, our physicians are available to connect by phone or video,

discuss your concerns, and create personalized treatment plans. Prescriptions can be managed seamlessly across state lines, ensuring continuity of care without interruption. Your health goals don't pause when the season changes, and neither do we.

For those looking to take their care a step further, our Concierge Programs offer a truly elevated experience. Introduced this year, they've quickly become an invaluable resource for our clients. Designed with the equestrian lifestyle in mind, these programs provide 24/7 access to our doctors, wherever you are in the country. Beyond immediate care, our team works proactively, coordinating with other healthcare providers, guiding you toward



specialists who align with your goals, and ensuring every aspect of your wellness is supported.

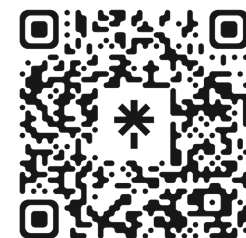
This isn't care you turn to only when something goes wrong. It's a partnership built on prevention, performance, and longevity. Just as we prioritize our horses' health to keep them performing at their best, we must recognize that we are athletes, too. Staying ahead of potential issues, maintaining balance, and investing in long-term wellness is essential, not optional.

As Ringside Health continues to grow, so does our commitment to meeting you where you are. With plans to expand our presence beyond Wellington, including a

potential location in New York City, we're ensuring that wherever the circuit leads, expert care is never far behind.

So as you prepare for the season ahead, don't let your health fall off the checklist. Make Ringside Health part of your summer plan. Schedule an appointment, stop by the trailer before you head out, and let's create a strategy that supports you every step of the way.

Scan QR Code to learn more



### Ringside Health

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- Functional and Integrative Medicine
- Primary care & nationwide telemedicine

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- Hair growth therapies



- Located On-Site at Wellington International
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- (561) 247-2373
- [info@ringsidemds.com](mailto:info@ringsidemds.com)





# CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Got Lucky, owned by Jet Show Stable and ridden by Preshy McGhee, was awarded Champion in the Children's Pony Hunter Small/Medium division during WEF 11.



Halen Bobowski rode Marvel Comic, owned by Joe Currais, to champion of the WEF 11 Large Children's Pony Hunter division sponsored by CWD.



Hudson Bay, owned and ridden by Gina Newhouse, was awarded WEF 8 champion of the Older Cross Rail division sponsored by the Always Faithful Equestrian Club.



Hulst Summer, owned by VS Stables, was ridden to champion of the WEF 9 Large Pony Jumper division with Zara McGuigan. Zara was also champion of the WEF 9 1.0m Junior Jumper division riding WHG Whiterock Cruise R, owned by Princeton Horse Sales.



Lexie Brennan rode Fasila, owned by Lisamarie Melk, to champion of the 1.10m Junior Jumper division during WEF 11.



Mattelyn Morrissey and Woodlands Tinker Tot, owned by East Wind Farms, were awarded champion of the WEF 10 Small Green Pony Hunter division.



# CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Farnley Ivy Crown, ridden and owned by Madelyn Buckley, was the champion of the Walk/Trot Division during WEF 11.



Kendall Cafferty rode One Direction, owned by Sher-AI Farm Inc, to champion of the Low Child/Adult Amateur Training Jumper .80m division during WEF 11.



Virtue, owned and ridden by Melissa Jacobs, was awarded the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award presented by Laura Fetterman after winning in the WEF 11 Adequan Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35 class.



After winning the \$62,500 BrainWater CSI2\* 1.45m Grand Prix on Saturday, Charlotte Jacobs and Rincoola Milsean were presented with the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman.

# SEASON STANDINGS

## LEADING LADY RIDER AWARD STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY MARTHA W. JOLICOEUR, DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

1	ERYNN BALLARD CAN	557 PTS
2	NINA MALLEVAEY FRA	539 PTS
3	MARILYN LITTLE USA	529 PTS
4	NATALIE DEAN USA	499 PTS
5	LILLIE KEENAN USA	451 PTS



McKayla Langmeier, pictured on Riesling van de Gaathoeve, is presented with the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award. Photo ©Sportfot

## DON LITTLE MASTERS STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY RUSHY MARSH FARM

1	MOLLY ATHEY & KEBEA KS	129
2	CAMILLE PACHECO CESARSKI & FLINT T.S. ET	121
3	REZA SHABANI & DAKOTA Z	110
4	BLYTHE MASTERS & PALERMO VAN PAAL Z	103
5	CAROLYN ANDERSON & WESTBROOK	89

## OVERALL HUNTER JUNIOR/AMATEUR-OWNER RIDER

PRESENTED BY YETI

1	LILLY HERZOG	657 PTS
2	PARKER PEACOCK	577 PTS
3	IRENE NEUWIRTH	523 PTS
4	MELISSA JACOBS	494 PTS
5	CAROLINE KELLOGG	413 PTS

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# SHOW & TELL

We're Show & Tell, a horse show and travel blog guiding you around the show circuit. While we have a permanent winter base in South Florida, we'll be bringing you insider tips this winter on how to make the most of your time here.



## A Weekend in Miami

Looking for a day trip or weekend away to end your season? We always love a quick breeze down to Miami. Here's how to make the most of the trip.

## Where to Stay:

- ★ The 1 of course
- ★ The Ritz (staying here soon, haven't been before)
- ★ Faena (good restaurant)
- ★ Setai

## What to do:

### Shopping

- ★ Design district
- ★ Kith
- ★ The Webster

### Boat for a day

- ★ Jet skis

## Spa day

- ★ We loved the Bamford Wellness Spa at the 1 Hotel—their signature scent is soooo zen

## Sports/culture events

- ★ Check for any big events while you're in town, there's always something going on. Ex. art Basel, Miami open, concerts...

## What to do:

- ★ Mandolin
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# BLUMANS DO BATTLE

## IN HERMÈS 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES FINAL

Twelve weeks of Hermès 1.50m competition came to a peak in the \$150,000 Hermès CSI4\* 1.50m Championship Jumper Series Final during the penultimate week of WEF 2026. Daniel Bluman (ISR) and Mark Bluman (COL) went head-to-head in a second round, with the top 12 returning to decide the final placing and the season title.

Mark sat handily in the lead of both the final and the season aboard 11-year-old Belgian-bred mare Phelina de Septon (Jenson Van't Meulenhof x Landor S) until his cousin Daniel and seasoned 15-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare Gemma W returned to chase them down.

"Every time that I get to go in the ring on Gemma, it means a lot to me," said Daniel of the mare owned by Blue Star Investments together with Over The Top Stables that carried him to a top 20 finish at the 2023 World Cup Final

in Omaha. "I saw Mark's jump-off, and it was fast—I didn't think I could beat them, but I wanted to for sure give it a try. At this point in Gemma's career, she's game, and I felt from the beginning that she was going for it.

"If I were standing where he's standing, I would probably still be very happy," continued Daniel. "We love for each other to win. He won the last two, and I get to



PHOTOS ©CASSIDY KLEIN



take this one. It's been a long time since I was that excited after finishing a round—it was so much fun."

Mark is coming off a streak by winning the last two Hermès 1.50m Qualifiers during WEF 9 and 10, both on different horses. The consistency helped him to secure the season title with his runner-up placing, just one tenth of a second off the lead.

"I was able to compete every single week this season—it's the first time in my career that I have had a group of horses like this," said Mark of a season that has kept him at the top of the 1.50m rankings, and includes Phelina de Septon, a mare owned and

previously piloted by Canada's Mario Deslauriers. "When I have Daniel and Gemma coming behind me, I knew I was fast, but I also knew he could get me. I just tried to celebrate and get the crowd involved, trying to rattle him up and maybe catch a rail. The plan didn't work out, but I am still very happy."



For the overall Hermès 1.50m title, Mark was awarded a \$10,000 Hermès store credit and additional gifts from Hermès.



# 2025 ROLEX SERIES CHAMPIONS

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Falsterbo, Sweden



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and Checker 47

**YURI MANSUR**  
and Miss Blue

**DANIEL DEUSSER**  
and Otello de Guldenboom

**KARL COOK**  
and Caracole de la Roque

**JUMPING  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE DINARD**  
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**DUBLIN HORSE  
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Dublin, Ireland

**BRUSSELS STEPHEX  
MASTERS**  
Wolvertem, Belgium



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and Carissimo 25

**LAURA KRAUT**  
and Bisquetta

**NINA MALLEVAEY**  
and Dynastie de Beaufour



A Rolex Series Event



# ALEX MATZ AND JUNIOR KANNAN CLINCH FIRST FEI WIN



USA's Alex Matz and Junior Kannan (Kannan x Diamant de Semilly) nipped their first international victory together in the \$200,000 WeatherTech CSI4\* Grand Prix to close out Week 11.

Sunday action in the International Arena during the penultimate week of the 2026 WEF season saw Matz headlined a nine-horse jump-off over tracks designed by Andy Christiansen (USA). With only one to return after him, Matz, 29, and his 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, owned by his mother Dorothy A. Matz, cruised to a new time to beat in 35.79 seconds.

Fellow U.S. rider McKayla Langmeier and Riesling van

de Gaathoeve, a 9-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion (Iron Man vd Padenborre x Diamant de Semilly) owned by Rafferty Farm, did their best as the last to return, but came up short in 36.59 seconds.

Ibrahim Barazi (JOR) rode 12-year-old stallion Joie De Vigo R.T. (Vigo d'Arsouilles Stx x Cassini I), owned in partnership between Maarten Driessen, Rene Hazeleger and Sofia Westborg, to third in 37.04 seconds.

"Junior is feeling phenomenal," said Matz, who has had the ride on Junior Kannan for three years. "Today, he jumped even

better in the jump-off than in the first round. I felt like I could really give it a go because of how he was jumping.

"This season, he's been very consistent—I haven't used him a lot because I did a lot with him last year, but I feel like he's peaking at the right time," continued Matz, who only piloted Junior Kannan in two international outings this season, including a top 10 finish during WEF 6.

"It was an advantage to be far down in the order today," said Matz, son of 1996 U.S. Olympic team silver medalist Michael Matz. "I knew my horse was naturally fast, so I did the normal jump-off

PHOTOS @CASSIDY KLEIN



numbers and took a little bit of risk; I'd be competitive."

Next, Matz plans to step Junior Kannan up once again to face the \$1m Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix during the final week of the WEF season.

Since the retirement of his top mount Cashew CR, at the end of last year, Matz has been focused on developing his string, saying, "Cashew's retirement has been difficult because he was such a great horse for me. Luckily, I have some nice younger horses—two nice 7-year-olds, an 8-year-old and some that are just stepping up to 1.50m. I think I can hopefully be competitive with them in the upcoming years."

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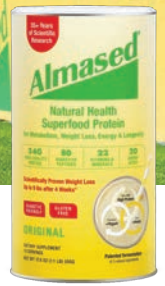
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# SAVE THE DATES

## 2027 Winter Equestrian Festival\*

### **WEF PREMIERE | JANUARY 6 – 10**

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### **WEF 1 | JANUARY 13 – 17**

*CSI3\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 2 | JANUARY 20 – 24**

*CSI3\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 3 | JANUARY 27 – 31**

*CSI4\*, CSI2\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 4 | FEBRUARY 3 – 7**

*CSI4\*, CSI2\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 5 | FEBRUARY 10 – 14**

*CSI5\*, CSI2\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 6 | FEBRUARY 17 – 21**

*CSI3\*, WCHR & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 7 | FEBRUARY 24 – 28**

*CSI5\*, CSI2\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 8 | MARCH 3 – 7**

*CSIO4\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 9 | MARCH 10 – 14**

*CSI5\*, CSI2\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 10 | MARCH 17 – 21**

*CSI4\* & USEF Premier "AA"*

### **WEF 11 | MARCH 24 – 28**

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### **ROLEX FINALE WEEK | MARCH 31 – APRIL 4**

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\*All dates subject to change pending USEF and FEI approval.