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Sunday, October 30, 2022

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Golden and Barnes Secure Final Wins of 2022 WIHS

October 30, 2022 – Upper Marlboro, MD – The 2022 Washington International Horse Show, presented by MARS Equestrian™ closed out the final day of competition on Sunday, October 30, with the smallest competitors of the show. Vivian Golden of Wyomissing, PA, rode Brixton, owned by Betsee Parker, to the Grand Pony Hunter Championship, presented by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Ava Barnes added her name to the trophy for the win riding Prestige in the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals, presented by Huntland.

Barnes and Brixton, a 12-year-old German Riding Pony gelding by Charivari, competed in the Large Pony Hunters where they won all three of their jumping classes and placed second in the under saddle. Golden was also reserve champion with Royalist, also owned by Betsee Parker.



Vivian Golden and Brixton on their way to winning the Grand Pony Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

Golden noted that Brixton had an especially amazing day, which included scoring 93 in the stake class. "I like it when people get a big, higher score because I know I can go in and beat them," said Golden. "I know I can ride just as well. I like to be nervous and take a couple of deep breaths. I go in and find my rhythm."

"He was very light and looking at the jumps," she continued. "He wasn't too quiet and wasn't too fast. He was just so nice to ride today."



Vivian Golden and Brixton with ringmaster Steve Rector, WIHS President Vicki Lowell, Bradley Bowns, Betsee Parker, and Memo Cholas. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

Golden knew that she could rely on Brixton, a pony she has ridden since January.

"Any time you have a little pressure, he is always going to be there and he's always going to try his hardest," she described. "I love to ride soft and leave them alone, and he likes that too, so we're a good match."

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JJ Torano winning the Gochman Style of Riding Award. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.



Olivia Sweetnam won the Best Child Rider on a Pony award. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.



Ava Barnes in her winning presentation riding Prestige with ringmaster Steve Rector, Betsee Parker, Maddie Tosh, Enrique Pachardo, and David Belford. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

In the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals, 13-year-old Ava Barnes of Liberty Township, OH, captured the win, adding her name to the trophy that includes such names as Samantha Schaefer, Jessica Springsteen, and Lucy Deslauriers.

This was Barnes's second time competing in the Finals, and she placed fourth last year. She and Prestige, her 11-year-old Belgian Riding Pony gelding, have been paired together for two years. Barnes admitted that nerves struck as she entered the ring for her over fences round and increased as they continued knowing it was going well.



Ava Barnes rode Prestige to the win. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography.

"When I walked in, I was a little bit nervous because I wanted to do well," she recalled. "I was really nervous going to the last jump because I knew I had a good round. I just didn't want to pop chip, or have a swap, or hit a rail or anything. When I left the ring, my trainer [David Belford] gave me a high five and said it was really good."

Barnes sat in second place with a score of 89 following the jumping phase and moved up to first place after a solid flat phase. For her win, Barnes was presented with the Jane Marshall Dillon Memorial Perpetual Trophy.

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KEEPING IT REEL



Listen to Ava Barnes, winner of the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals



Hear from WIHS Equitation Finals winner Augusta Iwasaki!



Watch a video about WIHS Hall of Fame inductee Beezie Madden

PHOTO GALLERY

BY ALDEN CORRIGAN MEDIA

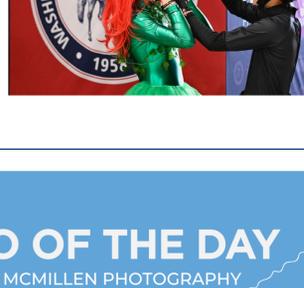
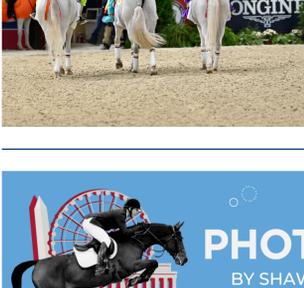


PHOTO OF THE DAY

BY SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



For more information about WIHS, visit www.wihs.org, join WIHS on Facebook, follow on Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter, and subscribe on YouTube. Tag using #WIHS2022, #FEIWorldCup, #TimeToBeat and #Longines.

About Washington International Horse Show

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 \$406,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington for the President's Cup presented by Experience Prince George's, and the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, plus popular community and charity events, including Kids' Day and Barn Night. WIHS, an official USEF Heritage Competition, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. For more information, visit wihs.org.

