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World Equestrian Center Highlights

Wilmington Winter Classic IX



The ladies stole the show in the \$30,000 Grand Prix of World Equestrian Center – Wilmington Winter Classic 9, with Devin Milan (USA) scoring her second featured win of the week with Conquest. only Milan and Nicole Loochtan (USA) posting double clear efforts.

"In the jump-off, I went in to win it! I jumped fence one on an angle and really leaned back for the second vertical. I walked the first line in eight and landed and kind of did seven and a half. My horse was really careful and helped me out there."

Photo by Winslow Photography



The \$15,000 USHJA National Open Hunter Derby at WEC – Wilmington showcased 17 horse-and-athlete combinations, though none could touch Kristjan Good and Cassias 6.

"This is my first show with him. He is owned by Ava Apostolopoulos. He is a very nice horse, and that was the first derby that he has done. He is just 10 this year, and he is so nice to ride."

Photo by <u>Winslow Photography</u>

Nicole Loochtan (USA) clinched her fourth featured win of the 2024 Winter in the Midwest Series at WEC – Wilmington. This time she sped to victory with her own Kupardie in the \$10,000 <u>Premier Equestrian</u> Futures Prix.

"I am just getting to know him. I haven't had him for very long, and when I first got him I ended up with an injury, so I was out for a while. Now that I know him a bit better I feel more comfortable going a lot faster. Hopefully this is his last week jumping the futures, and he will be ready to move up to the grand prix."

Photo by Winslow Photography

Ocala Winter Spectacular VI



The dynamic duo of Tracy Fenney (USA) and MTM Apple seized the lead with a speedy performance finishing nearly three seconds ahead of second place in the \$100,000 <u>IDA</u> <u>Development</u> Grand Prix at WEC – Ocala.

"It was a tough track. The jumps were big and wide, and there were a good amount of questions. The first half you had to be smart, and in the second half you had to be careful. 'Apple' jumped pretty hard out there for me, and she did everything she could to keep the rails up."



Watch the Winning Jump-Off Round for Tracy Fenney and MTM Apple in the \$100,000 IDA Development Grand Prix



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The 2024 WEC Premier Equitation Cup Championship powered by <u>Gary</u> <u>Yeomans Ford</u> was the highly anticipated event of week VI at WEC – Ocala. Eleanor Rudnicki of Conroe, TX, finished her junior career with an unforgettable victory aboard Favorite Edition Z. Rudnicki demonstrated her talent by maintaining the lead through all three phases of the championship.

"It was a really good test. It allowed for you to show off your horse and your riding. Maddie really went for it, so I knew I had to do the same. It was really fun, and I loved the competitiveness at the end."

Photo by <u>Andrew Ryback</u> <u>Photography</u>



Samantha Schaefer, a familiar face in the winner's circle with her beloved mount In The Know, delivered two flawless rounds to claim the victory in the \$20,000 <u>Golden Ocala</u> 3'6"-3'9" Hunter Derby at WEC – Ocala.

"I think I sometimes tend to put a little bit more pressure on myself for classes like this, especially when they are at night, because it feels a bit different and more important. I just reminded myself that I know my horse, and I just need to ride the course out there that would best suit him."

Photo by <u>Andrew Ryback</u> <u>Photography</u>

Watch the Winning Handy Round for Samantha Schaefer and In The Know in the \$20,000 Golden Ocala 3'6"-3'9" Hunter Derby



Watch Here



The \$15,000 <u>Buckeye Nutrition</u> Futures Prix at WEC – Ocala was the highlight Jumping event on Saturday. Daniel Coyle (IRL) secured his third consecutive victory, this time aboard Amalia, owned by Ariel Grange.

"We've had 'Peaches' since she was seven years old, and she's just starting to come back to her best. She didn't do much the last few years for no reason other than we had other horses that we were focusing on. I jumped her here the other day with Ariel, and I said she hasn't felt this good in a long time. Apparently I was right because she felt amazing today."

Photo by <u>Andrew Ryback</u> <u>Photography</u>

Read All Horse Show Coverage

World Equestrian Center Winners



Speed was the name of the game in the \$10,000 Welcome Stake in Wilmington and Devin Milan (USA) piloting Conquest rode to the top of the leaderboard. **Photo by** <u>Winslow</u> <u>Photography</u>



Out of 23 entries in the \$15,000 USHJA National Non-Pro Hunter Derby in Wilmington, it was Anona Svenkesen and her own Express De B'neville that took the lead by nine points. **Photo by <u>Winslow</u>** <u>**Photography**</u>



An elite field of horse-and-rider combinations vied for the top prize in the \$24,000 <u>C. Jarvis</u> <u>Insurance</u> Welcome Prix in Ocala. Daniel Coyle (IRL) proved his talents once again finishing first with his brand-new partner Incredible. **Photo by** <u>Andrew Ryback Photography</u>



The \$15,000 USHJA National 3' Junior Hunter Derby in Ocala played host to 39 top-tier hunter duos, all vying for the coveted title, but ultimately it was Lillian Geitner who stole the spotlight aboard Banks Mill. **Photo by** <u>Andrew Ryback</u> <u>Photography</u>



There were 31 top-level hunter combinations in the \$15,000 <u>UF</u> <u>Veterinary Hospital</u> USHJA National 3' Open Hunter Derby in Ocala, but it was Jennifer Jones who captured the judges' eyes on both Soundcheck and Lincoln. **Photo by <u>Andrew Ryback</u>** <u>Photography</u>



In the \$15,000 USHJA National 3' Amateur Hunter Derby in Ocala, Reynolds Cole emerged triumphant aboard Square Won. **Photo by** <u>Andrew Ryback Photography</u>



Sunday Spotlight



Maddie Tosh and Daktari **Photo by <u>Andrew</u>** <u>**Ryback Photography**</u>.

This week's WEC – Ocala Sunday Spotlight shines on the second-place finisher in the 2024 WEC Premier Equitation Cup Championship powered by Gary Yeomans Ford, Maddie Tosh of Milton, GA. As the daughter of Hunt and Mandy Tosh, the 18-year-old athlete has been immersed in the equestrian industry from a young age. Today she stands as a highly accomplished hunter, jumper and equitation athlete. We had the opportunity to catch up with Maddie to learn more about her background and her journey competing in this year's championship.

Read More



Brandon Gibson and Grimoire d'Elphen. Photo by <u>Winslow Photography</u>. This week's WEC – Wilmington Sunday Spotlight shines on Brandon Gibson's eight-year-old Selle Francais stallion, Grimoire d'Elphen, also known as 'Graham'. The stunning Paint stallion by Thunder Gesmeray out of Dior d'Elphen can be found in picture-perfect form in the 3'9" Green Hunters and national derbies with Gibson in the irons. Though Graham never fails to impress with his presence in the ring, Gibson was quick to swoon over his puppy-dog demeanor in the barn. We caught up with Gibson to learn more about the star of his stable.

Read More

Upcoming Events

World Equestrian Center – Ocala

2024 Winter Spectacular Show Series Dates

Winter Spectacular VII: February 13-18 CSI3*

Winter Spectacular VIII: February 20-25 CSI3*

Winter Spectacular IX: February 27-March 3 CSI3*

Winter Spectacular X: March 5-10 CSI4*/2*

Winter Spectacular XI: March 13-17 Winter Spectacular XII: March 20-24 CSIO5*

World Equestrian Center – Wilmington

2024 Winter in the Midwest Dates

Winter Classic X: February 14-18 Winter Classic XI: February 21-25 Winter Classic XII: February 28-March 3 Winter Classic Spring Forward: March 6-10 Winter Classic XIV: March 13-17 Winter Classic XV: March 20-24 Winter Classic XVII: April 3-7 Winter Classic XVIII: April 3-7

See Full Event Schedule

Watch Competition Replays On Demand



ClipMyHorse is the official streaming provider for World Equestrian Center and offers event replays on demand on its website, as well as individual clips available for purchase. Visit <u>clipmyhorse.tv</u> to watch on demand, plus view and download your individual clips from competition.



About World Equestrian Center

World Equestrian Center features two premier equestrian and multidisciplinary venues in Ocala, Florida, and Wilmington, Ohio.

These exclusive facilities comprise state-of-the-art arenas, expansive stadiums, versatile outdoor space, sporting fields and well-appointed exposition centers. An abundance of lodging options and luxury accommodations are conveniently located on-site, along with shopping and dining throughout each property.

Dedicated to offering great sport and good fun in a family-friendly environment, World Equestrian Center promises an unparalleled experience for exhibitors, spectators, vendors, sponsors and retailers built on three core values: Quality. Class. Distinction.

Learn more at <u>wec.net</u>.

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