



I'm Blue Wins Connaway & Associates High Point North American-Bred Horse Award at CCHS

The six-year-old I'm Blue became the eighth annual recipient of the [Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc.](#) High Point North American-Bred Horse Award at the 2026 [Capital Challenge Horse Show](#) (CCHS) in Upper Marlboro, MD. The gelding is ridden and trained by Kelsey Duffy, the daughter of his owner/breeder, Donna Duffy of Little Brook Farms Inc.

Kelsey guided I'm Blue — barn name Aiden — to a score of 82 in the Green Hunter Colts and Geldings division to claim the award, which is presented to the North American-bred horse that earns the highest-scoring round across all professional hunter divisions and special classes at CCHS. The award, which is open to horses bred in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, recognizes and rewards top-quality hunter horses bred in North America.



Kelsey Duffy with I'm Blue: the home-bred gelding was awarded the Connaway & Associates High Point North American-Bred Horse Award at the 2026 CCHS. **Photo by [Jump Media](#)**

I'm Blue is by Paul Schockemöhle's late stallion Chacoon Blue and out of the Duffys' Rotspan x Weltmeyer mare Rapunzel.

"At Little Brook Farms, our breeding program focuses on producing a small, carefully selected group of foals each year, with an emphasis on quality and on developing horses and ponies for the highest levels of hunter and jumper competition," said Donna.

"We would like to thank Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services for sponsoring the North American-bred award and promoting U.S. sport horse breeders," she continued. "We are extremely honored to accept this award and especially proud that a horse bred through our program has been recognized. This moment is even more meaningful knowing that Aiden was one of my late husband Gary Duffy's favorite horses."



Kelsey Duffy and I'm Blue en route to a score of 82 in the Green Hunter Colts and Geldings division. **Photo by [Shawn McMillen](#)**

Connaway & Associates President Laura Connaway of Little Rock, AR, said, "I'm very proud to continue sponsoring the Connaway & Associates North American-Bred Horse Award at Capital Challenge and to celebrate the breeders and families who are so deeply invested in the future of our sport."

"This year's recipient, I'm Blue, is particularly special because he is the culmination of many years of his family's dedication to breeding and developing the kind of horse they dreamed of producing — and he has gone on to become exactly that: a champion."

"What makes his story so meaningful is that the family that bred him still owns and trains him," she continued. "That kind of continuity is a wonderful testament to the knowledge, patience, and commitment that go into producing a top horse. I'm passionate about honoring that process and celebrating U.S. breeding and our sport horse heritage."

[Read More](#)

Listen Up: Connaway & Associates-Sponsored Podcasts

In Stride Podcast With Sinead Halpin Maynard from Ride iQ



[Olivia Dutton](#)

Forging Her Own Path in Eventing

[Julie Goodnight](#)

What Your Horse Is Really Responding To

[Will and Katie Coleman](#)

Chasing Goals Together and Redefining Success

[Alice Fox-Pitt](#)

Why Equestrian Sport Needs Better Storytelling

[Bill Moroney](#)

US Equestrian's CEO on Stepping Down After a Decade at the Helm

[John Michael Durr](#)

Pretending Is Safe Is What Stops Us From Protecting Horses and Riders

[Caroline Harris](#)

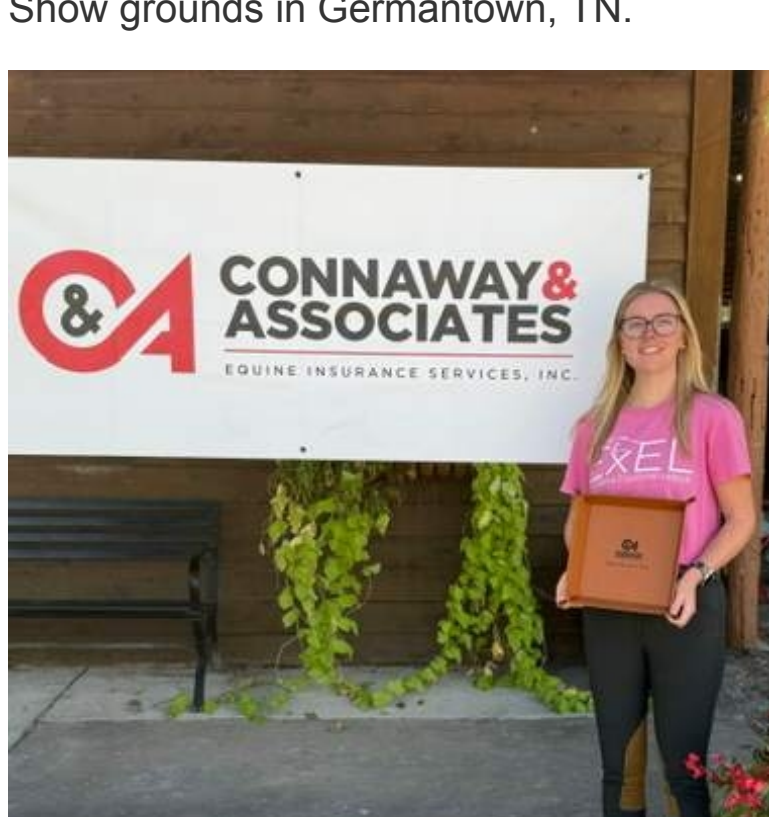
Belief, Doubt, and the Unlikely Horse Behind a Run at the FEI Eventing World Championships

[In Stride on Apple Podcasts](#)

[In Stride on Spotify](#)

Latest Winners of the Connaway & Associates Sportsmanship Awards at ExEL

The Connaway team congratulates the latest recipients of the Connaway & Associates sportsmanship awards at the 2026 [Experience Equestrian League \(ExEL\)](#) September show, held at the Germantown Charity Horse Show grounds in Germantown, TN.



Award winners Marie Smith (top and bottom left) and Clara Hickerson (top and bottom right). **Photos courtesy of [ExEL](#)**



Amateur Sportsmanship Award: Clara Hickerson with Red Cap

At Clara's first show back since graduating from nursing school, it was clear how happy she was to spend time with her horse, Red Cap — known in the barn as Porter — and to get back into the ring. She was always looking for ways to help show staff and fellow exhibitors. When another competitor realized they needed a replacement air vest canister, Clara immediately jumped in her car, picked one up from the local tack store, and took the time to teach them how to replace it. Her thoughtfulness did not end there. When Clara went to choose her prize from her division, she remembered another exhibitor had mentioned how much they wanted a particular item. Rather than choosing something for herself, Clara selected it to give to them. This small gesture said so much about her character, highlighting her kindness, generosity, and willingness to help others.



Junior Sportsmanship Award: Marie Smith with Pierogi

Marie and Pierogi were attending their very first show, and it was clear how proud she was of him. She approached each new experience with enthusiasm, excitement, and appreciation for the journey. She was just as excited to celebrate the people around her as her own accomplishments. She was always quick to congratulate others and celebrate their successes. Marie celebrated the good moments, embraced the challenges, and never lost sight of how special it was to be experiencing their first show together. Her genuine happiness for herself, Pierogi, and the people around her perfectly captured the true spirit of sportsmanship.

About Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc.

At Connaway & Associates, teamwork allows horse people to protect horse people. Since 1992, Connaway & Associates has built a strong reputation as a reliable partner in competition and in business. Connaway & Associates is licensed in 48 states and DC and offers competitive insurance coverage options through several A-rated admitted insurance carriers. Connaway & Associates does the work so its clients can enjoy their passion for horses. For more information on Connaway & Associates and its offerings, visit www.connaway.net.