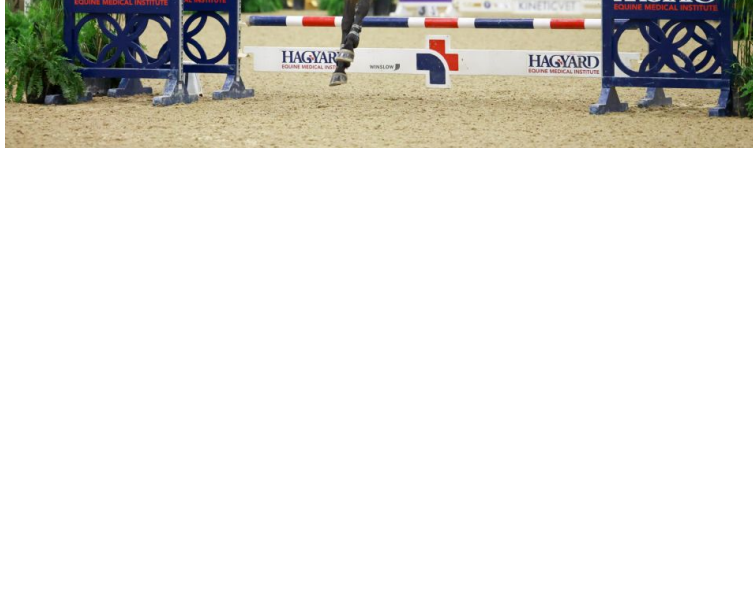




World Equestrian Center Highlights

Wilmington Winter Classic XII

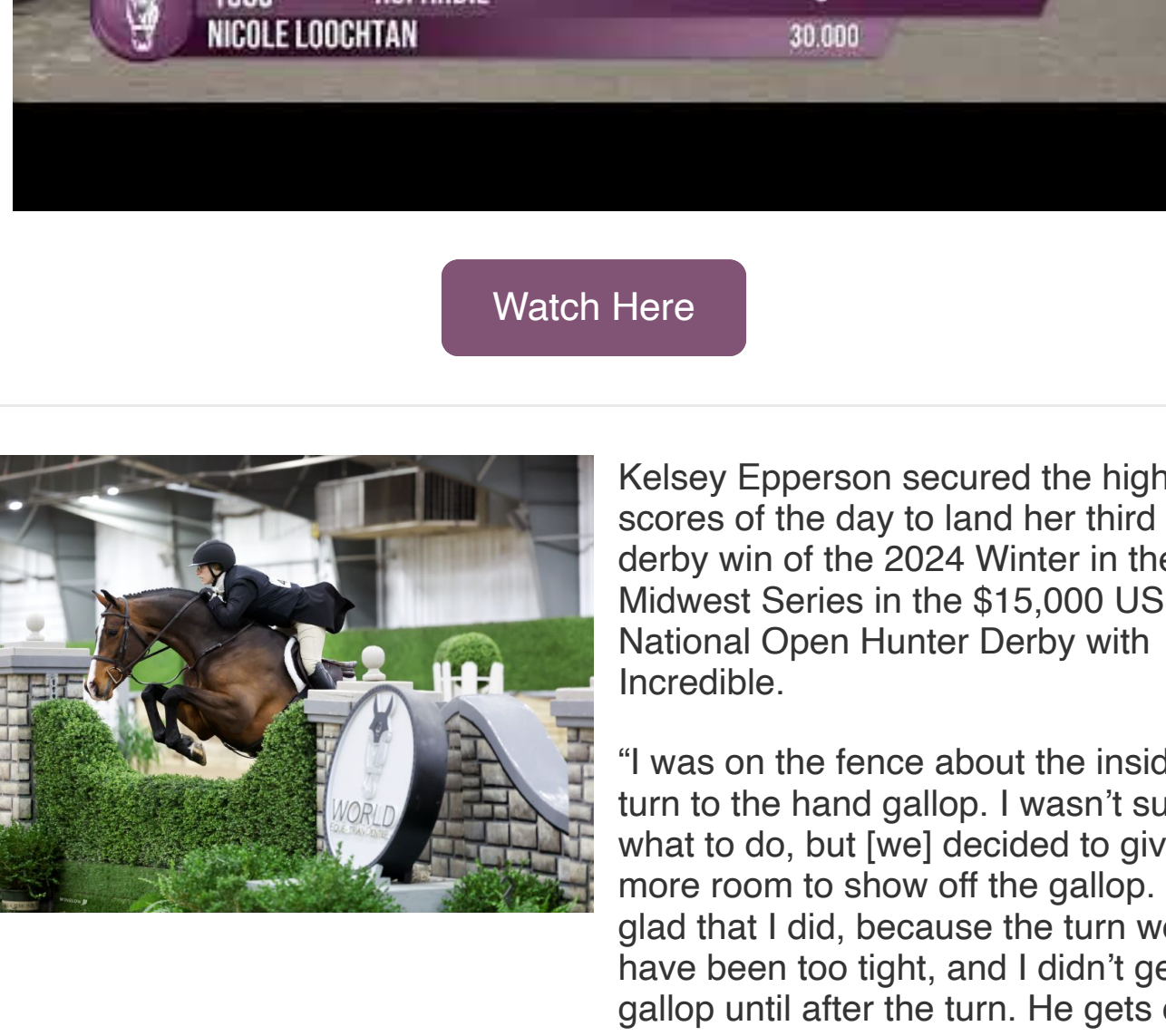


The \$30,000 Grand Prix had a head-to-head jump-off between two of the winningest open jumper riders at WEC – Wilmington, Nicole Loochtan (USA) and Izzy Beisel (USA). Despite never having jumped at the 1.40m level, the challenging tracks were no match for Loochtan's nine-year-old KWPN gelding, Kupardie.

"I wanted to just give 'Birdie' a good experience. I wanted to put him in the right places and be able to help him out. I didn't realize how easily he would jump the track. Everything came up fast out of the turns. He is a cheeky horse, so sometimes those turns come up quite quickly, but he is so careful and understands that he has to jump across the oxers."

Photo by Winslow Photography

Watch the Winning Jump-Off Round for Nicole Loochtan in the \$30,000 Grand Prix



[Watch Here](#)



Kelsey Epperson secured the highest scores of the day to land her third derby win of the 2024 Winter in the \$15,000 USHJA National Open Hunter Derby with Incredible.

"I was on the fence about the inside turn to the hand gallop. I wasn't sure what to do, but [we] decided to give him more room to show off the gallop. I'm glad that I did, because the turn would have been too tight, and I didn't get the gallop until after the turn. He gets on an open gallop and stays right there. He loves it, it makes my job way easier."

Photo by Winslow Photography



Although the technically set first-round track in the \$10,000 Futures Prix proved difficult for the field, it was no match for Michael Janson (USA) who scored his second one-two finish of the week with Ringo Star PS and Caveman Z at WEC – Wilmington.

"It was a great challenge for the horse. We haven't really pushed him to jump two difficult classes in the week, but it was an amazing experience for him. That is the best thing for him right now. We are trying to gain experience. If he does well, he does well, but there is really no pressure on him."

Photo by Winslow Photography

Ocala Winter Spectacular IX

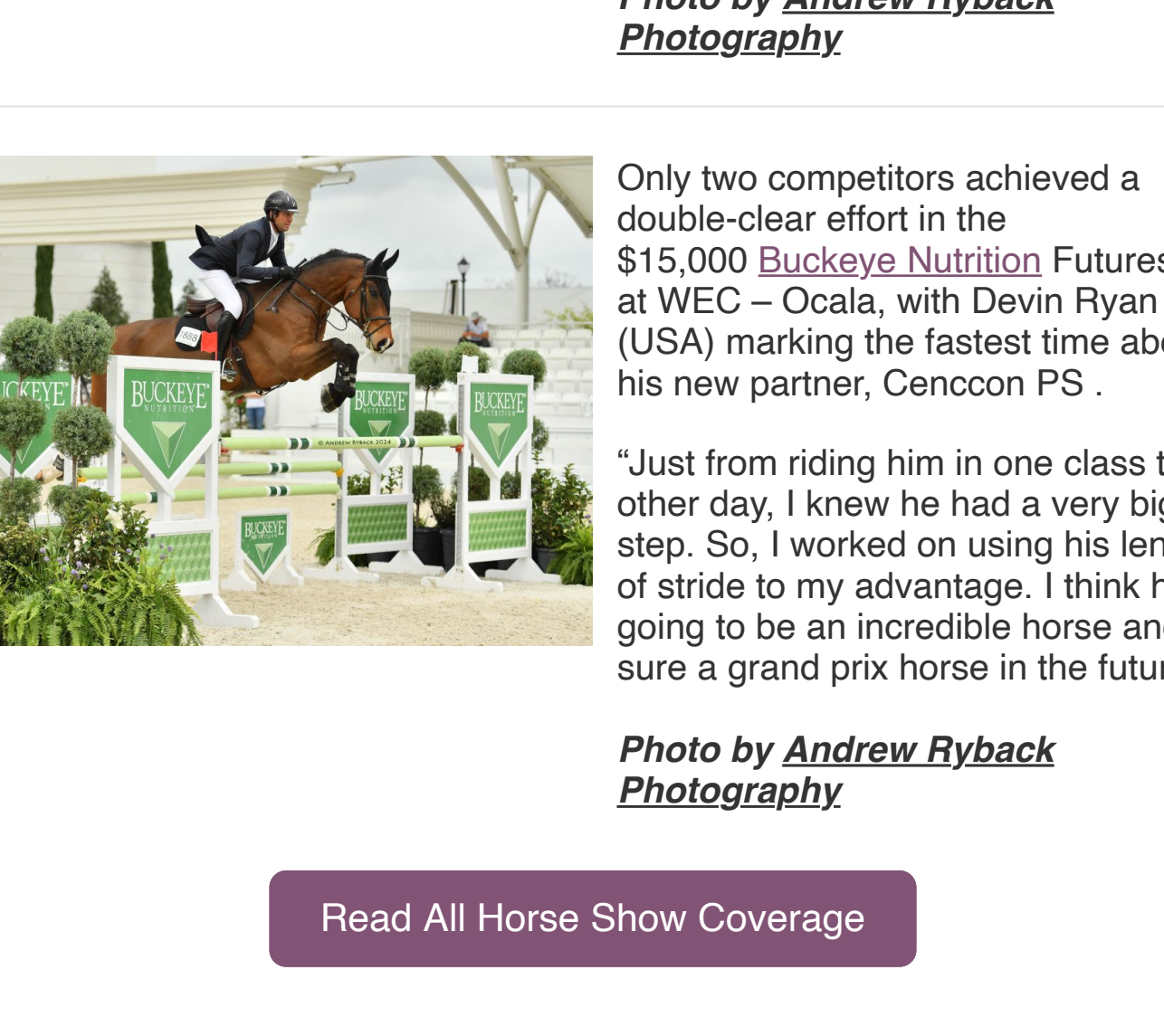


In the highly anticipated \$100,000 MARS Equestrian Grand Prix CSI3*, an elite lineup of the world's best jumping athletes competed for the top prize, but it was Aaron Vale who claimed the well-deserved victory aboard Prescott at WEC – Ocala.

"[Prescott] actually grabbed a shoe landing, and I wasn't sure what was happening, but for three or four strides he was scrambling. By the time everything cleared, the next oxer was going to be really long, but I had to win the class so I took it. Then I was able to be patient to the combination, and after we landed that, I could just let his speed do the rest."

Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography

Watch the Winning Jump-Off Round for Aaron Vale and Prescott in the \$100,000 MARS Equestrian Grand Prix CSI3*



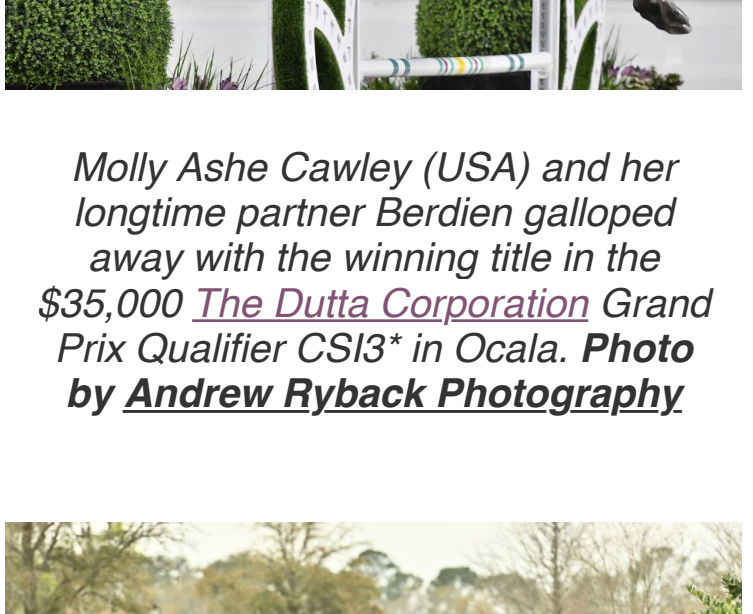
[Watch Here](#)



Samantha Schaefer and her mount In The Know once again showcased their dominance in the \$20,000 Golden Ocala 3'6"-3'9" Hunter Derby at WEC – Ocala. Schaefer piloted the 15-year-old Warmblood gelding through two flawless rounds, securing top scores in both.

"I didn't want to go too crazy in the handy. There were maybe one or two places where I could have been a little neater, but I was thinking about the week XII derby, so I decided to just come out here and give him another solid round. He did give a little bit of sass to the last jump, but he was still perfect."

Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography



Only two competitors achieved a double-clear effort in the \$15,000 Buckeye Nutrition Futures Prix at WEC – Ocala, with Devin Ryan (USA) marking the fastest time aboard his new partner, Cenccon PS.

"Just from riding him in one class the other day, I knew he had a very big step. So, I worked on using his length of stride to my advantage. I think he's going to be an incredible horse and for sure a grand prix horse in the future."

Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography

[Read All Horse Show Coverage](#)

World Equestrian Center Winners



None could best Michael Janson (USA) as he secured both first and second place honors with Ringo Star PS and Caveman Z in the \$10,000 Welcome Stake in Wilmington. *Photo by Winslow Photography*



Izzy Beisel switched gears from the jumper ring to take the win in the \$15,000 USHJA National Non-Pro Hunter Derby aboard Calus in the \$15,000 USHJA National Non-Pro Hunter Derby in Wilmington. *Photo by Winslow Photography*



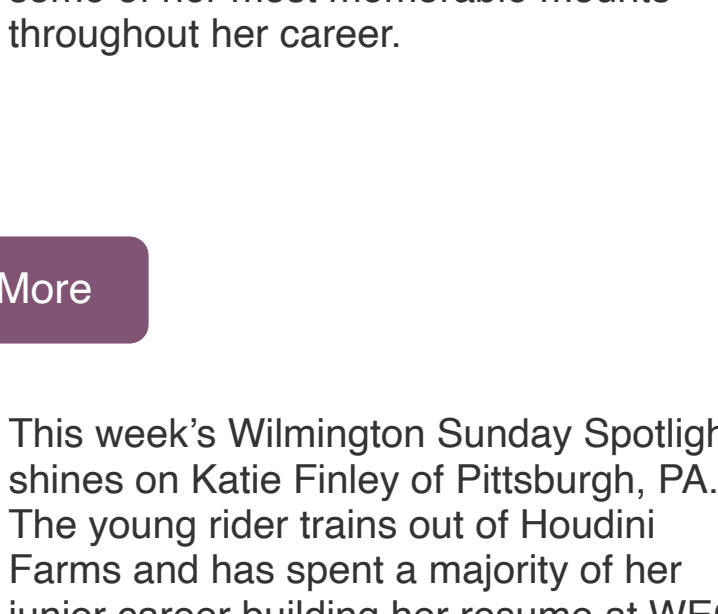
Molly Ashe Cawley (USA) and her longtime partner Berdien galloped away with the winning title in the \$35,000 The Dutta Corporation Grand Prix Qualifier CSI3* in Ocala. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*



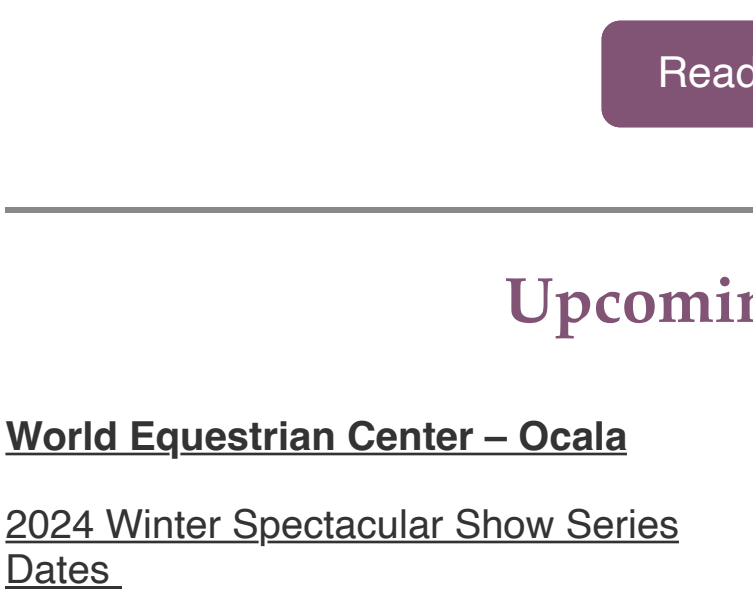
Simon McCarthy (IRL) piloted Gotcha to the swiftest round for a win in his WEC – Ocala debut in the \$5,000 1.45m Speed CSI3*. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*



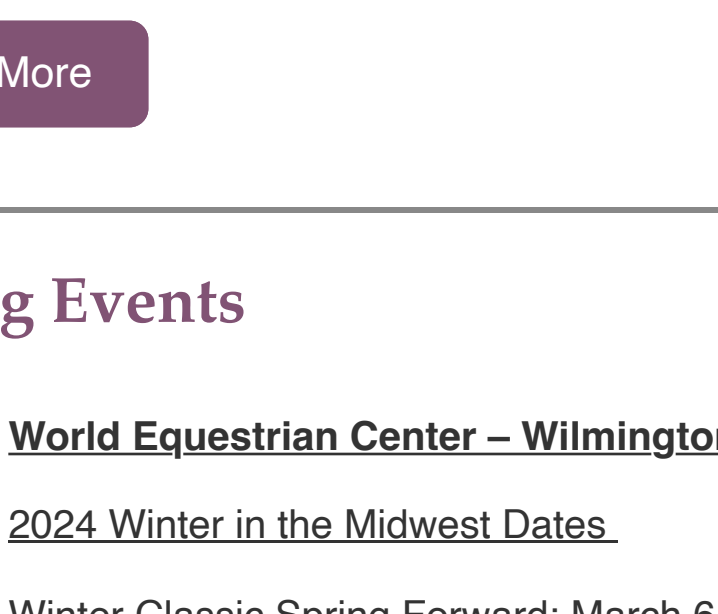
Forty-eight talented junior and amateur athletes competed for top honors in the \$15,000 USHJA National 3' Jr/Am Hunter Derby in Ocala, but it was Maddie Tosh who guided her new partner Cerano to their second consecutive victory. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*



The victorious duo of Friday morning turned out to be Amanda Steege and Tangelina, who delivered two remarkable rounds of 95 and 88 in the \$15,000 UF Veterinary Hospital USHJA National 3' Open Hunter Derby in Ocala. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*



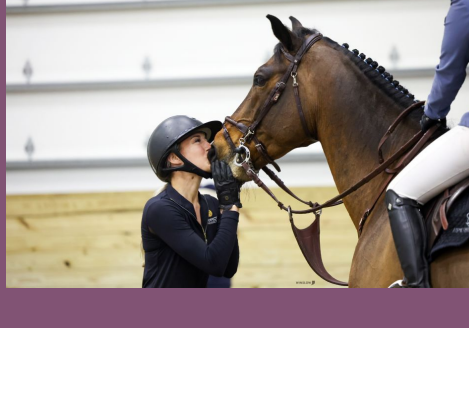
Kama Godek (USA) secured the top position aboard her own mount, Lady Stakkata, in the 1.40m Speed CSI3* in Ocala. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*



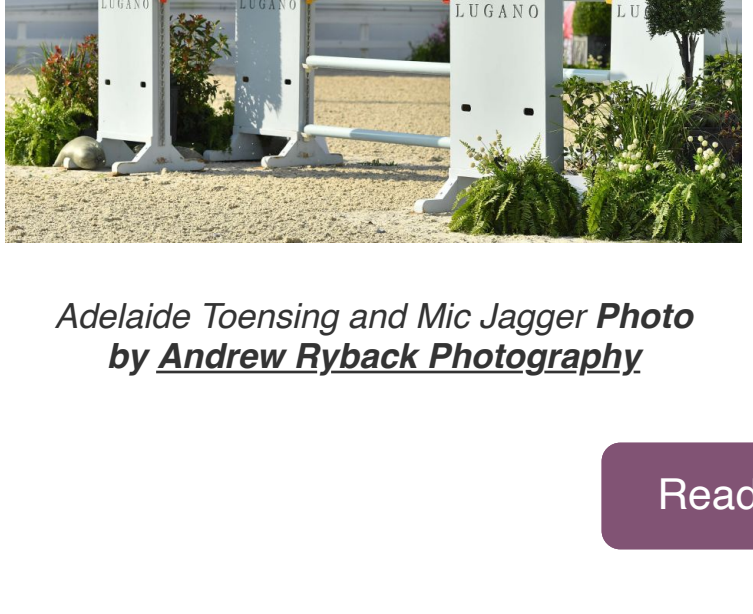
In an exciting three-horse jump-off, Lillie Keenan (USA), riding McLain Ward's Lezaro, delivered the sole double clear effort to clinch victory in the \$50,000 MARS Equestrian National Grand Prix in Ocala. *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*

Memorable Moments From World Equestrian Center

Photos by Andrew Ryback Photography and Winslow Photography



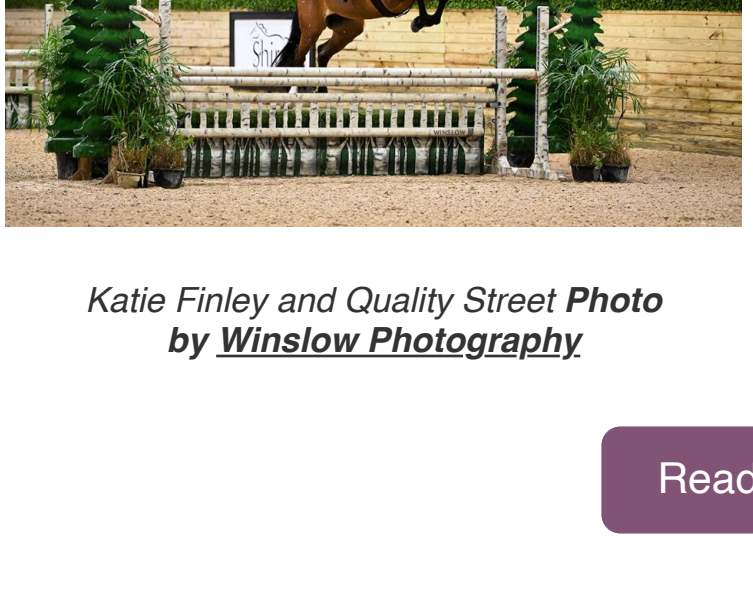
Sunday Spotlight



Adelaide Toensing and Mic Jagger *Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography*

This week's Ocala Sunday Spotlight shines on the talented amateur athlete, Adelaide Toensing, hailing from Reddick, FL. Known for her skills in the hunter and jumper rings, Toensing has recently embarked on a new venture – AT Sporthorses LLC – dedicated to selling and producing high-quality horses. We caught up with Toensing to learn more about her new business and explore some of her most memorable mounts throughout her career.

[Read More](#)



Katie Finley and Quality Street *Photo by Winslow Photography*

This week's Wilmington Sunday Spotlight shines on Katie Finley of Pittsburgh, PA. The young rider trains out of Houdini Farms and has spent a majority of her junior career building her resume at WEC – Wilmington with her horses Co-Pilot and Quality Street. Recently, Katie has dedicated her riding to her late barn-mate, Taylor Orlovski, and honors her with purple braids on derby Friday. We caught up with Finley to learn more about her riding journey, her horses and her special friendship.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

World Equestrian Center – Ocala

2024 Winter Spectacular Show Series Dates

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

Winter Spectacular XI: March 13-17

Winter Spectacular XII: March 20-24 CSI05*

World Equestrian Center – Wilmington

2024 Winter in the Midwest Dates

Winter Classic Spring Forward: March 6-10

Winter Classic XIV: March 13-17

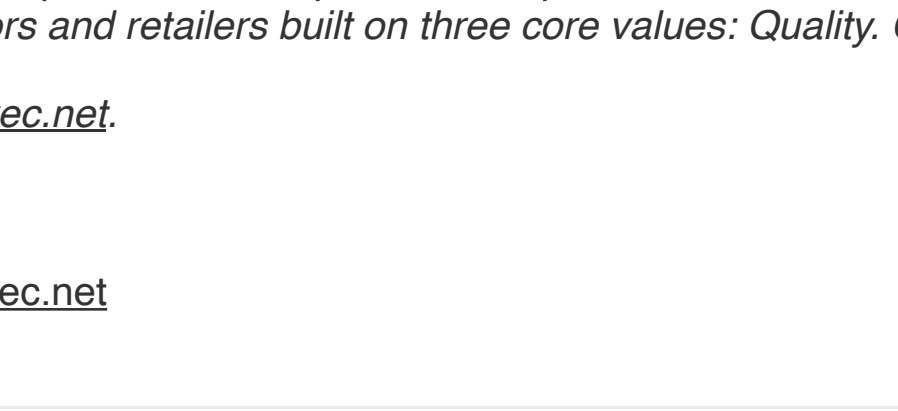
Winter Classic XV: March 20-24

Winter Classic XVII: April 3-7

Winter Classic XVIII: April 10-14

[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 clipmyhorse.tv to watch on demand, plus view and download your individual clips from competition.

[Watch Now](#)

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 exhibition 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 wec.net.

Media Contact:
Justin Garner
justin.garner@wec.net