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Contact: Marty Bauman, 508-698-6810; marty@classic-communications.com

Ward Returns for Top Honors in \$70,000 CSI5* Winning Round at 2024 Hampton Classic Horse Show

Hecart Wins \$32,000 CSI2* Speed Class

Bridgehampton, NY – August 31, 2024 – Six-time U.S. Olympian McLain Ward claimed top honors in the Hampton Classic Grand Prix Arena for the second consecutive day on Saturday, riding two mounts into the final round of the **\$70,000 CSI5* Winning Round**. In the end, he earned first in a faultless time of 38.93 seconds aboard *Contagious*, his 2021 Tokyo Olympic mount who helped secure team silver.

The **Hampton Classic**, August 25-September 1, is one of the world's most prestigious horse shows, featuring competitors from young children in leadline to Olympic, World, and World Cup Champions. Rated USEF Premier-6 with designated FEI 5* and 2* show jumping classes, the Classic also has competitions for riders with disabilities.



McLain Ward (USA) and Contagious won the \$70,000 CSI5 Winning Round © KindMedia*

Fifty-four entries representing nine countries contested Nick Granat's (USA) 15-effort, 1.50m course in Saturday's \$70,000 CSI5* Winning Round, with 15 horse-and-rider pairs returning in reverse order of merit over the nine-effort second-round course. There were several shake-ups on the podium as each

entry galloped around the course, until Ward and Beechwood Stables LLC's 15-year-old German Sport Horse gelding *Contagious* blazed ahead in 38.93 seconds, giving themselves a 1.79-second lead that no other rider could catch without fault.

"To be honest, I was concerned about the three riders coming behind me (Mark Bluman, Darragh Kenny and Alessandra Volpi)," Ward said. "I knew we had to lay down a good round with those three coming behind us and make them chase the time. *Contagious* has been a longtime partner of mine and is a very fast horse, and I'm so grateful to Beechwood Stables for my partnership with him."



Ward and Contagious © KindMedia

Two-time Olympic veteran Samuel Parot (CHI) finished in second place with *Chrystal Blue*, his and Dolores Funes' 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding, tripping the timers in 40.72 seconds. The USA's Adrienne Sternlicht earned third for her 41.42-second time aboard *Los Angeles De La Cense*, Starlight Farms 1 LLC's 10-year-old Westphalian stallion.



L: Samuel Parot (CHI) and Chrystal Blue placed second. R: Adrienne Sternlicht (USA) and Los Angeles De La Cense finished third. © KindMedia

Earlier in the day, 13 entries from five nations tackled Peter Grant's (CAN) 14-effort, 1.45m track in the **\$32,000 CSI2* Speed Class**, with five pairs riding clear through the timers. France's Marie Hecart brought home the win in 66.48 seconds aboard *Edonna D'Udine*, a 10-year-old Selle Francais mare owned by Normandie Connection Ltd. and Old Station Equestrian LLC.



Marie Hecart (FRA) and Edonna D'Udine won the \$32,000 CSI2 Speed Class © KindMedia*

Ibrahim Barazi (JOR) claimed second and third, respectively, riding Spronken BVBA's 12-year-old Zangersheide stallion *Khan VD Kattevennen Z* (0/67.09) and AS Trading's 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding *Lennox Van De Zeshoek* (0/68.72).



Ibrahim Barazi (JOR) earned second aboard Khan VD Kattevennen Z (left) and third aboard Lennox Van De Zeshoek (right) © KindMedia

With his consecutive wins, Ward now holds the lead in the **Longines Rider Challenge** with 200 points. Kristen Vanderveen (USA) sits second with 194 points, while Molly Ashe Cawley (USA) has moved into third with 188 points. The Challenge, which awards \$30,000 and a Longines watch to the rider accumulating the most points in the week's Open Jumper classes, will be awarded Sunday following the Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix.

Other jumper highlights included various classics and championships. Alexander Alston IV of New Albany, OH, continued his winning streak at the Hampton Classic with victory in the **\$12,500 1.35m Amateur Jumper Classic presented by Evergate Stables LLC** and the **1.30/1.35m Amateur Jumper Championship** riding Alston Alliance LLC's *Spider*. He secured the Firefly Challenge Trophy sponsored by Philip Richter for his efforts.

In the **\$12,500 CME Group 1.35m Junior Jumper Classic presented by Kaneb Equine Ventures LLC**, Alexa Elle Lignelli of New York, NY, and her *XO Cinderella* galloped away with the win. Her *XO Kiara* secured victory in the **\$10,000 TAK Protective Group 1.25m Junior Jumper Classic** with sister Agatha Lignelli (New York, NY) in the irons.

Caroline Signorino of Basking Ridge, NJ, finished first in the **\$10,000 1.25m Amateur Jumper Classic presented by Sagamore Farm** aboard Meridian Farm LLC's *Liberty*, which helped the pair secure the **1.20/1.25m Amateur Jumper Championship**.

For live show results, visit HamptonClassic.com. Photos from the event are [available via Dropbox](#) with credits to KindMedia (unless otherwise noted in the folder name).

Each year approximately 50,000 people – including many A-list celebrities – come to watch the nation's best equestrian athletes compete at the Hampton Classic. Rated **USEF 'Premier-6'** for hunters and jumpers with designated **FEI 2* and 5*** classes, the Hampton Classic features more than 200 competitions in six spectacular show rings, the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, and a wide selection of dining options, all on its world-class 60-acre showgrounds.

FEI competition began Thursday, August 29, with the **\$10,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$32,000 CSI5* Two-Phase** and continues throughout the weekend with eight 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Nick Granat. FEI competition also included Friday's **\$32,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Jumper Classic** and **\$70,000 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday's **\$32,000 Open Speed Class CSI2*** and **\$70,000 CSI5* Winning Round**. The Classic culminates with the **\$75,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and the **\$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 1.

Other competition highlights include the **\$30,000 Open Jumper Challenge**, **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper**, **\$10,000 Lugano Diamonds Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake**, **\$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship**, **\$10,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic**, **\$25,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey High Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic**, and the new **\$50,000 Kristen Baran Hunt Team Stake**.

Outside the show rings, families can enjoy unique shopping; hands-on activities, pony rides and petting zoo animals at the Kids Exhibition Tent; and many more fun activities.

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday. Seniors and military are admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as are those who bring three or more non-perishable food items for the Sag Harbor Food Pantry. Grandstand tickets for the Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 1, are \$60 per person (including fees) for reserved bucket seating. Grandstand tickets are electronic only.

For those who can't make it to the show grounds, [complimentary live webcasts](#) of all Grand Prix and Aspinall Ring competitions air on the Hampton Classic website. Produced by ClipMyHorse.TV, the Grand Prix Ring livestreams are sponsored by Longines and the Aspinall Ring livestreams are sponsored by [ClipMyHorse.TV](#). In addition, WVVH-TV, Hamptons Television, broadcasts up to five hours of

competition and highlights each day during the Classic. These broadcasts can also be seen online at www.wvvh.tv.

For more information on the Hampton Classic Horse Show, please visit the Hampton Classic website at www.hamptonclassic.com or call 631-537-3177. Hampton Classic Horse Show, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.