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Ward Leads the Way in \$116,100 Douglas Elliman CSI5* Grand Prix Qualifier presented by Longines for Second Consecutive Year at the 2026 Hampton Classic

Torano Wins \$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake

Bridgehampton, NY – August 28, 2026 – World #12 McLain Ward (USA) successfully defended his title in the **\$116,100 Douglas Elliman CSI5* Grand Prix Qualifier presented by Longines** at the Hampton Classic on Friday, this time returning to the winner's circle with Robin Cleary Parsky's 13-year-old Oldenburg mare *First Lady*. The duo was uncatchable after posting a faultless jump-off round in 43.93 seconds.

Celebrating 51 years of world-class equestrian competition in Bridgehampton, NY, the **Hampton Classic** features FEI CSI5* and CSI2* show jumping and USEF Premier hunter competitions with more than \$1 million in prize money, **August 23-30**.



World #12 McLain Ward (USA) and First Lady won the \$116,100 Douglas Elliman CSI5 Grand Prix Qualifier presented by Longines © KindMedia*

Ward and *First Lady* were just the fifth of 39 horse-and-rider combinations representing 11 countries to tackle Nick Granat's initial 16-effort, 1.55m course in Friday's \$116,100 Douglas Elliman CSI5* Grand Prix Qualifier; they were the first of 12 to return for the jump-off. As the pathfinders over the shortened track, they set a blistering time to beat of 43.93 seconds, which held down to the wire for the win.

"It's always nice to be in the winner's circle here," Ward said. "*First Lady*, Robin Parsky's wonderful mare, is a great partner. She's a very quick horse and very reliable, so I didn't mind going early in the jump-off. Being the first can be extra challenging if you haven't seen the track, and I knew with the number (of riders) behind me, there were some very fast ones. I did the best I could everywhere and hoped things would fall a little my way. There are certainly some moments in certain competitions when you want to be at the end where it becomes a 'take every risk' situation, but a lot of the time, going early isn't such a disadvantage when you know your horse well.

"For the Grand Prix, I have a relatively inexperienced horse here this year, *Lestro VD Valckenborg*, owned by a great supporter of ours, Marta Mattox from Texas," he added. "He's performed well at some big events already. He's a big jumper, and I think he's ready to perform here on Sunday. The Hampton Classic always has a challenging Grand Prix. It's a 5* level, the highest in our sport, and we have a pretty strong group of riders here this year. I think it's going to be a good challenge."



Ward and First Lady © KindMedia

Egypt's Nayel Nassar was just 0.02 seconds off Ward's time, finishing in 43.95 seconds for second place aboard *Orphea HQ*, Evergate Stables LLC's 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare. Savannah

Jenkins (USA) took third with the only other double-clear round; she stopped the clock in 44.38 seconds aboard Ilan Ferder's 9-year-old Selle Français gelding *Hector Du Ter*.

Fourth went to World #28 Aaron Vale (USA), who tripped the timers on a four-fault jump-off score of 44.50 seconds aboard *Carissimo 25*, The Carissimo Group's 13-year-old Holsteiner gelding. Rounding out the top five were Charlotte Jacobs (USA) and North Star's 11-year-old Zangersheide gelding *Playboy JT Z* with their four-fault, 45.22-second time.



L: Nayel Nassar (EGY) and *Orpheo HQ* claimed second. R: Savannah Jenkins (USA) and *Hector Du Ter* finished third. © KindMedia

Nassar now leads the **\$20,000 Longines Rider Challenge for the 5* division** with 200 points. Molly Ashe Cawley (USA) sits second with 194 points. Jacobs has moved into third with 175 points. The \$30,000 Longines Rider Challenges will be awarded as two separate bonuses for the FEI 5* and 2* divisions following the \$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix and \$70,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix on Sunday.

Immediately following the Qualifier, Granat and his team set a 15-effort, 1.40m course for the 46 starters in the **\$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake**. Just sixth to go in the order, JJ Torano of Wellington, FL, laid down a faultless, blazing round in 35.417 seconds with Jet Show Stable's 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding *Vitus K*. The pair proved unbeatable as time went on and ultimately brought home the win.

"The course worked out well for us today," Torano said. "*Vitus* is very experienced. He's been everywhere all around the country, and we know each other very well. We get along great, and we're both 16 years old. For him, that's a bit on the older side, but he clearly still loves his job, bucking around

and having fun every round. I can't thank him enough. He jumped great today and is such an amazing horse.

“He'll jump the (\$30,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey) Classic on Sunday, and I also have the 2* Grand Prix on Sunday,” he continued. “We've had a good week here so far – second in the National Grand Prix, now winning this 1.40m class – and hopefully, we can keep it going and bring it home on Sunday.”

Alexa Elle Lignelli of New York, NY, tripped the timers in 36.645 seconds to take second place aboard her 13-year-old Warmblood mare *XO Zadora*. Violet Tatum of Los Angeles, CA, finished third with a 37.279-second time aboard Tatum Equestrian LLC's 15-year-old Polish Warmblood mare *Flotylla*.



JJ Torano and Vitus K won the \$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake © KindMedia

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 Horse Show. Rated **USEF 'Premier-6'** for hunters and jumpers with designated **FEI 2* and 5*** jumping 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 on Thursday, August 27, with the **\$5,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$32,000 CSI5* BrainJuice Two-Phase** and continues throughout the weekend with seven 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Nick Granat (USA) and Anderson Lima (BRA). FEI competition also includes Friday's **\$32,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Grand Prix Qualifier**, **\$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5***

Grand Prix Qualifier, Saturday's **\$62,500 5* Winning Round**, and culminates with the **\$70,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, August 30. The **\$30,000 Longines Rider Challenges** will also be presented on Grand Prix Sunday as two separate bonuses: \$10,000 for the FEI 2* division and \$20,000 for the FEI 5* division.

Other competition highlights include the **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper** (Tuesday), **\$40,000 1.45m National Grand Prix** (Wednesday), **\$10,000 Hunt & Go Stake presented by The Baran** (Thursday), **\$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake** (Friday), **\$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship** (Saturday), **\$30,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic** and **\$10,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic** (Sunday).

Outside of the show rings, families can enjoy unique shopping in the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden and on Stable Row; hands-on activities, pony rides and petting zoo animals at the Kids Exhibition Tent; and many more fun activities during Kids Day (Saturday, August 29).

Daily entry to the Hampton Classic is \$25 per carload which includes grandstand seating on all days except Grand Prix Sunday.

Tickets for **reserved grandstand seats** for Grand Prix Sunday, August 30, are \$75 per seat and are available on the [Hampton Classic website](#). Tickets for the **Classic Club** (formerly the Judge's Box Lounge), which offers an elevated experience for watching Grand Prix Ring competition on Thursday-Sunday, August 27-30, are also available.

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.