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Contact: Marty Bauman, 508-878-2394; marty@classic-communications.com

**Ward Flies to Win \$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier
presented by Longines at 50th Annual Hampton Classic Horse Show**

Bridgehampton, NY – August 29, 2025 – Ten of the 43 horse-and-rider combinations representing 14 countries made it to the jump-off in Friday's **\$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier presented by Longines**, which saw a challenging 16-effort, 1.60m course designed by Nick Granat during the initial round. Each entry seemed to get faster than the last until penultimate rider McLain Ward (USA) stepped into the ring with *High Star Hero*, securing the win with a double-clear effort in 36.84 seconds.

Celebrating 50 years of world-class equestrian competition in 2025, the **Hampton Classic Horse Show** takes place in Bridgehampton, NY, **August 24-31**, featuring FEI CSI5* and CSI2* show jumping and USEF Premier hunter competitions with more than \$1 million in prize money. The highlight of the week is the \$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix, one of the world's premier show jumping competitions, on Sunday, August 31.



World #8 McLain Ward (USA) and High Star Hero won the \$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5 Grand Prix Qualifier presented by Longines © KindMedia*

Friday's \$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier ultimately came down to the final four riders in the jump-off, with speed experts like Ward, Jessica Mendoza (GBR) and Ireland's Shane Sweetnam and Jonathan Corrigan closing out the class. Ward once again proved himself faster than the rest, piloting Michael and Wendy Smith's 12-year-old Belgian Sport Horse gelding through the timers in 36.84 seconds.

"It's always nice to have the luxury of going at the end," Ward said. "Shane's horse is a very fast horse with a big stride. I know he's setting up for Sunday and leaving a little in reserve, but *Hero's* focus for this week was this qualifier so I was able to take some risks. We know each other very well, and we stuck to our plan today.

"I'm looking forward to this weekend," he continued. "I'll be riding *Imperial HBF* in the Grand Prix on Sunday. I think he's possibly the best horse I've ever ridden. You need things to go your way in this sport, but we've set up well for it. It's been a few years since I've won the Grand Prix, so I'm hoping for the best result."



Ward and High Star Hero © KindMedia

Sweetnam landed in second place with his double-clear score of 37.51 seconds aboard *James Kann Cruz*, his and Gizmo Partners LLC's 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding. Third went to Corrigan, who stopped the clock in 38.39 seconds with Twin Oaks Ventures LLC's 12-year-old Selle Français gelding *Darius De Kerglenn*.

Mendoza earned fourth for her faultless time of 38.70 seconds aboard *In The Air*, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare she co-owns with Georgia Kipp, Kristi Mitchem, Mellissa Skowlund and Pernilla

Amman. Rounding out the top five was Spencer Smith (USA), who set the early time to beat (39.18 seconds) aboard Gotham Enterprizes LLC's 14-year-old Holsteiner mare *Cassina*.



L: World #22 Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and James Kann Cruz took second. R: Jonathan Corrigan (IRL) and Darius De Kerglenn finished third. © KindMedia

Ward has taken the lead with 248 points in the **\$20,000 Longines Rider Challenge for the FEI 5* division**, which will be awarded on Sunday after the \$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix. Mendoza has moved into second with 195 points, while Skylar Wireman (USA) holds third with 174 points.

Other jumper highlights included the **\$10,000 1.40m Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake**, where Ariana Marnell (USA) emerged the victor in 32.897 seconds aboard Marnell Sport Horses' *Navaar*. Christian Currey of Franklin, TN, won the **\$3,000 1.20m Amateur Jumper presented by The Vogel Family** with a clear speed score of 56.004 seconds aboard his *Unesco Du Rouet*.



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 28, with the **\$5,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$32,000 CSI5* Two-Phase** and continues throughout the weekend with seven 2*/5* classes. 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 31.

Other competition highlights include the **\$30,000 The Wellington Jumper Challenge**, **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper**, **\$40,000 CME Group 1.45m National Grand Prix**, **\$10,000 Hunt & Go Stake presented by The Baran**, **\$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship**, **\$25,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic**, and **\$30,000 Longines Rider Challenges**, which are now being offered as two separate bonuses: \$10,000 for the FEI 2* division and \$20,000 for the FEI 5* division.

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 30).

Daily entry to the Hampton Classic is \$25 per carload which includes grandstand seating on all days except Grand Prix Sunday. Admission is free on Monday. Admission is also free on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for Seniors, members of the Military and those who bring three or more non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Tickets for **reserved grandstand seats** for Grand Prix Sunday, August 31, are \$55 per seat and are available on the [Hampton Classic website](#). Tickets for the Classic's new **Judge's Box Lounge**, which offers an elevated experience for watching Grand Prix Ring competition on Thursday-Sunday, August 28-31, are also available. Lounge tickets are priced at \$200 for Thursday, \$300 for Friday or Saturday, and \$600 for Grand Prix Sunday and are available on the [Hampton Classic website](#).

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.