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Torano Wins \$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship at 2024 Hampton Classic Horse Show

More Champions Named in Junior, Amateur-Owner and Pony Hunter Divisions

Bridgehampton, NY – August 31, 2024 – Following two rounds of judging and an additional work-off to determine the top three placings, JJ Torano of Wellington, FL, took the crown in the **\$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship** at the 49th annual Hampton Classic. He and The Lucky Four Group's 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding *Favorite Edition Z* earned a total of 263 points for the win.

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.



JJ Torano and Favorite Edition Z won the \$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship © KindMedia

Nick Granat (USA) designed two technical, 15-effort courses set at 1.15m for the \$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship, where 22 equitation riders presented their skills over each jumper-style track for judges Troy Hendricks and Rachel Kennedy.

Eva Mackenzie of Darien, CT, was the leading rider after the first round with 91 points aboard her 11-year-old Warmblood mare *Demonia GS Z*. After she earned 84 points in the second round for a 175-point total, and Torano and Sydney Raidy (New York, NY) both earned 173 points, the judges called all three back into the ring for a final work-off.

“In the schooling area, we practiced a lot of testing items – counter-canter, trot jumps and halts – but we didn’t know what to expect walking back into the ring for the work-off. We just had to practice everything we knew,” said Torano, who won individual gold in the Pre-Junior division at this year’s FEI North American Young Rider Jumping Championships (NAYC) presented by USHJA.

“We had a good day today,” said Torano’s trainer, Missy Clark. “JJ rode very well, and the horse was amazing. We are all thrilled. JJ was a bit conservative in the first round and slightly slow for the first two jumps, but he really nailed the second round. We had the option to leave a stride out to get under the time, which was really tight for his horse because he has such a big, slow stride. JJ really made concise, short turns, and I think the judges really recognized that which gave him a high score. He accomplished the test really well, and we were really pleased.”



Torano and Favorite Edition Z © KindMedia

Torano and *Favorite Edition Z* earned 263 points for first place, while John Brennan and Clark won the \$10,000 Trainer’s Award. Second went to Raidy, a student of Frank Madden, aboard Taylor Madden’s 15-year-old Anglo-European gelding *Mac One III* with 253 points. Under the watchful eye of Brianne Goutal-Martreau, Mackenzie and her 11-year-old Warmblood mare *Demonia GS Z* finished third with 245 points.



Sydney Raidy and Mac One III earned second © KindMedia

“This ring is a lot different from a lot of other championships,” Torano said. “Most championships are at the indoor shows with smaller rings. There are a couple of horse show championships that are outside, but not like this. This is one of the best equitation championships. Hermès is a great sponsor, and this is a great show to host it. It was incredible today.”

“JJ is such a natural talent,” Clark said. “He’s got a great brain for the whole sport and is an amazing student and hard worker. It’s his inherent ability that no one can teach him that really is his best attribute. I think any naturally gifted rider has an edge, but one that is willing to work extra hard in addition to talent always seems to go the farthest in this sport. We were thrilled today, and it’s always great to work with Jimmy and Danielle (Torano). They really had a huge part in developing their son.”



Eva Mackenzie and Demonica GS Z finished third © KindMedia

In the hunter rings, more champions were crowned as several divisions featuring Junior, Amateur-Owner and Pony hunters concluded throughout the day. Torano brought home an additional win in the **Small Junior Hunter 15 & Under 3'6"** presented by Can We Keep It? LLC Championship riding Isalou Inc.'s *Disney*. Joining him in the winner's circle was **Large Junior Hunter 15 & Under 3'6"** presented by John and Stephanie Ingram Champion Vivian Golden of Wyomissing, PA, riding her *Chamonix*. Golden also earned the **Grand Junior Hunter Championship**.



Vivian Golden and Chamonix won the Grand Junior Hunter Championship © KindMedia

Stephanie Danhagl of Pacific Palisades, CA, and her *Tufton Avenue* earned the **Human Touch Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter 36+ Championship**, while Stella Propp of New York, NY, and Aquitaine Equine's *Arabesque* walked away with the **Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter 18-35 Championship** and the Breitling Trophy sponsored by Stephanie Bulger and MeadowView Farm.



L: Stephanie Danhagl and Tufton Avenue won the Human Touch Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter 36+ Championship. R: Stella Propp and Arabesque won the Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter 18-35 Championship.

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Kenzie Smith of New York, NY, rode Charlotte Kelly's *On Tour* to the **Grand Pony Hunter Championship** with her successful performance in the **Large Pony Hunter** division; Smith also earned the associated Currey Challenge Cup. Cisy Zhou of New York, NY, claimed top honors in the other championships, riding her *Fortnite* in the **Small Pony Hunter** and *Editorial* in the **Medium Pony Hunter** divisions. In the **\$2,500 Pony Hunter Classic presented by Oceans Edge Farm**, Lilly Ward of Brewster, NY, piloted Twin Island LLC's *In My Dreams* to victory.



Kenzie Smith and On Tour won the Grand Pony Hunter Championship © 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. 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.