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**McLain Ward Soars to Victory in the \$37,000 Hampton Classic FEI Speed Stake**

**Bridgehampton, NY – Sept. 2, 2021** – Five-time Olympian McLain Ward (USA) piloted the 11-year-old Blossom Z, a Zangersheide mare owned by Ward, Wyndmont, and Heller, to an impressive win in the \$37,000 Hampton Classic Speed Stake on Thursday.

Early in the class's 40-rider lineup, six-time Olympian Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) rode the first clear round aboard Venice Beach, Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC's 12-year-old Hanoverian mare. The pair made quick work of the 14-effort 1.45m course designed by Ireland's Alan Wade, setting the time to beat at 59.41 seconds. Their lead held until Ward and Blossom Z stepped into the ring over halfway into the order and stopped the clock at 58.53 seconds.



McLain Ward and Blossom Z shaved almost a full second off Rodrigo Pessoa's time in the \$37,000 Hampton Classic Speed Stake © Kind Media

“I know Rodrigo’s horse,” Ward said. “It’s a very fast horse, although maybe not one with the biggest stride. Earlier in the class, I got to ride my younger horse for a nice, smooth round, so I had a feel for the course going in. Blossom’s a very fast horse naturally, and I thought that if I could just do a stride less than Rodrigo here or there, I might be able to nip him.”

“It was a fast class,” Ward added. “These ranking classes typically are, so that’s not unexpected. Blossom really performed well and was there when I needed her.”

Amanda Derbyshire (GBR) was the only other rider to beat Pessoa’s time, riding Pine Hollow Farm’s Don’t Touch Du Bois to a speedy 59.00-second finish. She and the 12-year-old Belgian Sport Horse mare took second in the class, with Pessoa ultimately finishing in third.



McLain Ward and Blossom Z © Kind Media

Ward’s victory in the \$37,000 Hampton Classic Speed Stake increases his lead in the \$30,000 LONGINES Rider Challenge with a total of 238 points. Derbyshire sits in second with 160 points, and Pessoa is just behind her with 140 points. The Challenge, which awards \$30,000 and a LONGINES watch to the winner, will be awarded Sunday following the \$300,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix.

Other highlights of the day featured classes for the Adult Amateurs, including the \$2,500 Adult Amateur Hunter Classic and the naming of Adult Amateur Hunter division champions.

Privet Farm LLC’s Trip to Paris, ridden by Mimi Moulton of Greenwich, Conn., won the \$2,500 Adult 3’ Hunter Classic and the Robert Hoskins Perpetual Trophy with a total score of 167 points. Cynthia Sulzberger of Wellington, Fla., and her Coeur De Leon finished in second with 164 points.



Mimi Moulton and Trip to Paris in their victory gallop after the \$2,500 Adult 3' Hunter Classic  
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The LoveShackFancy Adult Amateur ages 18-35 Championship and the Complement Trophy sponsored by Stephanie Bulger and MeadowView Farm went to Richard Cunkle's Cussini, ridden by Lili Halterman of New York, N.Y. Carrica, owned and ridden by Stephanie Bulger of New York, N.Y., won the Carbon 38 Adult Amateur Hunter 36-49 Championship and the Excellabit Trophy. The Westfields Trophy was presented to Louisa Attenborough of Palm Beach, Fla., and her Bonaparte for winning the Adult Amateur 50 Years & Over Championship.

For full show results, visit [shownet.biz](http://shownet.biz).

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. The Hampton Classic features more than 200 classes in six 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 show grounds. This year's Hampton Classic features five FEI classes in its grass Grand Prix ring showcasing elite riders from around the world, including Olympic and World Equestrian Games veterans. There are also kid-friendly activities throughout the week including pony rides, petting farm animals, daily special attractions and more.

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday, and seniors are admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grandstand tickets for the \$300,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 5, are \$45 per person for reserved bucket seating, which are available for purchase on the Hampton Classic website.

The Hampton Classic is pleased to continue its relationship with ShowNet by offering its services FREE to all exhibitors. Services include: Orders of Go; Live Ring Status; Live Results; and Post Round Video.

For those who can't make it to the show grounds, complimentary live webcasts of all Grand Prix ring competitions air on the Hampton Classic website, produced by ClipMyHorseTV and courtesy of LONGINES. ClipMyHorseTV is also providing a complimentary live webcast of all Anne Aspinall ring competitions and archive video, all available on the Hampton Classic website. 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](http://www.wvvh.tv).

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