

HAPPENINGS



SUNDAY - OCTOBER 22, 2023

McLain Ward and First Lady Continue Their Reign Over \$100,000 Grand Prix de Penn National



In a thrilling conclusion to open jumper competition at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, McLain Ward rode First Lady to the win in the \$100,000 Grand Prix de Penn National, presented by Forrester Farm Equipment, for the second year in a row.

Ward and the 10-year-old Oldenburg mare, owned by Robin Parsky, were one of six entries that advanced to jump-off over the short course set in the Harrisburg Coliseum by course designer Nicholas Granat.

Laura Chapot was the first to return, and she set a quick time to beat at 33.566 seconds. That time would hold up through to the final entry in the ring, Ward and First Lady. As the crowd favorites flew over the final orange and white oxer, a loud cheer erupted as the duo had done it; they shaved roughly nine-tenths of a second off of Chapot's time to finish in a winning 32.684 seconds. With Ward taking first and Chapot in second, third place went to Jimmy Torano and Kochio Z.

"First Lady has really become at home in this arena," said Ward, who, immediately prior to the class, was inducted into the PNHS Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Wheeler Family. "She's been phenomenal. I'm very excited for her performance and for Robin Parsky, her owner and a great supporter of the U.S. equestrian team and myself. It's great to get a win for all of our people."

Ward continued, "We acquired [First Lady] when she was a 7-year-old with great potential. We developed her; we had some ups and downs – mostly ups – and she's really come along incredibly within the last year."

In addition to the win, Ward also finished in fifth aboard Quimi del Maset, owned by Sport Four USA, LLC.

"My younger horse, Quimi, was a little bit nervous with the crowd in the jump-off," said Ward of the 9-year-old Spanish Sport Horse gelding. "They were enthusiastic, and it's always great to have them behind you. This is an agricultural part of the world, and they understand horses and animals, and you see their enthusiasm for the sport."

Following his win on Saturday, Ward will turn his attention to representing the U.S. team aboard Contagious at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, beginning October 31.

"It's always great to have confidence [ahead of the Pan Am Games]," explained Ward. "I'm riding a different horse in Chile, but I love it when these horses are going well and we feel like we're doing our job well. We had a great week [in Harrisburg]. We have a new horse who performed very well in Kyrllanthe, and First Lady did her job. I'm very happy with all the horses all around."

For the Saturday night win, Ward was presented with the Harrisburg Kiwanis Club Challenge Trophy, and First Lady's caretakers received the Moira Jane Caffarey – George L. Hennessy Memorial Perpetual Trophy.

Thanks to Ward's successful performances throughout the week in the 1.45m Jumpers, he also received the division championship. Both the Leading Lady Rider Award for the 1.45m Jumpers and the overall Leading Lady Rider Award for Open Jumpers, sponsored by Brandywine Tent Rental, went to Chapot. For the overall honor, she was presented with the Wissie Brede Memorial Challenge Troph, donated by Debbie Stephens, Jeff Wirthman and Tom Wright.

Tentative Time Schedule

HARRISBURG COLISEUM

523	\$10k Penn Nat. Child Jumper Classic <i>Children's Jumper Championship</i>	8:00 AM
533	\$10k Penn Nat. Adult Jumper Classic <i>Adult Jumper Championship</i>	10:00 AM
502	\$10k Amateur Jumper Classic <i>Amateur Jumper Championships</i>	12:00 PM

KEYSTONE ARENA

820	USEF/NCEA Medal Finals - Jumping Phase	8:00 AM
	USEF/NCEA Medal Finals - Flat Phse	10:00 AM
	USEF/NCEA Medal Finals - Bracket Phase	11:00 AM

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**USEF/NCEA JUNIOR
HUNTER SEAT MEDAL**

The USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal is a two-phase class with an over fences and a flat portion. The Finals include an additional bracket-format phase that requires riders to compete on unfamiliar horses in a format similar to that of the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA).



Fences Phase

To be shown over a minimum of ten fences 3'3" in height, spread not to exceed fence height. The course may be either a Jumper or Hunter type course and must include at least two changes of direction and a combination. Water obstacles and liverpools are not permitted. An open numerical scoring system must be used in the first phase, with each rider's score announced at the completion of their round.

Flat Phase

The top ten scoring riders, whichever is greater, will return for the flat phase. Judges will test riders on their skills on the flat by asking for demonstration of additional basic dressage movements such as the shoulder in, haunches in, or leg yield.

Bracket Phase

The Flat and Fences phase will both count equally in determination of the top 4 riders to return for the Bracket phase to compete on neutral horses. The fourth and first place rider will compete over a course of at least 8 fences on the same horse. The second and third place rider will compete over a course of at least 8 fences on the same horse. The winners of each head to head will compete for the championship and reserve.

Callie Seaman Secures Grand Adult Hunter Championship, Sponsored by Marshall & Sterling



Five new champions and two grand champions were crowned in the Penn National Children's and Adult Hunter Championships, presented by Marshall & Sterling Insurance, on Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2023, at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA.

Earning the Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Championship – after sweeping all three of the over fences classes in the Adult Amateur Hunters 18-35 – were Callie Seaman and Divine Romance, owned by Hallowell Lane Farm LLC.



"This is a really special mare," said Seaman of the 6-year-old Oldenburg that also earned the 3'3" Green Hunter Championship earlier in the week with Laena Romond of Heritage Farm. "[Divine Romance] has had a really amazing years; she's never left a horse

show without a championship or a reserve championship. She was circuit champion in Florida, so she's really been a gift. I bought her last year, and my other trainer, Patricia Griffith, showed her. Then, I took the reins this year."

The Penn National Adult Hunter Championships, presented by Marshall & Sterling Insurance, are one of the newest additions to the PNHS and are one of the featured competitions held in the show's Keystone Arena, added to use in the show in 2021. For Seaman, that venue was the ideal first taste of "Harrisburg" for Divine Romance.

"The coliseum is such a fun place to show, and then to have a younger horse in [the Keystone Arena] is a really nice way to get to introduce them to such a prestigious show in a little bit of a less [daunting] environment," said Seaman. "Indoors is always the highlight of our season; Harrisburg in particular I think is a really important show; it's one of my favorite venues. It's a really meaningful show to me, and I always want to do my best when I come here."

Earning the reserve championship behind Seaman and Divine Romance in the Adult Amateur Hunters 18-35 were Kendall Meijer and Out of Office.