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Amanda Steege and Lafitte de Muze Continue Winning Streak in \$50,000 WCHR Pro Challenge

Upper Marlboro, MD – Continuing a year of great success, Amanda Steege of Ocala, FL, and Lafitte de Muze captured the top prize in the \$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge, sponsored by The Gochman Family and Radwanski Enterprises, at the Capital Challenge Horse Show (CCHS) on Wednesday, October 3.

In the \$5,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Developing Pro Challenge, sponsored by The John R. Ingram Fund, Karli Postel piloted Banksy to the win. Laena Romond and Traveller topped the \$25,000 North American Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" Championship, sponsored by The Wheeler Family. The three classes marked a highlight day of CCHS, which runs through Sunday, October 8, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

WCHR Pro Challenge Score Sheet

Place/Horse/Rider	Round 1/Round 2/Final
1 LAFITTE DE MUZE AMANDA STEEGE	88.33 90.33 178.66
2 RED RYDER HANNAH ISOP	86.66 91.33 177.99
3 TRADITION ELIZABETH BOYD	86.16 87.16 173.32
4 PRIVATE PRACTICE VICTORIA COLVIN	89.41 83.50 172.91
5 TRUE STORY HOLLY ORLANDO	88.66 83.16 171.82
6 IN THE KNOW SAMANTHA SCHAEFER	86.00 85.66 171.66
7 HEMINGWAY SANDY FERRELL	84.33 86.33 170.66
8 NOW WE'RE TALKIN' JOHN BRAGG	84.41 85.00 169.41
9 COMMONWEALTH SHELLEY CAMPF	86.08 83.00 169.08
10 CARESSO LESLIE STEELE	86.58 79.00 165.58
11 BIG SHOT JENNY KARAZISSIS	87.25 77.00 164.25
12 PRIVATE LIFE SCOTT STEWART	92.66 59.33 151.99

With the biggest prize money of the week, the \$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge brought out 26 of the best horses and riders in the country to compete over two rounds. The Capital Challenge Horse Show doubled the prize money in this class from 2017, honoring the 25th anniversary of the show by adding another \$25,000 to the total.



Amanda Steege and Lafitte de Muze won the \$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge, sponsored by The Gochman Family and Radwanski Enterprises. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

Steege piloted Lafitte de Muze to a score of 88.33 in the first round, which put them in fourth place. They returned in the second round to a score of 90.33 for a total of 178.66 and the win.

"Honestly, this whole year for me with Lafitte is about gaining experience, so I really didn't feel very stressed out. I just wanted to go in and try to give him a good experience. This is his first year being a hunter and definitely his first time showing indoors. I just tried to ride him the way that I normally would and not get overly stressed out about it. I wanted to try and show a little pace when I could, and I felt like he was ready to do it."

- Amanda Steege

Owned by Cheryl Olsten, Lafitte de Muze is a seven-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding by the famous show jumper Darco and out of Everlychin de la Pomme, a former grand prix show jumper turned High Performance Hunter. Steege found the talented horse through her client, Lisa Arena Davis, and started riding him nearly one year ago. The pair have racked up impressive performances in 2018, including wins at the Winter Equestrian Festival, Lake Placid, and in the \$500,000 Diamond Mills Hunter Prix.

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WCHR Pro Finals Qualifiers

- Victoria Colvin
- Sandy Ferrell
- John French
- Jenny Karazissis
- Amanda Steege
- Scott Stewart

WINNING ROUND

[Watch Amanda Steege and Lafitte de Muze's winning round from the \\$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge here!](#)



WORDS FROM THE WINNER

[Hear from Amanda Steege following her win!](#)

Karli Postel and Banksy Victorious in \$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge

Making the trip from California for the second time in her riding career, Karli Postel (27) of Westlake Village, CA, will be taking home top honors from the \$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge. She and Banksy, an eight-year-old German Sport Horse gelding owned by Grace Russo, were best out of 34 entries in the class.

Postel and Banksy went last in the first round order but went straight to the top of the leaderboard with a score of 90.66, the highest of the class. They followed that up with an 88.66 for a total of 179.32 and the win.

It was a redeeming return for Postel, who came to Capital Challenge last year and had a disappointing finish.

"It means a lot to me. Last year I worked really hard and came all the way here and I had a stop and lost the [WCHR National Developing Pro Champion] by eight points. I was really disappointed, but I think it was actually a blessing in disguise. I've gotten more experience and it's made me walk into the ring today a lot more confident and more comfortable." - Karli Postel

Postel, who is a graduate from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, also credited Banksy, who was the Green Hunter 3'9" champion on Tuesday with John French.

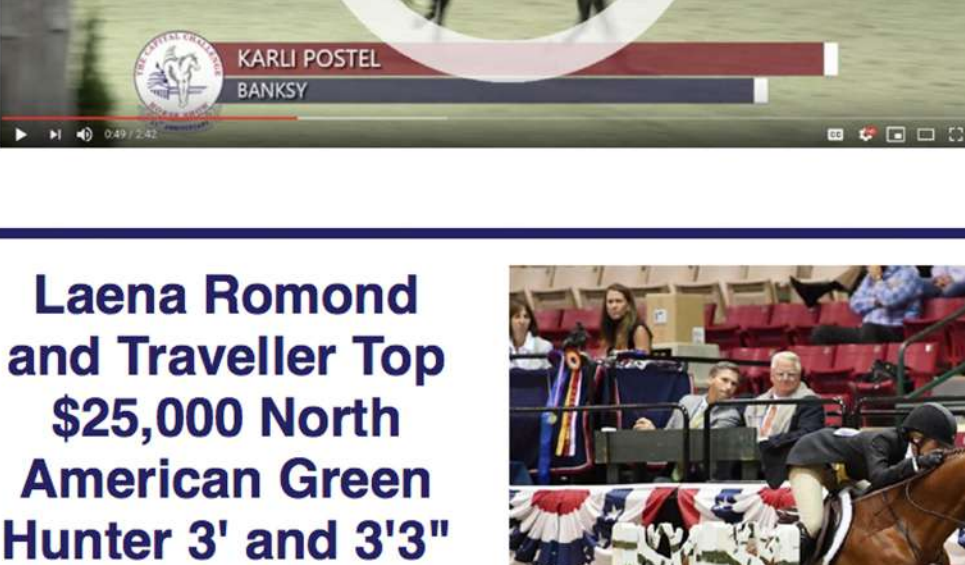
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The win in the \$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge went to Karli Postel riding Banksy. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

WCHR Developing Pro Challenge Score Sheet

Place/Horse/Rider	Round 1/Round 2/Final
1 BANKSY KARLI POSTEL	90.66 88.66 179.32
2 CORNETTO TAYLOR WILLEVER	87.16 88.66 175.82
3 GT 40 TIFFANY HAMMACK	86.33 86.00 172.33
4 BELGRAVIA GEOFFREY HESSLINK	87.83 83.16 170.99
5 ROCKETTE HANNAH ISOP	88.33 82.00 170.33
6 SKIP DAY DOTTIE BARNWELL ARESON	84.66 84.66 169.32
7 COPELAND TREVOR CLAY HAWTHORNE	83.33 85.33 168.66
8 CATHARTIC LEXI WEDEMEYER	86.00 81.00 167.00
9 MTM FASHION NATALEE C HAGGAN	86.41 79.16 165.57
10 BREEZE MARISA METZGER	83.50 81.33 164.83
11 COMMANDER NICOLE BOURGEOIS	85.33 78.00 163.33
12 CANDOR LEYLAN GLEESON	82.33 75.33 157.66



WINNING ROUND

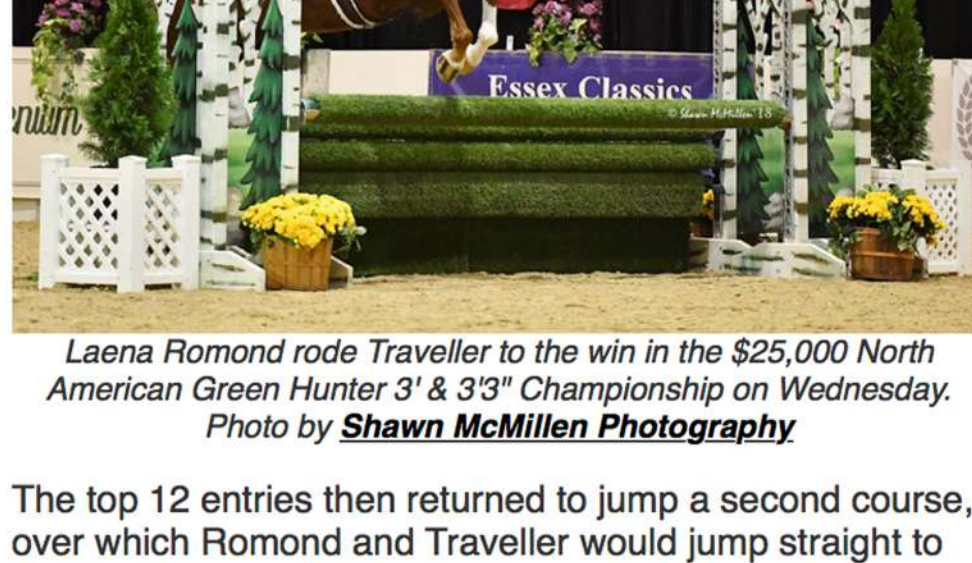
[Watch Karli Postel and Banksy's winning round from the \\$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge here!](#)

Laena Romond and Traveller Top \$25,000 North American Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" Championship

The win in the \$25,000 North American Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Championship, sponsored by The Wheeler Family, went to Traveller, ridden by Laena Romond and owned by Catherine Cowie.

Romond, of Somers, NY, and the seven-year-old warmblood gelding were among 33 of the best young horses in the country that qualified to compete in the championship based on their results in the six Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" sections offered on Monday and Tuesday at the 2018 Capital Challenge Horse Show.

At the end of an opening round of competition, Romond and Traveller sat back in seventh place with an average score from the three judging panels of 86.66. Leading the class with an average score of 88.61 was Paper Trail, ridden by Kelley Farmer



Laena Romond rode Traveller to the win in the \$25,000 North American Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Championship on Wednesday. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

The top 12 entries then returned to jump a second course, over which Romond and Traveller would jump straight to the top of the leaderboard with a second-round average score of 91.33. Their 177.99 total score would secure them the victory, while second place with a total two-round score of 174.74 went to Scott Stewart and Sandstone, owned by Dr. Betsee Parker. Farmer and Paper Trail, owned by Derby Lane, LLC and D L Gleffe, rounded out the top three with a score of 173.61.

Traylor Willever, of Pen Argyl, Penn., rode Barbara Brungess' Cornetto to scores of 87.16 and 88.66 for a total of 175.82 and a second-placed finish. Tiffany Hammack, of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, rode GT 40, owned by Roger Schramm, to scores of 86.33 and 86 for a total of 172.33 and third place.

"It's a little hard to find words; this week has really been like a dream with this horse. He didn't put a foot wrong all week. He's a blast to ride; he feels like he's always trying to do everything right. He doesn't really ever make a mistake. It's a little hard to describe to win against this group of horses and riders, but I'm just so proud of the horse." - Laena Romond

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GRAND HUNTER CHAMPIONS

All photos by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

Grand Green 3' & 3'3" Hunter Champion

Sponsored by David Belford & Christopher Payne of New Hope LLC

Bordeaux, ridden by Hunt Tosh and owned by Douglas Wheeler

Grand Green 3'6" Hunter Champion

Sponsored by Memorial Park Hunters

Lafitte de Muze, ridden by Amanda Steege and owned by Cheryl Olsten

Grand Green Hunter Champion

Sponsored by Carleton & Traci Brooks and Balmoral

Lafitte de Muze, ridden by Amanda Steege and owned by Cheryl Olsten

Grand Hunter Champion

Sponsored by Rob Bielefeld, RSB Farms & Chrystal Knight

Fibonacci, ridden by Christopher Payne and owned by Still Water Farm LLC

Fibonacci and Christopher Payne also received:

The Tribute Award

sponsored by Scott Stewart and Ken Berkley of Rivers Edge

The Leading Hunter Rider Award

sponsored by Kate Gibson and Shadyside Farm

Grand Conformation Hunter Champion

Sponsored by Kitty Barker and Eight Oaks

Fibonacci, ridden by Christopher Payne and owned by Still Water Farm LLC

Professional WCHR Under Saddle

Sponsored by Molly Flaherty and Patty Peckham, and Arcadia Farm

Moonrise Kingdom, ridden by Tory Goda and owned by Allison Talbot

EMO Trip of the Show

Sponsored by EMO Agency, Inc.

Paper Trail, ridden by Kelley Farmer and owned by Derby Lane LLC and D L Gleffe, scored a 92.50 in the Green Hunter 3'3" Section A

BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEOS



Four time WCHR Pro Finals winner John French almost didn't make it to this year's Capital Challenge Horse Show. Hear more from him in this video interview!

[Watch Here!](#)

DAILY UPDATE



[Get more news in the Capital Challenge on-site, daily newsletter, The Daily Update!](#)

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Lafitte de Muze goes in for a bite of his winnings after claiming the Grand Green Hunter 3'6" Championship and the Grand Green Hunter Championship with Amanda Steege. Photo by **Jump Media**

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