

Postel Stays Positive For WCHR Developing Professional Win

With Banksy, she makes good on her dream of redemption at Capital Challenge.

BY KIERAN PAULSEN AND TORI REPOLE



A few weeks before the Capital Challenge Horse Show, held Sept. 28-Oct. 7 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Karli Postel didn't know which horse she would be riding in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge. The original plan was for her to ride Grace Russo's 8-year-old German Sport Horse gelding Banksy, with whom she partnered when his usual pilot, John French, was injured in a fall in May.

When French sustained more injuries in July after a horse rolled on top of him, Postel once again took the reins while he recovered. French hadn't been sure he'd be ready to ride by the time Capital Challenge began, but he mended well and decided to make the trip. He competed Banksy in the green hunter

3'9" divisions but agreed to let Postel keep the ride for the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge.

"I had no expectation of still getting to ride the horse when John said he was better and would be able to come to Capital Challenge," said Postel, 27. "[My trainer] Archie [Cox] mentioned the class and said, 'Who do you want to ride?' and I said, 'Whoever you want me to.' He suggested Banksy. It was really special to keep the ride. I've done a few big classes on him now, so I knew I could do it, and that's half the battle."

Postel took the lead in the first round of the challenge with a score of 90.66 and defended her spot through the final for a combined score of 179.32. The win had special significance because Postel's run at Capital Challenge last year ended

Karli Postel shared Banksy with John French during Capital Challenge and went home with a win in the WCHR Developing Professional Challenge. KIERAN PAULSEN PHOTO

with a stop that took her out of contention for the Developing Professional championship. Postel started 2018 with redemption in mind.

"I was really fortunate; I got to show at Devon (Pennsylvania) for the first time ever this year," Postel said. "I did a couple of derbies and the \$25,000 WCHR West Coast Hunter Spectacular [California]. I've gotten more experience, and it's made me walk into the ring a lot more confident and more comfortable. Last year I was so, so nervous. That definitely showed in the arena. John also helped me with Banksy, gave me advice and tips on how to ride him, and that

was really wonderful.”

Postel, Thousand Oaks, California, grew up on her family’s Foxfield Riding School, which is famous for its lesson program. She catch rode in the equitation and jumper rings until she enrolled at Goucher College in Baltimore.

“I always knew I wanted to go to college, and when I started exploring the collegiate equestrian teams I thought they were really cool,” Postel said. “It was a cost-effective way for me to keep riding in school, and it ended up being one of the best experiences because you get there, and you’re immediately on a team with 25 friends. I got to travel and see a lot of different colleges and venues, and it was good for my riding because it was catch riding. I got well versed in getting on and assessing what kind of horse I was on and what type of ride they needed to be successful.”

Postel got her degree in psychology, and in her sophomore year she realized she wanted a career in the equine industry. She originally set out to be an Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association coach, then applied to a management position with The Barrie School (Maryland) to run the equestrian program there. Those plans changed when an old friend from California, Lesley Bulechek, called Postel and asked what it would take to get her to come home.

“It didn’t take much. My family is there, and I missed being home, so I went,” Postel said.

She accepted a position as assistant trainer and barn manager with Bulechek at Cross Creek Farm LLC in Malibu, California, and stayed for three years. Late in 2016 Postel gathered her courage and approached Archie Cox to ask if he had a place for her at Brookway Stables.

“I have known [Archie] since I was a kid,” Postel said. “I was in one of his clinics when I was a young teenager. I’ll never forget because I had my spur straps on backwards, and that was the first thing he said to me. I went home mortified that that was what he was going to remember me by! But when I worked for Leslie, I discovered I really loved to teach. I just called Archie and said I wanted to learn in any way he thought I could, whether that meant staying at home or going to shows or

whatever. I just wanted to be under someone who has such a successful program and is so well respected. I wanted to take the next step to learn how you run a business like that.”

Cox agreed, and in the two years since she’s worked for him, Postel said she’s improved the most in her interactions with clients and how she handles the daily chaos of a life with horses.

“[Archie is] so calm, organized, well thought-out and well spoken,” Postel said. “Everything he does is so intentional, even when it may not seem like it is, and I think that’s reflective of his students. He gives you confidence in the ring, and you just want to go in there and win not just for yourself but for him. There’s nothing else like that.”

Ingram’s Three-Peat

Martha Ingram came to Capital Challenge with two objectives in mind: Do your best and have fun while doing it. What she didn’t expect was to leave with multiple wins.

The show has become an annual staple for Ingram, 21, since her days as a junior rider, and this year she looked to kick things up a notch.

“At the beginning of this year, I had seen all these people doing the adult equitation, and I was like, ‘You know, that looks really fun,’” said Ingram, Nashville, Tennessee. “When I was doing the bigger equitation, I wasn’t at the [same] level as the other kids, so I didn’t start producing the rounds I wanted to until my last junior year.”

In preparation for Capital Challenge, Ingram spent a day at the Kentucky National Horse Show in Lexington, with the 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding of unrecorded breeding Airport 48.

“Porty” was purchased to be Ingram’s equitation horse six years ago, but instead he developed into a successful amateur-owner hunter under Ingram’s father, John Ingram. After Martha’s first choice for Capital Challenge bowed out with an injury, Porty was on call.

“He’s the best; he’s so smooth, and when we’re doing the courses he’s always there for you,” said Martha. “He’s always looking towards the next jump. He’s not confused; he’s not spooky; he jumps a beautiful jump. He’s an incredible handy horse—the sharper the angle

to the jump, the higher and better he jumps.”

Martha, a junior at Furman University in South Carolina, took a day off from school to win the North American Adult Equitation Championships.

“I thought the courses were really nice, smooth and flowing,” said Martha. “You had some single jumps; you had some bending lines, nothing really tricky—nothing trappy or confusing. I thought they were really well done.”

While Martha’s family wasn’t in attendance for her winning round, trainer Tom Wright helped shed light on the emotions happening behind the scenes.

“I guess my mother was crying on the phone—they were all at home in Nashville watching on a little screen,” said Martha. “I think [my dad] was a little emotional too. We knew that Airport was special, it’s just—I’d only shown him one time, and that was at Kentucky National, so I was

NORTH AMERICAN ADULT EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS Upper Marlboro, Md.— Sept. 28

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Martha Ingram	Nashville, Tenn.
2. Jacqueline Attwood-Dupont	Los Angeles, Calif.
3. Adam Edgar	Leesburg, Va.
4. Abigail Friedman	San Francisco, Calif.
5. Jaime Krupnick	Westlake Village, Calif.
6. Deirdre Liggett	Ardmore, Pa.
7. Nicole Lyvere	Lakewood, Colo.
8. Kiera Philpot	Manchester, Mich.
9. Emily Kowalchik	Loveland, Ohio
10. Steven Saumell	Tavernier, Fla.

26 riders competed.

ARIAT NATIONAL ADULT MEDAL FINALS Upper Marlboro, Md.—Oct. 5

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Martha Ingram	Nashville, Tenn.
2. Sara Wyrzes	Plymouth, Mass.
3. Lily Walton	Shelbyville, Ky.
4. Catie Staszak	West Palm Beach, Fla.
5. Elysse Rutschmeyer	South Glastonbury, Conn.
6. Wynne Weatherly	Charlotte, N.C.
7. Jaime Krupnick	Westlake Village, Calif.
8. Michael Andrade	Poughquag, N.Y.
9. Kendall Fately	New York, N.Y.
10. Claudia Millstone	Davie, Fla.

30 riders competed.

► Tidbits

► **LIZA BOYD** came into the \$10,000 WCHR Professional Finals determined to defend her title from last year, even though she only gained her spot in the class a few hours before riding in it.

“I have to thank John French for the win. He opted out of going. I was not in the top six. I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for John. So thank you, John, I appreciate it!” Boyd said.

The format for the Professional Finals changed this year. The top 12 qualified riders first competed in a playoff round over a handy course aboard a mount of their choosing—for Boyd, that meant trusty partner O’Ryan, a 16-year-old Holsteiner of unrecorded breeding owned by Stella Styslinger—then the top four riders were called back for the Final Four. Each rider started the Final Four with a clean slate, then rode four horses sourced from The Barracks (Virginia) and the University of Virginia over four different courses.

Boyd won the title of World Champion Hunter Rider with a total score of 366.82.

“[The format was] a lot different,” said Boyd, Camden, South Carolina. “The first year I did [this class] I was so nervous, and I made mistakes. I’ve chipped in this class before, and then you just go home thinking, ‘Oh my God, I’m so embarrassed the whole world saw me chip!’ The older you get, the more you realize you’re human, and you can make mistakes, and so you sort of let go, and you go in there and just do your best. We’re all good riders; at this point it’s just kind of whoever’s night. I think I’ve matured so much as a rider and evolved through this world champion program.”

► Fresh off their biggest victory together so far, the \$500,000 Hunter Prix Final at the Sept. 4-9 HITS On The Hudson VIII (New York), **AMANDA STEEGE** and **LAFITTE DE MUZE** came to Capital Challenge and topped the \$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge. This is the first

year showing at indoors for “Lafitte,” Cheryl Olsten’s 7-year-old Belgian Warmblood (Darco—Everlychin De La Pomme, Malito De Reve). Steege first tried and then imported him around this time last year.

“He got off the truck just like, ‘Hey guys!’” said Steege, who’s based out of her Ashmeadow Farm in Califon, New Jersey. “That’s kind of how he is every day. He loves it, but we always joke that Balou—who’s another really famous horse we have—has always had this giant ego since he was 5 years old. I think Lafitte just thinks that this is how all horses do it. He loves it, and he does it, but I don’t think he thinks it’s any big deal.”

Steege was fourth going into the final round of the two-round class, and her score of 187.66 bumped her up to first.

“Honestly, this whole year for me with Lafitte is about gaining experience, so I really didn’t feel very

stressed out,” she said. “I just wanted to go in and try to give him a good experience and get him some time in these. His goal is to be a derby horse and to do derby finals, so I think it’s very important that he spends some time doing some of these more—classes with more atmosphere.”

► In the eyes of **VIRGINIA FOUT**, the bigger the jump, the more **CRISTIANO**, a 13-year-old Oldenburg (Candidatus—Revi), has to give.

“That’s really his sweet spot—the 3’6”,” said Fout, 47. “He’s tricky because he can fool you if you don’t think he’s a little fresh or full of himself, and then all of a sudden it will come out of nowhere. He has a real rocket ship feeling to him, and he can really fire over the jumps.”

Such was the case in the WCHR Amateur-Owner 3’6” Challenge, where Fout and Cristiano outrode a field of 23 to take top honors.

Based in Los Angeles, Fout



Amanda Steege rode Lafitte De Muze to first in the \$50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. TORI REPOLE PHOTO

balances her passion for riding—she also shows Carma—with family life and a career in event planning. She owns the company V Productions.

“I don’t always get it right, but I try,” she said. “Riding is for sure my therapy, and I do whatever I can to make it a part of my life. I show as much as I can timewise and financially, but having two [horses] doubles everything. [My trainer Archie Cox] always makes fun of me that I do just enough to get qualified to come back East. That’s how I do it. I also really want my horses to last—they’re 13 and 14—so I don’t show them too much. I try to do the shows that I want to do and balance how it will affect my family—heavily negotiate with my husband.”

► **GARLAND ALBAN** might have bought the 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding **REMIX** for her daughter Georgia Schmidt, but that doesn’t mean she can’t give the horse a spin while Schmidt transitions out of the ponies.

“Georgia has shown him a few times recently in the low children’s hunters, and he switched gears a little bit to do the adults with me at the Capital Challenge,” said Alban. “He is a very sweet horse and tries his hardest, no matter which job is asked of him.”

At Capital Challenge, Alban rode Remix, a Hanoverian by Comte, to first in the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge. It had been quite some time since Alban first sat on Remix, and she didn’t know what to expect.

“I was nervous to show at the Capital Challenge,” she said. “My goal was to enjoy being at the horse show, and if I was able to pin that would be a bonus. I knew there would be many talented horses and riders in our division, and winning was certainly unexpected!”

NOT A TREND. NOT A FAD. JUST RESULTS.

Stomach or digestive issues?

Maximize stomach and hindgut health with Cur-OST.



The **HIGHEST** levels of Aloe and Marshmallow to support stomach and digestive health, reducing the impact of stress. Give us two weeks to get your horse on the right track!

EQ STOMACH

- Support Stomach Health and Healing
- Soothe and Reduce the Impact of Stress
- Add to any Cur-OST® regimen today for enhanced results!

1-800-476-4702
www.curost.com

Cur-OST
Protecting & Rebuilding Health

▶ HORSE SHOWS



Fibonacci earned the grand hunter title during Capital Challenge, and Chris Payne took leading hunter rider honors. KIERAN PAULSEN PHOTO



Martha Ingram was unstoppable at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, winning three big classes, including the North American Adult Equitation Championships and Ariat National Adult Medal Finals on Airport 48. SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO



really going in to practice riding without nerves and being confident [in advance] of my amateurs this week.”

Then Martha outdid herself the following week with victories in two more classes. She rode to top honors in the WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'3" Challenge aboard 12-year-old Polish Warmblood gelding of unrecorded breeding, Lyons Creek Bellini.

“He’s a really great horse,” said Martha. “He’s so much fun to ride. He knows when it’s time to shine. He knows when it’s time to step up, and that’s what he did.

“He’s probably one of the best handy horses I’ve ever had,” she continued. “Sometimes he just—you land from the jump, I’m looking to land the lead, and the next thing you know I’m just turning, whipping around. People are like, ‘How do you turn so tight?’ and I’m like, ‘That was all him.’”

A day later, Martha returned to the ring with Airport 48 and topped the field in the Ariat National Adult Medal Finals.

“I won the North American, and I had a good week, so you never know whether that’s going to stay that way, or whether you’ll have a little mistake,” she said. “I had a lot of confidence in my horse, and I knew that he was going to be perfect, so I just really wanted to be there for him. Once I finished my first round, I was relaxed and calm and was confident going into the second round.

“You always hope that you do well, but you never expect to win one—much less three—of the big classes you were hoping to do,” she added. 🍀

▶ Capital Challenge

Upper Marlboro, MD—Sept. 28-Oct. 7.

3'6" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. A CH: Lafitte De Muze, Cheryl Olsten.

RES: Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.

3'6" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. B CH: Bastogne, Ceil Wheeler.

RES: Big Shot, Dulcie Morris.

3'9" GREEN HUNTER CH: Banksy, Grace Russo.

RES: Private Practice, Brad Wolf.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

RES: Cornelensky, Caddell & Chapman.

GREEN CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Fibonacci, Still Water Farm LLC.

RES: Status, Krista & Alexa Weisman.

HIGH PERFORMANCE CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Boss, Laura Wasserman.

RES: Truman, Maypine Farm.

3'6" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Rockette, Ramble On Farm.

RES: Small Affair, Lyn Pedersen.

3'3" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. A CH: Paper Trail, Derby Lane LLC & D.L. Glefke.

RES: MTM Style, MTM Farm.

3'3" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. B CH: Kindred, Kathy Chiaf.

RES: Endeavor, Callie Seaman.

3' GREEN HUNTER, 5 & UNDER CH: Bordeaux, Douglas

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER PROFESSIONAL FINALS
Upper Marlboro, Md.—Oct. 5

Judges: Panel 1: Rick Fancher, Scott Hofstetter; Panel 2: Mark Jungherr, Jim Clapperton;
 Panel 3: Chris Wynne, Tony Sgarlatta

RIDER	ROUND 1 AVERAGE/HORSE	ROUND 2 AVERAGE/HORSE	ROUND 3 AVERAGE/HORSE	ROUND 4 AVERAGE/HORSE	FINAL TOTAL
1. Liza Boyd	92.33/Falcon	89.33/Ravello	91.66/Suit And Tie	93.50/Ooh La La	366.82
2. Scott Stewart	87.00/Ravello	91.00/Suit And Tie	90.00/Ooh La La	93.50/Falcon	361.50
3. Amanda Steege	87.00/Ooh La La	90.00/Falcon	87.66/Ravello	90.33/Suit And Tie	354.99
4. Tori Colvin	89.00/Suit And Tie	78.00/Ooh La La	91.33/Falcon	90.66/Ravello	348.99

Horses: Falcon (The Barracks); Ooh La La (The Barracks); Ravello (The Barracks); Suit And Tie (The Barracks).

Wheeler.

RES: Cirque, Christopher Payne.

3' GREEN HUNTER, 6 & OVER CH: Cabrio, Ella Bikoff.

RES: Consent, Larry Glefke.

3'-3" GREEN HUNTER, MARE CH: FVF Just Watch, Missy Luczak-Smith.

RES: Fairlife, Debbie Marks.

3'-3" GREEN HUNTER, COLT/GELDING CH: Traveller, Catherine Cowie.

RES: Critics' Choice, Ella Bikoff.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Statement, Popish Farms LLC.

RES: Santiago, Christina Thomson.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-50 CH: Remix, Garland Alban.

RES: Vivid, DM Diamond Farm LLC.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 51 & OVER CH: Simply Cool, Julia Barnes.

RES: Hollywood Park, Lynn Walsh.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Aristocrat, Tracy Scheriff-Muser.

RES: Golden Rule, Stephanie Danhagl.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

RES: Charming, Dorli Burke.

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Belgravia, Lindsay Maxwell.

RES: Lyons Creek Bellini, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH: Belle, Jane Gaston.

RES: Classic, Dorli Burke.

ADULT EQUITATION, SEC. A CH: Adam Edgar.

RES: Martha Ingram.

ADULT EQUITATION, SEC. B CH: Lily Walton.

RES: Alexa Bayko.

GRAND 3'6" GREEN HUNTER CH: Lafitte De Muze, Cheryl Olsten.

GRAND 3' & 3'3" GREEN HUNTER CH: Bordeaux, Douglas Wheeler.

GRAND GREEN HUNTER CH: Lafitte De Muze, Cheryl Olsten.

GRAND CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Fibonacci, Still

Water Farm LLC.

LEADING HUNTER TRAINER: Chris Iwasaki.

GRAND HUNTER CH: Fibonacci, Still Water Farm LLC.

LEADING HUNTER RIDER: Christopher Payne.

GRAND ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: Remix, Garland Alban.

GRAND AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Aristocrat, Tracy Scheriff-Muser.

BEST AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER RIDER: Tracy Scheriff-Muser.

GRAND LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Belgravia, Lindsay Maxwell.

BEST LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER RIDER: Lindsay Maxwell.

BEST ADULT AMATEUR RIDER: Garland Alban.

LEADING EQUITATION TRAINER: Emily & Ken Smith.

BEST ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER RIDER: Margot Peroni.

BEST MEDIUM AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER RIDER: Callie Seaman.

BEST LOW AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER RIDER: Charlotte Jacobs.

WCHR PROFESSIONAL HUNTER CHALLENGE CH: Lafitte De Muze, Cheryl Osten.

RES: Red Ryder, Tracy Freels.

WCHR AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CHALLENGE CH: Cristiano, Virginia Fout.

RES: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

WCHR ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CHALLENGE CH: Remix, Garland Alban.

RES: Santorini, Privet Farm LLC.

WCHR DEVELOPING PRO HUNTER CHALLENGE CH: Banksy, Grace Russo.

RES: Cornetto, Barbara Brungess.

WCHR LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CHALLENGE CH: Lyons Creek Bellini, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

RES: Mythical, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, PROFESSIONAL HUNTER: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER: Belgravia, Lindsay Maxwell.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER: Statement, Popish Farms LLC.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, 3'-3'3" GREEN HUNTER: Paper Trail, Derby Lane LLC & D.L. Glefke.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY Ag Equine Programs

Top-notch, interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate education, world-class equine research and unmatched service to the equine industry since 2005 — all in one place.

It starts with us.

The horse is at the heart of everything we do.

UK University of Kentucky
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment



equine.ca.uky.edu

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an equal opportunity organization.

