



**[LEFT]** Matthew Metell and Donchalant have a perfect record of two for two wins in grand prix competition. **[RIGHT]** Lauren Fischer took second and third in the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix.

# Matthew Metell Takes Two

## At Vermont Summer Festival

MATTHEW METELL OF Wellington, FL, won his second consecutive grand prix at the six-week Vermont Summer Festival in East Dorset, VT, taking victory in the \$30,000 Battenkill Grand Prix, presented by the Equinox Resort, held during week two after winning the first grand prix of his career, the \$30,000 Vermont Summer Special Grand Prix, the week before.

Metell and his mount, Donchalant, were the only pair in a field of 28 to turn in a double-clear performance in 43.52 seconds over the track set by Ireland's Alan Wade, who will be the course designer at the upcoming 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC.

"She's easier and better than I ever thought she could be," said Metell of his winning mount, Donchalant, a nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Wolver Hollow, who Metell first tried in the Netherlands just three months ago. "She feels so careful in the ring. There's bigger classes that, hopefully, we will get to jump and we will see how she steps up for those in the future, but we couldn't be happier with her."

"I thought this was the last thing that was going to happen after [winning] last week and just went in and tried to have fun," said Metell, 27, who has a perfect record of two for two wins


in grand prix competition. "The track reminded me of my equitation days. There were a lot of bending lines but she is nice and adjustable, so bigger courses in a ring like this don't feel like they are that much work for her."

In recognition of his victory, Metell was awarded a scrim by Mona's Monograms as well as a crystal trophy. In addition, the Vermont Summer Festival recognized his groom, Rolando Amaya, with the weekly Grand Prix Groom Award in honor of his hard work preparing Donchalant for grand prix competition. Amaya was presented with a monogrammed jacket and coolerette from sponsor Glenn Geary of Horsecwatch.

Lauren Fischer, 19, of Bedford Hills, NY, qualified two mounts for the tie-breaking jump-off. She placed second aboard Rissosa d'Ag Bois Margot with four faults in a time of 47.61 seconds and took third with one rail down in a time of 48.03 seconds riding My Pleasure. Jimmy Torano of Wellington, FL,

took fourth in the grand prix with a four-fault jump-off round in 49.039 seconds riding Dutch Lady. Veronica Bot of Burlington, ON, rounded out the top five riding Cool Down 3 after incurring three time faults in the first round.

Second place finisher, Fischer, jumped her first grand prix at the Vermont Summer Festival in 2015. She returned to the event this summer before starting her sophomore year at Pace University in New York, NY, this fall.

"I am so proud of them all the time," said Fischer of her two mounts. "Rissosa d'Ag Bois Margot is a new horse for me and I just started showing him in May. I have had My Pleasure for two years, so he is a very good friend. They both always jump so amazing for me and I had a lot of fun out there today, which certainly helps." 

PHOTOS: TERISE COLE

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