

Leslie Howard Dominates \$133,700 Empire State Grand Prix CSI3*

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Olympic Games in Los Angeles, CA. On Sunday, she returned to familiar territory and claimed another milestone win on the Old Salem Farm Grand Prix Field. From a starting order that included 30 horses, Howard was the first of only three to jump clear over a challenging track set by Ken Krome.

Again leading the charge in the jump-off, Howard and Quadam, owned by Laure Sudreau, set the pace with another clear round in 42.45 seconds. The time was more than enough to top runner-up and North Salem, NY, local Katie Dinan, who guided Brego R'N B to a double-clear day in 42.45 seconds. Howard welcomed Quadam, a 13-year-old Hanoverian stallion into her string when she found him for her client Richard Neal in 2014. Two years into that partnership, they decided to sell the mount and Sudreau stepped up to make the purchase as a grand prix ride for Howard.

"He almost won the American Gold Cup here last year with one down in the jump-off, but today's course suited him because he is very well balanced," said Howard. "The horses that are a little long in the body and not as active behind had a hard time because there were a lot of tight turns. My horse's hind end is always underneath him, he turns well, and he's easy to ride because his stride is so expandable. Jump-offs like today's are so much easier for him because when you slow down you don't lose any energy."

While Howard sat atop a longtime partner, Dinan only started riding Brego R'N B in March. After spending some time in the national ranks, Dinan stepped the 13-year-old gelding owned by Grant Road

[RIGHT] Two-time U.S. Olympic medalist Leslie Howard won the \$133,700 Empire State Grand Prix CSI3*, riding Quadam on the final day of the 2019 Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows in North Salem, NY. **[BELOW]** Katie Dinan of North Salem, NY, and Brego R'N B were second in the \$133,700 Empire State Grand Prix CSI3*.



Partners, LLC, up to FEI competition for the first time at Old Salem Farm. "He could not have gone better," she said. "It was a great day to have a big debut with a perfect setting and perfect weather. I feel really comfortable here because I have a lot of experience on this field."

"Our farm is a seven-minute drive up the road," continued Dinan, 25, who started competing in the walk-trot division at Old Salem Farm. "One of the best parts about this show is that it has a real local and loyal following. The same people come every year, and they really know the riders and horses. It's a really wonderful feeling when you know people are rooting for you and you can deliver for them."

Rounding out the top placings, Israel's Daniel Bluman rode Colestina H to third

with one rail down and a time of 43.65 seconds in the jump-off for owner Blue Star Investments and Kim Douglas. Lucy Deslauriers (USA) piloted Hester, owned by Lisa Deslauriers, to fourth with the fastest four-fault round over the original course in 73.60 seconds. In fifth, McLain Ward, who hails from Brewster, NY, rode Noche de Ronda, a horse the U.S. Olympic team gold medalist owns with Bob Russell and Marilla van Beuren. They crossed the timers of the first-round track with four faults in 74.36 seconds. **[E]**