



Jared DePermentier topped the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge with Brad Wolf's Sebastian at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.  
*LINDSAY BERRETH PHOTO*

# DePermentier Steps Into The Spotlight At Capital Challenge

The young professional overcomes his nerves to take home the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge.

By **Lindsay Berreth** And **Mollie Bailey**

**M**ost days, if you stop by the barn, you'll find Jared DePermentier schooling horses, administering therapies or watching a horse on the Aquatred.

The 31-year-old enjoys the day-to-day activity at John and Stephanie Ingram's farm near Nashville, Tennessee, where he's been based since 2020.

But since getting the chance to ride Brad Wolf's amateur-owner hunter Sebastian, DePermentier is spending more and more time in the ring, a place where he's not always comfortable.

"I'm a huge chicken," he said with a laugh. "I fight to show at any cost. I'm a chicken. I'll own it, honestly. I'm totally more comfortable being behind the scenes. I love setting them up and all of that."

DePermentier's supporters, including Tom Wright, who he's been working with since 2021, have been encouraging him to show, and he got in the ring last year, capping off the season with a second-placed finish in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

This year, he returned to Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on Oct. 5 with Sebastian, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding (Cancara—Luna XVII), and won.

"I've got to be honest, that has been eating at me all year," he said. "I know exactly what I needed to do last year to win, and I was not going to make that mistake again. So, we came back with vengeance, and I'm really,

really happy it panned out the way it did.

"I'm not very good under these circumstances with pressure," he admitted. "That's not my thing, so I don't know how it panned out the way it did. I kind of just left it up to Sebastian, and truly, honestly, was along for the ride, and that horse is everything. He really stepped up, and I tried not to let him down."

DePermentier grew up near the Devon Horse Show in the Philadelphia suburbs and was a "total barn rat" at his local stable. He started in the hunters and hasn't looked back. His first horse off ponies was a Thoroughbred ex-eventer named Logan. They started in the pre-children's division, then moved up to the junior hunters, riding at big shows like Devon.

"What I loved was we kind of learned together," he said. "He came off the cross-country field and was incredibly brave but knew nothing about the hunters, so we figured it out together. It was fun."

He sold Logan when he went to Washington College (Maryland) and rode on the school's Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association team. In his spare time, he started importing young horses, bringing them along, selling them and getting the next one.

"I love doing the young horses," he said. "I like the whole process of it, start to finish, seeing where you can go with it, because you never really know what you're going to have until they land, and you point them at their first flower box."



Kathleen Mathews counted on her long partnership with Downtown Brown to win the North American League Adult Hunter Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

With a degree in business, DePermentier wasn't sure what he wanted to do after college but knew he wanted to be involved with horses. He continued his small buying and selling business, riding as an amateur, and eventually met Wright and the Ingram family when he sold them a horse named Heckfield three years ago.

The Ingrams' barn manager, Torrey Hardison, was impressed with DePermentier's riding and suggested they hire him to ride their horses at home.

Wright, who trains the Ingrams and Wolf, noticed DePermentier's soft feel and accurate riding. "You can't find a more trustworthy, easygoing, yet really detail-oriented person, so he really fits in to our barn," he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit just as DePermentier started his new job, and he and Wright stayed in Florida. Wright said that one-on-one time was important for DePermentier to learn his system without the pressure to prepare horses for the ring.

"Instead of having to produce the show rounds, we broke everything apart, and I taught him my theories

from scratch," he said. "He took to all the pieces of the puzzle that I like. He's bloomed from there."

"When they bought [Heckfield], I kept in touch, kind of stalked him, and then Tom said, 'We have an opening for a rider,' " said DePermentier. "I didn't want to go pro. I guess I was mostly nervous; I was torn because I

*The world is his oyster if he chooses to be a featured rider."*

—Tom Wright

wanted to make horses my career, but I didn't have the money to be an amateur forever. I had this job with the Ingrams, and Tom Wright is Tom Wright, and I was like, 'OK, I can do this if I never step into the spotlight professionally.' I can ride at home and set up horses. I was good with not showing because I like setting them up and the behind the scenes. I like doing the homework. It was a lot like what I did with the young horses, so I could apply that to setting them up for John and Martha [Ingram]."

In 2021, Hardison suggested DePermentier try for the WCHR class, and DePermentier admits he had to tell himself to get over his apprehension and take the opportunity. Once he renewed his U.S. Equestrian Federation membership, it was full steam ahead to qualify, and his second-placed finish last year gave him confidence.

"[The Ingrams and Wolf are] such a big part of this industry, and Tom is iconic," he said. "He's in the [National Show Hunter] Hall of Fame. He's had all these incredible riders, and I've watched him take so many horses to the ring and make up so many amazing horses, so I was like, 'Oh my gosh, do I really want to walk in the ring on one of these horses?' The ball just kept on rolling."

DePermentier said this year he felt like he belonged in the WCHR class.

"I felt like I knew my horse inside and out. I spend every waking minute with that horse. I ride him every day. I went in there, and it was one of the few where I felt like, 'We got this. Take it jump by jump, piece by piece.' The horse is

## FRENCH SECURES A SECOND WIN

As the defending champion of the WCHR Professional Challenge on Marnell Sport Horses' Babylon, John French came to the show with another year's experience under his belt with the 7-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Crumbie—Die Cera).

It hasn't been the easiest year for French, 60. In May, he broke his femur and needed a hip replacement, so he took some time off riding to mend.

But Capital Challenge is a homecoming show for the Maryland native, and he enjoys the focus on the hunters.

He and junior rider Ariana Marnell have been sharing the ride on Babylon, and the gelding carried French, Wellington, Florida, to another WCHR win this year.

"Babylon is a really special horse to me because I started riding him when he was 4, and it began my partnership with working together with [Olympic show jumper] Kent Farrington," he said. "I started him when he was a little green, a little spooky, and I just know the horse so well. Last year he loved it here. He came here and was champion [in the 3'6" green hunters] and grand champion. Here, I didn't get to show him at all this week. I just saved him for this class, because he does the juniors on the weekend. I didn't know what to expect, because he hadn't been in the ring showing, but he's come along—such a long way. He was brave and jumped around—jumped amazing."

With a strong lead heading into the second round, French played it safe and was rewarded in Round 2 with two scores of 95 and a 94 from the judging panel.

"This horse, I think he's special because he really wants to do it for you," he said. "He loves his job, and he seems really happy to go to shows. He's happy to show. I think as a rider and trainer, that's your job: to make the horse want to do it for you and to make sure the horse is happy and likes what he's doing."



John French rode Babylon to win the WCHR Pro Challenge for the second year in a row.  
LINDSAY BERRETH PHOTO



Tracey Gorin-Byrne won the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championship on Checker 69 (pictured) and the Ariat National Adult Medal Final on Ustica at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

absolutely perfect," he said. "It was fun. I did stop talking to anyone probably around 8 a.m. and was mute the rest of the day. I only maybe had one mental breakdown around lunch, but I had the best horse and the best team behind me."

Wright said DePermentier and Sebastian understand each other. "They're both very sensitive, yet quiet. They might overreact to certain things, and they've really created a symbiotic relationship, and it's so nice that Brad Wolf has allowed him to be able to have a consistent partnership with that horse," he said. "Most owners don't really let that happen, especially when he's a top amateur hunter. But he thrives on doing the other division with Jared, and it sets him up perfectly for Brad."

While he still gets nervous every time he goes in the ring, DePermentier tries to take Wright's advice to stay in the moment, breathe and have fun. He's not sure where his career will take him next, but he's enjoying how far he's come and hopes to have another young project horse in the future.

"I came into this being so intimidated by this job and not wanting to be a real pro, just wanting to hide behind the scenes, and I had totally the wrong idea," he said. "They almost want it more than I do for me. They won't let me fade. I so appreciate that. I came in thinking, 'I don't want to do the wrong thing,' and it was quite the opposite, and they're pushing me to go in the ring. I love what I'm doing now [at home]. The Ingram family has been amazing, and I learn something new every day from Tom. I love working with Torrey. I

hope nothing changes for a long time.”

Wright said he’s happy to have Jared at home behind the scenes but would be equally happy to have him get the spotlight he deserves.

“I would love him to show as much as he would care to show,” he said. “We’re very supportive of him getting in the ring. I honestly feel like him not showing is like Barbra Streisand deciding she doesn’t like the stage and motion pictures. I hope at some point that he feels confident and enjoys it enough to really show the world what he can do, but in the meantime, I’m also very pleased to have him doing exactly what he’s doing. It’s really up to him. The world is his oyster if he chooses to be a featured rider.”

## A LONG PARTNERSHIP LEADS MATHEWS TO BLUE

As Kathleen Mathews stood on deck aboard Downtown Brown before the second round of the North American League Adult Hunter Finals, she had an eerie sense of déjà vu. She had the highest score in the first round, just as she had a few years ago while competing at another

championship, the Washington International’s WIHS Adult Hunter Championship (District of Columbia). That year she and Downtown Brown pulled a rail to drop out of contention, and Mathews was eager not to make the same mistake. But she kept her cool and put in another stellar round to take the title.

The win was a long time coming. Mathews and the 14-year-old Hanoverian of unrecorded breeding first paired up nine years ago when Mathews was 13 and “Dewey” was 5.

“As a 5-year-old he was just as chill as he is now,” said Mathews, of Davidsonville, Maryland. “He was never spooky. He could always take a joke. I got on him right after I’d ridden ponies, and he was down for whatever. He let me get on him and kick him around like I do now.

“He’s really the only horse I’ve ever had,” she continued. “We’ve been showing consistently for the last five years at this level. He is the sweetest horse; he’s always happy to see you. My mom [Maria Mathews] does an amazing job with him taking care of him at our farm, and she showed him a bit earlier this year. He’s happy



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Callie Seaman and Silver Lining topped the WCHR 3'6" Amateur-Owner Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.  
 SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

## TIDBITS

• **Carolyn Anderson** hadn't competed at Capital Challenge since 2006, and she made a triumphant return, winning the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge with **Playbook**.

"I know it takes a very special horse to win that class," she said.

Anderson's husband, adult amateur rider David Lubben, bought the 12-year-old warmblood by Samba Hit in 2018, and Anderson's had the ride for three years.

At the beginning of the year, Anderson, 54, laid out her goals with her sports psychologist, Beth McCharles, and her main goal was to win the WCHR Challenge.

"I've worked very hard to overcome my fears with riding," she said.

After some lower placings earlier in the week, she discussed her strategy with trainer Scott Stewart, who told her, "It's not over yet."

"I looked at my videos, phoned my sports psychologist, and worked really hard to get my confidence back and to ride as smoothly as possible on Friday," she said.

Based in Wellington, Florida, and Delano, Minnesota, Anderson shows several other horses, but Playbook holds a special place in her heart.

"He is an amazing horse," she said. "He's definitely a show ring horse and knows when it's a big class. He rises to the occasion."

• **Callie Seaman** came into Capital Challenge having won the amateur-owner grand championship in 2021 with **Silver Lining**.

This year, they topped the WCHR 3'6" Amateur-Owner Challenge. "The Challenge is a fun class to wrap up the show, and I think your year," said Seaman, 33, New York City. "It's a fun showcase of where you are with your horse, and it has a bit of a lighter, more fun feel than the divisions. I think sometimes going into the division rounds there can

to do whatever job. I always know he's going to go in the ring and never say no."

Kathleen credited trainers Katie Cooper and Katie Francella of Caves Farm for helping her and Dewey perform their best. She trailers 45 minutes to their Owings Mills, Maryland, facility for weekly lessons.

Kathleen, 22, is a senior computer science major at the University of Maryland, so she spent her show morning taking classes before zipping over to the Prince George's Equestrian Center 20 minutes from her home. Despite her proximity to the showgrounds, this was only Kathleen's second time competing at Capital Challenge.

"Growing up I'd always come and watch the big night classes," she said. "Being able to watch them in person is amazing. I'm not sure why I haven't competed here more. I loved it both times [I did]."

## NO HORSE, NO PROBLEM

Tracey Gorin-Byrne hasn't owned her own horse for a few years as she's been busy with her 3-year-old son, Liam Byrne, so she's relied on the kindness of others to borrow horses to show.

She had a dream weekend at Capital Challenge when she won the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championship on Marigot Bay Farm's Checker 69 and the Ariat National Adult Medal Final on Sweet Oak Farm's Ustica.

It was Gorin-Byrne's first time sitting on Checker 69, a 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Carrico—Roberta).

be a lot of pressure, and going into the Challenge round is more excitement than anything else."

She's had Silver Lining, an 8-year-old Westphalian gelding (Los Angeles—Coronia), since he was 4.

"I bought him right after I'd broken my ankle badly, and he was gray, and I needed a name for him, so Silver Lining just kind of seemed like the perfect name because he was something for me to look forward to during my recovery," she said. "He's really become my Steady Eddie. He and I have developed a really special bond. He's a funny horse. He likes to go with his tongue out all the time. He doesn't usually do it the whole round, but everyone was laughing because the tongue was out for the entirety of the Challenge round. He's a cheeky guy. It's been really cool to have a horse from such a young age and watch him grow up over the years."

Seaman is nearly finished pursuing a master's degree in public health with a focus on global health.

She'd showed Ustica, an 11-year-old warmblood mare (Ustinov—Carana), a few times previously.

"I've been really lucky that a lot of people have given me opportunities to ride a lot of horses. It's really fun," she said.

After competing in the Ariat Final nearly every year since she aged out of the juniors and being second twice, Gorin-Byrne, 34, was thrilled to win—although as a winner, she's not allowed to compete in the class again.

"It was shocking—very surprising," she said. "I was really happy, but I'm also a little sad. I'm going to miss the Ariat and not showing in that anymore. It's been such a big part of my adult riding career, and it's something I look forward to every year."

Ustica is normally ridden in the junior equitation by Olivia Sweetnam.

"She felt great," said Gorin-Byrne. "[My trainer] Jenna [Vanerstrom] and Olivia have done such an incredible job with her. Every time I've ridden her over the past few months, she's so much improved; it's almost like a different horse every time. On Thursday in the adult hunters, she'd really taken a huge leap forward in her rideability, and I was having a little bit of a hard time figuring it out. She got so nice to ride, and I was trying to do all these things that I didn't need to be doing on Thursday, and I was like, 'Oh dear, maybe I can't ride her anymore,' but luckily by the next day I listened to Jenna and [trainer] Danny [Arendt] and figured out what I was supposed to be doing."

• **Danny Robertshaw** and **Jack Towell** received the Old Springhouse Perpetual Trophy for the WCHR Lifetime Achievement Award, voted on by the WCHR membership.

• John & Stephanie Ingram LLC's **Only Always**, ridden by **Nick Haness**, earned multiple honors on awards night thanks to his performance at his top four WCHR shows plus Capital Challenge. The Ingrams earned the Rox Dene Trophy, awarded to the owner of the horse ridden by a professional earning the most points in a 3'6" or higher open hunter division, as well as the Alabama Clay Conformation Hunter Perpetual Trophy, awarded to the owner of the horse earning the most points in a green conformation or high performance conformation division. Haness earned the Jeffrey Katz Trophy, presented to the horse-and-rider combination earning the most points in the 3'6" green, 3'9" green or green conformation division.



Gorin-Byrne, Wellington, Florida, is originally from Connecticut and has an equestrian bookkeeping business. About eight years ago she connected with Sweet Oak Farm, where she enjoys focusing on the equitation but also rides in the hunters.

“It’s a really fun group of people,” she said. “I think adults in general, there’s a lot less pressure. It’s a lot more fun. We’re all competitive, but it’s a lot more supportive—especially the adult equitation. It’s a lot of the same people since you don’t age out of it, and you don’t have to have the same horse all the time. It’s a lot of familiar faces, and everybody’s having fun. I’m just as happy to see my friends win, and I think it’s the same way around.” 🐾

## North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championship Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 29

Rider	Hometown
1. Tracey Gorin-Byrne	Wellington, Fla.
2. Anna Koenig	Hollywood, Fla.
3. Catherine Kramer	Indianapolis
4. Shannon Davidson	Argyle, Texas
5. Casey Zuraitis	Sutton, Mass.
6. Ryan Kenny	Alpharetta, Ga.
7. Tamara Linde	Red Bank, N.J.
8. Deirdre Agnew	Exton, Pa.
9. Margrethe Munkdale	San Francisco
10. Nancy Buzzetta	Middle Island, N.Y.

36 riders competed.

## Ariat National Adult Medal Final Upper Marlboro, Md.—Oct. 7

Rider	Hometown
1. Tracey Gorin-Byrne	Wellington, Fla.
2. Catherine Kramer	Indianapolis
3. Aly Muir	Allison Park, Pa.
4. Macie Sousa	Orlando, Fla.
5. Amber Broder	Wellington, Fla.
6. Bennett Kitchens	Shaker Heights, Ohio
7. Elizabeth Kenny	Wellesley, Mass.
8. Gabriella Goshtigian	Hermosa Beach, Calif.
9. Natalie Tezsla	Chesterfield, N.J.
10. Sydney Smith	Madison, Conn.

28 riders competed.

## Capital Challenge Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 29-Oct. 9

**3'6" Green Hunter, Sec. A CH:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.  
**RES:** Casanova Royal, Stephanie Danhaki.

**3'6" Green Hunter, Sec. B CH:** Jenkins, Glade Run Farm LLC.  
**RES:** Juan Carlos, Irene Neuwirth.

**3'9" Green Hunter CH:** Paisley Park, Little Brook LLC.  
**RES:** Laskano, Isalou Inc.

**High Performance Hunter CH:** Lafitte De Muze, Cheryl Olsten.  
**RES:** Autograph, Ceil Wheeler.

**Green Conformation Hunter CH:** Only Always, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.  
**RES:** Whimsical, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.

**High Performance Conformation Hunter CH:** Can Can, Stephanie Ring.  
**RES:** For Always, Betsee Parker.

**3'6" Performance Hunter CH:** Trademark, Shadowfax Equestrian LLC.  
**RES:** Chivalry, Little Brook LLC.

**3'3" Green Hunter, Sec. A CH:** Tiesto, Cecelia Perry.  
**RES:** Coconut Grove, Irene Neuwirth.

**3'3" Green Hunter, Sec. B CH:** Kuba Libre, Jaime Auletto.  
**RES, Tie:** Wyatt, Susan Moriconi, Mexicali Blues, Missy Chiles & Trust, Glade Run Farm LLC.

**3' Green Hunter, 6 & Under CH:** Circa, Glade Run Farm LLC.  
**RES:** Divine Romance, Hallowell Lane Farm LLC.

**3' Green Hunter, 7 & Over CH:** Kyoto, Brendan Williams.  
**RES:** Golden Goose, Privet Farm LLC.

**3'-3'3" Green Hunter Mares CH:** Arosa B, Samantha Kramig.  
**RES:** Avila, EMO Stables.

**Green Hunter Colts/Geldings CH:** Florian, Betsee Parker.  
**RES:** Roper, New Hope LLC.

**Adult Amateur Hunter, 18-35 CH:** Dinner At 8, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.  
**RES:** Park City, Privet Farm LLC.

**Adult Amateur Hunter, 36-49 CH:** Moore Park, Rein Family LLC.  
**RES:** Hundred Acre, Laurie Barna.

**Adult Amateur Hunter, 50 & Over CH:** Queen Celeste, Glade Run Farm LLC.  
**RES:** Bonaparte, Louisa Attenborough.

**Amateur-Owner Hunter, 18-35 CH:** Romeo, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.  
**RES:** Casanova Royal, Stephanie Danhaki.

**Amateur-Owner Hunter, 36 & Over CH:** Wayland Square, Rein Family LLC.  
**RES:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter, 18-35 CH:** Churchill, Legado Farms LLC.  
**RES:** First Light, Stephanie Danhaki.

**3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter, 36 & Over CH:** Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.  
**RES:** Belgravia, Tracy Treace.

**KASK/Vogel Green Hunter North American CH:** Florian, Betsee Parker.  
**RES:** Duke Of Argyll, Betsee Parker.

**Adult Amateur Equitation, Sec. A CH:** Margrethe Munkdale.  
**RES:** Claire Martinez.

**Adult Amateur Equitation, Sec. B CH:** Ryan Kenny.  
**RES:** Anna Koenig.

**Leading Hunter Rider:** Liza Boyd.

**Leading Hunter Trainers:** Geoffrey Hesslink & Brendan Williams.

**Grand 3'6" Green Hunter CH:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**Grand Green Hunter CH:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**Grand Hunter CH:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**Grand Conformation Hunter CH:** Can Can, Stephanie Ring.

**Grand 3' & 3'3" Green Hunter CH:** Circa, Glade Run Farm LLC.

**Grand Adult Amateur Hunter CH:** Moore Park, Rein Family LLC.

**Best Adult Amateur Hunter Rider:** Julie McDonell.

**Grand Amateur-Owner Hunter CH:** Romeo, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

**Best Amateur-Owner Hunter Rider:** Martha Ingram.

**Grand 3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter CH:** Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.

**Best 3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter Rider:** Stephanie Bulger.

**Best Medium Amateur Jumper Rider:** Stella Propp.

**Best Low Amateur Jumper Rider:** Laurel MacAllister-Calado.

**Best Adult Amateur Jumper Rider:** Lindsey Tomeu.

**EMO Trip Of The Show, Amateur-Owner Hunter:** Romeo, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

**EMO Trip Of The Show, 3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter, Tie:** Coldplay, Legado Farms LLC & Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.

**EMO Trip Of The Show, Adult Amateur Hunter:** Dinner At 8, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

**EMO Trip Of The Show, Pro:** Circa, Glade Run Farm LLC.

**EMO Trip Of The Show, 3'-3'3" Green Hunter:** Kuba Libre, Jaime Auletto.

**WCHR Professional Challenge CH:** Babylon, Marnell Sport Horses.  
**RES:** Blink, Lee Kellogg Sadrian.

**WCHR 3'6" Amateur-Owner Challenge CH:** Silver Lining, Callie Seaman.  
**RES:** Augustine, Lee Kellogg Sadrian.

**WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge CH:** Playbook, CH Farm LLC.  
**RES:** Zygmont, Catherine Kramer.

**WCHR 3'3" Amateur-Owner Challenge CH:** Private I, Kelly Sims.  
**RES:** Remember Romance, Ashley Weiman.

**WCHR Developing Pro Challenge CH:** Sebastian, Brad Wolf.  
**RES:** Belle, Tracy Treace.

**NAL Adult Hunter CH:** Downtown Brown, Kathleen Mathews.  
**RES:** Better In Blue, First Blue LLC.

**NAL Adult Jumper CH:** Gold Lux, Siboney Ranch.  
**RES:** Glynnwood Mer Calido, Alexis Mierzwa.

**American Style Of Riding Award, Pro:** Jennifer Hannan.

**American Style Of Riding Award, Developing Pro:** Halie Robinson.

**Connaway & Assoc. High-Point American-Bred Horse:** Duke Of Argyll, Betsee Parker.

**Gail Knieriem Memorial Trophy Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Trainer:** Brady Mitchell.

**Far West Farm Trophy Pro Final Owner:** Elise Iafraite.

**Tribute Perpetual Trophy:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**Gray Slipper Award:** Guess Who, Irene Neuwirth.

**In Disguise WCHR Trainer Award:** Thomas Wright.