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THE RIDER™

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53 Celebrating Years

Ontario's Horse Industry Newspaper Since 1970

Lillie Keenan Claims \$225,000 RBC Grand Prix at Wesley Clover Parks

Ottawa, Ontario – Lillie Keenan of the United States laid claim to the \$225,000 RBC Grand Prix on Sunday, August 27, to close out the Major League Show Jumping Ottawa tournament at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON.

It was a battle to the end as the 34-horse starting field was whittled down for the jump-off after 10 jumped clear over the track

Continued on Page 3.



Lillie Keenan of the United States won the \$225,000 CSI5* RBC Grand Prix on Sunday, August 27, to close out the Major League Show Jumping Ottawa tournament at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

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Canada Captures Gold In Young Rider Team Competition At North American Youth Championships



The gold medal Young Riders Show Jumping team on the podium
 Photo Credit: Ben Radvanyi

Canada waved their flag proudly on team day of the Gotham North FEI North American Youth Championships, presented by USHJA, on Friday afternoon. The four team riders in the Young Rider category, William Martin, Quintyn Werner Baeumler, Lily Elliot, and Halle Duke, put in the strongest overall performance over the two rounds, sealing the deal for the gold medal in the Team Final.

2023 marks the first time in many years that Canada has won the gold at NAYC in this category, which made the riders and their chef d'equipe, Dayton Gorsline, tremendously proud. They had to earn the

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NORMAN PICOV
 June 21st 1936 - February 19th 2023

Norman Picox was a true inspiration and a visionary who built an empire through his dedication, hard work, and perseverance. As a respected businessman, he showed what can be achieved through passion, patience, and loyalty. Above all, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who always put others before himself. His love for quarter horses and racing was legendary, and his will/legacy lives on through Norman's legacy will continue to inspire and guide us for generations to come.

Norman Picox Remembered - See Page 23

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Wesley Clover

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set by Canada's Michel Vaillancourt on Wesley Clover Parks' expansive grass field. The jump-off proved to be full of surprises as the riders laid everything on the line. Ireland's Daniel Coyle, who had been riding a winning streak all week in Ottawa, had a refusal with Quintin while the last to go, hometown favourite Amy Millar of Perth, ON, suffered the same fate riding Truman.

In the end, only two riders managed to jump clear in the jump-off, with Keenan coming out ahead of fellow American Chloe Reid. Reid had posted the first clear round of the jump-off in a time of 46.71 seconds riding Crossover 4, but Keenan was able to shave more than a second off to take over the lead, crossing the timers in 45.17 seconds aboard Argan de Belliard. The sole four-fault jump-off round belonged to Ireland's Shane Sweetnam who would have had the time, 44.56 seconds, if not for a rail down riding Cjox Z for owner Epic Stables LLC.

Keenan was proud of her partner, Argan de Belliard, a 13-year-old Selle Français gelding owned by her family's Chansonette Farm LLC.

"In this sport, you're going to lose more than you



Chloe Reid of the United States finished runner-up riding Crossover 4 in the \$225,000 CSI5* RBC Grand Prix. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

win, and if you don't take a risk you're not going to win much," said Keenan, 26, of New York, N.Y. "My horse is very brave. He is a bigger horse with a big stride, so I left out to the combination. Jumping a combination fast is not riding it correctly, but in a jump-off, you have to take a risk. Once I hit that pole and I knew it stayed in the cups, I knew this was my grand prix to win and I had to go for it. My horse gave me everything and luck was on my side today."

Both Keenan and Reid were competing at Wesley Clover Parks for the first time and vowed to return. Reid was riding Crossover 4, her 10-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Team Reid LLC.

"I took over the ride on 'Crossy' when he was six and we've done everything

together, so our bond is really special," said Reid, 26. "I've never been here before, and the field is amazing. I love a good, big grass ring. I have to give Karen (Sparks) credit because everywhere you walk around, and any team member you meet, everyone has a smile on their face. As someone who also puts on events, I know how hard it is to keep everyone smiling."

Presenting sponsor RBC was represented by Marjolaine Hudon, RBC Regional President, Ontario North & East.

"What an event!" said Hudon. "It was top notch. To have this level of event at an international caliber and to bring these athletes together in Ottawa, our nation's capital, that's why we are here. The work being

done by Karen (Sparks) and the full team is worth supporting so we are very happy to be here today."

For Wesley Clover Parks' Executive Director, the hard work paid off.

"This is the gem of our year and is the culmination of a lot of hard work," said Sparks. "Equestrian is at the heart of what we do. Wesley Clover Parks was originally built as an equestrian facility and it's very important for us to make sure that it's at the center of what we do. Then to have some of the best athletes in the world competing at the top level means so much. We have a beautiful field and we have been developing the venue for a decade now. To see the venue performing as it should today was the culmination of a vision to get this back to



Ireland's Shane Sweetnam took third place in the \$225,000 RBC Grand Prix riding Cjox Z for owner Epic Stables LLC. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

where it needs to be."

The Major League Show Jumping Ottawa tournament showcased the highest level of international show jumping competition with a CSI5* rating from the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), and also featured a CSI2* division to offer a combined total of more than \$800,000 in prize money.

For more information on Major League Show Jumping Ottawa, held as part of the Ottawa Equestrian Tournaments, visit www.OttawaEquestrianTournaments.com. Full results can be found at www.ottawaequestriantournaments.com/results-2023.

\$225,000 CSI5* RBC Grand Prix – Sunday, August 27
Rider / Country / Horse / Faults / Time



The press conference panel for the \$225,000 CSI5* RBC Grand Prix. From left to right: Marjolaine Hudon, RBC Regional President, Ontario North & East; Lillie Keenan; Chloe Reid; and Karen Sparks, Executive Director of Wesley Clover Parks. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lillie Keenan / United States / Argan de Belliard / 0:0 / 45.17 | 5. Adrienne Sternlicht / United States / Faquitol-S / 0:0 / 46.14 |
| 2. Chloe Reid / United States / Crossover 4 / 0:0 / 46.71 | 6. Tiffany Foster / Canada / Northern Light / 0:8 / 51.41 |
| 3. Shane Sweetnam / Ireland / Cjox Z / 0:4 / 44.56 | 7. Daniel Coyle / Ireland / Quintin / 0:8 / 55.47 |
| 4. Ashlee Bond / Israel / Donatello 141 / 0:8 / 42.80 | 8. Amy Millar / Canada / Truman / 0:9 / 56.44 |

NAYRC

Continued from Page 1

win, too, as Nick Granat's (USA) courses for the day were demanding and few were able to jump clear. Fault-free rounds from Duke and Martin as the leading and anchor riders, respectively, kept them on the lowest score.

"I think any time you can represent your home country it's a big deal," Martin, who took an individual gold medal in the 2022 Junior section, remarked. "Canadians really take pride in that. This is a show we look forward to all year long mainly because we get to represent our home country. To bring back a medal means a lot."

Duke leaned on her partnership with Ilana to come through and jump clear for the team, even after an unexpected break in competition due to weather conditions.

"I've had this horse for four years this week actually," she said of her horse. "We are pretty much best friends. She jumped incredibly today and the second

round I gave her the ride she deserved and she jumped clear for me. This is my second year coming here and it's amazing, every part of it. To be able to represent your own country is incredible."

Baeumler knows he and his teammates are inching closer to representing Canada on a grander stage.

"Being on a Canadian team is wonderful and the team we have here is one of the best," he shared. "Everyone is kind, caring, and works really hard. I'm thankful to have such a great team behind me and this is the one step before the senior teams. We're all looking forward to that and we'll be working hard for that day."

In the silver medal position, Zone 7 featured Luke Jensen, Sofia Cady, Stella Wasserman, and Hallie Grimes. The team faced a few unexpected challenges later in the class but Cady's clear round helped solidify their second-place finish.

"I don't think there's a horse show I enjoy more," Cady said. "There isn't anything like it. Pressure aside, it's a lot of fun. There's limited opportunity to do team events and this teaches you a lot about how to master



Will Martin and Ricore Courcelle. Photo © Andrew Ryback Photography.



Quintyn Werner Baeumler and Haydn. Photo © Andrew Ryback Photography.



Halle Duke and Ilana. Photo © Andrew Ryback Photography.



Lily Elliot and Pesto Adelheid Z. Photo © Andrew Ryback Photography.

your nerves and mental game along with how to have your horses jump best and how to sustain yourself as well."

Grimes is jumping the highest levels of the sport at 21 years old and still gets more butterflies jumping at NAYC than she does in the CSI5* events.

"I've never felt more pressure than I do at Young Riders," Grimes remarked. "I jumped my first five-star last week and today was [more pressure] than that. It's unbelievable because I really want to show up for these people. It's once a year and you know you can't take it back. You give it everything you have. I can speak for all of us when I say we're going to come out of it stronger because we've had this experience."

The Bronze medal went to Zone 5's trio of Maggie Jacobs, Olivia Williams and Alexander Alston.

See full results from the Young Rider Team Competition here - https://results.hippodata.de/2023/2328/docs/r_yrt_c2_final.pdf?style=hippo