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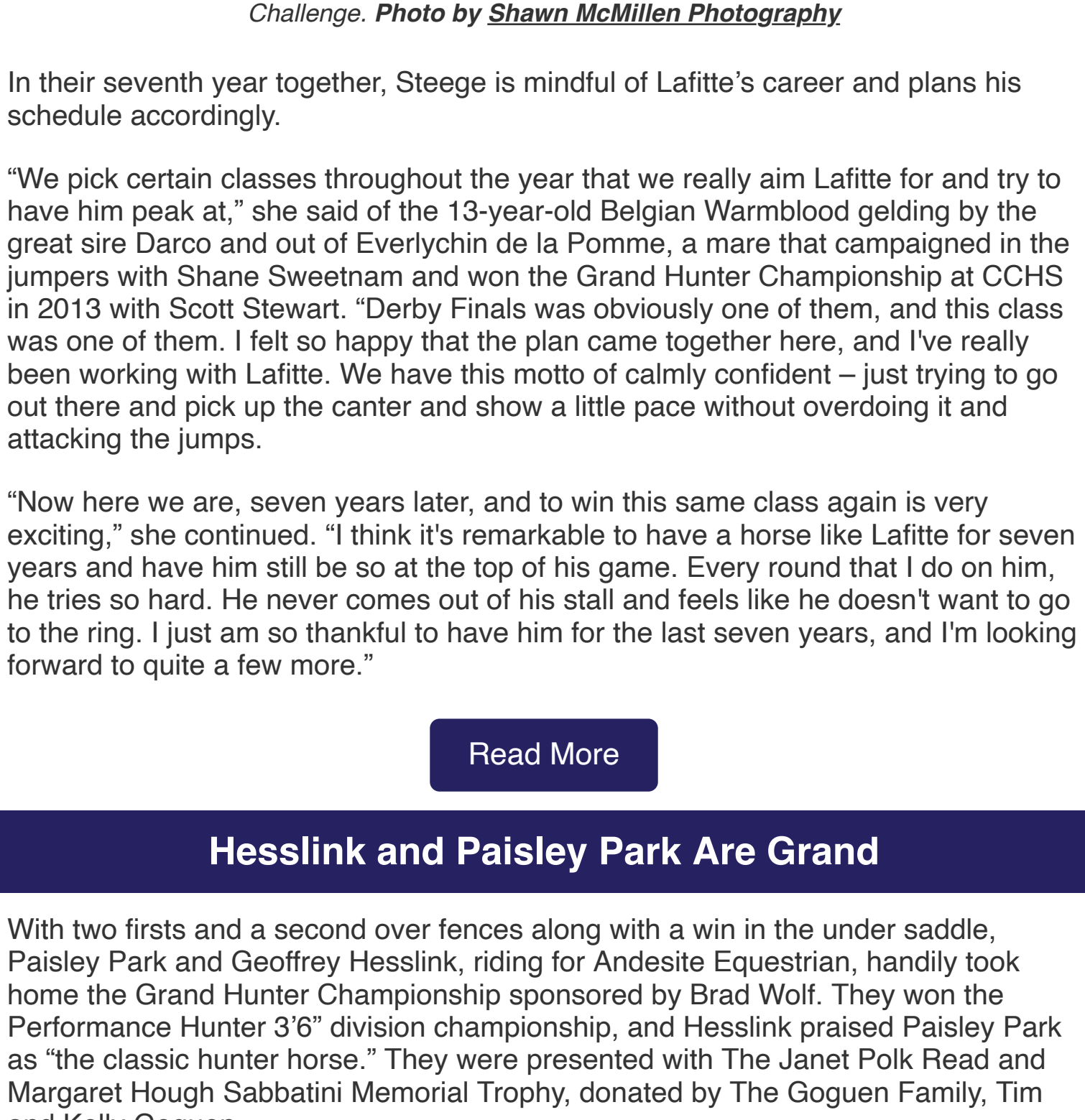
[Results and Orders](#)

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Lafitte de Muze Is Foot Perfect

Amanda Steege and Lafitte de Muze set a standard in their first year together in 2018 and capped it with victory in the WCHR Professional Challenge. Six years later, they would return to the winner's circle in the class, more mature and with a bond that is evident every time they are in the spotlight. They set the tone in round one with a leading score of 93.66 and followed it up with 91.16 for a total of 184.82 that surpassed the following field by six points.

David Wilbur piloted Four Aces, owned by Marita Zuraitis, to second place with an 88.41 in round one and a stellar 90.33 in round two for a total of 178.74. Michael Britt-Leon and Private I, owned by Kelly Sims, placed third with scores of 90 and 87 for a 177.



Amanda Steege and Lafitte de Muze captured their second win in the WCHR Professional Challenge. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

In their seventh year together, Steege is mindful of Lafitte's career and plans his schedule accordingly.

"We pick certain classes throughout the year that we really aim Lafitte for and try to have him peak at," she said of the 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding by the great sire Darco and out of Everlychyn de la Pomme, a mare that campaigned in the jumpers with Shane Sweetnam and won the Grand Hunter Championship at CCHS in 2013 with Scott Stewart. "Derby Finals was obviously one of them, and this class was one of them. I felt so happy that the plan came together here, and I've really been working with Lafitte. We have this motto of calmly confident – just trying to go out there and pick up the canter and show a little pace without overdoing it and attacking the jumps.

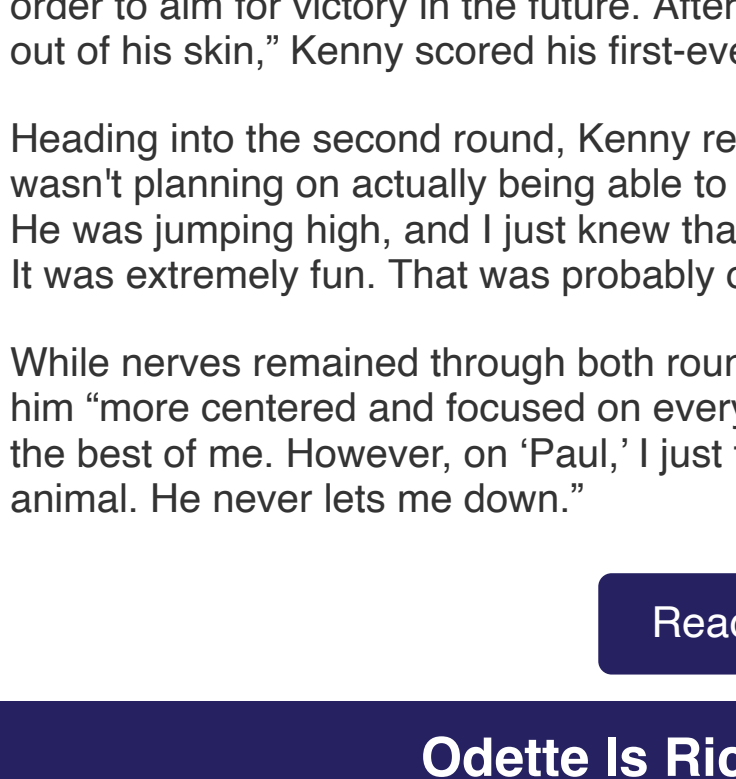
"Now here we are, seven years later, and to win this same class again is very exciting," she continued. "I think it's remarkable to have a horse like Lafitte for seven years and have him still be so at the top of his game. Every round that I do on him, he tries so hard. He never comes out of his stall and feels like he doesn't want to go to the ring. I just am so thankful to have him for the last seven years, and I'm looking forward to quite a few more."

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Hesslink and Paisley Park Are Grand

With two firsts and a second over fences along with a win in the under saddle, Paisley Park and Geoffrey Hesslink, riding for Andesite Equestrian, handily took home the Grand Hunter Championship sponsored by Brad Wolf. They won the Performance Hunter 3'6" division championship, and Hesslink praised Paisley Park as "the classic hunter horse." They were presented with The Janet Polk Read and Margaret Hough Sabbatini Memorial Trophy, donated by The Goguen Family, Tim and Kelly Goguen.

Hesslink was also named the Leading Hunter Rider sponsored by RGA Architect.



Grand Champion Green Hunter 3'6" Sponsored by Memorial Park Hunters

Monarchy, Shadowfax Equestrian LLC, Geoffrey Hesslink

Grand Hunter Champion Sponsored by Brad Wolf

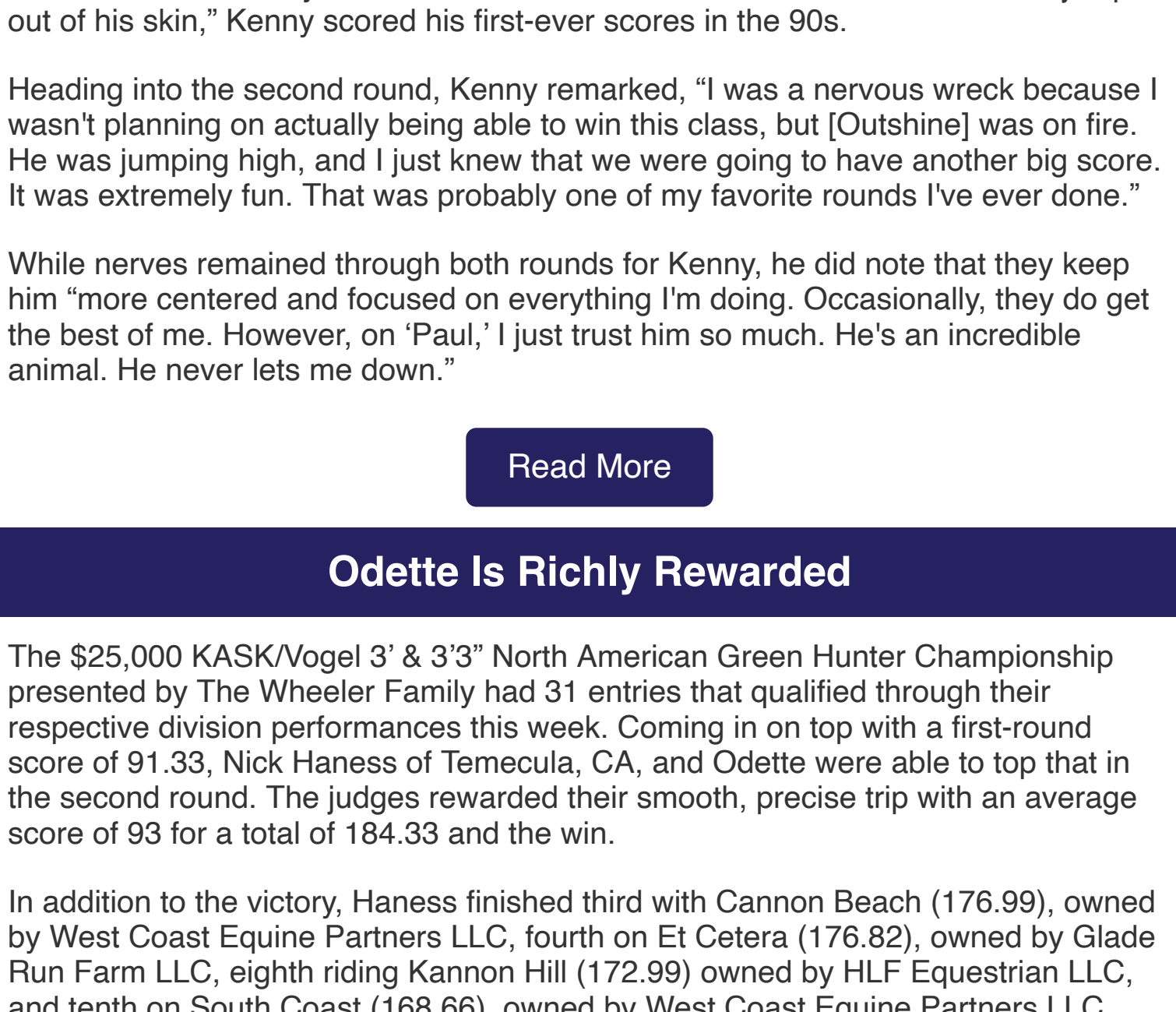
The Janet Polk Read and Margaret Hough Sabbatini Memorial Trophy, donated by The Goguen Family, Tim and Kelly Goguen

Paisley Park, Andesite Equestrian, Geoffrey Hesslink

Six Months a Pro, Kenny Captures Major Title

At 21 years old and with six months of professional riding under his belt, Ryan Kenny of Alpharetta, GA, rode Outshine, owned by his trainer Michael Britt-Leon, to victory in the \$10,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge presented by the John R. Ingram Fund.

The pair showed no signs of their burgeoning partnership in the class, securing scores of 91.33 and 93 for a total victorious score of 184.33, which gave them the win by more than eight points. With a total score of 176 after twin scores of 88, Dottie Barnwell Areson and Moonshine, owned by Hollowell Lane Farm LLC, placed second. Pieter Luyckx and Chief, owned by Stephanie Bulger, were third with a score of 173.16.



Ryan Kenny counted on his veteran partner Outshine to win the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Kenny's original expectation for the Challenge was to have a good experience in order to aim for victory in the future. After an "incredible first round where he jumped out of his skin," Kenny scored his first-ever scores in the 90s.

Heading into the second round, Kenny remarked, "I was a nervous wreck because I wasn't planning on actually being able to win this class, but [Outshine] was on fire. He was jumping high, and I just knew that we were going to have another big score. It was extremely fun. That was probably one of my favorite rounds I've ever done."

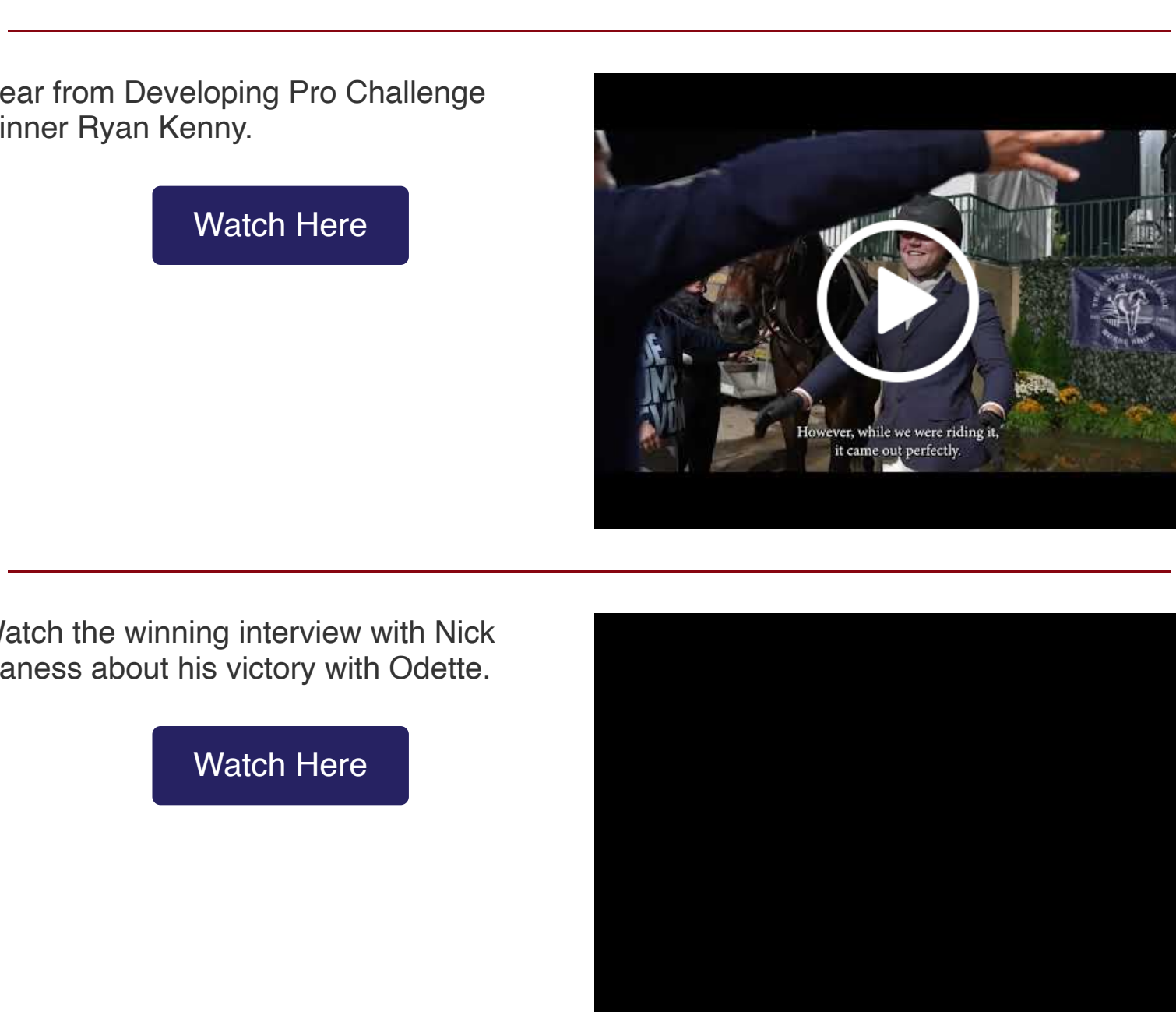
While nerves remained through both rounds for Kenny, he did note that they keep him "more centered and focused on everything I'm doing. Occasionally, they do get the best of me. However, on 'Paul,' I just trust him so much. He's an incredible animal. He never lets me down."

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Odette Is Richly Rewarded

The \$25,000 KASK/Vogel 3' & 3'3" North American Green Hunter Championship presented by The Wheeler Family had 31 entries that qualified through their respective division performances this week. Coming in on top with a first-round score of 91.33, Nick Hanes of Temecula, CA, and Odette were able to top that in the second round. The judges rewarded their smooth, precise trip with an average score of 93 for a total of 184.33 and the win.

In addition to the victory, Hanes finished third with Cannon Beach (176.99), owned by West Coast Equine Partners LLC, fourth on Et Cetera (176.82), owned by Glade Run Farm LLC, eighth riding Kannon Hill (172.99) owned by HLF Equestrian LLC, and tenth on South Coast (168.66), owned by West Coast Equine Partners LLC.



Odette continued her winning streak with Nick Hanes in the KASK/Vogel North American Green Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

While Hanes feels he knows Odette well and they have already had major success, this class was their first time jumping indoors. Odette was unfazed by the atmosphere.

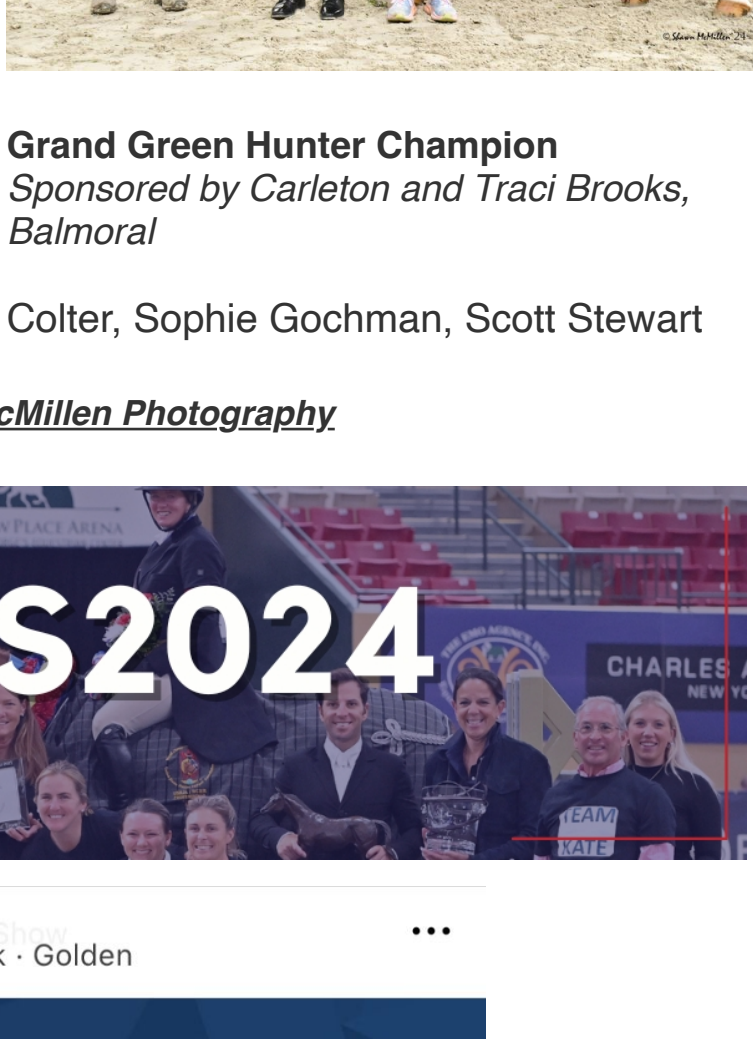
"It's a lot of pressure for these younger horses. You go in with the mindset that it is what it is, and hopefully you've prepared for it," he explained. "I was calm and relaxed with Odette – and tired – so that made me relax and go in and focus on what she needed. She's so intuitive and so smart. I was able to glide around the course."

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Amanda Steege talks about her WCHR Pro Challenge win with Lafitte de Muze.

[Watch Here](#)



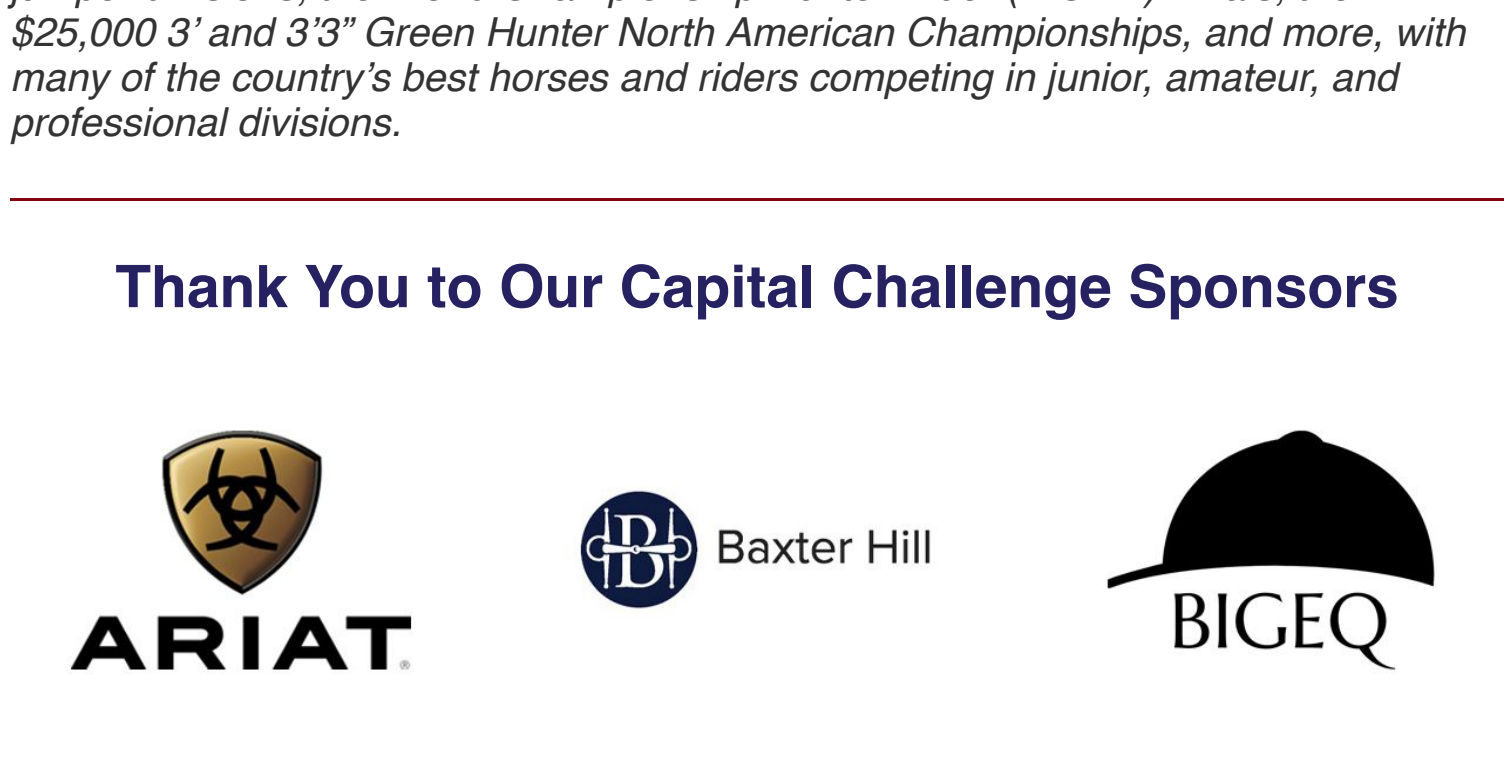
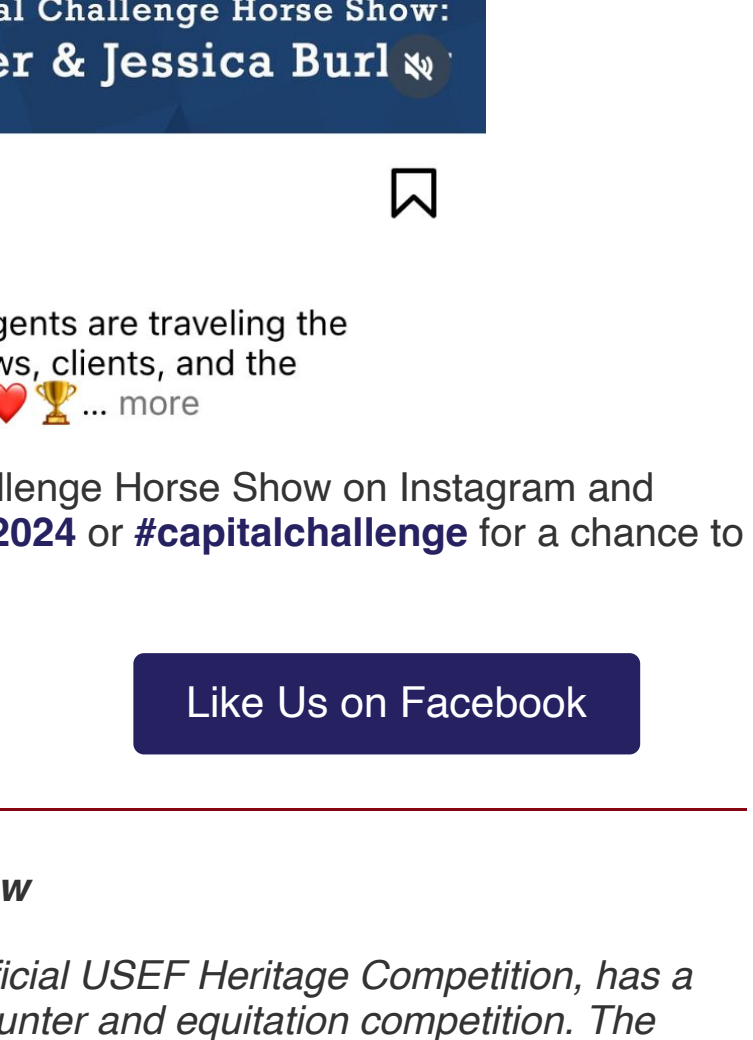
Hear from Developing Pro Challenge winner Ryan Kenny.

[Watch Here](#)



Watch the winning interview with Nick Hanes about his victory with Odette.

[Watch Here](#)



Grand Champion Conformation Hunter Sponsored by Snowfield Farm

The Kenneth M. Wheeler Perpetual Trophy donated by BJ Meeks and Pablo Perez

All Inklusive, Ava Berman, Samantha Schaefer



Grand Champion Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Sponsored by David Belford and Christopher Payne, New Hope LLC

"A Rare Diamond" Perpetual Trophy donated by "The Friends of Mickey"

Maverick, Sadie Furr, Michael Britt-Leon



Tribute Award Sponsored by Snowfield Farm

Stewart and Ken Berkey, Rivers Edge

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Grand Green Hunter Champion Sponsored by Carleton and Traci Brooks, Balmora!

Colter, Sophie Gochman, Scott Stewart

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography



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About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2023 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 28-October 8. The 11 days of competition will include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, and the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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