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ALLEN MACMILLAN/MACMILLAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Winners of the 2024 Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill in mid-October were Great Britain's Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class.



KIM MACMILLAN/MACMILLAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Buck Davidson (USA) guided the 13-year-old gelding Sorocaima to 4th place and won the Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue Trophy for the highest-placed American Thoroughbred.

MARYLAND 5 STAR WRAP-UP

BY KIM MACMILLAN

British rider Oliver Townend returned to the 2024 Mars Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill in mid-October on a mission to top the podium. He had previously placed 2nd once and 3rd twice in earlier editions of the now four-year-old event.

This time he brought his long-time partner and Kentucky Three-Day Event and Burghley 5* winner, Ballaghmor Class, a 17-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding owned by Karyn Shuter, Angela Hislop and Val Ryan.

Ranked No. 5 in the FEI World Rankings for eventers and having won eight other 5* eventing competitions coming into Maryland, Townend was seeking to notch his ninth 5* win, and that's just what he and "Thomas" accomplished on the final day. This tied Townend with eventing greats Lucinda Green and Andrew Nicholson, who also have nine.

FINAL SCORES

Townend and Ballaghmor Class were 2nd after the dressage phase on a penalty score of 26.5. Next, they jumped clear on cross-country with 4.8 time faults, but ultimately moved into the lead. In show jumping on the final day, they left up all the rails and finished inside the time to clinch the win (31.3) over Tim Price of New Zealand on Falco (34.6). British rider David Doel and Galileo Nieuwmoed took 3rd place (38.5).

Bruce ("Buck") Davidson Jr., who grew up near Fair Hill, piloted 13-year-old Thoroughbred gelding Sorocaima to 4th place (47.6) and won the Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue Trophy for the highest-placed American Thoroughbred. The winner of the Maryland CCI3*-L was Sharon White on Jaguars Duende.

For more of Horse Illustrated's coverage of the 2024 Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill, go to horseillustrated.com/2024-maryland-5-star-at-fair-hill-results-and-recap.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 11

Tacoma Equine Hospital Horse Health Expo
McGavick Conference Center
Lakewood, Wash.
tacomaequine.com/expo

January 28 - February 2

World Championship Hunter Rider Week
World Equestrian Center, Ocala, Fla.
worldequestriancenter.com

January 30 - February 1

Grandview Invitational Draft Horse Show
Florida Horse Park, Ocala, Fla.
grandviewinvitational.com

January 31 - February 2

Grand Oaks Classic combined driving event
Grand Oaks Resort, Wiersdale, Fla.
thegrandoaks.com

February 2-9

Horse Lovers Summit on the Sea
Eastern Caribbean
netposse.com

February 6-9

FEI Driving World Cup Final for
Four-in-hand & Show Jumping
Bordeaux, France
inside.fei.org

February 21-23

Southern Equine Expo
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
southernequineexpo.com

February 27 - March 2

Horse World Expo
Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, Pa.
horseworldexpo.com

March 4-23

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
NRG Park, Houston, Texas
rodeohouston.com

March 7-9

Michigan Horse Expo
MSU Livestock Pavilion
Lansing, Mich.
mihorseexpo.com

March 22

Aiken Spring Steeplechase
Aiken, S.C.
aikensteeplechase.com

March 27-30

Road to the Horse
Kentucky Horse Park
Lexington, Ky.
roadtothehorse.com

RECAP: ROYAL WINTER FAIR

Horse lovers from all corners of equestrian sport found something of interest at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, which ran from November 1-10, 2024. The event is unique in that it is largest combined indoor agriculture fair and international equestrian competition in the world. Each year, approximately 300,000 people attend.

Attendees can immerse in all things equine walking around "the Royal": show jumping, hunters, dressage, indoor eventing, heavy horse hitches, antique coaches drawn by four-in-hand teams, Standardbreds pulling roadster bikes and road wagons, high-stepping fine harness ponies, cowgirl drill teams, rodeo, blacksmithing, vaulting instruction, breed classes, educational displays, tack shops, and more.

Up-and-coming international show jumping rider Alex Matz (USA), 28, made his name more widely known by winning three of the international show jumping classes. His wins included the \$200,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup Toronto qualifier aboard Ikigai, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion. It was the first World Cup qualifier win for Matz, the son of Show Jumping Hall of Fame rider Michael Matz.



KIM MACMILLAN/MACMILLAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Alex Matz and Ikigai

With his other horse, Cashew W, the younger Matz won both the Strength & Speed International Challenge and the Canadian Open/Centennial Cup. He was named Leading International Rider for his achievements.

Make your plans now to attend the 2025 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, which will run Nov. 7-16. For more info, visit royalfair.org. — Kim MacMillan HI