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Scott Stewart Sweeps Titles at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Upper Marlboro, MD – Scott Stewart of Flemington, NJ, dominated competition at the Capital Challenge Horse Show (CCHS) on Wednesday, September 30, 2026. He and A Lister, owned by Kulkin Equestrian Inc., won the $50,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Challenge, presented by The Gochman Family and the John R. Ingram Fund.

Scott Stewart and A Lister couldn't be beat. ***Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography***

Scott Stewart also topped the $25,000 North American Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" Championship, presented by The Wheeler Family for the 11th time, riding Gracious to the win. Stewart also rode to his ninth Leading Hunter Rider title and his 11th horse to a Grand Hunter Championship, this time with Encore, owned by Rivers Edge.

With a last-minute catch ride, Kylee Arbuckle captured the $10,000 WCHR Developing Professional Challenge, presented by the John R. Ingram Fund on Silver Oak, owned by Maya Cosgrove.

Stewart Tops the List in WCHR Professional Challenge

A Lister proved himself once again at Capital Challenge, this time winning the $50,000 WCHR Professional Challenge. Stewart took the lead in the first round with a score of 92.33 and followed up with 90.33 for a 182.67 total. They were presented with the Little Brook Trophy, donated by The Duffy Family and Little Brook Farm.

A Lister's multiple accolades from this week culminated with the WCHR Pro Challenge win. ***Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography***

Stewart had a banner Wednesday; in addition to his wins, he was honored with the WCHR Lifetime Achievement Award and the Old Springhouse Perpetual Trophy from the United States Hunter Jumper Association.

At 62 years old, Stewart said that winning "never gets old," but his outlook on competition has evolved since the start of his career.

"This is what you do this for and what you want to achieve with these horses," he explained. "It's a great feeling to go against a great lineup of horses and riders and to still be able to win."

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Arbuckle Makes the Most of a Generous Offer

When Kylee Arbuckle had the opportunity to compete in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge thanks to a last-minute offer of a horse to ride, she took advantage of it and came away with victory. She rode Maya Cosgrove's Silver Oak to scores of 89.17 and 88.33 for a winning total of 177.5 and the Bittersweet Trophy, donated by Rachel B. Kennedy.

Kylee Arbuckle and Silver Oak on their way to winning the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge. ***Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography***

This year's WCHR Developing Pro Challenge was always a goal for Arbuckle, but with a change in plans, she didn't think it would happen for her. Trainer Marissa Metzger and Cosgrove offered Silver Oak, and Arbuckle hopped on for the first time on Wednesday morning.

"Honestly, I had no expectations coming into today," related Arbuckle. "I had never ridden the horse before, but I thought he looked adorable. I was excited for the opportunity. In the first round, I just wanted to give him a good, confident ride, and really work on the straightness. In the second round, I was nervous because I was excited about the potential to win the class, but I also didn't really want to put the pressure on myself."

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Encore Returns a Grand Performance

Encore, ridden by Scott Stewart and owned by Rivers Edge, was named the Grand Hunter Champion, sponsored by Brad Wolf after accumulating the most points in the High Performance Hunter division.

Stewart and Encore in Tuesday's presentation. ***Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography***

Encore, previously named Del ‘Arko D’Henvet, was a prolific breeding stallion at the Holsteiner Verband in Germany before Stewart imported him. Encore’s 139 offspring include Well Played, the Green Conformation Hunter champion this week with Christina Serio.

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Gracious is Good in Green Championship

Scott Stewart stood for yet another winning presentation after he rode Gracious to victory in the $25,000 North American Green Hunter 3’ & 3’3” Championship, presented by The Wheeler Family. The seven-year-old Selle Francais gelding owned by Rivers Edge scored 87.75 in the first round and 88.5 in the second round for a winning total of 176.25.

Stewart found Gracious through Lisa Williams and bought him off a video. The horse was in Luxembourg, and Stewart was attracted to not only the horse’s talent, but its lineage. Gracious was bred in France and is by Malito de Reve, the same sire as Stewart’s former top hunter, Everly. Everly is the dam of Lafitte de Muze, two-time winner of the WCHR Professional Challenge at CCHS.

Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

The appeal of buying and bringing along young horses is still fundamental to Stewart's business with his partner Ken Berkley and one of the main reasons he continues to compete after decades in the industry.

"I'm very fortunate. I still feel great and love what I do," expressed Stewart, who competed 19 horses this week. "Ken and I own a lot of young horses, and it's very rewarding to get them to this level and have them succeed.

"It's the idea, and the dream, of what they could become," he continued about his reason for finding young horses. "I've been lucky; a lot of them have turned out. I think it's just always chasing that dream."

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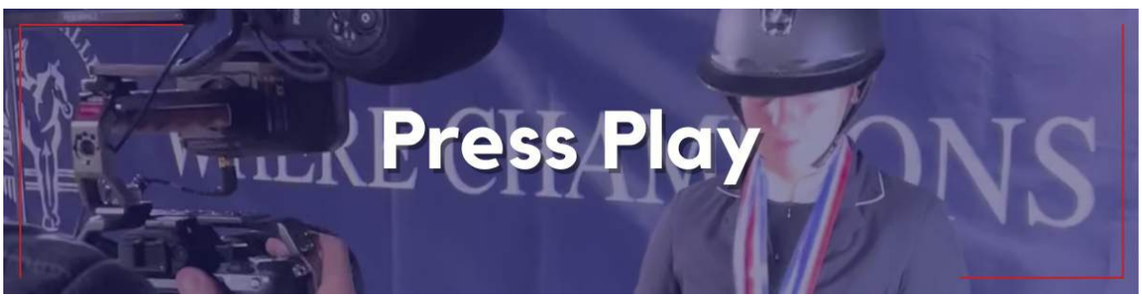

Hear from Scott Stewart about his win in the WCHR Pro Challenge

Kylee Arbuckle talks about her winning ride in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge

Scott Stewart discusses Gracious, winner of the North American 3-3'3" Green Hunter Championship

Grand Champion Conformation Hunter

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

Odette, ridden by Victoria Colvin, owned by John & Stephanie Ingram LLC

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"

Central Park, ridden by Victoria Colvin, owned by Wade Equestrian

A Lister, ridden by Scott Stewart, owned by Kulkin Equestrian LLC

Grand Champion Green Hunter 3'6"

Sponsored by Memorial Park Hunters

The Monarch Memorial Trophy donated by Geoffrey Hesslink and Brendan Williams

Grand Green Hunter Champion

Sponsored by Carleton and Traci Brooks, Balmoral

Tribute Award

Tribute Perpetual Trophy, donated by Scott Stewart and Ken Berkley, Rivers Edge

Michelle Bloch Excellence in Expression Award

Halie Robinson

Connaway & Associates High Point North American-Bred Horse Award

I'm Blue, ridden by Kelsey Duffy, owned by Little Brook Farm

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

Additional awards presented include:

Derbydown Trip of the Show

Sponsored by Louise Serio

Crystal Blue, ridden by John French, owned by Walkenbach Equestrian LLC

Marshall + Sterling Professional Trip of the Show

Sponsored by Marshall + Sterling

Crystal Blue, ridden by John French, owned by Walkenbach Equestrian LLC

Horse Show Hero Award

Sponsored by Bill Rube

Kenneth Marash

William "Bill" Ellis Horsemanship Award

Sponsored by Julie Karpan and Dr. Robert and Michelle Barber
Dedicated in memory of Bill Ellis for his exceptional commitment to horsemanship, awarded to the best turned out horse in the Green Hunter 3' & 3'3" North American Championship

Cardiff Castle, ridden by Scott Stewart, owned by Rivers Edge

American Style of Riding Award – Developing Professional Challenge

Sponsored by Bill Rube

Kylee Arbuckle

American Style of Riding Award – Professional Challenge

Sponsored by Bill Rube

Havens Schatt

Developing Professional High Point Award in Memory of Jeff Wirthman

Awarded to the Developing Professional who receives the highest-scoring round in a Professional division

Sponsored by Sea Change Farm and Sunset View Farm

TIE: Lauren Patterson and FPF Prince, owned by Hudspeth Sport Horses LLC; Augusta Iwasaki and Positano, owned by Victoria Lacagnina

Marshall + Sterling Green Hunter 3' & 3" Trip of the Show

Sponsored by Marshall + Sterling

Journey, ridden by Jennifer Hannan, owned by Stephanie Bulger: 91.5

Social Events Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 1	**CCHS Adult Breakfast** SOTHEBY'S International Realty Rider Deck, 8-11 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 2	**CCHS Junior Breakfast** SOTHEBY'S International Realty Rider Deck, 8-10 a.m.
	RoundShare Ice Cream Social SOTHEBY'S International Realty Rider Deck, 2-3:30 p.m.
	USHJA/CCHS Dinner Tack Room, 5-9 p.m.
	WCHR Pro Final Press Conference Winner's Circle Lounge, following prize giving
Saturday, Oct. 3	**PBIA Junior Breakfast** SOTHEBY'S International Realty Rider Deck, 8-10 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 4	**CCHS Farewell & Children's Breakfast** SOTHEBY'S International Realty Rider Deck, 8-10 a.m.

For more information on the 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show, please visit www.CapitalChallenge.org. Additional information, photos, and coverage can be found on Facebook or Instagram. For winning rounds and rider interviews, check out the Capital Challenge Horse Show YouTube channel.

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 2026 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 23-October 4. The 12 days of competition include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the 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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