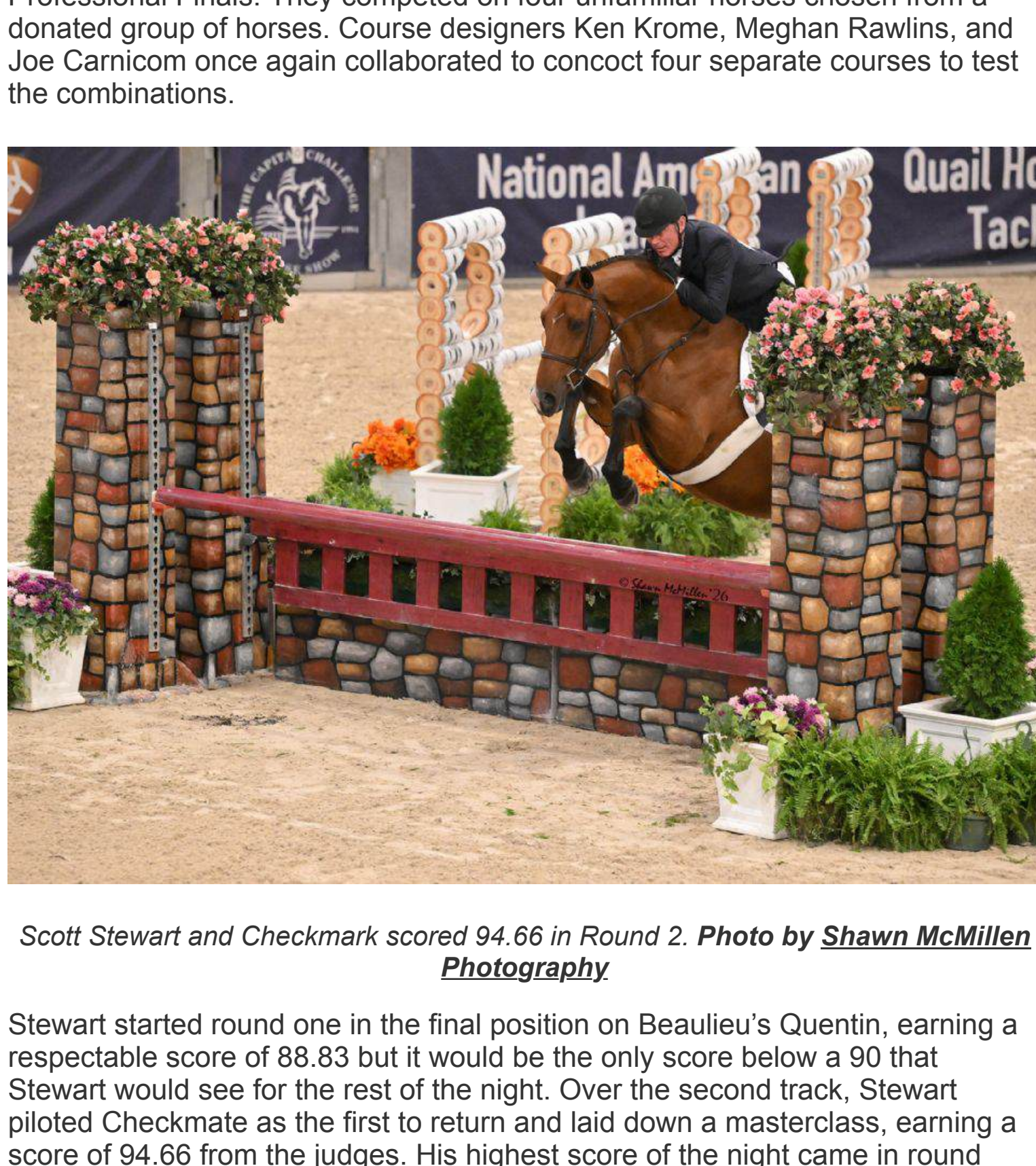




For Immediate Release | October 2, 2026  
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## Scott Stewart Wins Ninth \$30,000 WCHR Professional Final at 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show

Upper Marlboro, MD – Scott Stewart made it a week to remember when he took home the top prize in the \$30,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Final, presented by World Wide Technology on Friday, October 2, 2026, for the ninth time in his career. In the Ariat National Adult Medal Final, Brendan Weiss piloted Audi 2000 Z to the win. The Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Champions were also crowned, with Jessica Yeager and Scribble dominating in the winner's circle. The Capital Challenge Horse Show continues through Sunday, October 4, at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.



Scott Stewart in his winning presentation for the \$30,000 WCHR Professional Final, presented by World Wide Technology, on El Salvador. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

The top four riders in the WCHR National Professional Rider standings – Scott Stewart (Flemington, NJ), Victoria Colvin (Loxahatchee, FL), Kate Conover (Ocala, FL), and Michael Britt-Leon (Alpharetta, GA) – qualified for the WCHR Professional Finals. They competed on four unfamiliar horses chosen from a donated group of horses. Course designers Ken Krome, Meghan Rawlins, and Joe Carnicom once again collaborated to concoct four separate courses to test the combinations.



Scott Stewart and Checkmark scored 94.66 in Round 2. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Stewart started round one in the final position on Beaulieu's Quentin, earning a respectable score of 88.83 but it would be the only score below a 90 that Stewart would see for the rest of the night. Over the second track, Stewart piloted Checkmate as the first to return and laid down a masterclass, earning a score of 94.66 from the judges. His highest score of the night came in round three aboard Astro MF Z where the judges rewarded him with a 95.33. Clocking in one last round with the youngest horse in the field, Stewart earned a 93 and tallied 371.82 points for the lead.

For Stewart, who has competed as part of the final four a record-breaking 23 times, the class was the icing on the cake to an already stellar week.

"This has probably been one of the best weeks I've had at Capital Challenge in a very long time," he admitted. "I've been lucky enough to have some really great weeks, but this is probably at the top."

"All of the horses were actually quite good for me tonight," Stewart continued. "I think I got a little lucky because I was able to do the young horse last, so I got to watch him go multiple times, and he got to get a little bit of his freshness out of him. That being said, I still believe this class comes down to 50% luck."



Checkmark started his night with Michael Britt-Leon, who rode to a score of 91.66; Checkmark was named the Best Horse of the night. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

A heartbreaking single point separated Britt-Leon from the victory as he delivered impressive rides across each round to become the only rider throughout the night to earn four scores above 90. His highest score of 94.5 in round four with Paradise City earned him a total of 370.82 points and an almost three-point lead over the third place finisher.

"It was amazing that so many people donated horses so we could do this class," expressed Britt-Leon. "I think they all jumped well for all of us, so that made that part exciting."



"He was a nice horse with a big stride and big scope, and I'm happy he was standing there for me to hop right on and go," Conover detailed of her re-ride mount, Paradise City. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)



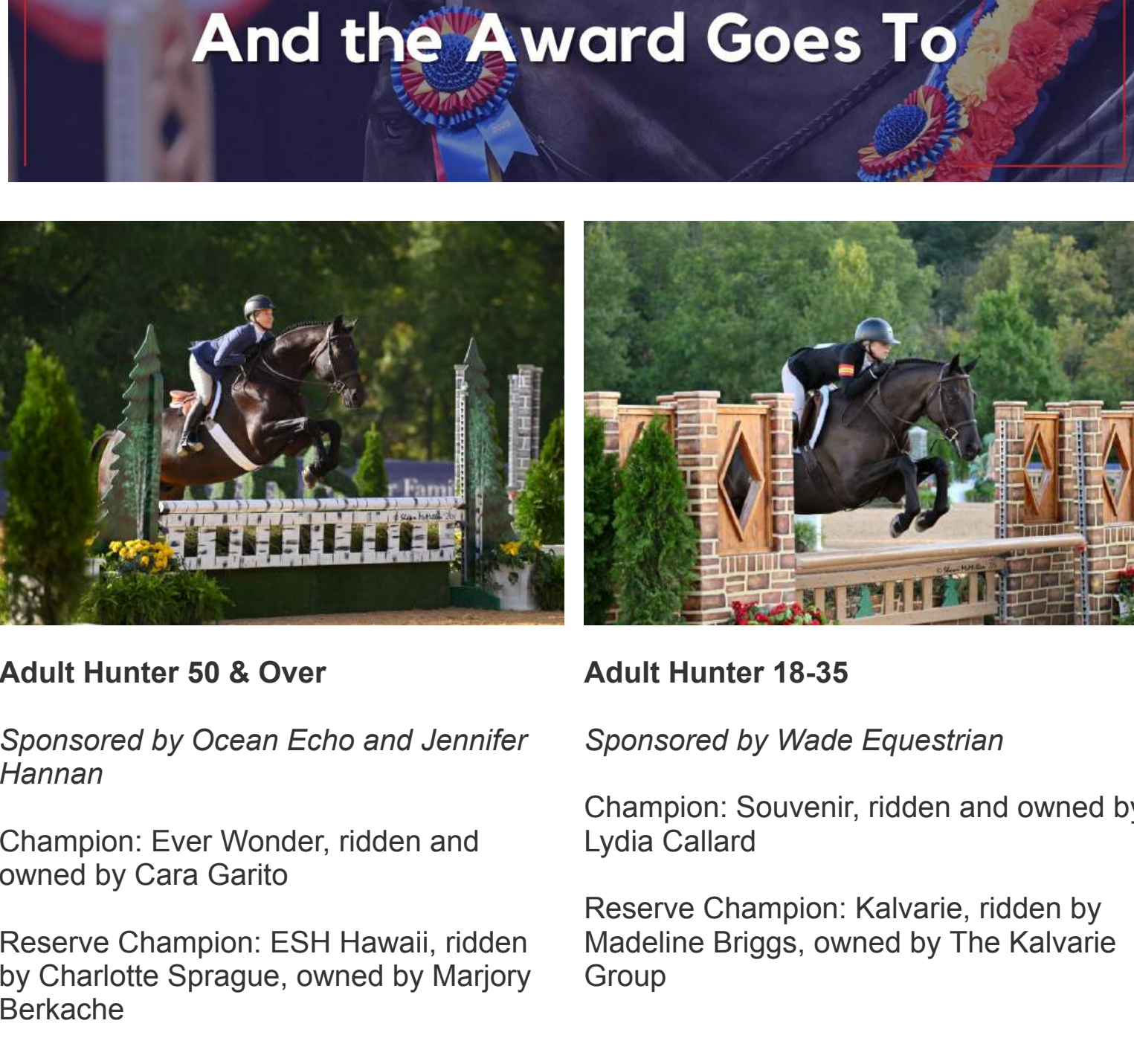
"This final is something we definitely plan our year around." – Tori Colvin, shown here on Quentin's Beaulieu Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

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## Weiss Wraps Up Victory in Ariat National Adult Medal Final

After a year of qualifying competitions, the top 27 adult equitation riders in the country took to the ring for the 2026 Ariat National Adult Medal Final. The top 10 were invited back for a second round to determine this year's winner. Brendan Weiss of Haverford, PA, and Audi 2000 Z, owned by North Run, jumped to victory with scores of 89.33 and 89.66, and their total of 178.99 eclipsed the need for a work-off.

Weiss, 34, already has a decorated adult equitation career, having won the North American Adult Equitation Championship two years ago at Capital Challenge, as does his mount, who won the same class in 2021 with Claire Stevenson. Weiss rode Audi 2000 Z in last year's Ariat NAM Final as well and placed fifth. With a smooth and accurate ride this year, the victory was his.



Brendan Weiss and Audi 2000 Z handily won the Ariat National Adult Medal Final. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Weiss appreciates the opportunity to have a class like the Ariat NAM Final as a goal for the year.

"It's awesome that Ariat is a continued supporter of the class," he said. "It's the biggest class of the year for me, and I know it is for a lot of people. It's a very fun final to compete in. The pressure is on, and we all are trying to win this class. I can't thank them enough for providing that."

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## Scribble Draws a Straight Line to Championship

Scribble and Jessica Yeager won the Adult Hunter 36-49 championship, sponsored by Wade Equestrian thanks to first and second places over fences and a fourth place under saddle. The reserve champion was Society Hill, ridden by Brittany Warden for Glebe Ventures LLC.

For their top performance out of the three Adult Hunter divisions, Yeager and Scribble were awarded the Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Championship sponsored by Gladwell Farm LLC.



Jessica Yeager and Scribble were the Grand Adult Hunter Champions. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"He's super athletic, really talented, but has a big attitude and thinks very highly of himself," she said of the seven-year-old Selle Français gelding by Balou du Rouet. "It's taken me a little bit of time to sort out our partnership."

A big part of sorting it out was thanks to trainer Jennifer Hannan and her team.

"She has been such an amazing trainer, but such a great supporter," explained Yeager. "Scribble is a model of what they can do. He was great when we got him, but he was such a baby. To have this success, and at his first time jumping around indoors, shows their patience and dedication to excellence. Their time and attention with him have really made a huge difference. It's unbelievable how far he's come, even in the past couple months."

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Photos by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

## 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

**PBIA Junior Breakfast**  
SOTHEBY'S International Realty  
Rider Deck, 8-10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

**CCHS Farewell & Children's Breakfast**  
SOTHEBY'S International Realty  
Rider Deck, 8-10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4

For more information on the 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show, please visit [www.CapitalChallenge.org](http://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 preminent 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.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

