

Liza Boyd

Breaks Through to

Win

Her First WCHR Professional Finals

A back-to-basics training and medication plan makes all of the difference for Quatrain.

Story and photos by Tricia Booker





"Quatrain won this class for me, for sure," said Liza Boyd.



Liza Boyd and Amanda Steege celebrated "girl power" and their one-two finish in the WCHR Professional Finals.



Liza Boyd and her father Jack Towell enjoyed the spotlight with Quatrain after their WCHR Professional Finals victory.

When Liza Boyd heard about the new format for the \$5,000 WCHR Professional Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, she had a premonition that this might be her year.

The six top riders in the WCHR Professional National standings qualified to compete in the show's featured event, held September 30-October 6 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Instead of four rounds on four unfamiliar horses as in the past, this year's new format included two rounds on unfamiliar horses and a third and final Handy Round aboard a horse of the rider's choosing.

"I brought Quatrain here specifically for this class and the Pro Challenge," Boyd said of the 9-year-old Westphalian gelding she co-owns with her parents and Janet Peterson. "I'm so fortunate to have him; I know him so well and trust him."

That familiarity turned out to make all the difference in the Handy Round, as Boyd earned the night's and the show's highest scores of 95, 95 and 95 to clinch the victory with an overall score of 274.66 in the class presented by John and Stephanie Ingram.

Boyd's solid performances aboard the borrowed horses Crack On and Corduroy in Rounds 1 and 2 had put her third going into the Handy Round, just within striking distance.





The riders made a grand entrance with horse power to spare prior to the WCHR Professional Finals.

“So Quatrain won this class for me, for sure,” said Boyd with smile. “He’s amazing, and I’m so proud of him. He’s really coming into his own, and I kind of knew early on in the week. He got an 88 and won the handy in the High Performance section; it was pretty much a no-brainer that I should ride him.”

Striving for Eighth?

Boyd’s journey to her first Pro Finals victory had a few nail-biting moments, though. She had to place eighth in the WCHR Professional Challenge earlier in the week to qualify for the Professional Finals, but after a rider error in the first round, she just squeaked into the second round in 12th.

“I’ve never worked so hard for an eighth-placed ribbon,” she said with a laugh. “But I kind of knew then that it was meant to be. When Peter [Pletcher, who was in contention to win] had a rail in the Challenge class, it put me eighth, and my superstitious mind immediately thought, ‘There must be a reason!’”

Defending Pro Finals champion Scott Stewart, of Wellington, Florida, took the lead in the first round aboard the borrowed mount Contelido and maintained that position with a second solid round aboard All The Right Moves. It appeared that Stewart might be on his way to a record sixth WCHR Pro Finals title.

But a slip on the turn from fences 1

and 2—and a few bobbles later, during the Handy Round with Fashion Farm’s Declaration—earned Stewart a score of 76 and a 257.66 overall, which left him sixth.

“I chose Declaration, whom I’ve had for a really long time,” said Stewart. “He’s usually really, really good in the handy rounds—until tonight. I don’t know what set him off. He’s usually perfect. I’ll have to try again.”

Amanda Steege, of Far Hills, New Jersey, was the sole rookie in the field of veteran Pro Finals riders, and she moved up in the Handy Round from fourth to second overall with a stellar performance aboard Zidane.

“This is the first year that I’ve shown him,” said Steege. “I show him in the High Performance, and I did my first

“I’m really happy with the outcome and that we did it by decreasing the medication and increasing the training.”

—Liza Boyd

[USHJA International Hunter] Derby Finals on him this year. [Owner] Susan Darragh shows him in the Modified Adults. He’s totally dependable, and I knew he would help me out when I needed it.”

Peter Pletcher, of Magnolia, Texas, returned to the Handy Round in sixth

place, but an impressive performance with Eva Bisso’s Aura vaulted him to third place overall with a score of 87.33 and an overall total of 262.49.

The 2013 WCHR National Professional Champion Kelley Farmer, of Keswick, Virginia, finished fourth overall with 261.16. John French, of Woodside, California, dropped down in the standings to fifth during the Handy Round (257.83) after Lily Blavin’s Sander stepped off his lead during a tight turn.

With just 6.5 points separating the six riders going into the Handy Round, those third-round performances shuffled the standings tremendously, providing for an exciting finish for competitors and spectators.

This year’s borrowed horses were generously donated by East Coast Sport Horses (All The Right Moves); Georgy Maskrey-Segesman and Savannah Dukes (Contelido); King’s Wood Farm, LLC (Corduroy); Old Willow Farm & Emma Heise (Crack On); Katherine Boettcher (Lamont); and Alexis Graves (Copperfield 39).

Contelido, who was donated by Maskrey-Segesman and Dukes, earned this year’s Far West Farms Perpetual Trophy awarded to the high-score horse of the competition. Trained by Karen Healey, the horse achieved an average of 90.83 with rides by Stewart and Farmer.

With this victory, Boyd, of Camden, South Carolina, will have her name engraved on the All The Way Perpetual Trophy. She also won prizes from USHJA/WCHR sponsors Blue Ribbon Blankets, the Official Cooler Sponsor of WCHR and Charles Owen Inc., the Official Helmet of the USHJA.

Of Medications and Training

After the excitement of leading the victory gallop aboard Brunello in the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship in August, Boyd spent some time reflecting on the competition’s outcome: what went right and

wrong, what she might do differently the next time and where to go from there with her derby mounts, Brunello and Quatrain.

“Quatrain didn’t go great at Derby Championships,” said Boyd. “And the difference between now and then was good old-fashioned horsemanship.”

Boyd said that the upcoming rule change prohibiting injectible medications within 12 hours of competing has caused her to reevaluate her training program, and that’s resulted in some adjustments.

“For Derby Championships, I did go with the 12-hour plan with Brunello,” she said. “I’d always used the NSAID Ketofen four hours out and thought that was the way to go. But for the past two years the vets, and my vet Dianne Schiereck, have told me that it works better 12 hours out. It’s probably helping him when he’s sleeping at night and not so much during the day.”

Similarly, in preparation for Capital Challenge, Boyd and her father Jack Towell took a step back with Quatrain and reconsidered his program.

“My dad said, ‘Liza, I need to ride that horse. You’re being too easy on him.’ So, we went to Aiken [South Carolina] and my dad just sat on him at the ring and had him learn patience,” noted Boyd. “The horse pawed and fidgeted, but my dad just made him stand and bored him. Now, when I pull on the reins he stops and stands.”

“So, during the WCHR Pro Finals it made a huge difference,” Boyd continued. “When I was cantering around the course it all related. When I pulled on the reins his head went down, and he said, ‘Yes, ma’am.’”

In return, Boyd also listened to Quatrain during the week of Capital Challenge and fine-tuned his preparation in terms of both therapeutic medications and his workload. When she noticed he was grinding his teeth in the morning after having a gram of phenylbutazone the night before, she discontinued that NSAID.

Even though Quatrain had com-

peted in the High Performance section and the WCHR Professional Challenge earlier in the week, prompting concerns that he might be sore, she went with her gut instinct for Friday night’s class.

“I’d shown him all summer without really medicating him, but I thought, ‘It’s Capital Challenge. We have to medicate.’ But, in reality, he felt the best after he’d had nothing,” said Boyd. “And he went into that Professional Finals class and had his personal best performance of the year. I’m really happy with the outcome and that we did it by decreasing the medication and increasing the training. I really learned a lot with him this week.”

French Steps Up to Win Pro Challenge

John French hasn’t had the best year in 2013. Between a broken foot in January and shoulder surgery in June, he spent more time riding in a golf cart than riding his horses.

But when the fall indoor show season rolled around, French decided he would take a few of his favorite horses

and venture to the East Coast for a couple of shows, including the Capital Challenge Horse Show, presented by the Gochman Family.

His decision turned out to be richly rewarded, as he and Iwasaki & Reilly’s Small Affair jumped to victory for the third time together in the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge, sponsored by Pony Lane Farm, held on Wednesday evening.

French chose the 10-year-old Selle Francais gelding (by Elf d’Or) for the two-round class—which featured 23 of the country’s top professionals—because of their five-year partnership together, which has resulted in victories from coast to coast.

“I know him so well, and I’ve been riding him since his first year in 2009,” said French. “His first round was exceptionally great. He just jumped high and it was super smooth. I think I had enough of a lead coming into the second round. I’m not sure where I ended up in the second round; not the top, maybe third or fourth. But when you add the two scores together, it was enough to win.”



John French and Iwasaki & Reilly’s Small Affair clinched their third WCHR Professional Challenge title together.

Indeed, French's two-round total of 178.41 points earned him the Little Brook Farm Perpetual Trophy, and his name will now be engraved as the winner for 2013, as well as in 2010 and 2011. Farmer guided Mythical to second place with 177.83 points, and Hayley Barnhill rode Fonteyn to third place with 175.66 points.

"That was good having that cushion coming in," said French, who edged Farmer by just .58 points. "He had a rub in the second round, but otherwise he was great. He showed here during the week in 3'6" Performance Hunters and was reserve champion, as well."

Crolick Conquers Developing Pro Challenge

Even though Greg Crolick may have been teased this year for entering the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge at age 41, the good-natured ribbing will



Greg Crolick led from start to finish in the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge aboard Grey Street.

now become a cherished part of his first experience in the class—along with his championship ribbon and cooler.

Crolick, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, guided Adrienne Marciano's Grey Street to a convincing victory in the two-round class over a field of 28 competitors from throughout the country.

"It's all fun banter, more or less," Crolick said of the teasing. "It means a lot to win this class. Last year I was here watching it, and this year I'm doing it. I'm glad I was here and had a great outcome. It worked out really well."



Polly Sweeney, with trainer Archie Cox, reveled in the moment as she accepted the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge award with Pimm's Cup.

Crolick and Grey Street, 10, a Brandenburg gelding, began their partnership last winter in Florida. "I took him in his first hunter classes in Wellington and then Ocala," he said. "Honestly, he's still a little green in the hunters even though he's 10, but each day gets better and better."

Crolick returned for the second round of the WCHR Developing Pro Challenge as the class leader, and he didn't let the pressure impact his performance, scoring a two-round total of 176 points for the win. Jamie Taylor finished a close second with Cipriani (175.66), and Taylor Ann Adams guided Taken to third with 174.99 points.

The outcome of the class also determined the WCHR Developing Pro National Champion, with Adams clinching the title over Taylor by 14 points.

"This year it was weird to be qualified as a Developing Professional because I'm 41 and have been doing this awhile," continued Crolick. "But I met all of the qualifications, and hopefully, next year I'll be in the Professional Challenge."

Sweeney Finds Winning Rhythm in Adult Amateur Challenge

When Polly Sweeney walked into the ring for the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge wearing the WCHR Leading Adult Rider armband, it was all part of a dream come true.

The dream's fairytale ending came when Sweeney guided Karen Long Dwight's Pimm's Cup to top honors with scores of 90, 89 and 89 in the class sponsored by CMJ Sporthorses/Charlie Jacobs.

"It only took me 71 years to get this thing," said Sweeney after the class. "I've been riding since I was 3. I've won a lot here and there, but this is the biggest. This is so exciting."

Sweeney, of Pasadena, California, rode Pimm's Cup for the first time at Capital Challenge, and it was a match made in heaven. Sweeney wasn't sure she was going to bring her own horse to Maryland from California, so she called

AD

CONGRATULATIONS

2013 WCHR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

- Professional—**Kelley Farmer**, Keswick, Virginia
- Developing Professional—**Taylor Adams**, Calabasas, California
- Amateur-Owner 3'6"—**Becky Gochman**, New York, New York
- Amateur-Owner 3'3"—**Daryl Portela**, Southwest Ranches, Florida
- Adult Amateur—**Polly Sweeney**, Pasadena, California
- Junior—**Victoria Colvin**, Loxahatchee, Florida
- Children's—**Alexandra McReady**, Annapolis, Maryland
- Pony—**Daisy Farish**, Versailles, Kentucky
- Handy—**Winn Alden**, Bristow, Virginia

Owner

- Professional—**Larry Glefke & Kenneth Garber**, Keswick, Virginia
- Developing Professional—**Robin Tomb**, Bend, Oregon

Trainer

- Amateur-Owner 3'6"—**Peter Pletcher**, Magnolia, Texas
- Amateur-Owner 3'3"—**Jimmy Torano**, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- Adult Amateur—**Archie Cox**, Los Angeles, California
- Junior—**Scott Stewart** and Ken Berkley, Wellington, Florida
- Pony—**Patricia Griffith**, New York, New York
- Children's—**R. Scot Evans**, Annapolis, Maryland

Dwight to find out if she might have an extra horse. Dwight, who earned top ribbons on her Havana in the same section, offered Pimm's Cup.

"And so she said, 'Oh please, he'll be here anyway. Please enjoy him,'" said Sweeney. "I've been riding all my life, and I've ridden all sorts of different horses. This is a very special horse that Karen has. I feel really fortunate that she was so generous."

With assistance from her own trainer, Archie Cox, as well as Dwight's trainer, Ken Berkley, Sweeney earned the show championship in the Adult Amateur, 51 and over, section on Thursday. Sweeney then chose the gray gelding as her partner over her own horse, Duet, for the WCHR Challenge.

"My horse is here, and I rode her in the 51 and over yesterday, too," said Sweeney who also earned the WCHR Adult Amateur National Championship. "It's just that she's got a bigger stride, and I found myself suddenly not as perfect on her. So, I got prizes, but not top prizes. I've been champion on her at every show in California, but the competition here is much different."

Sweeney, a professional musician who is manager of the Pasadena Symphony and co-manager of the Santa Barbara Symphony, said that she felt an immediate bond with Pimm's Cup, the 10-year-old KWPN (Silverstar—Pimarilla). She compared their instant rapport with the feeling she experiences when all of the members of a symphony are in perfect harmony.

"It's like playing a Stradivarius violin. It's just magic," she said. "And it gives me goose bumps to think about it."

More WCHR Accolades

Karen Golding earned the **WCHR David Peterson Perpetual Trophy**, donated by Kavar Kerr and Jim Anderson, for a person who exemplifies dedication and commitment to the care and well-being of the horse. Her years of commitment and dedication to the sport have given her the reputation as one of the best stable managers and horse care advocates the show jumping world has ever seen.

The late **Mary Rena Murphy** will have her name engraved on the **WCHR Old Springhouse Perpetual Trophy** for the

WCHR Lifetime Achievement Award.

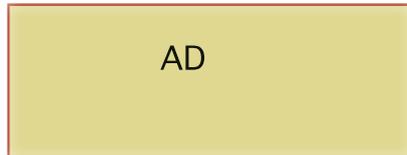
She was an intricate part of developing hunter/jumper horse shows in the Lexington, Kentucky, area. She was the driving force in establishing several of the top A-rated events in the nation at the Kentucky Horse Park, beginning with the KHJA Horse Show in 1981. Later, in partnership with friend Hugh Kincannon, she helped pave the way for international competition to come. Professional rider **Kelley Farmer** earned the **Charles Johnson Memorial Perpetual Trophy** as the high-point rider from the WCHR Midwest Region with 1,305 points in the Professional category.

Judge and horseman **Brian Lenehan** received the **Daniel P. Lenehan Perpetual Trophy** for the person who exemplifies dedication and a lifetime commitment to judging show hunters. Lenehan, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is always willing to help educate others. He's mentored many a learner judge and taught clinics throughout his career. His passion and dedication to the hunter sport have ensured that his father's legacy continues while he creates a legacy of his own. The **Stewart Warner Perpetual Trophy**, presented to the Pony, Junior and Children's riders who, in the opinion of the judging panel, exhibit the best hunter style and show potential as hunter-style riders, went to Daisy Farish (pony), Ashley Foster (junior) and Taylor St. Jacques (children's).

WCHR SPONSOR SHOUT-OUT

THANKS

A special thank-you to the 2013 USHJA WCHR Program sponsors: **Blue Ribbon Custom Blankets**, Official Cooler Sponsor of WCHR; **Charles Owen, Inc.**, Official Helmet of the USHJA; and **Rood & Riddle**, Official Equine Hospital & Veterinary Pharmacy of the USHJA.



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1 Quotable earned a bevy of awards for rider Kelley Farmer, who is pictured with, from left, Marla Holt, owners Kenneth and Selma Garber, Larry Glefke and Bucky Reynolds. **2** Laura Wasserman and Back In The Game topped the WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'6" Challenge. **3** Jane Gaston and her Pre-Green mount Amarillo jumped to victory in the WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'3" Challenge. **4** Nick Hanes won his second consecutive WCHR Handy Challenge, this time aboard Winfield. **5** Louisa Soohoo made her first trip to Capital Challenge a winning one when she and Verona captured the WCHR Children's Challenge with trainer Stephanie Demmon. **6** Madeline Schaefer rolled to victory in the WCHR Pony Challenge with Rolling Stone. **7** Victoria Colvin and Canadian Blue earned the top score in the WCHR Junior Challenge.