

For Immediate Release: Will Coleman Leads Yanmar America CCI4*-S at Setters' Run Farm Carolina International CCI & H.T.

March 16, 2023

Raeford, NC – Competition got underway on Thursday at the 2023 Setters' Run Farm Carolina International, presented by Lumbee River EMC. Headlining Thursday's action were the FEI divisions, which commenced with dressage competition and yielded some personal bests and foundation-laying marks.

Yanmar America CCI4*-S

2022 winning rider **Will Coleman** returns to Carolina International this year to defend his title won previously with Dondante, this time bringing both his FEI World Championships partner, **Off the Record**, as well as the rising star Chin Tonic HS to compete in the headlining division. After taking the early lead with The Off the Record Syndicate's Off the Record (VDL Arkansas - Drumagoland Bay), scoring two 9s from judge at B Andrew Bennie (NZL) to earn a 22.1. This is just a tick off the 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding's previous personal best at the CCI4* level (21.9 - Great Meadow 2020). The pair would end the day in third place overall following dressage.

But it was the rising star's time to shine, as the 11-year-old **Chin Tonic HS** (Chin Champ - Wildera), owned by Hyperion Stud LLC, took the ring and laid down a thrilling 19.4 to take the first-phase lead. This score earns the gelding a CCI4* personal best, though he'll be hard-pressed to beat his existing FEI personal best of 15.7, earned at the CCI3*-S level in 2022 at Stable View. One bobble in the final flying change movement kept the pair from sneaking even lower into the teens, but they'll be positioned at the top ahead of tomorrow's show jumping.

"[Chin Tonic HS] is just so incredibly elastic and he has these amazing gaits," Coleman said. "I think there's still things to get better at. Obviously I missed one change, but he seems to be maturing in a good way and I'm just going to keep working to try to get a little better."

Coleman credits his wife, Katie Coleman, his team at home, and dressage coach Ian Woodhead for their help establishing a system that enables him to pursue improvement – something that, in horses, is a never ending process. "Dressage is all about just developing your horse to their physical and mental peak," he explained. "And, you know, you're never really done. I've got a good program with my wife and my staff and my coaches. I'm just

trying to get a little bit better than we've been. Working on the flat with Ian Woodhead – it's been amazing for me and my horses.”

Second in the CCI4*-S division are **Liz Halliday-Sharp** with Ocala Horse Properties' and Deborah Palmer's **Miks Master C** (Mighty Magic - Qui Luma CBF), who joined her string in the spring of 2022. The pair earned a 20.1 from judges Robert Stevenson and Andrew Bennie, a significant personal best at the CCI4*-S level, improving on his former best mark of 25.6.

“I thought he tried really, really hard,” Halliday-Sharp said. “And he's a really genuine, lovely horse. He made a big effort today to do the best he could I thought. We've spent the whole winter getting him really strong now because he was quite weak and wiggly when I got him last May, and now he just doesn't really know where to put it.”

With not quite a year of partnership under their belt, Halliday-Sharp said she feels she's in a good place with the 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding.

“I've actually never in my life had a horse that has done a four-star before ever, in my whole career,” Halliday-Sharp elaborated. “Most of mine have been produced myself, which I love doing. But this was sort of an opportunity that just fell into my lap – I think the universe brought him to me. It was definitely different for me taking on a ten-year-old that had done a lot of things. So it's been a challenge, but in a good way – I'm very lucky, he's a wonderful horse.”

Show jumping for the Yanmar America CCI4*-S division will proceed at 1:50 p.m. EST on Friday, March 17 at the Twin Gates Derby Farm Field.

The Cordelia Family Foundation CCI3*-S

Leading The Cordelia Family Foundation CCI3*-S after the first phase of competition are **Liz Halliday-Sharp** and The Monster Partnership's **Cooley Be Cool** (Heritage Fortunus - HHS Carlota), earning a score of 23.1 from judges Amanda Miller and Helen Brettel. The 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding is returning to competition after sustaining an injury in 2022 that sidelined him for the latter half of the season.

“I nearly think [the time off has] done him a world of good because he's come out this year, and he's like a completely different professional horse,” Halliday-Sharp said. “He's always

been a bit cheeky and a bit of a goof. And he still has that in him, but he now goes in the ring, and he just performs. So I'm completely thrilled with him." Halliday-Sharp hopes to aim Cooley Be Cool at the Turniergesellschaft Luhmühlen CCI5* in June, which would be his debut at the CCI5* level.

"I've always loved [Carolina International]," Halliday-Sharp said of the event. "[Ian Stark] builds up a big, solid track. I think it's always up to height and challenging and sort of really gets the horses and riders paying attention, which I like about it. Everybody – the organizing of it all and just all the effort they put in and looking after the riders – I really appreciate that. Prize money makes a massive difference. We don't have an opportunity for that at most events. So that is definitely helpful."

The CCI3*-S will commence show jumping at 11:35 a.m. EST on Friday, March 17 at the Twin Gates Derby Farm Field.

Breezeway Sporthorse and Diagnostic Clinic and Friendship Mobile Veterinary Imaging and Sports Medicine CCI2*-S

In the lead of the Breezeway Sporthorse and Diagnostic Clinic and Friendship Mobile Veterinary Imaging and Sports Medicine CCI2*-S are Australian rider Dom Schramm and the Quadrocana Syndicate's Quadrocana (Quadrofino - Rocana II), scoring a personal best 22.7 from judges Peter Gray and Melissa Warden.

"I've had her since she was a four-year-old and she's just such a lovely horse," Schramm said. "She's been no slouch on the flat pretty much her whole career. But this year, in particular, I said to my coach, Nicholas Fyffe, I really wanted to start to train her more like a Prix St. Georges horse. I wanted to take the approach, 'what would we do if we were, you know, producing her to go and do a Prix St. George at the end of this year?' I wouldn't say that we turned up the volume on the intensity of the training, but she's so class, and I think she could be one of the nicest horses on the flat in eventing. But I really need to take that approach, not just for her, but also for me, you know, to kind of get the nuances, because that's the standard now."

Schramm tries to make it a point to compete at Carolina International each spring. "We always enjoy coming here," he said. "I was just talking to Boyd [Martin] about this in the warm up. Every time I come here, you can see the improvements, you can see where they're making an effort to try to put money back into the facility and then being creative,

like the [trading] cards idea. It's great to see events, still really putting their all into staying proactive and keeping it alive. Because, you know, I think when you start to stagnate, that's when you have problems, so we always want to come back and support this event for that reason."

The CCI2*-S will show jumping on March 17 beginning at 9:30 a.m. EST at the Twin Gates Derby Farm Field.

Dark Waterspoon LLC (Competitive Sport Horses) CCI1*-S

Taking the lead late in the day in the Dark Waterspoon LLC CCI1*-S is **Caroline Martin** with a newer ride, the 8-year-old Zweibrucker mare, **Cascadella 8** (Cascadello I - Chaluna). She bests assistant rider Lee Maher (IRE) for the lead with a score of 24.7 from judges Robert Stevenson and Andrew Bennie.

Through Martin's sales business, Cascadella 8 came to her by way of a trade with partners Emil Spadone and Paul Hendrix. Originally working with a three-year-old purchased from auction, Martin ascertained that the horse wouldn't have chosen eventing as his career. In the best interest of the horses, Martin floated a trade with her business partners, which brought Cascadella 8 into her barn just a few weeks ago. "I'm known for trading out horses if it's not a compatible match," she elaborated. "We try to do our best to swap out and work with the client. So that's how stand up my bosses are, they did the same with me. So then she got sent in to be sold and I took quite a shining to her." Martin admits it wasn't exactly an even trade – a three-year-old for an eight-year-old that had already competed, but she stressed the support her business partners give her and the belief they have that she wants the best for the horses that come into her barn. She now hopes to put together a syndicate to keep the mare in her program rather than selling her on.

The CCI1*-S will begin show jumping at 3:30 p.m. EST at the Twin Gates Derby Farm Field on Friday, March 17.

Friday will bring show jumping for the FEI divisions and will also see the start of the National divisions, with Modified through Advanced beginning their competition weekends.

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