

For Immediate Release: Coleman Makes it a Hat Trick in Yanmar America CCI4*-S at Setters' Run Farm Carolina International

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Raeford, NC – The saying goes that things happen in threes, and **Will Coleman** certainly got a taste of this concept this weekend, completing a third consecutive win on a third different horse (**Chin Tonic HS**) in the Yanmar America CCI4*-S at the Setters' Run Farm Carolina International. The pair's finishing score of 19.4 marks a record for the lowest in the history of the CCI4*-S at Carolina International.

Saturday's cross country course, designed by Great Britain's Ian Stark, yielded just four clear rounds that were also inside the time. When Will Coleman left the box as the final competitor aboard Hyperion Stud's Chin Tonic HS (Chin Champ - Wildera), he had just a tickle of breathing room after second-placed Liz Halliday-Sharp and Miks Master C came home with .8 time penalties. This gave Coleman three seconds of leeway on the clock – but he wouldn't need it, stopping the clock bang on the optimum time of 6:33 and clinching the victory.

"I think the key to getting the time here is to be pretty efficient and quick in the beginning, because that's the most open part of the course," Coleman said. "I thought Chin Tonic was great through that whole section. I think he just was very neat. It was kind of like wheels-up time for Chin, and he answered the bell. He was a really good boy, I think he tried really hard. I did press on him quite a bit there, but that I think is sort of the stage he's at in his career, he's ready to maybe have a little more pressure on."

The 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Chin Champ was sourced in Germany by Hyperion Stud's Vicky Castegren, and after being gelded he was sent to the United States as a five-year-old to join Coleman's program. "He was a pretty stunning horse, even as a two-and-a-half-year-old. You watched him trot up, and you're just kind of drooling over him, even at that stage."

"He was not really a galloping horse, he's more dressage and show jumping breeding so I think it's taken a while for him to develop a step on cross-country," Coleman continued. "I still don't think he's the most natural galloper on cross-country, but he's improved tremendously and he does really enjoy it. I think his character in that regard is really what makes it possible for him to be a successful upper-level event horse."

Coleman said Chin Tonic HS will aim for his debut at the CCI5* level at the upcoming Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event (Lexington, KY) in April, with one more to-be-decided prep run slotted in between now and then. "I think Kentucky will be a big question for him, but I feel like he's feeling more and more ready all the time."

Second in the final order of the CCI4*-S are **Liz Halliday-Sharp** and Ocala Horse Properties' and Deborah Palmer's **Miks Master C** (Mighty Magic - Qui Luma CBF), who added just two seconds' worth of time for a final score of 20.9. For Halliday-Sharp, her partnership with the 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding – just under a year old at this point in time – is in the best place it's been to date.

"He's such a world class horse. I feel like we're a real partnership now," Halliday-Sharp said. "Some of the distances were challenging because they were quite short and he's a big, bold, big-striding horse, but he was with me the whole way. I probably had a few more controls than I expected. It was a good thing — it was sort of my plan, but I probably over set him up in the odd place — which was where the 0.8 time penalties were."

Halliday-Sharp will aim Miks Master C at the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event, and praised Carolina International as an event she uses to ensure her horses are properly prepared.

Also collecting a hat trick of his own is Southern Pines-based **Will Faudree**, who finished third for the third consecutive year on his old friend, **Pfun** (Tadmus - Celerina), owned by Jennifer Mosing and Sterling Silver Stables. The 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding showed his experience on cross country Saturday, skipping around to move up from fifth to clinch the final podium spot on a score of 30.1.

"He and I have such an amazing partnership — and it's just fun, no pun intended," Faudree commented. "He's a horse I believed in from day one, and there's no pressure on him now; I'm not going to do another five-star with him, because the distance is hard for him. I always joke that if Kentucky wanted to do a preview of how the combinations should be ridden, a monkey could take him through there; he just loves it, but if it's over seven minutes, he gets a little tired, and it's not fair to try to do that to him. Without the fitness and the pounding necessary for five-star, I can really focus on the finer details and things like the dressage."

The Cordelia Family Foundation CCI3*-S

Liz Halliday-Sharp enjoyed a wire-to-wire win in The Cordelia Family Foundation CCI3*-S aboard The Monster Partnership's **Cooley Be Cool** (Heritage Fortunus - HHS Carlota), who picked up his third FEI win and first at the CCI3* level on a final score of 24.3.

"He hadn't had a run since last summer and he felt totally world class," Halliday-Sharp said. "It was just brilliant. I was totally thrilled with him. I knew that I had a bit of time in hand, so I wasn't necessarily trying to make the time but I wanted to be quick enough to win and also to test the brakes out. He was brilliant – just found it easy to find everything in stride. He's just such a class [horse]. And I think he's even better than anybody knows he is. I think he is every part of a five-star, world class horse, so it was just wonderful to be back with him."

Caroline Martin picked up the remaining two spots on the podium of the CCI3*-S, piloting **HSH Double Sixteen** (28.6) to second and **HSH Blake** (28.7), on whom Martin was tenth at the FEI WBFSH World Young Horse Breeding Championships in 2022, to third.

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

Taking the win in the Breezeway Sporthorse and Diagnostic Clinic and Friendship Mobile Veterinary Imaging and Sports Medicine CCI2*-S, another wire-to-wire victory, are Australia's **Dom Schramm** with The Quadrocana Syndicate's **Quadrocana** (Quadrofino - Rocana II). The pair also added no penalties to their dressage mark of 22.7 for their final result.

"Quadrocana is a class horse and I'll be honest, I had a lot of just niggly little bad luck last year," Schramm commented. "I felt like there was always just one itty bitty piece of the puzzle that always kind of went awry which prevented her from getting some really big results. So I'm really happy that she finally pulled through and got the win. I feel like she's deserved it for a while now."

Schramm is using this event to springboard to the rest of his and the 10-year-old DSP mare's calendar. He hopes to aim for the CCI3*-L at MARS Bromont International in June. He expressed compliments on the course, designed by Beth Perkins, and the efforts made to ensure the going was good. "This is the kind of place where they put all that money and effort seeding it with the winter rye, which really helps to hold the sand together and that's really important. And then the little bit of rain overnight, I just think it took it another level better," he said."

Caroline Martin was second as well in the CCI2*-S with **Redfield Champion** (24.8). **Doug Payne** finished third aboard Anne Antrobius' **Fenix Rouge Du Claux** (25.8).

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

Clinching the fourth wire-to-wire victory in the FEI divisions this weekend are the winners of the Dark Waterspoon LLC CCI1*-S are **Caroline Martin** with **Cascadella 8** (Cascadello I - Chaluna), a promising young mare Martin hopes to keep for herself if she can form a syndicate quickly enough. The 8-year-old mare only joined Martin's program two weeks prior, but she quickly formed a partnership with Martin thanks to help from assistant rider Lee Maher, who took her to her first stateside competition.

"She was fabulous. She's still figuring out how to gallop, but things just kept clicking as the course went on. It was a great course for her. She's brave and she knows how to jump a big jump, but there were a lot of things on the course that she will go away learning a lot from. Everything was technical but small enough that she could gain confidence as she kept going. The courses here are just fabulous – this is why we drive ten hours to come and do the cross country."

Retaining second place on the CCI1*-S podium on a final score of 30.6 are **Lainey Phillips** and **Global Exellencia Z**. "It rode wonderfully," Phillips said of the Beth Perkins-designed track. "It was so amazing, she was just game for everything. She was just awesome, I'm so proud of her."

Ireland's **Lee Maher** finished on the podium in third with **HSH Explosion**, on a final score of 31.0.

"She was a very good girl," Maher commented. "She's got a bit of experience, she's stepping down [a level] -- obviously I have to get all my qualifications and all of that in check for this country."

National Divisions Score Update

The National divisions at Carolina International did a mixture of cross country, dressage, and show jumping Saturday. These divisions will wrap up their competition on Sunday.

Advanced: Andrew McConnon and Ferrie's Cello (32.2)

Open Intermediate: Emily Beshear and Bad Moon Rising (28.6)

Open Preliminary: Michael Willham and Fernhill Fugitive (23.0)

Preliminary Rider: Kelly Beaver and Excel Star Pluto (27.1)

Modified: Caitlin Silliman and Ally KGO (25.5)

Open Training: Mary Bess Davis and Fernhill Ranga Tanga (23.3)

Training Rider: Hannah Willford and Kontiki (29.8)

The Carolina International organizing team would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the sponsors who have made this weekend possible, as well as the officials, volunteers, grooms, riders, and fans who came to support the event. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2024.