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**Bluman Reclaims the Title
in the \$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix**
Nassar Wins the \$78,000 Hampton Classic 2 Grand Prix*

Bridgehampton, NY – September 3, 2023 – Only two horse-and-rider combinations made it to the jump-off of the **\$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday: 2018 World Equestrian Games Team Gold medalist Adrienne Sternlicht (USA) and two-time Olympic veteran Daniel Bluman (ISR).

In the end, only Bluman finished on a double-clear score, claiming the Hampton Classic Grand Prix title for the second time aboard his 2022 FEI World Championship and 2023 FEI World Cup Finals mount, *Ladriano Z*. Bluman is now one of four riders to have won the Grand Prix on three occasions, having topped the field in 2017 with *Ladriano Z* and 2021 with *Gemma W*.

One of the world's most prestigious horse shows, the annual **Hampton Classic** features competitors at every level from young children in leadline to Olympic, World, and World Cup Champions. The Classic also has competitions for riders with disabilities.



Daniel Bluman (ISR) and Ladriano Z won the \$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5 Grand Prix © KindMedia*

Prior to the Grand Prix, World #5 ranked show jumper McLain Ward (USA) presented the legendary 17-year-old Belgian mare *HH Azur* to the competition ring for the last time. Ward announced “Annie’s” retirement earlier this summer following an eight-year partnership that spanned 25 FEI Grand Prix wins at the 4* and 5* levels. Among her many accolades, Annie helped Ward secure the Team Silver medal at the 2016 Olympic Games, Gold at the 2017 Longines FEI World Cup Finals in Omaha, and Team Silver at the 2017 FEI Nations Cup Final.

“She always had a real regal way about her, which is why I call her the queen,” Ward said. “I’ve been lucky enough to have some great top horses. She’s in the top two or three at the very least; one could even argue that she’s the best. I’m very privileged to have gotten this time with her.”

Immediately after Ward, Annie, and their friends and family retired from the ring, the first of 40 starters representing 12 countries challenged Alan Wade’s \$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix course. The highly technical track featured 17 jumping efforts set at 1.60m, and spectators watched with bated breath as the first 30 riders racked up faults around the ring.

Sternlicht was the first to successfully complete the task aboard Starlight Farms 1 LLC’s 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding *Faquitol-S*. Bluman wasn’t far behind with the 15-year-old Zangersheide gelding he co-owns with Blue Star Investments and Over The Top Stables LLC, guaranteeing the crowd a jump-off.



Bluman and Ladriano Z © KindMedia

“*Ladriano Z* is a veteran of the sport,” Bluman said. “He’s been around and felt amazing the other day in the qualifier. I actually like when the course goes with not too many clear rounds. *Ladriano* is a big horse and I had to take a lot of risks to try to win, so I was actually more motivated to see just Adrienne’s clear round before me.

“Adrienne had a beautiful round, so I just focused on what I had to do,” he continued. “I had to ride a very fast track around the course in case I knocked one down so I could still finish in second. *Ladriano* is a very special horse, and it’s been rare in his entire career that he has more than one rail down. I was very confident and very grateful for this horse today.”

Sternlicht’s partnership with *Faquitol-S* only began at the end of 2022, and despite being an older horse, he completed his first 5* grand prix with her in April. “He’s the only horse I have jumped to this level this year,” Sternlicht said. “I think he keeps getting better. For me, it’s so rewarding to see the horse improve, and it gives me more confidence in myself because I believed in him from the start. I was just thrilled for him and my team today.

“I think the course was pretty delicate everywhere,” she added. “Alan is such a master at course building, and part of the reason is because every single fence comes into play out there. That’s a huge testament to his designs.”



Adrienne Sternlicht (USA) and Faquitol-S earned second place © KindMedia

Finishing third with the fastest four-fault round in 79.70 seconds was Luis Fernando Larrazabal (VEN) aboard *Condara*, Victoria Heurtematte's 11-year-old Mecklenburg mare.

“It was my lucky day to have the fastest time with four faults,” Larrazabal said. “Normally, you don’t take a podium spot with a rail down. I’m very grateful to have that little bit of luck today, and I’m so happy with my mare. I knew she could do it from the first time I sat in the saddle. She’s a special mare who always wants to jump. I committed to my plan early on, and even though she got a little excited toward the last fence, I’m very happy with her performance today.”



Luis Fernando Larrazabal (VEN) and Condara took third © KindMedia

Kicking off the day's exciting grand prix action were 45 horse-and-rider combinations representing 14 nations in the **\$78,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix**. Sixteen went clear over Alan Wade's initial

16-effort track set at 1.45m, with Nayel Nassar of Egypt ultimately clinching the win in 34.87 seconds aboard *El Conde*.



Nayel Nassar (EGY) and El Conde won the \$78,000 Hampton Classic 2 Grand Prix © KindMedia*

“My horse is naturally quick, so sometimes I err on the side of caution from running him too much,” Nassar said of Evergate Stables LLC’s 12-year-old Swedish Warmblood. “But today I figured I really had to; there was no other choice considering the riders in the jump-off and how big the field was. I don’t think one thing in particular made the difference today. Alan made a super track. It was mainly about doing the seven strides in the lines, slaloming those two vertical jumps (Fences #2 and 3), and just leaving everything up. It was a great jump-off and a great day.”

Two Irishmen rounded out the 2* podium. Conor Swail earned second for his faultless time of 35.25 seconds aboard *Count Me In*, a 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Mannon Farm and Sandy Lupton; Philip McGuane finished third in 35.47 seconds aboard *Orphea HQ*, Evergate Stables LLC’s 9-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare.



Nassar and El Conde © KindMedia

Overnight leader Darragh Kenny (IRL) claimed top honors in the **\$30,000 Longines Rider Challenge** after earning 281 points across the Hampton Classic's Open Jumper classes. He brought home the \$30,000 purse and a new Longines watch for his efforts. Bluman finished in second place with 260 points, and Nassar took third with 248 points.

"I haven't been to the Hampton Classic in nine years, and it was great to come back and have a really good week," Kenny said. "It's a fantastic horse show. They do an amazing job running it, and it's really enjoyable to be here. Longines also gives this great prize to the leading rider, and it was nice to win it this year."



Darragh Kenny (IRL) won the \$30,000 Longines Rider Challenge © KindMedia

For full show results, visit [TheHamptonClassic.com](https://www.thehamptonclassic.com). Photos from the event are [available via Dropbox](#) with credits to KindMedia (unless otherwise noted in the folder name).

Each year approximately 50,000 people – including many A-list celebrities – come to watch the nation’s best equestrian athletes compete at the Hampton Classic. Rated **USEF ‘Premier-6’** for hunters and jumpers with designated **FEI 2* and 5*** classes, the Hampton Classic features more than 200 competitions in six spectacular show rings, the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, and a wide selection of dining options, all on its world-class 60-acre showgrounds.

For more information on the Hampton Classic Horse Show, please visit the Hampton Classic website at www.hamptonclassic.com or call 631-537-3177. Hampton Classic Horse Show, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.