

Halliday-Sharp Shines in Setters' Run Farm CCI4*-S at Cloud 11~Gavilan North LLC Carolina International Presented by Lumbee River EMC

***Bond on top in Attwood Equestrian Services CCI3*-S,
McConnon Masters CCI2*-S***

Raeford, N.C. - March 21, 2019 - Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp dominated the Setters' Run Farm CCI4-S Thursday at the Cloud 11~Gavilan North LLC Carolina International CCI and Horse Trial, presented by Lumbee River EMC. She earned two of the top three spots after dressage with Fernhill By Night in first and Deniro Z in third, while defending champions Doug Payne and Vandiver sit in second place.*



Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp and Fernhill By Night. Photo by Shelby Allen.

Fernhill By Night produced a dazzling result for Halliday-Sharp in the first phase. Always impressive on the flat, Deborah Halliday's 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse leads the class on an score of 27.9.

"With 'Blackie' we're always just trying to get him really sassy before a test because he is a sleepy person in the ring," Halliday-Sharp said. "He's 16 now; he knows his job. As long as we get him ready he delivers a good test, so it's always fun to ride him because you know he's going to bring something good to the table."

Following his stablemate's example, Deniro Z, an 11-year-old KWPN owned by The Deniro Syndicate and Ocala Horse Properties, also clinched a sub-30 score. He and Halliday-Sharp start their weekend in third place with a dressage score 29.5.

"Deniro has really come on in his strength. There were actually a few mistakes in his test. Had the halts and changes been nailed, I think he would've beaten 'Blackie.' I think overall his work has improved this year, and he's getting better marks for the bits he does well," she said.

Halliday-Sharp is also 12th with The Monster Partnership's Cooley Quicksilver on a score of 34.1.



Doug Payne and Vandiver. Photo by Shelby Allen.

Returning to an event as the reigning champion can add a bit of pressure for riders, but Doug Payne rose right above above it, piloting Vandiver, a 15-year-old Trakehner owned by Debi Crowley, Doug Payne & Jessica Payne, into second place on 29 points.

“The pressure is always can you repeat your performance? He was the best he’s ever been today on the flat. It’s very rewarding because he’s the most genuine creature there is. It makes the job a whole lot of fun and frankly pretty straight forward,” Payne said.

The upcoming show jumping and cross country phases will prove influential for the four-star competitors as the last five consecutive winners have all finished on their dressage score. According to EquiRatings, the show jumping clear rate over the last five seasons is 31%, which runs standard for this level around the world, so the standouts will be those who can jump clear.



Kristen Bond and I'm Sew Ready. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.

In the Attwood Equestrian Services CCI3*-S, Kristen Bond threw down the gauntlet with Kristine and John Norton’s I’m Sew Ready. As the very last pair of the day, she and the 15-year-old KWPN waltzed to a 25.6, which gave them the lead.

As to which movements of the test were responsible for the impressive score, Bond said: “They’re all highlights. He’s just the king—he’s always been the king, and we’re just happy to be here.”

Holly Payne Caravella currently holds second place in the CCI3*-S with CharmKing. She and the 8-year-old Holsteiner, owned by CharmKing LLC, produced a score of 26.3 in the first phase. Canadian Olympian Colleen Loach is third on a score of 27 with FE Golden Eye, a 7-year-old Hanoverian owned by Amanda Bernhard.



Andrew McConnon and Bossinova. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.

Andrew McConnon and Bossinova top the Breezeway Sporthorse and Diagnostic Clinic Friendship Mobile Veterinary Imaging and Sports Medicine CCI2*-S. McConnon achieved a 20.30—the best score of the day across all divisions with his 9-year-old Hanoverian.

Click here for [live scoring](#).

Dressage continues for the remaining Attwood Equestrian Services CCI3*-S competitors Friday morning before the show jumping phase begins at 9:30 a.m. The Setters' Run Farm CCI4*-S will show jump at 12:30 p.m. The exciting cross country finale will conclude the international competition on Saturday.

Carolina International is also hosting Training through Advanced level horse trial divisions, which get underway Friday with dressage.

The Carolina Horse Park has rolled out even more improvements to the cross country track in 2019, presenting the footing in an unprecedented condition. The FEI tracks have been taken out of use since last year's competition to best preserve the quality of the footing. Knowlbrook Farms have been crucial in land management with new galloping lanes and extensive tree removal in an effort to offer world-class ground for each and every competitor at Carolina International.

Carolina International is proud to host a 2019 USEF/USET Foundation North American Futures Team Challenge. Developed to complement the U.S. Eventing High Performance Program, this team challenge offers athletes a unique chance to simulate team competition. For more information, [click here](#).

EQSportsNet is the official live streaming partner of Carolina International. In addition to providing wall-to-wall live streaming of all of the Setters' Run Farm CCI4*-S, EQSportsNet also offers live and on demand coverage of the Attwood Equestrian Services CCI3*-S show jumping and cross country phases as well as the Advanced level cross country phase. Visit www.eqsports.net for more information.

Brant Gamma Photography is the official photographer for this weekend's competition. Brant and her team will be on site all weekend to cover all the action. Riders can visit their tent located beside the Sagmae Competitor's Lounge to purchase photos.

For more information about the event, visit www.carolinainternationalcic.com.

About Carolina International

The Carolina International Organizing Committee was formed to build a world class eventing competition in the Sandhills of North Carolina. Leveraging local and national expertise and leadership, we will deliver an outstanding weekend of horse sport and entertainment for riders, owners, grooms, spectators, patrons and sponsors alike.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors!



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