



Jumping Nations Cup Victory for U.S. as USET Foundation and US Equestrian Reception Fuels Team Spirit

The U.S. Jumping Team claimed a thrilling FEI Nations Cup victory in Florida, cheered on by a spirited USET Foundation and US Equestrian watch party

USET Foundation's recent benefit events generated \$1.7 million to support athletes and horses competing on the international stage

Plus, where you can cheer on U.S. riders at upcoming events

March 6, 2026 – Wellington, FL – The U.S. Jumping Team delivered an outstanding performance on Saturday night, February 28, 2026, capturing top honors in the FEI Nations Cup team competition during the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, Florida.

Backed by a sea of red, white, and blue throughout the arena — and an enthusiastic United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation and US Equestrian watch party — the team of Karl Cook, Marilyn Little, Callie Schott, and McLain Ward rose to the occasion.



McLain Ward, Marilyn Little, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland, Callie Schott, and Karl Cook celebrated on the podium after their Nations Cup win. **Photo by Jump Media**

Competing under the lights, the U.S. squad earned the stars-and-stripes team its second consecutive victory in the prestigious FEI Jumping Nations Cup Wellington CSIO4*. Over the 25-year history of the Wellington leg of the FEI Nations Cup, the U.S. has taken the top spot on the podium 11 times.

"This is always a very interesting Nations Cup for us because the pressure is on," said U.S. Jumping Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. "It's a home Nations Cup, and it's a big deal for us. It's a great event, and every year you really feel the support and the energy from the crowd and the atmosphere."



Fans and supporters of the USET Foundation gathered at Wellington International to cheer on the U.S. Jumping Team in the Nations Cup competition. **Photo by US Equestrian**

Cook (Caracole De La Roque, owned by Signe Ostby), Schott (Garant, owned by Southern Arches LLC), and U.S. Jumping Team debutant Little (La Contessa, owned by Marilyn Little LLC) all jumped clear in the opening round. Ridland elected to save Ward's horse, Michael Smith's Jordan Molga M, for the second round. Ultimately, it was a clear round from Ward and his newer mount that secured the U.S.'s win on a stellar night after being tied on four faults with Ireland as Ward made his way into the ring.

"I'm very lucky to have such a strong team — they put me in a pretty nice position," said Ward. "It's always a good feeling knowing you're going to either jump off or win."



Top: McLain Ward and Jordan Molga M, Callie Schott on Garant. **Photos by Jump Media**
Bottom: Marilyn Little and La Contessa, Karl Cook on Caracole De La Roque. **Photos by Jump Media and US Equestrian**

[Read All About the Competition](#)

USET Foundation donors, supporters, and friends gathered ringside for a reception and watch party jointly hosted with US Equestrian to cheer on the team, creating a lively display of unity and national pride. Guests waved flags and celebrated each round, embodying the spirit of partnership between athletes and the philanthropic community that powers U.S. equestrian sport on the world stage.



Ariat and LeMieux joined the fun at the USET Foundation and US Equestrian's Nations Cup reception. **Photos by US Equestrian**

USET Foundation Benefit Events Raise \$1.7M

The USET Foundation's two recent benefit galas ahead of this summer's FEI World Championships in Aachen, Germany, raised nearly \$1.7 million in total. The dazzling events — in Wellington, Florida, and Thermal, California — raised funds to support U.S. horses, athletes, and teams preparing for and attending the championship at the iconic, world-class Aachen venue.

USET Foundation would like to thank members of the equestrian and philanthropic communities for their ongoing commitment to advancing U.S. equestrian excellence on the greatest international stages.



Attendees at both USET Foundation benefit events were enthusiastic during the live auctions, which featured one-of-a-kind items, including a Fender guitar donated and signed by Bruce Springsteen. **Photo by Luxeciné**



U.S. Olympic jumping team silver medalist Karl Cook addressed the crowd as part of a live, multi-discipline display by top athletes at the USET Foundation's "A Night for Aachen in California" benefit event. **Photo by DIHP/Megan Giese Media**

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Major Events Calendar

With the 2026 competition season in full swing, don't miss U.S. athletes in action at these major competitions.

- Longines League of Nations™, World Equestrian Center – Ocala, Florida, March 17-22
- FEI Nations Cup Dressage CDI03*, Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, Florida, March 19-22
- Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final and Zen Elite FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, Dickies Arena, Texas, April 8-12
- USA Eventing Owners Reception, Twin Rivers Spring International CCI4*, Paso Robles, California, April 10
- FEI Nations Cup Eventing CCI04*, Bicton International Horse Trials, Devon, U.K., May 28-31



Photo by US Equestrian

Competition Partners Program

As part of its Competition Partners Program, the USET Foundation has engaged with select high-profile shows in the U.S. to amplify its message and broaden awareness of the crucial role the USET Foundation plays in helping riders and teams reach podiums around the globe.

[More on the Competition Partners Program](#)

About the USET Foundation

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation, the philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF), is a non-profit organization that helps support U.S. equestrian athletes and horses competing in the seven international disciplines. Funding from the USET Foundation, made through generous donations of all levels, goes to USEF to support USEF High Performance Pathway Programs that offer opportunities such as training sessions, developing athlete international competition tours, horse and athlete development grants, travel grants, and more to help ensure U.S. equestrian competitive excellence at the highest levels. Learn more at www.uset.org.