



APRIL CCI2/3/4*-S RECAP:



Boyd Martin and Commando 3
Photo by Dave Shapiro

The Stable View April CCI2/3/4*-S and Horse Trials was a busy weekend. The weather was sunny and had above-average temperatures for the weekend. Saturday of competition was the busiest day with all eight levels competing.

The Pavilion was full of those who had purchased a VIP ticket while many others watched from chairs and blankets and were

scattered around the rest of the course at key combinations. Spectator Renee Hoilk said, "It's a world class facility." Sharer Dale, Aiken Real Estate Agent and Equestrian herself sponsored two of the new Gazebos set along the cross-county track and the show jump warm-up arena. Sharer said, "This venue would rival that of the Masters." Her gazebos were full of spectators enjoying the sport. Mary Guynn shared, "The only thing better than the sport was the comradery." Madison McEvoy, also a member of the Sharer Dale Team, said, "I think this is the most horse-friendly facility we have in Aiken, Every horse I've ever owned has been the happiest here." Another spectator, Stephanie Caston, shared, "It was a lovely experience. The jumps and the ground are fabulous. The team has done a great job putting together a top-notch event yet again."

At the conclusion of the CCI4*-S, Boyd Martin and Commando 3 ended with the blue ribbon. They added 8 time penalties to reclaim the lead they had after dressage and finish on a 38. Boyd and Federman B also added 8 time penalties to finish on a 38.8 and second place. Boyd also finished fourth with Luke 140 who accumulated 11.2 time penalties to finish on a 40.4. Boyd shared, "Fantastic course today. Helen West did a brilliant job designing this track. It was inviting and kind but really challenging and I feel like the horses had a good run around it. All three of my horses performed well and felt happy and fresh at the end. It was a good fitness run and it had a lot of the Kentucky questions with the double of skinnies in the water, a major coffin, and out the back, we had an oxer, corner, and narrow that is very Derek di Grazia. I think she's done an incredible job with preparing horses."

Julie Wolfert and Team Pivot's SSH Playboy were the quickest round of the day in the CCI4*-S with only 1.2 time penalties to finish

third on a 39.3. She shared, “He felt amazing out there. I knew it was going to be a big-technical track but he ate it up. It’s exactly what I want to feel like preparing for a five-star. I still have adrenaline going an hour or two later. It’s cool because it takes so many years to get to this level, but once you’re here it just feels like Heaven on Earth.” Julie is preparing for her first five-star later this month at Kentucky. She said, “It will be my first five-star. I’ve never been in this situation before so I’m really thrilled and I’m just going to bubble-wrap him until then.”

Helen West also shared her thoughts on how the CCI4*-S course rode, “I was really pleased with how the Four-Star rode. I thought there was enough out there. There were problems sort of evenly spread and there was no one real bogey fence. I think the technical fences took some riding, but actually I thought the Defender Columbia Combination, although it was a proper test and the angle was quite acute, it rode more forgiving than I anticipated which is a great thing. We had a couple of glance-offs there. Boyd’s first horse, Federman B left a leg but he was still able to navigate B, C, and D and he read the question. Overall I was absolutely thrilled with how that all went.”

The CCI3*-S saw Sydney Hagaman and her own Charmeur finish in first on a 35.5. Chris Talley and FE Marco Polo were close behind on a 36.8. To round out the podium was Emilie Mudd-Guy and Quite Nice 11 with a 37.4. In the CCI2*-S Isabelle Bosley and Connor held their lead and went double clear to finish on their dressage score of 24.4. Mya Poulos and DHI Rock Dancer added 2.4 time penalties to finish second on a 29.4. Mia Farley and Nikita finished in third on a 31.1 after adding 6.4 time penalties over Mogie Bearden-Muller's track.

In the national divisions, the Advanced saw Woods Baughman and Hopak de Greenbay Z hold their lead to finish first on a 47.7. In the competitive Intermediate division, Kimmy Cecere and OS Hermintage finished first on a 36.9. Isabelle Bosley and Constanzehof's Stich won the Open Preliminary on a 36 and Lee Mahler and HTF Cooley Twist won the Preliminary Rider Division on a 45.2. Rosie Napravnik and Army Ranger won the Modified Rider Division on a 28.1 and Shannon Riley and Monbeg Apollo 11 won the Open Modified on a 27.9. Kimmy Cecere and Conquistador XC Z won the Open Training on a 24.8 and Kyla Perkins and Redfield Lennon won the Training Rider Division on a 31.4.