

## Payne Wins Setters' Farm CIC3\* in Thrilling Cross Country Finale at Carolina International

*Coleman claims CIC2\*, MacPhail O'Neal takes CIC\**

*Raeford, N.C. - March 24, 2018* - The cross country phase proved to be a thrilling finale to the 2018 Cloud 11~Gavilan North Carolina International CIC & Horse Trials as the country's best horses and riders tested their speed and bravery around the beautiful Carolina Horse Park.



*Doug Payne and Vandiver. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.*

Doug Payne and Vandiver were the big winners this weekend, topping the Setters' Run Farm CIC3\* after an influential cross country day. In addition, they were also the only combination to accomplish an elusive FOD, a term coined by Equiratings that means to finish on your dressage score. Debi Crowley's quick and careful 14-year-old Trakehner made easy work of Ian Stark's course coming home bang on the optimum time of 6 minutes and 51 seconds to win on a score of 29.6.

"In the last year I've been trying to figure out ways to be more and more efficient and not waste any time. [Vandiver] is quite careful and smart and genuine, so that helps you out a lot. I'm very lucky to have him," Payne commented. "I thought [the course] was pretty stiff, but rewarded bold, forward riding. I did my best to try to accomplish that."

He celebrates his massive win as well as an eighth-place finish with Getaway, an 11-year-old Oldenburg owned by Lisa Wall.

Payne is also a member of the Carolina International Organizing Committee, and spoke to the Committee's commitment to constant progress with this event, "Every year we're looking to make improvements, and not just a tiny improvement, but we try to make it significantly better every year. We already have plans in place next year to make it even better."



*Liz Halliday-Sharp and Fernhill By Night. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.*

Liz Halliday-Sharp and Deborah Halliday's Fernhill By Night, a 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse, finished second in the competitive 58-entry class, adding just 7.2 cross country time penalties to their dressage score for a final result of 35.2.

"It was the best he's ever gone," Halliday-Sharp said. "Great job by Doug. I don't think I could've made the time today on Blackie because he needs looking after a little bit. I think that's what he needed today, a fast round but a positive experience because I want a happy horse for another day."



*Felix Vogg and Colero. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.*



Switzerland's Felix Vogg climbed the leaderboard after each phase, ultimately ending the weekend in third on a score of 37 with Jürgen Vogg's Colero. Vogg traveled to the United States with the 10-year-old Westphalian this winter in order to train for a hopeful FEI World Equestrian Games appearance this fall, and this weekend's result puts him well on his way.

"I think Ian Stark did a really good job. The questions were really clear for the horses. It was very forgiving. From the beginning on I had quite a good feeling on [Colero]. He really wanted to go. I thought first I was a little bit slow, but at the end it came out that he was actually quite fast. I could have tried a little bit more, but my first goal was to prepare him for the WEG," Vogg explained.



*Katherine Coleman and Billy Bandit. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.*

The cross country challenge also shuffled the Attwood Equestrian Surfaces' CIC2\* leaderboard. Katherine Coleman produced the fastest ride of the division to come out on top with her own Billy Bandit. This pair close out the weekend on their dressage score of 32.5.

"I didn't know what to expect since I don't really know him that well yet," she said of the 10-year-old Anglo European gelding. "He was so clever, and he was between the flags and jumping beside me. He was thinking and forward and going no matter what. He just answered all the questions."

Caroline Martin, who was tied with Coleman for seventh after Friday's show jumping, finished second with Jump Jet. Sherrie Martin's 9-year-old Irish Sport Horse finished just one second over the time for a three-day result of 32.9. Courtney Cooper and her own Who's A Star had a clear round and 6.4 time penalties for third place.



*Elinor MacPhail O'Neal. Photo by Brant Gamma Photography.*

Elinor MacPhail O'Neal piloted Sally Cox's Zick Zack to a clear round in Saturday's show jumping to win the Breezeway Sporthorse and Diagnostic Clinic/Friendship Mobile Veterinary Imaging and Sports Medicine CIC\*. MacPhail O'Neal ultimately added nothing to her dressage score for a final result of 25.7.

"She's really forward-thinking and has the right brain for it. She wanted to go and get it done. On the cross country she is very natural and very quick. She's never seen a brush corner before, let alone in water, so I was really proud of her," she remarked. "I think she's the real deal. I'm going to be really careful with producing her because she is really green, so we'll take our time and do some CIC2\* this fall and give her time to develop."

Dressage leaders Leslie Law and Beatrice Rey-Herme's QC First Class cruised into second place after jumping clear over Marc Donovan's show jumping course. They end the weekend on 25.9 points. Olympic bronze medalist Phillip Dutton also piloted Annie Jones' The Manger to a clear round, which had him finish in third on a score of 26.7.

Carolina International is also hosting Training through Advanced level horse trial divisions, which continue Sunday with show jumping and cross country phases.

[Click here](#) for results.

EQSportsNet is the official live streaming partner of Carolina International. In addition to providing live streaming of all of the Settlers' Run CIC3\* and Attwood Equestrian Services CIC2\* show jumping and cross country phases, EQSportsNet also offers on demand coverage of these divisions. Use the promo code EQUSEA2018 for a 50% discount on subscriptions. Visit [www.eqsports.net](http://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](http://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!**

