



November 14, 2008

Canadians Have a Rough Night as McLain Ward and his Gold Medal Teammates Climb the Scoreboard at the Royal Horse Show

Toronto, ON – Canada's Olympians had a rough go of it tonight in the \$50,000 Weston Canadian Open for International Jumpers at Toronto's Royal Horse Show. Americans McLain Ward and Laura Kraut, hot off their Team Gold at the Olympics, took first and third respectively, with Britain's Michael Whitaker narrowly edging into the second position.

Ward, with his sixteen year-old veteran campaigner Goldika 559, executed the course in style, taking almost the identical route that teammate Kraut had taken 15 horses earlier. Like most riders, Ward credited his horse and her vast experience for their success tonight.

"I really just tried to stay out of her way tonight," said Ward. "She made a really good turn after the white vertical at the top of the ring, back to the blue oxer heading home. That's just her experience and handiness. She really never lets you down."

Unfortunately "Team Silver Medal" as they are affectionately known, encountered trouble this evening. Ian Millar had two rails down, Lamaze three and Henselwood opted to retire after her mount Black Ice bucked so hard between fences that they were forced to circle to regain control. Long time Canadian Team member Beth Underhill was the top placed Canadian finishing up in seventh with Tjengo on a clean round and a time of 65.130 seconds.

The International division wraps up tomorrow night with the \$75,000 Ricoh Big Ben Challenge. There is also a matinee performance of the horse show, featuring the family favourite \$15,000 Canine-Equine Challenge, starring the lams SuperDogs. Sunday the 16th offers the Equine Extravaganza in the Coliseum, featuring rodeo cowgirls competing in pole-bending and barrel racing; the world's fastest trick rider and much more.

By the time the competition ends, over \$795,000 will have been awarded in prize money, making The Royal one of the most anticipated competitions of the season. For complete schedules, results and live webcasting, please visit www.royalfair.org.

\$50,000 Weston Canadian Open

Rider / Horse / Hometown / Score:Time

1. McLain Ward (USA) / Goldika 559 / Brewster, NY / 0.00 : 51.400
2. Michael Whitaker (GBR) / Insul Tech Wonami Van Den Aard / Notts / 0.0 : 53.100
3. Laura Kraut (USA) / Cedric / Middleburg, VA / 0.00 : 53.730
4. Tim Stockdale (GBR) / Fresh Direct Corlato / Northampton / 0.00 : 53.810
5. Henk Van de Pol (NED) / Dan 7-T / 0.00 : 58.200

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Attached Photo: U.S. Olympian McLain Ward sped to victory in the \$50,000 Weston Canadian Open at the Royal Horse Show tonight, with his 16 year-old veteran campaigner Goldika 559. Photo credit © Michelle C. Dunn