



## The Virginia Festival of Champions

For Immediate Release: May 5, 2022

A Wynnning Advantage, LLC

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### ZaZa Z Zooms! Marylisa Leffler and Rolling Acres' Zaza Z win the \$10,000 Nutrena Welcome Stake

Marylisa Leffler of Brookeville, Maryland and Rolling Acres' Zaza Z bested a field of twenty-one horse and rider teams in today's \$10,000 [Nutrena](#) Welcome Stake.

Last week, Leffler and Zaza Z just missed the win by seconds against Addison Reed and *Goliath*. Today the tables were turned.

Course designer Ken Krome set the first-round time allowed at 85 seconds and eleven advanced to a second-round opportunity. The first horse and rider team to post double clear rounds, Addison Reed of Mechanicsville, Virginia, and Gail Thompson's *Doirin Clover Boy* set the time to beat at 32.434 seconds, well within the 42 seconds time allowed.

Christina Webb of Bahama, North Carolina, and Fox View Farm's *FVF Sailor Man* followed Reed in the order of go and posted their own double clear rounds with a time of 33.832 seconds which would see the pair finish in fourth overall.

Kama Godek of Fairfax Station, Virginia and her own *Stonehenge 5* were the next to post double clear rounds and their second-round time of 37.272 would see them finish in fifth place.

Thaisa Erwin of Middleburg, Virginia and Michael Smith's *vanturo* also posted clear rounds and their second-round time of 37.291 would earn them a sixth-place ribbon.

Leffler and Zaza Z were up next.

"I was talking with Ashley, and I thought if went off the left lead to the first fence, I could get a better jump-everyone else did a right lead approach," said Leffler.

"I also went a little wide to the last line because everyone else had it down. I was worried because everyone was cutting in or turning in, I figured if I went a little wider, I could keep cantering to it," she added.

The pair posted double clear rounds and with a second-round time of 32.002 seconds, took the lead.

Reed and *Goliath* were the next horse and rider team to post double clear rounds. Their second-round time of 32.434 seconds could not beat Zaza Z and Leffler, and the pair settled into second place and also earned Reed a third place with *Doirin Clover Boy*.

"I think Kenny did a fine a job designing today. The course wasn't that hard, and it was perfect for a Welcome," said



Leffler.

"Zaza Z is just a horse that loves to show, but she's not a 'practice' horse. She doesn't like to be ridden during the week. She used to belong to Lauren Ward and McLain told me that she likes to trot on the long line during the week and maybe trot around the ring once before the class and she's good to go," said Leffler. "And that's exactly what we do with her. She trots on a long line every other day. And she only trots."

"When we returned from Florida, she had four weeks off. Two weeks before we came here, I rode her twice and jumped her a couple of times over 3' fences and maybe a total of five fences each time. Zaza is really a case of 'less is more'. She stays fit, she loves her turn out, we feed her well and she just knows her job. She's 12 and is just a delight in the barn," added Leffler.

Ann De Michele of Haymarket, Virginia in the irons of Cantatu, LLC's *Ω/L* earned a seventh-place finish with their four fault second round of 34.763 seconds. Samantha Tuerk of Wellington, Florida and Stony Ridge Management's *Camryn* placed eighth with their four fault second round in a time of 35.011 seconds.

Stuart Morse's *Ravenna Adelheid Z*, ridden by Tamara Morse of Bristow, Virginia finished in ninth place and Grace Long of Middleburg, Virginia and Vaziri Sport Horses, LLC's *Harold* placed tenth with four jump faults with a time of 59.104 seconds.

Jackson Schurtz of Afton, Virginia rode Jeanne McCusker's *smago Z* to an eleventh-place finish and Christina Webb rode Fox View Farm's *Caillou VL* to a twelfth-place finish.

For more information, please visit [horseshowsonline.com](http://horseshowsonline.com).

*Photo credits: Teresa Ramsay*



## About Nutrena

[Nutrena](#) is unique in its disciplined, scientific approach to animal nutrition. At the Cargill Animal Nutrition Innovation Campus located on 900 acres of land in Minnesota, their expert team of scientists includes more than 75 PhDs from all over the world focused on one thing: using sound science to create superior nutritional solutions.

At Nutrena, they know it takes optimum nutrition to feed your horse for proper development, overall health and performance ability. While others only consider ingredients – they focus on nutrients. That's why their horse feed solutions are formulated to deliver the right balance of nutrients your horse needs every day.



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Nutrena horse feeds are specially developed to provide the right blend of nutrition and energy for your horses at every age and activity level. So you get peace of mind they are properly fed and cared for.

Nobody knows horses and the people who own them better than Nutrena. They use the latest technology to connect with their customers, collaborate and develop the nutritional solutions they want and need. To discuss your horse's

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## Hunter Highlights



*Moonlight Mile*, owned by Bella Ghenea and ridden by Sarah Tyndall won the Small Hunter Championship.

*Photo credit: Teresa Ramsay*



Ann Hormel's *Dutton*, ridden by Chris Wynne won the 3'3" Green Hunter Championship.

*Photo credit: Teresa Ramsay*

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## Encore! Encore!

The Lexington Spring Encore is underway at the beautiful Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. The action-packed week will round out the second installment of the Virginia Festival of Champions which benefits the [Virginia Horse Center](#).

Upcoming highlights this week include:

Friday: \$5,000 [USHJA](#) National Hunter Derby, presented by The Heisley Family Foundation

Saturday: \$25,000 George L Ohrstrom, Jr. Grand Prix

Sunday: \$5,000 Jr. A/O 1.35m Classic



*Photo credit: Teresa Ramsay*

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## About the Virginia Festival of Champions

The Lexington Spring Encore, the second installment of the Virginia Festival of Champions, is underway.

The Lexington Spring Premiere and the Lexington Spring Encore are events owned by the Virginia Horse Center Foundation and are benefit events for the Foundation. The Lexington National Horse Show concludes the 2022 Festival of Champions August 10th-14th.

If you would like to [donate](#) to the Virginia Horse Center, please [click here](#).

For those of you planning on competing at these world-class events:

The [prize list](#) is online. Enter [online](#) and [reserve your stalls!](#)

Show highlights include:

- [USEF](#) Premiere AA Hunter Competition
- [WCHR](#) Recognized Event
- \$5000 [USHJA](#) Hunter Derby presented by The Heisley Family Foundation Week 1 & 2
- \$10,000 [Nutrena](#) Open Welcome Class each week
- \$25,000 Grand Prix each week
- [USHJA](#) Green Incentives
- Jumper 4 Star

Weekly schedules can viewed here for [Week II](#).

The third installment of the Virginia Festival of Champions takes place August 10-14. If you would like to sign up for the emailed version of the August prize list, [let us know!](#)

For more information, please contact Keedie Leonard [colebelle@msn.com](mailto:colebelle@msn.com)



*Photo Credit: Teresa Ramsay*

## Become a Sponsor

[Become a sponsor of the Virginia Horse Center!](#) Support the sport and the magnificent facility.

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For those interested in the Banner Sponsorship Program, please email [judy@dcbishops.com](mailto:judy@dcbishops.com).

Interested in sponsoring the Virginia Festival of Champions series? Email Lisa at [festivalofchamps@yahoo.com](mailto:festivalofchamps@yahoo.com) for more information.



## About the Virginia Horse Center Foundation

The [Virginia Horse Center Foundation](#) provides a world-class facility hosting regional, national, and international equestrian events. The Virginia Horse Center Foundation envisions a unique, bucolic landmark to honor and celebrate the timeless, special bond between mankind and the horse through safe, fair and spirited equestrian competition.

If you would like to donate now, please [click here](#).

Thank you!



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March 7, 2022

