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Sofia Popescu Wins September's Show Jumping Hall of Fame *Rider of the Month* Award

Lexington, KY – October 8, 2025 – Sofia Popescu of Wellington, FL, has won the **Show Jumping Hall of Fame *Rider of the Month* Award** for September.

A talented junior rider, Popescu competes in the **Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series' East Conference Presented by Rood & Riddle**. She rode multiple horses to top ten finishes in the 1.35m and 1.45m jumper divisions throughout the month, including seventh place in the \$10,000 SJHOF 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic at Traverse City Fall International with *Katorose HV*. She also finished tenth with *Ganesh Des Till*. A week later at the American Gold Cup, she finished eighth in the \$10,000 SJHOF 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic with *Ganesh Des Till* and fourth in the \$10,000 The Gajoch Family 1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic with *Sade De Rialfo Z*. These consistent placings helped Popescu earn the Hall of Fame's *Rider of the Month* Award for September.



Sofia Popescu with Sade De Rialfo Z © Mia Baker Photography

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame conducts its Jumper Classic Series with classes at approximately 80 horse shows each year. The Series hosts classes for junior and amateur riders at both 1.40-1.45m and 1.30-1.35m in two Conferences – the **East Conference presented by Rood & Riddle** and the **West Conference presented by LEG Colorado Horse Shows**. The Series culminates in West Conference Championship Finals for both divisions at **Temecula Valley National Fall 3** in Temecula, California, and the overall Series Finals for both divisions at the **Washington International Horse Show** in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Both Finals take place in October. The winners of the finals each receive one of LAURACEA's best-selling backpacks, as well as complimentary admission to the Hall of Fame's annual Induction Ceremony and Awards Gala in Wellington in March, during which they are honored for their achievements.

Each month, the Series honors the one rider and one horse that earn the most points in Series competition that month. For year-end awards, the Series recognizes each conference's Leading Rider and Leading Horse; the **Leading Rider Award is sponsored by LAURACEA**. The winner of each year-end award receives an engraved Tiffany crystal trophy and complimentary admission to the Hall of Fame's annual Induction Ceremony and Awards Gala in Wellington in March, during which they are honored for their achievements.

The 2025 winners of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame *Rider of the Month* Awards are:

- January – Brianne Beerbaum of Wellington, FL
- February – JJ Torano of Wellington, FL
- March – JJ Torano of Wellington, FL
- April – Shylee Elimelech of Calabasas, CA
- May – Audrey Muscari of Germantown, TN
- June – JJ Torano of Wellington, FL
- July – Jole Kosloske of Tampa, FL
- August – Elena Haas of Oakland, CA
- September – Sofia Popescu of Wellington, FL

The **Show Jumping Hall of Fame** was organized to promote the sport of show jumping and to immortalize the legends of the men, women and horses who have made great contributions to the sport. The Show Jumping Hall of Fame is located at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Plaques honoring those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame can be seen at the Horse Park's Rolex Stadium. Mementos and artifacts from the sport's history are on display as part of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame collection at the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Wheeler Museum at the Horse Park.

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame is sponsored by CMJ Sporthorse, Hampton Classic Horse Show, Kentucky Horse Park, LAURACEA, LEG Colorado Horse Shows, Lisa Seger Insurance, Nilforushan Equisport Events, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), Washington International Horse Show and Wellington International.

[The Hampton Classic](#) is the prestigious culminating event of the Hamptons' famed summer season. Top jumper and hunter riders from around the world compete for some of the richest prize money in the nation. The Classic hosts more than 100 classes of competition in six rings for horses and riders of all ages and abilities. The Classic also features a Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, a wide selection of dining options and a Farmer's Market, all on its 60-acre show grounds.

The [Kentucky Horse Park](#) is the leading tourist attraction for all things "horse" and one of the world's best equine competition facilities and only park open to the public. The Kentucky Horse Park hosts a handful of events each year such as the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, Kentucky Summer Horse Show and BreyerFest.

[LAURACEA](#) is a collection of finely crafted leather goods inspired by the true equestrian lifestyle. Designed for equestrians with quality, function, and sophistication in mind, LAURACEA is the brainchild of founder Tamara Makris, designer, entrepreneur, and mother of two equestrians.

Offering 12 weeks of top-notch competition each year, the [LEG Colorado Horse Shows](#) are a staple at the Colorado Horse Park. They strive to provide an excellent showing environment with divisions for all levels and host multiple regional events including EAP Regional Training Sessions, USHJA Zone 7/8 Jumper Team Championships and ASPCA Maclay Region 6 Finals. The LEG Colorado Horse Shows also offer a \$20,000 LEGIS Rider Bonus Series for the highest-performing hunter and jumper riders throughout each season, and their popular Trainer Incentive Program has awarded vacations to the series' top trainers for over 17 years.

Backed by a team of equestrian and insurance experts, [Lisa Seger Insurance](#) (LSI) brings "service" back to "customer service" as THE Lifestyle Source for Insurance. The company is associated with the largest and most respected Luxury Insurance Underwriters, serving clients who have more to protect while expecting higher levels of service. LSI can help find coverage for home, auto, fine art and jewelry, horses, and commercial operations.

[Nilforushan Equisport Events](#) is a horse show management company devoted to its mission to produce world-class events that will enhance the West Coast equestrian scene and help to make California a top show jumping destination. Exhibitors can expect great sport, a series of prize money classes and affordable showing options at every event thanks to the inventive style of the Nilforushan management team. Competitors and spectators alike will be treated to a first-class VIP area, festive entertainment experiences and charitable opportunities. Whether you are riding in the grand prix, competing for the first time, supporting from ringside or simply in town for a vacation, we invite you to join us for a day, a week or the entire horse show series!

[Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital](#) began as an ambulatory practice in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1982 and established a full-service equine hospital in 1986. Today the practice is known and respected worldwide for innovative and highly skilled treatment of horses. Rood & Riddle continues their tradition of excellence into the twenty-first century serving as a referral center for horses requiring specialized medical and surgical care and providing ambulatory care for all breeds and disciplines. With

the original hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, and locations in Saratoga Springs, New York, and Wellington, Florida, Rood & Riddle maintains an unwavering commitment to quality, both in the care of horses and in our relationships with clients and the community.

The [United States Hunter Jumper Association](#) (USHJA), as the official hunter/jumper affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation, is a competition-based sport organization that serves our members through educational programs, awards and recognition, communication and rules. They provide a wide array of programs for all hunter/jumper levels and are mindful of the well-being of our equine partners. Additional information is available at www.ushja.org.

Founded in 1958, the [Washington International Horse Show presented by MARS Equestrian™](#) is one of the most prestigious, competitive and exciting equestrian sporting events in North America. Held annually in October, WIHS brings together the finest and most talented horses and riders from across the country and around the world for seven days of top jumper, hunter and equitation competition, equestrian entertainment, and community and charity events.

Situated in the heart of Wellington, FL, the iconic “Winter Equestrian Capital of the World,” [Wellington International](#) is the proud host of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). This internationally recognized 13-week event is the world’s largest and longest-running hunter/jumper horse show. Every year, WEF opens its gates to thousands of riders from 50 U.S. states and over 34 countries. Spanning more than 111 acres, the Wellington International facility is equipped with 14 competition arenas, over 500 permanent equine stalls, dedicated horse trails, pedestrian paths, and golf cart tracks. Beyond equestrian sports, WEF offers an all-encompassing experience featuring VIP services, unmatched hospitality, versatile event spaces, and world-class shopping opportunities. With an annual contribution of more than \$400 million to Palm Beach County’s GDP and the creation of over 3,700 jobs, the competition’s impact extends well beyond the facility. The Winter Equestrian Festival is a flagship event operated by Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC. For more information visit www.wellingtoninternational.com.

For more information about the **Show Jumping Hall of Fame**, including the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series, please visit the Show Jumping Hall of Fame website at www.ShowJumpingHallofFame.net.