



For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Marty Bauman, Communications Director
508-878-2394 or marty@classic-communications.com

Kaleigh Collett, Event Manager
410-874-4703 or Kaleigh@maryland5star.us

Oliver Townend Poised for Victory at the Inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

Kurt Martin Maintains Lead in the CCI3-L*

Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland – Oct. 16, 2021 – World #1 ranked rider Oliver Townend (GBR) and Cooley Master Class remain at the top of the leaderboard at the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill following a fault-free round during Saturday's Cross Country Driven by Land Rover.

The Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill, one of only two 5 Star level events in the United States and just the seventh worldwide, runs October 14-17 at the newly constructed Fair Hill Special Event Zone in Elkton, Maryland (Cecil County). The event's prestigious 5 Star (CCI5*) designation is the pinnacle of the Olympic sport of Eventing, often described as an equestrian triathlon.

In addition to the 5 Star competition (CCI5*-L), the event also features a 3 Star competition (CCI3*-L), which is serving as the USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship, and The Dutta Corp. USEA Young Event Horse East Coast Championships Presented by Dubarry of Ireland. The four days of Eventing competition culminate in Sunday's final showjumping phase.



Oliver Townend and Cooley Master Class currently sit in first place in the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. © Shannon Brinkman

Over 10,000 spectators came out to watch the sport's top horses and riders navigate the new Ian Stark designed courses. The CCI5*-L featured 43 jumping efforts over a 6,270-meter track.

Only 11 horse-and-rider combinations finished clear within the 11-minute optimum time, including Townend and Angela Hislop's 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding. The pair maintained their dressage score of 21.1 and remain in first place moving into Sunday's showjumping phase.

"The course rode well, all in all," said Townend, 2021 Olympic Team Gold medalist. "The top-class horses coped with it extremely well. Some of the really good gallopers made it look like a walk in the park. The time was not difficult to get with these horses, but at the same time, there were still some nice challenges, some good technical questions. Obviously, there were fences that looked big and scary, which you want in a 5 Star, but my horse came out very well."

Two-time New Zealand Olympian Tim Price also put in a fault-free round over the Cross Country Driven by Land Rover with Xavier Faer, a 15-year-old British Sport Horse gelding owned by Price, Trisha Rickards, and Nigella Hall. The pair finished on their dressage score of 24.3 and hold onto second place on the leaderboard. Saturday's completion also makes him the first rider to complete all seven 5 Star events in the world.

"It's something to be proud of," Price said. "It does pay to come from the Southern Hemisphere! I think what's most important about every 5 Star event in the world is that they all have their own stamp of a 5 Star, and this feels like it's got that. This will be exciting to come back to, and it's just great to have another one on the calendar."



Tim Price and Xavier Faer © Shannon Brinkman

Three-time U.S. Olympian Boyd Martin remains in third place with On Cue, a 15-year-old Anglo-European mare owned by Martin and Christine, Thomas, and Tommie Turner. The duo finished penalty-free, maintaining their score of 25.0.

“On Cue gave me a wonderful round today,” Martin said. “I had the luxury of sitting back and watching [Townend and Price] make it look easy. Basically, by the time I went, I knew the distances that suited each combination. I know that my horse is fit and a great galloper, so I knew that if I could get her through the jumps, she would make the time with plenty of gas left. It was a lovely ride. On Cue gave me everything she had today, and I feel fresh and ready to go for tomorrow.”

The Maryland 5 Star was Ian Stark’s debut as a 5 Star course designer. He worried most about accidentally tricking the horses, but he was relieved to see each horse read the questions he presented. “I feel as though I’ve aged 30 years in a week,” he said. “I never thought I was neurotic, but I feel like it now. Thankfully, [the course] just worked. There were good horses and good riders, and they made it look pretty straightforward. There were bits of trouble all over the place, but from my point of view, I’m very happy. I feel like I can breathe tonight.”



Boyd Martin and On Cue © Shannon Brinkman

Kurt Martin (USA) maintains his lead in the **USEF CCI3*-L Eventing National Championship** with a score of 23.5. He piloted D.A. Lifetime, Debbie Adams' 9-year-old mare, through a fault-free cross-country round over the new Ian Stark designed course.



Kurt Martin and D.A. Lifetime © Shannon Brinkman

“Clarence is a lot of horse,” Martin said. “It’s more nerve-wracking to ride such a nice horse, and she gets very excited. The first few minutes at the start were really just managing her excitement and enthusiasm to get out there because she loves it so much. As we went around, she seemed to settle, and [the jumps] started to come up a bit

better. I'm just so excited about the course, and she tried so hard today. I'm grateful that the owners have given me such an opportunity with such a great horse."

Fellow American Daniel Clasing, who was in fourth after Friday's dressage phase, has moved into second place with his own fault-free round aboard Olney Uncle Sam, a 14-year-old American Trakehner gelding owned by Jennifer Ward.

"I'm thrilled to be in second," Clasing said. "I thought the horse was really good. It maybe wasn't the cleanest round we've ever had, but he's a phenomenal horse and can do things really easily.

"I thought there was a lot to do in the beginning coming down the hill," Clasing added about the course. "Then once you got to the Sawmill Field, you had just a couple of jumps and then a long pull. It was really testing the horses' fitness and how fast you could gallop up the hill."



Daniel Clasing and Olney Uncle Sam © Shannon Brinkman

Caroline Martin remains in third place with HSH Vamonos, her and Sherrie Martin's 8-year-old Zangersheide gelding. The pair finished their ride with only two time faults, resulting in a score of 27.5 going into Sunday's showjumping phase. She has had one of the busiest weeks of all the competitors, riding in The Dutta Corp. USEA Young Event Horse East Coast Championships Presented by Dubarry of Ireland divisions as well as the CCI3*-L and CCI5*-L.

"I have to say I have a really, really, really good crew," Martin said. "All of the girls came from our barn, and my assistant is there every moment with the horses."



Caroline Martin and HSH Vamonos © Shannon Brinkman

For full event results, visit results.hippodata.de.

Photos from the event are available [via Dropbox](#). Credit to Shannon Brinkman and Jon Durr/Eclipse Sportswire (labeled in folder).

The entire CCI5* is available via livestream **presented by MARS Equestrian**. It can be accessed through **USEF Network** in North America and through **Horse & Country** outside North America. USEF Network is also providing exclusive coverage of the CCI3*. A link to the livestream is available on the [event's website](#) via the USEF Network player. Additionally, press conferences are being livestreamed through the [event's Facebook page](#).

About the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill:

One of only two 5 Star events in the United States, and just the seventh worldwide, the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill continues the storied legacy of Eventing at the new Fair Hill Special Event Zone in Elkton, Maryland, located in Cecil County. The prestigious 5 Star (CCI5*-L) designation is the pinnacle of the Olympic sport of Eventing, best described as an equestrian triathlon. The Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is produced by The Fair Hill Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the Sport and Entertainment Corporation of Maryland, and in partnership with Fair Hill International. The Maryland Food Bank serves as an event beneficiary.

Discover Cecil County, Maryland!:

Located between Philadelphia and Baltimore on I-95, Cecil County, Maryland boasts vibrant small towns, 200 miles of waterfront, foodie destinations, and scenic countryside providing the perfect backdrop for the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. Experience fabulous local food with a Chesapeake Bay flair, local beer and wine, outdoor recreation, family-friendly attractions, and specialty shops, plus discover 80 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Destination Cecil County... Just a Daydream Away!