

## 2011 Hagyard Challenge Series Wrap-Up

Friday evening, September 23, brought world class equestrian competition to the Kentucky Horse Park for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Hagyard Challenge Series Grand Prix, plus “The Betsy”, a fundraising gala for the Markey Cancer Foundation. The prestigious Alltech Arena set the stage for Friday evening’s final leg of the Hagyard Challenge Series which featured seven show jumping events with the rider who accumulated the most points in the series receiving the \$45,000 Leading Rider Award.

Coming into Friday’s competition, Canada’s Yann Candele had taken over the lead in the 2011 Hagyard Challenge Series earning a win aboard Azzaro during the Hagyard Series Grand Prix class at the Bluegrass Festival Horse Show and high placings on 3 other mounts at the KHJA Horse Show in August.



After claiming the first and second place honors in the \$25,000 Hagyard Lexington Classic at the Kentucky Summer Horse Show, McLain Ward was a close second in the leading rider standings. The talented rider moved on to complete two double clear rounds aboard Pjotter Van De Zonnehoeve and Rothchild to earn him two spots in the jump off round for the series final. With Rothchild pulling one rail in the jump off it came down to Ward’s second mount and final ride for the evening’s event. McLain and Pjotter Van De Zonnehoeve put in a brilliant clear round and earned the win

for the World Cup qualifier worth \$50,000 and the \$45,000 Hagyard Leading Rider Award bonus.

In addition to the Grand Prix this annual event also plays hosts to “The Betsy”, a fundraising gala in memory of the late Betsy Fishback, with proceeds going to the Markey Cancer Foundation at the University of Kentucky. Betsy is the late wife of Hagyard veterinarian Dr. William Fishback. Betsy was an avid horse woman and actively involved in the horse community. She had accomplishments such as co-founder of the equine program at Midway College and coach of the University of Kentucky Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Riding Team. She was involved in many associations and groups, such as the Keeneland Pony Club, Masterson Equestrian Trust Foundation, Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association and Kentucky Horse Shows. Betsy passed away in 2009 after a long, courageous battle with breast cancer.

“We had two objectives when Hagyard made the commitment in 2009 to host a Markey Cancer Foundation fundraiser event; we wanted to honor the memory of Betsy Fishback and to raise money for cancer research and treatment. The Markey Cancer Foundation was selected because of their excellent research and treatment record and over the years they have helped so many Hagyard employees, spouses, parents, and children,” explained Dr. Andy Clark, CEO of Hagyard Equine Medical Institute on how “The Betsy” came to be.

Dr. Clark also commented on the success over the last three years of the event stating, “I am proud of Hagyard for having the vision and commitment to sponsor ‘The Betsy’. Having said that, I am supremely proud of the people and businesses in our community for the support they have provided for three consecutive years during the ‘Great Recession’, a time that people had a good excuse not to be generous. In spite of that, the community stepped up and made it possible to donate over \$100,000 to



Markey Cancer Foundation each year for three years. We are waiting for the final numbers but we are confident that our total for ‘The Betsy’ 2009, 2010 and 2011 is over \$300,000!!! The most important thing I can say about ‘The Betsy’ is ‘Thank You’ Markey Cancer Foundation for what you do and ‘Thank You’ to all of the donors who made the event a success.”

The Hagyard Challenge Series would not happen without the involvement of our generous sponsors who include: presenting sponsor Pfizer Animal Health, Audi of Lexington, Dean Dorton Allen Ford, Hagyard Pharmacy, LLC, Wyatt Equine Law Group, Johnson Horse Transportation, and J.P. Morgan Chase.