

## Kentucky Spring Classic Features Classic Champions Developing Jumper Tours for 5, 6 and 7-Year-Old H

Written by Administrator  
Friday, 17 May 2019 12:31 -

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New this year to the Kentucky Horse Park, the Classic Champions Developing Jumper Tour kicked off its second show of the eight-part series Wednesday at the Kentucky Spring Classic with three divisions offered for 5, 6 and 7-year-old horses. An impressive group of up-and-coming young horses tackled the 5-year-old division in the Walnut Ring on Thursday, with ten combinations earning blue-ribbon rides for their clear efforts, but William Hickey emerged with the fastest time of 67.628 seconds aboard North Star's Jeronimo. "This is the most exciting opportunity that we've had yet," said Cynthia Hampton, founder and president of Classic Champions, Inc. "We have the whole series followed by a championship, which is really optimal for showing the development of the young horses. The championship will take place here at the Kentucky [Horse Park] in September."

Classic Champions, Inc. brings European principles to course design for young jumpers, and helps young horses to become the future stars they can be, offering competition opportunities that are both sporting and educational. With specific classes for 5, 6 and 7-year-old horses, the Classic Champions Developing Jumper Tour features adapted heights, type of fences, lines and turns, as well as experienced, specifically trained course designers at top-notch show venues. Competition for the Classic Champions Developing Jumper Tour will continue Saturday, May 18, at the Kentucky Spring Classic with the 7-year-old division featured in the Rolex Stadium, while the 6-year-old division will kick off jumper competition in the Walnut Ring at 8 a.m., after which the 5-year-old horses will follow. The tour will return to the Kentucky Horse Park for two weeks of Country Heir beginning June 5, and will culminate with the year-end championships at the Kentucky National Horse Show, held September 18-22.