

Homebred Hero Quincy Car Tops \$100,000 Ocala Grand Prix

Amateur rider Fernando Cardenas and his promising stallion claim victory over top professionals.

BY HALEY BURTON
PHOTO BY ESI PHOTOGRAPHY

As Quincy Car bucked straight up into the air in anticipation, Fernando Cardenas, an equine veterinarian from Raleigh, N.C., calmly steered his homebred stallion into the ring at HITS Ocala (Fla.). The pair flew past their competition and dazzled the

crowd in the \$100,000 Sullivan GMC Truck Grand Prix despite “Quincy’s” inconvenient habit of bucking between jumps.

“I knew I had to be a little bit faster [than the riders before me], so I just had to account for his bucks,” said Cardenas. “But he bucks when he’s

feeling good, so I want him to be like that, because I know he’s got energy and wants to do well.”

Quincy’s energy and Cardenas’

Fernando Cardenas rode the enthusiastic Quincy Car to the top of the \$100,000 Sullivan GMC Grand Prix.



determination made for a winning combination March 16 as they navigated course designer Florencio Hernandez's technical and tight course.

After a clear first round, Cardenas went into the jump-off confident that his long-time mount would come out on top if he kept the ride smooth and focused.

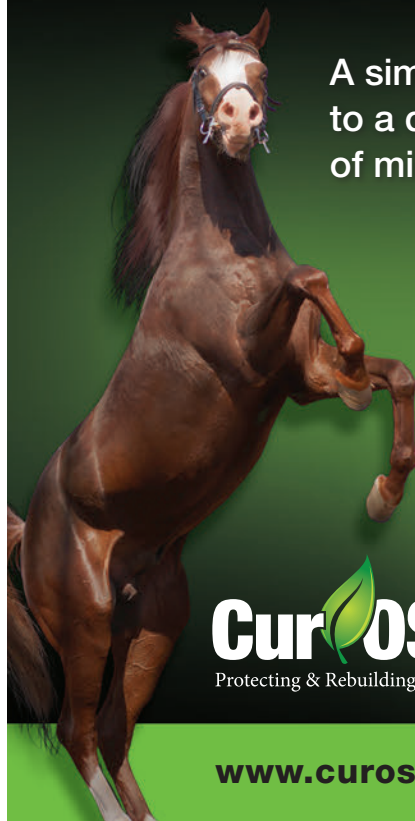
"Quincy jumps very well, and he's very careful, but he's a big-strided horse. I had to be careful to give him enough room in the combinations," said Cardenas. "I just tried to remind myself that he always wants to be good, so it was just about getting out of his way, because he knows how to do well."

Cardenas and Quincy put in a double-clear performance in 46.51 seconds to win the class.

A Family Tradition, A Lifetime Bond

Cardenas attributes his victory to two things: his father, who bred the 10-year-old Oldenburg stallion (Galiani Car—Kiss By Star Car, Amour

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\$100,000 SULLIVAN GMC GRAND PRIX Ocala, Fla.—March 16

HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Quincy Car/ Fernando Cardenas	0-0	46.51	\$30,000
2. Bon Giorno/ Bryn Sadler	0-0	48.07	22,000
3. Lazaro/Jordan Coyne	0-4	43.55	13,000
4. Ammeretto/ David Beisel	0-12	43.75	8,000
5. Amigo/Angel Karolyi	0-VW	—	6,000

Also competed: 6. MTM Centano/T. Fenney, 1; 7. Imothep/D. Kenny, 1; 8. Centurion B/L. Goldman, 4; 9. Lacarolus/D. Braun, 4; 10. Envy/S. Rose-Reed, 4; 11. Ultimo/A. Iverson, 4; 12. Quintus 66/D. Damen, 4; 13. Que Pasa II/K. Webby, 5; 14. Titus 2:11/J. Petersen, 6; 15. Indiana 127/A. Karolyi, 8; 16. Black Diamond/K. Killam, 8; 17. Airborne/H. Graham, 8; 18. Winter/D. Wilson, 8; 19. Bromance/A. Vale, 8; 20. MacArthur/M. Hughes, 8; 21. Grande Finale 3E/E. Short, 8; 22. My Pleasure/P. Leone, 8; 23. Enzo/K. Robinson, 9; 24. Cordovo/I. Silitch, 10; 25. Yolo/H. Holloway, 12; 26. Prof De La Roque/D. Kenny, 12; 27. Bahrain 8/D. Wilson, 12; 28. Any Given Sunday/B. Holloway, 12; 29. Dominant De Muze/K. Dewar, 13; 30. Superbad/A. Flint, 33; Noire/H. Goddard, E; HH Dauphin/L. Linback, E; Reconnaissance/L. Hough, E; Vanita/I. Silitch, VW; Domar/F. Hendriks, VW; MTM Timon/T. Fenney, VW; Baloucat/L. Goldman, VW.

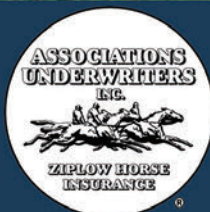
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Parfait), and his incredible bond with the special horse.

Cardenas has been deeply involved in his family's horse breeding and training business his entire life. Now, as a full-time veterinarian based in North Carolina, he travels to his father's 3H Equestrian Center in Ocala almost every weekend to ride, train and compete Fernando Cardenas Sr.'s horses.

"Veterinary medicine is a beautiful career, and I wouldn't trade that for anything, but my heart is in the horses," said Cardenas Jr. "Riding is very important to me. I just had to be willing to commit my time to this, and I am."

Cardenas Sr., like his son, is a longtime equestrian and a native of Colombia. He rode on the 1983 Colombian Pan American Games dressage team and coached the Colombian show jumping team at the 1987 Pan American Games. The accomplished horseman now trains riders to compete in multiple disciplines and breeds warmbloods for competition.

“We’ve been able to do it just with hard work and spending the time instead of spending the money on a nice horse.”

—FERNANDO CARDENAS JR.

Cardenas Jr. helps his father to break and train these homebred horses, while Cardenas Sr. coaches his son to victories in the show ring.

One horse in particular bred from the successful “Car” line caught Cardenas Jr.’s attention.

“Everyone always says that this, but I promise you it’s true: The first time I

sat on [Quincy] and the first jump he ever did, I knew that he was a special horse,” said Cardenas Jr. “I obviously think the world of him, and I’m just fortunate to be riding him.

“My dad gets all the credit,” he added. “It was his talent for breeding that allowed me to be here. We’ve been able to bring [Quincy] up and do it just with hard work and spending the time instead of spending the money on a nice horse.”

Cardenas Jr. developed a strong bond with this talented young stallion in the process of raising and training him.

“I know him. I know that he needs to have energy because he does better, and he’s going to try harder when he’s a little fresh. I know to expect the bucks and adjust for them as we’re going down a line. I know where he needs help and when to be careful,” he said.

This lifelong connection between horse and rider proved to be just what the pair needed to win the \$100,000 Ocala Grand Prix.

Cardenas Jr. hopes to follow in his father’s footsteps and represent Colombia on its show jumping team at the Pan American Games.

“It’s a lofty goal, but a goal nonetheless,” said Cardenas Jr. “[Quincy] hasn’t shown me his limit yet, so we’re both going to continue to enjoy the ride and see just how far he can go in his career.” 🐾

► Land And Hughes Continue To Shine

Just two weeks after claiming a victory for the United States in the FEI Young Rider Nations Cup in Wellington, Fla., Frances Land continued her winning streak at HITS Ocala (Fla.), March 14-16.

Land topped the \$25,000 U-Dump High Junior/Amateur-Owner Classic aboard her Nations Cup mount, Vieanne, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood (Andiamo—S. Romanicele, Voltaire).

“Vieanne comes to the plate every time she steps into the ring. She has so much heart, and if I ride her well, she will always be right there with me,” said Land.

She beat her Nations Cup teammate Michael Hughes, as well as Junior Nations Cup team silver medalist Hayley Waters, for the title.

But Hughes didn’t go home empty handed. He and Luxina, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood (Lux—Sharlena, Ahorn) won

the \$25,000 SmartPak Grand Prix, edging out David Beisel on Ammeretto by .07 seconds.

“It was really close,” Hughes said. “It’s a great feeling when you see the board and you think, ‘Wow, we got it.’”

Working together to win gold at the FEI Nations Cup served to solidify the friendship between the young riders.

“I’ve known both [Waters and Hughes] for a long time, and they’re very close friends,” said Land. “[Hughes] won the grand prix on Friday, and of course I was there on the sidelines cheering on his win, and I’m so proud of him for that.

“It’s nice because when your friends win, you’re happy for them, and when you win, you’re happy for yourself, and there is never any real animosity,” she continued. “No one person is going to win every single thing, so we might as well be happy for each other.”

\$25,000 SMARTPAK GRAND PRIX Ocala, Fla.—March 13

HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Luxina/Michael Hughes	0-0	41.80	\$7,500
2. Ammeretto/David Beisel	0-0	41.87	5,500
3. MTM Centano/Tracy Fenney	0-0	42.02	3,250
4. Any Given Sunday/Brandie Holloway	0-0	42.05	2,000
5. Centurion B/Lisa Goldman	0-0	43.13	1,500
6. My Pleasure/Peter Leone	0-0	43.44	1,250
7. MacArthur/Michael Hughes	0-4	47.62	1,000

32 horses competed.