



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marty Bauman, (508) 698-6810, marty@classic-communications.com

**Kelsey Thatcher Named Show Jumping Hall of Fame
Rider of the Month for February**

Lexington, KY – March 2, 2017 – Kelsey Thatcher, of Bluffdale, Utah has been named Show Jumping Hall of Fame *Rider of the Month* for February.

Thatcher competes in the AO division in the East Conference of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series. She earned the award riding *Everything* by placing first in the Show Jumping Hall of Fame classes during weeks 5 and 7 at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL.

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series is sponsored by The National Horse Show Association of America, The Hampton Classic Horse Show and SmartPak. The Series honors one rider each month as the *Rider of the Month*. The honor goes to the one rider who earns the most points on one horse in Series competition that month.

“I would like to congratulate Kelsey Thatcher being named our *Rider of the Month* for February,” said George Morris, President of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. “Kelsey is an excellent rider and we wish her continued success.”

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series hosts separate divisions for junior and amateur-owner riders in two Conferences - the East Conference and the West Conference. Series standings are used to help determine junior and amateur-owner entries for the National Horse Show and Las Vegas National Horse Show in November.

Any horse show offering a class that meets all the criteria set forth in the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series specifications and has prize money of at least \$1,000 is eligible to be part of the Series.

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, KY. Plaques honoring those who have been honored with induction 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.

Founded in 1999, SmartPak Equine is the country's largest online and catalog retailer serving the needs of the active and engaged horse owner. The patented SmartPak™ supplement feeding system has simplified the process of feeding horse supplements and medications, making it easier for thousands of riders to keep their horses healthier by ensuring their supplements are being fed correctly. Learn more at www.SmartPak.com.

The Hampton Classic, the prestigious culminating event of the Hamptons' famed summer season,

features top jumper and hunter riders from across the country and beyond competing for their share of some of the richest prize money in the nation. The Classic features six show rings, 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 Classic hosts more than 100 classes of competition for horses and riders of all ages and abilities. A wide range of hunter, jumper and equitation classes are offered from leadline all the way up to grand prix. The Classic also has classes for riders with disabilities. More details are available at www.hamptonclassic.com.

The National Horse Show is a championship event featuring "AA"-rated hunters, open jumpers, junior/amateur jumpers, and the ASPCA Alfred B. Maclay Finals. It is held in the Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Further information is available at www.NHS.org.

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame conducts the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series, held under Grand Prix rules and specifications. The Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series is designed to give amateur-owner and junior riders an opportunity to compete at higher levels and serves as a proving ground for many riders who aspire to someday represent the United States in international competition. For more information about the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, including Show Jumping Hall of Fame Jumper Classic Series, please visit the Show Jumping Hall of Fame website at www.showjumpinghalloffame.net.