

PREVIEWING THE CCI3* FIELD: JENNI AUTRY, EVENTING NATION

The new CCI3* at the Ocala Jockey Club International Three-Day Event (OJC3DE) is the last of five CCI3* events held in North America this year, making it the grand finale of the 2018 fall calendar in the U.S. With 13 entries coming forward to challenge for \$15,000 in prize money, plus an additional \$5,000 allocated for the top placing Thoroughbreds, the stage is set for a thrilling competition.



Tamie Smith and **Mai Baum**, a 12-year-old German Sport Horse (Loredano X Ramira, by Rike) owned by Alex Ahearn, Ellen Ahearn and Eric Markell, come to OJC3DE as the heavy favorites to take the CCI3* win. Mai Baum last competed in a CCI3* in 2015 when he won the Dutta Corp Fair Hill International to become the USEF National CCI3* Champion. Following a lengthy period of

time off, **Mai Baum** returned to the Advanced level with a bang this summer, winning the Adequan USEA Advanced Gold Cup Final at the American Eventing Championships in Parker, Colorado. He went on the Stable View CIC3* in Aiken, South Carolina, where he delivered a personal best of 23.7 in dressage and ultimately finished third. While that result ended his streak of five wins in a row at international level, **Mai Baum** is likely to return to his winning ways at OJC3DE.

Mai Baum is the only horse in the field with a dressage average in the 20s, averaging 25.7 at the level, which would put him comfortably at the top of the leaderboard after the first phase. His average of 6.0 time penalties on cross country would narrow his leading margin but still keep him atop the leaderboard. He has delivered clear show jumping rounds in four of his last five international

runs and is expected to leave all the poles in the cups at OJC3DE. He is forecasted to lead wire-to-wire and win the CCI3*.

Erin Sylvester and Frank McEntee's **Paddy The Caddy** won the Rebecca Farm CCI3* in Kalispell, Montana last year and come forward as the key pair to challenge Tamie

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owned by Jacob and Frank Fletcher and Fletcher Farms, comes to OJC3DE with another top-five finish in his sights. Their dressage average of 32.3 would put them inside the top five after the first phase. This is also one of the fastest combinations in the field with an average of 8.8 cross country time penalties. **Atlantic Domino** is also a strong show jumper and expected to jump a clear round. Look for this pair to challenge for the top three.

Smith and Mai Baum for the win. The 11-year-old Irish Thoroughbred gelding (Azamore x Slamy) has a dressage average of 33.8, which would slot him just outside the top five after the first phase. **Paddy The Caddy** is the fastest cross country horse in the field, averaging just 0.8 time penalties at this level. He is also a very consistent show jumper and has never had a rail down at a CCI at any level. Look for him to finish second or be waiting in the wings to take the win should things go awry for Mai Baum.

Jacob Fletcher won the first CIC3* of his career this year aboard **Atlantic Domino** at Chattahoochee Hills in Fairburn, Georgia before going on to finish fifth in the CCI3* at Jersey Fresh in Allentown, New Jersey. Atlantic Domino, a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse (Dunlough Striker X Atlantic Amanda, by Glidawn Diamond)



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Voltaire de Tre is one of the youngest horses in the CCI3* field, but under the guidance of Olympic gold medalist **Leslie Law** he has flourished in his first season at the level. The 9-year-old Selle Francais (Gentleman IV X Jasmina du Fresne, by Socrate de Chivre) owned by Tre Book finished fourth in his CCI3* debut at Jersey Fresh in May. He then went on to the FEI Nations Cup at Great Meadow CICO3* in The Plains, Virginia and helped the British team clinch victory with a strong ninth-place result. Leslie and Voltaire de Tre's dressage average of 32.6 would have them inside the top five following the first phase. Cross country time penalties will likely see them slip down the leaderboard, but an expected clear show jumping round would boost them back up to finish in the top five.



Pebbly Maximus is returning to a CCI with **Caroline Martin** for the first time in more than a year. We last saw the 15-year-old Irish Sport Horse (Nazar X Kelshamore Lady) owned by Sherrie and Caroline Martin compete at Boekelo CCIO3* in The

Netherlands in 2017. **Pebbly Maximus** has a dressage average of 33.1, which would place him inside the top five after the first phase. This pair's average of 9.6 time penalties on cross country is one of the fastest in the field. Show jumping tends to be their toughest phase, with one clear round in four runs at CCI3* level.

Paramount Importance finished 15th at the 2017 European Championships in Strzegom, Poland with Sweden's Ludwig Svennerstal before coming to the States as a new mount for **Lauren Kieffer**. OJC3DE will be the first time Lauren competes at the CCI3* level with the 11-year-old Holsteiner (Pasco X Gesche II, by Louis) owned by Jacqueline Mars. Their dressage average of 34.7 would place them a bit off the pace after the first phase. Lauren has really taken her time in developing a partnership with the horse this season, and we will likely see them go faster on cross country than their average of 20.0 time penalties. **Paramount Importance** has only had one rail down at international level all season and will be gunning for a top-five finish on the final day.

Hallie Coon comes to OJC3DE after finishing 22nd in her CCI4* debut at Les Etoiles de Pau CCI4* in France with her top horse Celien. Her OJC3DE mount, **Lansdownne**, a 12-year-old Thoroughbred (Partner's Hero X Alpine Aster, by Badger Land owned by Shanon Baker), is making his debut at the CCI3* level.

He most recently finished 17th in his first CIC3* at Plantation Field in Unionville, Pennsylvania in a torrential downpour on cross country day. Look for Hallie to give **Lansdownne** a confidence-boosting run in his first CCI3*.

Alexis Helfrich and **London Town**, an 11-year-old Thoroughbred gelding (Laitin X Kildara Baylee, by Rising Fortune) owned by Pamela Williams, completed their first CCI3* at Rebecca Farm in July. They come to OJC3DE following a win in the Woodside CIC3* in California last month. This pair will be looking for another solid CCI3* run in their quest to qualify for the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event.

Kate Chadderton and Patrick McCuan's **McCuan Civil Liberty** make their highly anticipated return to a CCI3* at OJC3DE, having last competed at the level at Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials in England in 2015. Following a lengthy period of time off for injury, the 14-year-old Thoroughbred (Civilisation X Graceful Balance, by Top Account) is ready to make his comeback. He most recently ran a combined test at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia, delivering a personal best of 35.8 in dressage and adding one rail down.

British-based American **Katherine Coleman** has returned to Ocala for the winter season and will ride her own **Monte Classico**, a 9-year-old German Sport Horse (Monte Bellini X W-Sally, by Saami xx), in his CCI3* debut. This horse placed second in the CCI2* at OJC3DE last year and will be looking for another strong rest in his first attempt at a CCI3*. He most recently finished 15th in a strong CIC3* 8/9-year-old field at Blenheim with a personal best of 29.2 in dressage and

clear cross country and show jumping rounds.

After a six-year hiatus from competing at the Advanced level while she had her two children, **Kristen Bond** made her triumphant return this season. She piloted **Enough Already**, a 10-year-old KWPN (Winningmood van de Arenberg X Zandora, by Landor S) owned by Liz Bond, to a fifth-place finish in his CCI3* debut at Rebecca Farm over the summer and comes to OJC3DE for their second start at the level. Enough Already has the second best dressage average in the field of 30.8, so watch for this pair to challenge the top of the leaderboard right off the bat.

Ellie MacPhail O'Neal comes to OJC3DE with **Zeta**, another horse debuting at the CCI3* level. The 11-year-old Holsteiner mare (Cartani X Resia, by Concept) owned by Sally Cox most recently finished 12th in her first CIC3* at Stable View. While she picked up 20 jumping penalties on cross country at Stable View, Ellie and **Zeta** have delivered clear rounds in all of their other runs together as a combination.

Joe Meyer and **Johnny Royale**, a 10-year-old New Zealand Thoroughbred (His Royal Highness X Chivaney, by Tights) owned by the Team Johnny Syndicate, have yet to compete in a CCI during the 2018 season. We last saw them competing at this level at Bromont CCI3* in 2017, where they finished in 13th place thanks to a speedy cross country round just 1 second over the optimum time.

All statistics are courtesy of EN's data analyst Maggie Deatrick. Following EN's coverage of OJC3DE throughout the competition at www.eventignation.com.