



Left: David O'Connor and Giltedge jump into the Head of the Lake during the cross-country phase of the four-star competition. Finishing cross country in third place, they sewed up the win in the next day's stadium jumping.
Below: Karen O'Connor interviews her husband for ESPN right after his winning ride.
Bottom: Groom Nichole Beauchene leads the great event horse Biko to his stall following his retirement ceremony. The horse, campaigned by Karen O'Connor throughout his career, was feted in an emotional ceremony featuring a final victory gallop around the stadium jumping arena.



Left: New Zealander Andrew Nicholson and Mallards Treat head out of The Hollow, fence 21 on Michael Etherington-Smith's cross-country course. They finished the day in first place.
Above: Bill Hoos laughs and plays with the crowd as his Celtic Cross proceeds to drop rails at just about every fence on the stadium course.

More than 80,000 spectators came to the Kentucky Horse Park the last weekend in April to watch top horses and riders compete in the 2001 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. Producing another world-class performance to match his Sydney Olympics gold-medal-winning rides, David O'Connor won the four-star competition, one of only four at that level held in the world each year. Riding Jacqueline Mars' Giltedge, a 15-year-old Thoroughbred, O'Connor turned in a faultless stadium-jumping round on the last day of competition to secure victory.

It was clearly an O'Connor weekend, as David's wife, Karen, retired her long-time mount Biko, owned by Vita and Richard Thompson, in an emotional ceremony during a break in the stadium-jumping competition on Sunday.

Rounding out the final top placings were Australia's Phillip Dutton and Simply Red in second, O'Connor and his Sydney gold-medal mount Custom Made in third, and Bruce Davidson and Little Tricky in fourth. 🐾



Above: Amy Tryon and My Beau negotiate the Root Cellar, one of the most popular spots for spectators on cross country.
Right: Local favorite Cathy Wieschhoff rewards Spelga Dam after dressage.

Four-Star

All-Star

Photographs by David Stephenson