

***Northern California-based trainer has unprecedented success in the WIHS hunter ring.***

Northern California-based John French had unprecedented success in the professional hunter divisions at the Washington International Horse Show, Oct. 20-25 in downtown Washington D.C. He took home three championships, three reserve championships, two Grand Hunter Championships, and the 2015 WIHS Leading Hunter Rider title.

French guided Laura Wasserman's Boss to the overall WIHS Grand Hunter Championship, and also won the WIHS Grand Green Working Hunter Championship riding Lee Kellogg Sadrian's Sochi. He received a special \$5,000 bonus for the Leading Hunter Rider Award, sponsored by Dr. Betsee Parker, and was also presented The Robert Coluccio Leading Hunter Rider Perpetual Trophy. Laura Wasserman earned the Leading Hunter Owner Award.

"I do not think I have ever had an indoor show like this," French said. "To win this many championships and be reserve this many times as well; it means a lot.

"This is where I grew up. As a kid, WIHS was the biggest show you could go to. We did not go to the Garden; it was too far away. WIHS, you could come and watch. It is my favorite show. I love being in the city; I love the whole atmosphere and ambiance about showing in the city."

French had one of the greatest shows of his career, impressively winning classes and tricolors with five different horses. He acknowledged Archie Cox as the trainer of Wasserman's Boss and Fine Design, as well as Montana Coady's Ranger. French brought Sochi and Center Court for his own clients.

"It is not often that you have that many good ones," he admitted. "I had five horses and they all won classes. A lot has to do with Archie. He does a great job.

Some of the horses are his, and live at his barn, but Sochi and Center Court are with me at my barn. I just think that it is nice that I get to ride these horses a lot here. Every morning I get to

## November 2015 - John French Dominates in D.C.

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ride them throughout the circuit. At home, a lot of times I just get on a horse and go in a class. For indoors, I get to spend three weeks between Capital Challenge, Harrisburg and Washington getting a real feel for each horse, what it needs and how I need to ride it better. I can put myself in the right mindset for the horse.”

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*Edited press release provided by Jump Media LLC.*

*(John French recently announced a relocation of his Waldenbrook Farm to Iron Horse Equestrian Center in the East Bay Area's Pleasanton. He had been based in Woodside for many years.)*