

## **DOC CEBU HEADS INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP NOMINEES**

Doc Cebu, making his bid for a second straight timber championship, has been nominated for a chance at back-to-back victories in the \$75,000 International Gold Cup on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The 35th annual International Gold Cup program at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains, Va., also will include the \$75,000 David L. “Zeke” Ferguson Memorial (Gr. 2) over hurdles and the \$40,000 Steeplethon over a course of varied obstacles.

First post time is noon, and pari-mutuel wagering will be available on all races.

Owned by Charles Fenwick Jr., Michael Hankin, and Charles Noell, Doc Cebu would have an opportunity to clinch a second straight timber title with a victory in the 80th running of the International Gold Cup. He locked up last year’s title with an 11-length score in the 3 1/2-mile race.

The eight-year-old Hard Spun gelding trained by Jack Fisher has been on a roll this fall. After winning the Willowdale Steeplechase for the second straight year in May, he took Shawan Downs’ Brown Advisory Legacy Chase on Sept. 29 and won the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup for a second straight year on Oct. 13.

Another major stakes winner that day was Michael A. Smith’s nominee Le Chevalier, who drew clear to a 4 1/2-length victory in the National Sporting Library & Museum Cup at the Virginia Fall Races. Trained by Julie Gomena, the nine-year-old Broken Vow gelding also was second in the Middleburg Hunt Cup and Virginia Gold Cup in the spring.

Frank A. Bonsal’s Stand Down was nominated to the International Gold Cup after finishing third behind Doc Cebu at Genesee Valley. It was the first career defeat for the six-year-old Yeats gelding, who had won his first two starts in the spring for trainer Joseph Davies.

Nominees coming out of the National Sporting Library are Irv Naylor’s Super Saturday, who was fifth, and Kiplin Hall’s Rodriguez, the sixth finisher after a sixth in the Legacy Chase for trainer Willie Dowling.

Super Saturday, trained by Kathy Neilson, won the Middleburg Hunt Cup and was third in the Virginia Gold Cup.

Here are the nominees to the \$75,000 International Gold Cup in alphabetical order.

**Doc Cebu.** 2010 b. g., Hard Spun—Berga, by Jade Hunter. Owners: Charles C. Fenwick Jr., Michael Hankin, and Charles Noell. Trainer: Jack Fisher. Breeder: Graceville Breeding (Ky.) 2018 record: 4-3-0-1, \$57,000. 2017 record: 5-4-1-0, \$96,600. 2016 record: 2-2-0-0, \$21,000. Timber champion, 2017. Won Shawan Downs’ 2018 Brown Advisory Legacy Chase by 3 1/2 lengths and scored a second victory in the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup by seven lengths. Won Willowdale Steeplechase for a second straight year in 2018 after third in Middleburg Hunt Cup. Clinched 2017 timber championship with 11-length victory in International Gold Cup after 11 1/4-length score in Genesee Valley Hunt Cup.

**Le Chevalier.** 2009 g. or ro. g., Broken Vow—Orellana, by With Approval. Owner: Michael A. Smith. Trainer: Julie Gomena. Breeder: Haras du Mezeray (Ky.) 2018 record: 3-1-2-0, \$47,400. 2017 record: 1-0-0-1, \$3,000. 2016 record: 5-2-1-0, \$49,250. Won 2018 National Sporting Library & Museum Cup after second in Virginia Gold Cup and Middleburg Hunt Cup. Finished third in the 2017 My Lady’s Manor. Won the 2016 New Jersey Hunt Cup by 11 lengths.

**Rodriguez (Ire).** 2007 dk. b. or br. g., High Chapparral (Ire)—Sofia Aurora, by Chief Honcho. Owner: Kiplin Hall. Trainer: William Dowling. Breeder: Michael G. Daly (Ire). 2018 record: 2-0-0-0, \$1,950. 2017 record: 5-1-0-2, \$27,000. 2016 record: 3-1-1-0, \$12,700. Finished sixth in Shawan Downs’ 2018 Brown Advisory Legacy Chase and National Sporting Library & Museum

Cup at Virginia Fall. Won Shawan's 2017 Brown Advisory Legacy Chase, then was fourth in Virginia Fall's National Sporting Library and Museum Cup and third in International Gold Cup.

**Stand Down (Ire).** 2012 b. g., Yeats (Ire)—Quadrennial, by Un Desperado. Owner: Frank Bonsal Jr. Trainer: Joseph G. Davies. Breeder: Mrs. E. Costelloe (Ire). 2018 record: 3-2-0-1, \$21,200. Sustained first career defeat when third in Genesee Valley Hunt Cup. Won first two career starts by open lengths, beginning with 2018 Grand National timber allowance and then Willowdale allowance timber.

**Super Saturday.** 2009 gr. or ro. g., Any Given Saturday—Lady Aloma, by Cozzene. Owner: Irvin S. Naylor. Trainer: Kathy Neilson. Breeder: Walton Breeders (Ky.) 2018 record: 4-1-0-1, \$31,100. 2017 record: 6-0-1-1, \$13,400. 2016 record: 5-0-1-0, \$4,550. Finished fifth in 2018 National Sporting Library & Museum Cup. Won 2018 Middleburg Hunt Cup, then was third in the Virginia Gold Cup and fourth in Radnor Hunt Cup. Finished second in 2017 New Jersey Hunt Cup and third in Steeplechase at Callaway timber allowance.

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