

"When I tried him, it was late in his 8-year-old year, and he was actually very green for an 8-year-old," Moloney said. "He's got a lot of blood, and he's a little bit difficult to ride, but he's very careful. Even though he's 12 this year I feel he's just starting to really improve now since the start of the summer, so hopefully there are more good things to come."

In June, Carrabis Z won the \$210,000 FEI Grand Prix of Tryon (N.C.), and he was 12<sup>th</sup> in the \$250,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix (N.Y.) in August. "He's a sensitive horse, and I've had to find a way to get him to

relax. Jumping the bigger courses is easier for him now," Moloney said.

"It was just mileage, and he's starting to have more confidence around those bigger courses," he added. "And maybe I'm trusting him more in those bigger competitions now as well. The partnership is getting better and better."

Carrabis Z, a Zangersheide stallion (Canabis Z—Ma Pomme VD Zwarte Hoek, Grannusso), was jumping at the 1.40-meter level when Moloney found him in Belgium. "He's quite small, but when I jumped him I quite liked him. I thought he could be anything. He found it very easy when I tried to jump the bigger jumps, so I knew he had the talent," he said.

Though he earned valuable World Cup points in the Gold Cup, Moloney isn't sure if he'll aim for the Longines FEI World Cup Final in Gothenburg, Sweden, on March 23-28.

"I went to World Cup Finals this year in Vegas, and I saw how hard it was," said Moloney, 33, who has never competed in a World Cup Final. "I wasn't sure I had a horse or two horses that it would suit. We'll see; you never know by the time the end of March comes."

Also at the Gold Cup, Moloney topped the \$35,000 Hermès Speed Derby aboard Alsviid.

Moloney has jumped on the Irish team at some Nations Cups but never at an international championship, though that's his goal. He moved to the United States to work for fellow Irishman Shane Sweetnam for 1½ years, then took the job riding for the Mercer family of Equinimity Ltd. in Stony Brook, N.Y. He shows a string of 10 horses for them.

"We show the horses and sell one or two every now and then. But it's mainly a competition stable," he said. "It's great to have sponsors backing me to go to these shows. It's easier to be doing these shows all year round—if I were doing it myself, I wouldn't be able to do it myself. I'd have no horses."

Moloney grew up at his family's Warrington Top Flight Equestrian Center in Kilkenny, and his brother, Eddie, is also a grand prix show jumper. Richie spent a few years building a business in Ireland before transferring to America in 2008.

"There aren't too many other places in the world that you'd be able to get owners and sponsors like I have over here," he said.

Richie credits barn manager Fiach Byrne as essential to his program, serving as ground man and ensuring the horses are in top condition. He also still looks to Sweetnam and his brother for advice when he needs it.

**\$215,000  
AMERICAN GOLD CUP  
GRAND PRIX CSI-W\*\*\*\*  
North Salem, N.Y.—Sept. 13**

HORSE/RIDER/ NATION	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Carrabis Z/Richie Moloney/IRL	0-0	45.74	\$70,950
2. Deauville S/Laura Kraut/USA	0-4	43.27	43,000
3. Conconcreto/Sancha LS/Daniel Bluman/COL	0-4	43.38	32,250
4. Robin de Ponthual/Peter Lutz/USA	0-4	43.95	21,500
5. Enjoy Louis/Catherine Tyree/USA	0-4	44.59	12,900
6. Conthendrix/Andre Thieme/GER	0-8	46.11	9,675

Also competed: 7. Veyron/L. Kochetova/RUS, 1; 8. Chaqui Z/S. Sweetnam/IRL, 4; 9. Arkos des Rosiers Z/R. Teran/COL, 4; 10. RMF Bella Baloubet/K. Prince/USA, 4; 11. Amaretto D'Arco/K. Dinan/USA, 4; 12. Casall/A. Wolff/USA, 4; 13. Antares/P. Barrios/VEN, 4; 14. SF Ariantha/A. Rodriguez/VEN, 8; 15. Cade/A. McArdle/USA, 8; 16. Royce/M. Engle/USA, 8; 17. HH Quatuor/Q. Judge/USA, 8; 18. California 62/K. Coe/USA, 8; 19. Aldine/J. MacPherson/CAN, 8; 20. Chill R Z/C. Jayne/USA, 8; 21. Quattro Queen/J. Torres/USA, 8; 22. Calvin Klein/J. Millar/CAN, 8; 23. Win For Life/C. McCrear/USA, 8; 24. Grand Cru VD Uijf Eken/V. Mannix/CAN, 8; 25. Entre Nous/L. Tisbo/USA, 8; 26. MTM Reve du Paradis/T. Fenney/USA, 9; 27. Vasco/A. Prudent/FRA, 9; 28. Cat Ballou/M. Ashe-Cawley/USA, 12; 29. Viva Colombia/C. Swail/IRL, 12; 30. Darling/A. Vince/CAN, 13; 31. Cannavaro BH/A. Derbyshire/GBR, 17; 32. S & L Elite/D. Douglas/USA, 20; 33. Bugatti VDL/C. King/USA, 20; 34. Binkie/D. Blake/IRL, 20; Doma Sue/L. Porter/USA, E; Air Force One/K. Godek/USA, E; Flaming Star/C. Jacobs/USA, VW; Zander/B. Mandil/SUI, VW.

**► Going Fast Is Different On The Grass**

Riders spoke of how much they enjoyed riding on Old Salem Farm's grand prix ring, which is a grass field full of rolling hills, trees and a pond. Course designer Alan Wade used the terrain cleverly, with riders having to navigate tight distances to delicate fences with a downhill approach.

"This is a great field because it's got a lot of character with the hills and trees. It's fun," said Laura Kraut.

Riders said the grass footing was a bit on the hard side for the first day of jumping, but evening rains softened it for the bigger classes later in the week. "It's great for the horses. I think horses like the soft landing. They jump so often on the packed sand that it's nice for them," Kraut said.

"The only hard part for us in the jump-offs, because you jump on sand so much that you get used to being able to turn and run and never slip. Then you get in here and feel the wheels start to slip on a turn, and you have to think about it. You do have to adjust your riding; you can't storm around a turn on grass like you can on sand," Kraut continued.