

## ERIC KRAWITT JUNIOR EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR



*Photo Credit: Cealy Tetley*

### Eric Krawitt named Junior Equestrian of the Year

*With Content from Susan Stafford-Pooley and Horse Sport*

Eric Krawitt of Okotoks, AB, has been named the 2021 Junior Equestrian of the Year – receiving the Gillian Wilson Trophy after posting five top three performances during 2021 in Wellington, FL, Traverse City, MI, and Columbus, OH. At only 17 years old, Krawitt is competing in classes with veterans sometimes decades his senior and posting impressive results.

Founded in 1993, the Junior Equestrian of the Year Award honours Gillian Wilson who served as Technical Director of the Canadian Equestrian Federation for more than 15 years. The award is given to a junior equestrian athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while



demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and dedication to equestrian sport, as well as the vision and mission of EC.

Krawitt comes from a family of riders including his mom, Sandra Andersen who was a member of Canada's 1991 Pan Am Games Silver Medal Team and his older brother Austin who won a Bronze medal at the North American Youth Championships in 2018. He began riding at a young age with his first show at nine years old in the two-foot hunters.

In August 2021, Krawitt himself represented the maple leaf at the North American Youth Championships and captured a silver medal as part of the Canadian Juniors and placed 10th in the junior individual class.

In January and February, he posted two third place finishes in U25 competition in Wellington, FL. Then in July he earned a second place in 2\* competition in Traverse City, MI with Dutch Warmblood stallion Godfather B Belesbat (Numero Uno x Damiro B\*hn) owned by A.E.S Equestrian Inc. Then again in Traverse City in October he earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the CSI 3\* riding his own Selle Francais gelding Cactus De Cosniere (Paddock Du Plessis\*hn x Flipper D'elle\*hn\*). Later that month he captured another 2nd place finish in the \$100,000 Grand Prix aboard Godfather B Belesbat in Columbus, OH.

A soft-spoken teenager, he is known to be a resolute competitor. He also appreciates the important bond that makes equestrian sport so special. "I really enjoy the sport and the connection that there is between a horse and a rider," said Krawitt. "It is something you can't have in any other sport."

For the future, Krawitt aims to continue riding and competing, jumping in major grand prix and following in the footsteps of his hero, Eric Lamaze. As this year's winner, Krawitt will receive \$1,000 to help him as he continues on that journey.