

## **Jessica Karsin Landis and Oliver Twist Win the \$5,000 NAL Pony Jumper Final**

In her final year showing as a Junior, 18-year-old Jessica Karsin Landis of Greenville, NC, galloped away with the victory in the \$5,000 NAL Pony Jumper Final. Riding her 8-year-old dapple-gray pony, Oliver Twist, Landis flew past the competition to capture the coveted blue ribbon.

Although 15 ponies started over the Steve Stephens-designed first round course, only three went clean. Racing over the six-obstacle jump-off course, the ponies took the crowd's breath away with their effort and agility. Landis and Oliver Twist were first to go, setting the bar high with a time to beat of 37.422 seconds. Next up was Sydney Shulman aboard Set Sail. Shulman beat Landis's time but dropped a rail in the process. The final contenders, Rachel Schloo aboard Ever After, had no jumping faults, but two time faults.

Landis, an art student at East Carolina University, used to do the hunters, but since joining up with Oliver Twist two years ago, has turned to the jumpers. "Our first year together was just getting to know each other, this year we've been doing really well. This is my first time at this show and this is our last indoor show this year.

"The first-round course did not have a lot of tight turns, but the three in-and-outs were long one-strides. Oliver Twist is a small pony, so he really had to reach for the one-strides. The final combination in the first round was the longest of the three and he wasn't expecting it when we jumped in."



*Jessica Karsin Landis and Oliver Twist winning the NAL Pony Jumper Finals ©Al Cook Photo*