



North American League News

Summer 2014

As summer draws to a close, riders hoping to qualify for the North American League's two year-end finals are giving their best efforts with the hopes of earning the right to compete in one or both of the finals.

The NAL hosts National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, in October and West Coast Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show in Las Vegas, NV, in November.

Both Finals include the following five divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper.

"The end of the season is drawing near, but that doesn't mean there isn't time to accumulate some final points," said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. "We encourage everyone to ensure that their NAL memberships are up to date, so they can receive points to qualify for one, or both of the finals."

The NAL qualifying period runs September 1 through August 31. NAL competitions are open to all who wish to compete, however points only count for current members. Now is the time for those wishing to qualify for Harrisburg and Las Vegas to join the North American League.

For more information regarding the North American League, please call (717) 867-5643, email to NAL@Ryegate.com or visit www.ryegate.com.

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NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE



The North American League hosts year-end championship finals at two of the nation's most prestigious horse shows:

**National Finals at
Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, October 9-18**



**West Coast Finals at
Las Vegas National Horse Show, November 11-16**



**Join the NAL today.
Don't miss your chance to ride in these two NAL Year-End Finals!**

Join the NAL before competing in NAL classes at any horse show to ensure your eligibility to receive valuable points.

The NAL hosts classes at more than 600 horse shows across the U.S. and Canada.

- Adult Hunter
- Adult Jumper
- Children's Hunter presented by SmartPak
- Children's Jumper presented by EquiFit
- Low Jr./AO Jumper presented by Horse Sport International



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NAL Adult Hunter Division

Brooke Cole and *Poetic Justis* Lead the NAL Adult Hunter Division

Brooke Cole, a 24-year-old from Rockville, VA, is the leader of the North American League Adult Hunter Division with her horse, *Poetic Justis*. The pair has 4,471 points.



At the age of 6, Cole began riding at Stillmeadows Farm in Ashland, VA, with Winn Alden, with whom she still rides today. In 2009, she began riding with Jeff Bradner and Fieldcrest Farm in addition to riding with Alden, and in 2012, she began showing in the NAL with her mother Jennifer's horse, *About Time*.

Cole credits her horses and dogs for being her greatest influences in her life. "No matter what happens during my day (good or bad), I still need to care for them with love and respect," she said. "I believe people deserve to be treated the same."

Deep Run Horse Show in Virginia is Cole's "hometown show" and her favorite because she can sleep in her own bed, wake up slightly later, and not worry about packing a suitcase! Her favorite horse, however, is not as easy to pick. "I'm not sure if I can choose just one," she stated. Although she did say *Poetic Justis*, *Markelo*, and *About Time*, three show horses she rides often, probably top the list because of their unique personalities.

Cole's favorite NAL memory was winning the NAL/WIHS Classic at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show this year. She said the Classic was "extra special" and she owes it all to her horse *Poetic Justis* (also known as PJ), who was perfect. "I try to take life one day at a time," said Cole. "I believe that no goal can ever be set too high as long as you give yourself enough time to obtain it." Making each trip better than the last is all she has her sights set on, and PJ is helping her along the way. She is excited to be making the journey to Harrisburg for the NAL Finals with PJ for the first time this year.

Cole says she has been fortunate to hold many memories that are big accomplishments to her. Some of these include being Grand Adult Champion at the Deep Run Horse Show in 2012, Champion at the Zone 3 Finals for two consecutive years in 2012 and 2013, and being named Best Adult Rider at Upperville in 2014.

Currently, Cole works on her family's farm in Rockville, VA, but she says that one day she would like to have a career in the horse industry. Horses keep her very busy, but when not riding, Cole and her father try to watch a new movie or TV show every night! She also spends as much time as possible with her boyfriend, Richard, who is working towards becoming a professional golfer. "I would like to thank my parents, Peter and Jennifer Cole," she said. "I could never do this without their love and support."



Melanie Jeanes and *Carrera* Lead the West Coast Adult Hunter Division

Melanie Jeanes, a 22-year-old from Dallas, TX, currently leads the North American League's West Coast Adult Hunter division aboard *Carrera*. Mid-season, the pair has 2,387 points.

Jeanes first sat on a horse at Merrywood Ranch Day Camp in Dallas and never stopped talking about horses after that. At the age of 12, she began showing on the A circuit, and just this year began showing in the NAL. A junior at Texas A&M University, she is studying Animal Science with a specialty in Equine Breeding. Ultimately, she would like to open her own breeding facility in Kentucky, but not until after she works as the manager of a show barn to gain some experience.

She credits her trainer, Peter Pletcher of PJP Farms, as her biggest influence in the horse world. "It is nearly impossible to be in a bad mood around him," she said of Peter. "You can have a bad ride, and he just chuckles and shakes his head. He really takes a lot of the pressure off of my shoulders." She has been riding with PJP Farms for two years, and says that joining the PJP team has been the best thing ever to happen to her. In addition to Peter, Jeanes looks up to her older sister Meredith, who is currently in law school at Georgetown University. She said Meredith has always been a great role model, and is always there in times of need.

The Kentucky Horse Park is like a second home to Jeanes, and she loves all shows that are held there. "It's like horse heaven," she said. "You step off the plane, and there are horses everywhere!" The Country Heir Horse Show is a favorite of Jeanes'. It is held at the Kentucky Horse Park, and she performed extremely well there this June and won the NAL Hunter Classic. Another favorite is Jeanes' horse *Carrera*, who has been dubbed with the nickname Beyoncé for her sassiness and large presence. Together for only a few months, Jeanes says she has never felt as connected to any other horse before. "As weird as it sounds, I feel like I know her soul," she said of *Carrera*.

This year will be Jeanes' first trip to NAL Finals. After a Hunter Classic win in Kentucky that resulted in her first victory lap ever, she is excited to make her way to Las Vegas for finals. Being a renowned Amateur rider and competing in hunter derbies is Jeanes' main goal for her riding career. She said her goal in life is just to be happy, and she is happiest when around horses.

"I would love to thank my parents and my trainer," she said. "My mom is so supportive, and works so hard to allow me to have these amazing opportunities. Peter and PJP Farms are incredible at what they do and I couldn't be happier with where I am. I am the luckiest girl in the world."



NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Nancy Hooker and *Corianos Boy* Lead the NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Leading the NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak is Nancy Hooker of Wellington, FL, and her horse *Corianos Boy*, with an astounding 4,707 points. This is an extra accomplishment as this is Hooker's first year competing in the jumpers after many years in the hunter ring. Her year has been highlighted by two Adult Jumper Classic wins at two major horse shows, Devon and Lake Placid. These wins were both in NAL classes solidifying her position atop the standings.

"It is a pleasant surprise to be leading the NAL standings," she said. "It is confirmation of the hard work put in by horse, rider and trainer."

Hooker, who grew up in Franklin Lakes, NJ, began riding at the age of 5 when her parents bought her a pony. She began showing in the pony hunters and has never looked back. She has always admired riders who make it look easy, such as Leslie Howard and Louise Serio, yet still empathizes with the horses. Hooker's parents have particularly shaped the person she has become; she admires her father's work ethic and drive, and her mother's love for animals and big heart for others. "I would like to be a balance of both," Hooker said of her parents.



"I came to my first Lake Placid Horse Show in 1976," she said of her favorite show. "At this point in my life, I only come to shows that have outstanding reasons to attend, and Lake Placid does." Hooker, whose entire family is invested in the equestrian community, all share the tradition of attending the Lake Placid Horse Shows. She particularly enjoys Lake Placid because every class is a big deal. She explained how the sponsors and presentations make every ribbon she receives feel like a personal treasure.

Perle, a jumper originally ridden by Hooker's daughter Heather, has become a favorite ride. She is a trail horse at home, and home happens to be a horse farm! When she is not working on the farm, she enjoys cooking, reading and playing tennis. She is also looking forward to traveling to the Pennsylvania National Horse Show this fall to compete in the NAL Finals with her daughter Heather, who will be riding in the Low Amateur-Owner Jumper division. "I like the venue of Harrisburg," she said of the show. "The fall weather cannot hinder the event. The indoor stabling and warm-up areas are an advantage over other venues."

When asked what she loves most about riding, Hooker responded, "What I treasure the most is when all of the hours of preparation come together in a smooth performance in the ring." She also stated that her children, Charlie and Heather, have been her biggest supporters, so all of her experiences are a wonderful family affair.



Emily Straw-Colella and *Filibuster* Lead the West Coast Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Leading the West Coast North American League Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak is Emily Straw-Colella and her horse *Filibuster*, with 2,045 points.

Straw-Colella began riding at the age of 6 in Denver, CO, where she showed with Connie Curtis and Frank Conway, and hunted with the Arapahoe Hounds. In 2005, she began showing in the Adult Hunter division of the NAL, and in 2006, she made the switch to Adult Jumpers with her horse *Filibuster*, who just happens to be her favorite horse. "He is the horse of a lifetime," Emily said. "He has such character, and he tries his heart out every day." She currently

rides with both Kris Cheyne and Sam Pegg of Kirin Farm in Kansas.



Judy Richter has been one of Straw-Colella's biggest influences both in and out of riding. She stated that Richter is not only a phenomenal horsewoman, but the best example of a model citizen, friend and family member. It was with Richter and her horse *Riverman* that Straw-Colella won 20 USET classes, and ultimately received the USET gold medal, an accomplishment that she considers her greatest in addition to winning at Spruce Meadows.

On the West coast, Straw-Colella favors the Menlo Horse Show, and in the mid-west, she likes The International in Omaha. Both shows have limited entries, and great prizes. She stated that, "The exhibitor is always in the forefront of the management's mind."

Straw-Colella's favorite memory is being consistently in the top five riders for the NAL Adult Jumpers division since starting in 2006. She has been to six NAL Finals, and has always placed in the top 10. Her goals in life are parallel to her goals as a rider; to be a better person than she was the day before, and to have fun!

Currently working as a Managing Director at Palmer Square Capital Management, a hedge fund management firm in Kansas, Straw-Colella travels all over North America and Europe with foundations, endowments and pensions. Because she works and shows so much, there is little time for play in between; however, traveling is one of her favorite things to do. She, along with her husband, parents and grandmother, recently traveled to the Panama Canal!

"I am very fortunate," Straw-Colella said. "To have the support and patience of my husband Jeff, coupled with the trainers and caretakers for the horses. I feel like I have balance between my life on Wall Street, my family, and my riding."

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NAL Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Taegan Long and *Pocahontas* Lead the NAL Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Taegan Long of Medford, NJ, and her horse *Pocahontas* are leading the NAL Children's Jumpers presented by EquiFit, with 3,523 points. Long has been riding ever since she can remember and was brought to the barn just after birth for her first pony ride.

Riding out of West Chester, PA, with Carolyn Desfor, Taegan loves traveling to the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL, for the warm weather, lax attitude, world-class competition, and companionship. "Getting to be with my friends for 12 weeks and cheering them on at the show is so fun," she said of WEF.

Among her biggest accomplishments as a rider is a win at Marshall & Sterling Finals in 2012 with her favorite horse, *Air Time*, otherwise known in the barn as Mark. Mark is no longer just a pet to Long, but a family member. "He has brought me so far," she said of Mark. "He gave me an amazing run in the 3ft. division and led me all the way to a win at Marshall & Sterling Finals."



Being Reserve Circuit Champion in the High Children's Jumpers at WEF this previous winter, her first time ever competing in the jumpers and the NAL, was also a great point of pride for Long, and she says she couldn't do any of it without her mother. "She is so supportive and always my number one fan!"

Extremely superstitious, Long always has to wrap and tack her own horse before competing. If someone else happens to do it for her, she restarts the process herself. In the show ring, she really would like to be the best rider she can possibly be. "As long as I am improving and having fun, what else can I ask for?" she said.

Currently, Taegan is a student. After graduating high school, she would like to work to become an exotic animal veterinarian, specializing in big cats and elephants, and possibly working in Africa. Spending as much time with family and friends is her main priority outside of her busy school and travel schedule, as she doesn't get to see them much.

"I want to thank my trainer, Carolyn, for putting up with me on both my best and worst days," Taegan said. She goes on to say, "I want to thank my parents for giving me these amazing opportunities, and my friends for always rooting me on. I am so blessed in what I do, and I owe all of my accomplishments to all of the horses and people who have been so kind to me throughout the years."



Tyler Mayer with *Windelinde* lead the West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Tyler Mayer, 16, of McKinney, TX, and her horse *Windelinde* are the leaders of the NAL West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit with 2,361 points.

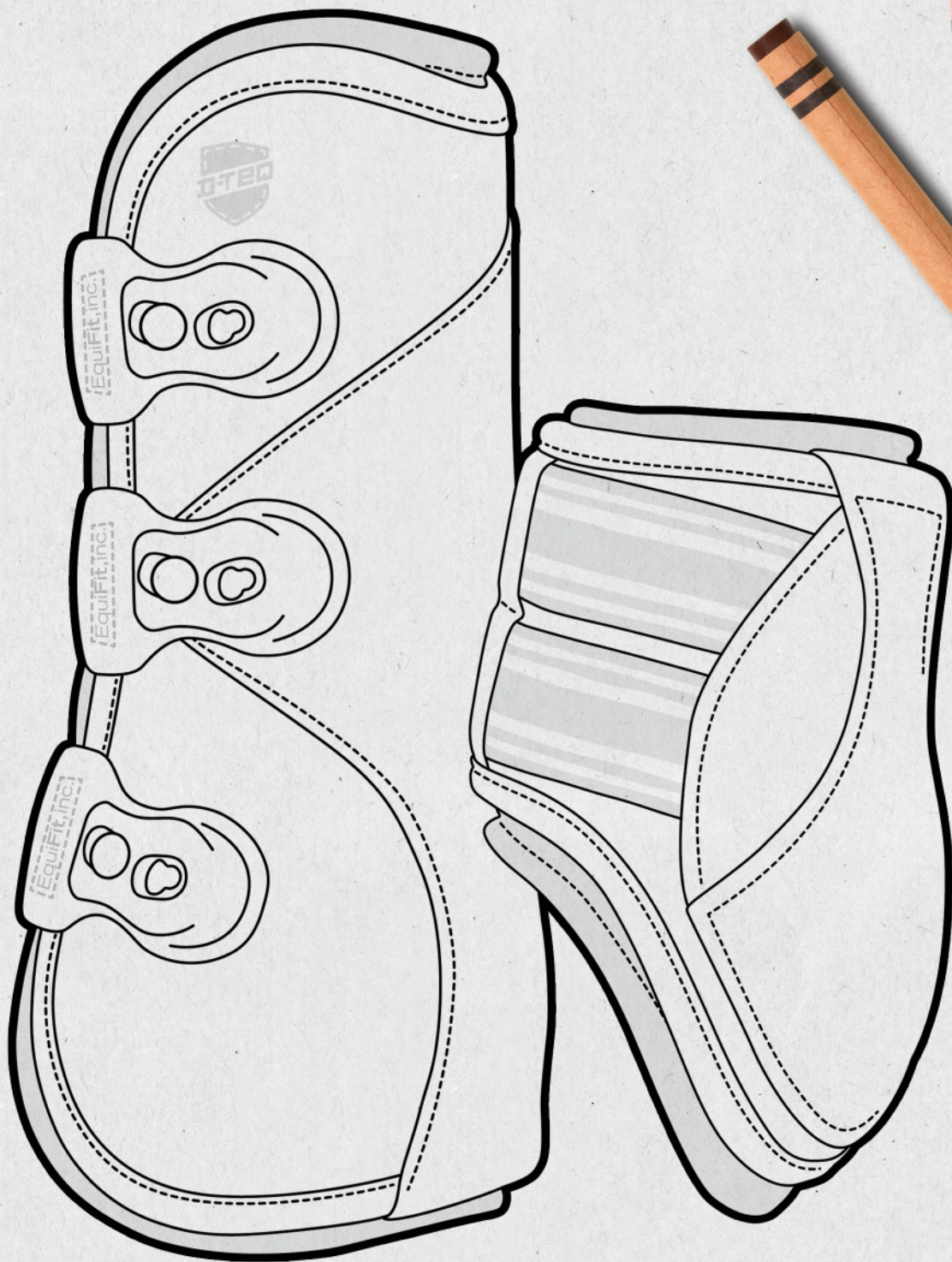
Mayer began riding at the age of 6 and just started showing in the NAL this year. At Wellington this winter, she won five NAL High Children's Jumper Classics and was awarded Circuit Champion. She prides herself on performing so well at Wellington while still maintaining High Honors at Parish Episcopal School, where she is a high school student.

Mayer's biggest influence in the ring is her trainer, Peter Pletcher. She said she admires Peter because, "He is just Peter. He always pushes you to do your absolute best." The NAL classes have also helped her to refine her skills as a rider and become more competitive than she would usually be. Additionally, Mayer credits The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders who have taught her grace and balance, as she is both a dancer and captain of the Varsity cheerleading team at her school.

The Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL is among Mayer's favorite horse shows. The warm weather, beautiful grounds, and unparalleled competition all lend themselves to the fun atmosphere she enjoys so much. Her horse *Windelinde*, known in the barn as Windy, who traveled to Florida as well, is an "amazing and competitive horse," and "is so fun to ride."

After high school, Mayer would like to continue on to college and receive her secondary education and attend medical school. That's not where it stops though, Mayer would also love to one day be a part of the US Olympic Team and have a chance at winning a medal in show jumping.

"I could never do this without my parents support," Mayer said. "I would also like to thank Peter and the PJP team for everything they do for me and Windy. I would not be where I am today without them!"



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NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Division

Cloe Hymowitz aboard *Bon Vivant* lead the NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Division

Cloe Hymowitz of New York, NY and her horse *Bon Vivant* are leading the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division of the North American League with an impressive 7,784 points. Hymowitz has established a notable lead of 3,488 points over the second placed rider, her younger sister Lili Hymowitz.

Hymowitz began riding when she was three-years-old and started competing in the NAL when she was fourteen. Her first equestrian competition was the Hampton Classic Horse Show in 2000, which has since become her favorite horse show to attend. “The horse show always has an amazing vibe and beautiful rings to ride in,” said Hymowitz of the Hampton Classic.

Hymowitz is no stranger to success in the NAL. Last year, at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, she placed third in the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Finals on *Catoki's Son*. Hymowitz has also enjoyed success outside of the NAL. Just recently, she won the Longines Global Championship Silver Tour in both Vienna, Austria and Paris, France. She considers these wins the highlight of her equestrian career thus far because, “It was amazing to hear our national anthem played over loudspeakers in front of a crowd as I accepted the first place trophy.”

Among Hymowitz’s goals for the future are to become a filmmaker after college and to represent the United States at the World Cup.

Hymowitz credits much of her success to her parents, who have been influential in her life, both in and out of riding. “They both work so hard in what they do, which inspires me to work my hardest in riding. They are the most supportive parents of everything I do, relative to riding or not. They have taught me so much about life and I only hope to make them as proud of me as I am of them,” said Hymowitz. She also considers her trainers, Ken Berkley and Scott Stewart of Rivers Edge, to be strong influences in her riding career as they have given her the confidence to ride each course with definition and determination.

Finally, Hymowitz finds it extremely meaningful to share the equestrian sport with her younger sister Lili. She explains that “without [Lili] this sport wouldn’t mean as much as it does to me. We are at every horse show together, cheering each other on and supporting each other’s dreams. As we often quote one of our favorite TV shows, Friday Night Lights, ‘Clear eyes. Full hearts. Can’t lose.’”





Genevieve Meyer and *Coral Reef Wise Guy* lead the West Coast Standings Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division

With 2,046 points, sixteen-year-old Genevieve Meyer of Rancho Santa Fe, CA, is currently leading the North American League West Coast Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division with her horse, *Coral Reef Wise Guy*.



Since before she can even recall, Meyer, who currently trains with Ann and Vinton Karrasch, has been riding horses and showing in the NAL. She regards her trainers as the biggest influences in her life, saying, “I can always count on them for support, both in and out of riding.” Meyer’s mother also gives “endless support” when it comes to her riding.

The Winter Equestrian Festival is among Meyer’s favorite horse shows because of the level of competition it displays. She enjoys watching the sport’s top athletes in the divisions she herself wishes to compete in one day. Faced with the hard choice of selecting a favorite horse, she could not pin down one, so instead she said her two jumpers, Coral Reef Santos Utopia and Coral Reef Casello are among the top contenders. “They are both quick and careful,” she said. “They are so full of personality.”

Meyer was recently part of the 1.40m Prix De Nations team alongside Lillie Keenan, Bretton Chad, and Katherine Strauss. She believes this to be her biggest achievement to date, however she also believes that the little achievements that no one sees are really what make the big ones so special.

Ultimately, Meyer would like to go professional and become a trainer. Her schedule does not allow for much besides school work and riding, however she is also interested in graphic design and photography as well. One day, she would like to represent her country in the Nations’ Cup, the World Equestrian Games, the World Cup, and the Olympic Games. “I would like to thank my trainers, my mother, and the whole Coral Reef Team,” Genevieve stated. “All of their hard work and support make this possible. It takes a village, and every little part matters.”



NAL Children's Hunter Division



Alyssa Scholefield and *Moon River* Lead the NAL Children's Hunter Division

Alyssa Scholefield of Atlanta, GA, and her horse, *Moon River* are leaders of the Children's Hunter division of the North American League with 3,109 points.

Scholefield began riding saddle seat at the age of five in Michigan, but later switched to hunt seat. This year, she began to compete in the Children's Hunters, and entered the NAL for the first time. Another first for Scholefield was attending the Aiken Spring Classic Horse Show in Aiken, SC, which is now one of her favorite horse shows. "It is very well organized, and the grounds are so scenic," she said of the show. Another favorite is her horse *Moon River*, also known as Pete. "He has taught me how to be a stronger and more confident rider," she said. "He's an experienced horse that is a lot of fun to ride."

In the ring, Bradley Spragg of the Atlanta Hunt Club, who is Scholefield's trainer, has influenced her the most. Out of the ring, her parents have "always been supportive and positive role models."

Currently a senior in high school, Scholefield would like to continue on to college to study education, concentrating in special education, and she would like to ride on a college team. She has had many rewarding experiences with special needs children at the therapeutic equine facility at which she volunteers, and hopes to pursue a career in special education after college. In her free time outside of volunteering and riding, she also enjoys writing.

One of Scholefield's main goals in riding has always been to make it to the Pennsylvania National Horse Show or the Washington International Horse Show, and this year she has her chance. She says her biggest accomplishment was winning the Children's Hunter Classic which qualified her for the NAL Finals in Harrisburg, and she is excited to compete there for the first time.

"Riding has always been such an important part of my life," she said. "It is important to find a passion in life and stick to it. I look forward to many successes in the future."



Sarah Portell and *Cheveaux* Lead the West Coast NAL Children's Hunter Division

Sarah Portell, of St. Louis, MO, leads the North American League's West Coast Children's Hunter Division aboard *Cheveaux*, known in the barn as "Benson". Mid-season, the pair has 2,010 points to lead the division.

Portell started riding when she was six, but remembers loving horses for as long as she can remember. Sarah has been riding for a total of nine years, but began her NAL career just this year.

Portell credits her trainer, Sarah Mechlin of Mechlin Farms in St. Louis, MO, as her biggest influence. "She is the most dedicated and hard working person I have ever met and shows me that nothing is impossible. None of this would be possible without her and I am beyond grateful" Portell said.

Country Heir Horse Show in Lexington, KY qualifies as Portell's favorite horse show to attend. She said that the grounds are always beautiful and the rings are groomed immaculately. Additionally, this year Portell and Benson won the Children's Hunter Classic at the show, which she attributes as her favorite NAL memory!



Portell considers the progress she has made with her horse Benson in the last two years as her greatest

accomplishment. "It shows that hard work does pay off," she said. The hard work she has put in with Benson has afforded her the chance to compete in the West Coast NAL Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show for the first time ever this year. Her 3'3" Junior and Junior/Amateur Classic championships, and her second place finish in her first ever 3'6" medal class also contribute to the great sense of achievement she feels.

In the ring, Portell wants to focus on being comfortable and confident in both the junior hunter and equitation divisions. Currently, Portell is still in school, but in the future she would like to combine her passion for horses and photography for her career. Sarah said she "loves taking pictures to preserve memories."

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