



North American League News

Year-End Review 2018

The North American League offers Series in five divisions – Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Low Junior/Amateur Jumper presented by HorseFlight, Adult Hunter and Children's Hunter. The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada. The North American League (NAL) gives riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – The NAL West Coast Finals at the International Jumping Festival in San Juan Capistrano in September and the NAL National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show at Harrisburg in October.

The winners of this year's Finals were presented with fantastic awards including a coolerette and gift certificate for an NAL scrim sheet from The Clothes Horse, SmartPak Supplements courtesy of SmartPak, D-Tec Boots from Equifit and a trophy courtesy of the NAL. Every rider that competed in the NAL Finals received a gift bag with an assortment of gifts from the NAL.

This annual newsletter encompasses articles about each of the NAL's five division winners from the West Coast Finals and the National Finals.

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

“Thank you for an unbelievable experience. Everyone was so professional and kind. My daughter, Shea, loved every second of it. What a great experience the NAL Children's Final was! Thank you!
– Kelli A. McCoy



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Low Junior/Amateur Jumper

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Katie Murray Aboard Calgot Hero Clinch the NAL Junior/Amateur Jumper West Coast Final Presented by HorseFlight

Katie Murray, a 21-year-old from Anaheim, CA, and *Calgot Hero* were one of only two combinations to navigate clear rounds on the Oaks International Grand Prix field, contesting for top honors in the \$5,000 NAL Junior/Amateur Jumper West Coast Finals Presented by HorseFlight. Faced with a very stout course designed by Anthony D'Ambrosio, Murray and *Calgot Hero* rode second in the jump-off, knowing going clear would mean clinching the Junior/Amateur Jumper title.

A student of Grand Prix rider Michelle Parker, Murray also wanted to gain experience by brilliantly pulling off a mid-course inside turn on top of going clear to win the class.

Murray appreciated the big confidence boost of excelling in the class. Describing *Calgot Hero* as her “best friend,” she explained that they’d “made a few mistakes” in higher divisions earlier in their roughly one-year partnership and are in rebuilding mode. “He’s such an incredible horse and I don’t know what I’d do without him,” she said.



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Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Evette Delong and *Blue Calvados* Brought Home the Blue in the NAL Adult Jumper West Coast Division Presented by SmartPak

Riding the Scott Starnes-designed course on the grass Derby Field as the Children's Final contenders did, Evette Delong and *Blue Calvados* were the unbeatable pair in the \$5,000 NAL Adult Amateur Jumper West Coast Finals Presented by SmartPak. "Everything aligned today," said Delong, who lives near the venue in San Juan Capistrano, CA. "Between my trainer Hillary Ridland and my horse, I'm feeling blessed," she said.

Delong has ridden much of her life but took a break during cancer treatments. *Blue Calvados* was purchased about 18 months ago to help her get back into the game, which they've done with gusto, earning numerous circuit championships along with the NAL title.

"Hillary and I walked a great track and I was able to stick to my plan," Delong explained of the jump-off strategy to best the four contenders who also had clear first-round efforts. "Mentally, Hillary really pre-set me up with where I could cut corners or step on the gas, while keeping my horse balanced and it worked!"

Whitney Coleman and Sarah Sharou's *Cavalino 30* finished second with two clear rounds and a 32.145 jump-off time. Coleman lives in Woodland Hills, CA, and is coached by Susan Artes. They were followed by Lauren Wilson of Long Beach, CA, and Constance Farmer's *Kessel Run*. Trained by Hayden Clarke Show Jumping, this duo was double clear with a 32.860 jump-off time.



Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Erin Nichols and Hindee Take Top Honors in the NAL Children's Jumper West Coast Final Presented by EquiFit

Fifteen-year-old Erin Nichols, of Yorba Linda, CA, and *Hindee's* 29.697-second time was unbeatable among the 12 pairs who advanced to the jump-off in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper West Coast Final Presented by EquiFit. "Forward and smooth equals fast," trainer Edgar Pagan told Nichols before she entered the jump-off with her 11-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare.

"*Hindee* is very competitive which works with my competitive spirit very well. We both have a need for speed and get that adrenaline rush during a speedy jump off. She is little (15.3 hands) but she is mighty," said Nichols. "Around the barn we call her the little red rocket because of her color and speed. She has a wonderful temperament at shows and at the barn. Whenever I come home from school I go out to give her treats and when she hears the door to the back yard open she always greets me with a whinny. She is overall a wonderful mare with an amazing personality."

Nichols splits her time between jumpers and dressage, in which she competes with equal success at Second Level. She's found dressage to be a big help in developing the keen feel needed for pinpoint control on a jumper course and she used that effectively in the win. Nichols has been in training with Cindy Jensen for the past 11 years and carries her dressage training over to her jumping with trainer Edgar Pagan with whom she has been working with for the past four years.

Nichols aspires to represent the States internationally in either discipline. In the meantime, the 9th grader focuses on her studies and spends time with her friends out on the trails

Having targeted the NAL Finals as her goal for the 2018 season, this victory was a big milestone for Nichols. "Doing as well as I did, I'm very proud of myself and my horse," she said.



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Adult Hunter

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Kristyn Hill and Cortez Win NAL Adult Hunter West Coast Final

Kristyn Hill, of Dana Point, CA, set her cap for the \$5,000 NAL Adult Amateur Hunter Final early in the year and led both phases of the Final over a course designed by Kerry Kocher. Earning an 80 and 83 respectively for a 163 total, they topped the next-placed pair by a whopping 10 points.

“He’s a good, good boy,” said Hill of her 11-year-old Holsteiner, *Cortez*, whose “Prince” nickname suits her partner of two-and-a-half years. “He loves to show and compete. He’s really serious and if there’s ever a problem, it’s my fault. And, usually, when there is a problem, he covers and takes over for me.”

The NAL Finals were a key target for Hill this year. “At the beginning, we weren’t sure how many shows we were going to do, but we got off to a strong start and decided to keep going. Aside from my family, this is my favorite thing!”

Hill’s biggest influences both in and out of riding are her childhood trainer, Terry Brown, and her mother, who she notes as being “wonderful examples of hardworking, dedicated and independent women.”

Hill also attributes her success to her current support team of Lee Flick and John Bragg at Bridgeport Farms. “I also adore my current trainers at Bridgeport Farms, Lee Flick and John Bragg,” said Hill. “They are fantastic, experienced, polished, hardworking, very detail oriented and my horse and I could not be happier!”



Being a mother of two boys under the age of 10, and a marketing guru in her husband’s CPA firm by day, Hill still finds time in and out of the irons to set goals for herself, her family, and her passion with horses. Hill noted that she has her eye set on more shows in 2019 and would love to compete at indoors.

“I get very excited when I have an upcoming horse show. I have learned that thought creates reality. So I try to keep my thoughts positive and optimistic at all times! It is a great way to live!”

Children's Hunter

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Victoria Simonds and Valentino Are Victorious in the NAL Children's Hunter West Coast Final

Thirteen-year-old Victoria Simonds, of Beverly Hills, CA, has only been contesting the Children's Hunter division since June, but she and *Valentino* wasted no time becoming winners. With scores of 80 and 79, they edged out tough competition for the top spot in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter West Coast Final.

Riding on the grass Pacific Field under the eye of judge Lynne Forgione, Simonds' round over the Joe Lombardo-designed course reflected what she loves best about *Valentino*, the 12-year-old Argentinian Warmblood gelding. "He's super fun to ride," enthused the student of Raine Rose. The fun factor carried into their victory gallop, when they snuck in an extra jump. "I've never done that before, but I thought it was fun!" Simonds said.

Just one point behind were Angela Haring, of San Diego, CA, and *El Cid*. Trained by the legendary Hap Hansen, their stellar second-round score of 84 bumped up from a 74 first-round for a 158 total for second place honors. Mika Clear, of Oakland, CA, and *Gabriel* earned a total 156 score, bringing the pair trained by Traci Brooks into third.



Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Daneli Miron and Fairy Tale Win the \$12,500 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final, Presented by HorseFlight

Daneli Miron and *Fairy Tale* bested a field of the top 28 in the nation who qualified for the Final with only 11 combinations moving onward to the tie-breaking round at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show. Being one of only two combinations to post double clear rounds, Miron of Delray Beach, FL and *Fairy Tale*, finished in a time of 39.159 seconds to claim the title of the \$12,500 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final, Presented by HorseFlight.



Being the first rider in to contest the course, Miron's strategy was to simply stay focused and try her best. "I definitely wanted to go in there and do my best," said Miron. "The course for a Final was extremely hard, you really had to focus and try your best to get to the jump-off."

Miron trains out of Jimmy and Danielle Torano's JET Show Stable based in Wellington, Florida and Mohrsville, Pennsylvania.

"We just bought *Fairy Tale* a couple of months ago in The Netherlands and so far, so good," said Miron. "I really love her. I traveled over to try her and it was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. She is extremely small, almost a pony, and she is a feather. You barely have to touch her. She is super easy, not like anything I have had before. I am used to having a horse that I have to control and help get over the fences, and it is so cool that she just does it."

Natalie Jayne from Elgin, IL; on Ausi, stopped the clock in 43.026 seconds for second place. The 2017 winner, Mimi Gochman, Wellington, FL, riding Ax-Cent, owned by Rivers Edge, had a time of 37.897 seconds, but at the cost of a rail down for four penalties to finish in third.

Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Leslie Schillat Wins \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final, Presented by SmartPak

Leslie Schillat ended her 2018 season with a bang, winning the \$10,000 Adult Jumper Final, Presented by SmartPak aboard her own *SLF Destiny*, a 12-year-old Hanoverian mare. This was her first time competing in the NAL.

Riding ponies from an early age around her Aunt's Christmas tree farm with a herd of sheep, Schillat of Malvern, PA, caught the equestrian bug early and started riding in the NAL in 2017 when she first got the ride on *SLF Destiny*. Schillat now rides with Marissa Cohen out of Windfall Farm in Malvern, PA.

"Thank you to Marissa Cohen for all you do day and night, Omar Morales for your amazing care, my husband for his never-ending support, and everyone else who has helped me along the way!" said Schillat.

Schillat takes every opportunity to learn in and out of the ring to better herself and reach her riding goals. "I enjoy watching and learning from our top show jumping professionals. You can learn so much from watching different styles and techniques," said Schillat. "Outside of riding, I am influenced by those countless extraordinary people who rescue and care for animals that would otherwise have no one. These individuals are unsung heroes and define what it means to be selfless."



Spending the majority of her day working for an eCommerce Technology Company with focus on IT Strategy and Planning, Schillat cherishes the quiet moments after work where she can spend some one-on-one time with her horse. She also takes the opportunity to go hiking and explore the outdoors whenever possible.



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Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Grace Debney and Byolga Win \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final, Presented by EquiFit

Grace Debney, 14, Hampden, MA and *Byolga*, owned by Emily Reder, capped an already successful year with a win in the \$10,000 Children's Jumper Final, presented by EquiFit. The pair dominated the division in 2018. They finished on top of the year-long regular season standings and then won at Capital Challenge, an impressive accomplishment since this is Debney's first year riding jumpers and first time participating in the NAL program.

"It feels great," said Debney. "I tried not to have any expectations. We had a really good Capital Challenge, so I just wanted to come in with no pressure, but this Final was really the goal for the year."

"I actually like being last in the jumpers because I can see what everyone else did and make changes to my plan if someone else was successful on the course," said Debney referring to her position in the jump-off. "My plan was just to go smooth. My horse is naturally pretty fast so if you get her riled up she gets crazy because she wants to win, so we just wanted to go as smooth as possible."



Byolga, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare known as Miss Loala in the barn, has quite a presence about her. "She is so sassy, but that's what makes her so amazing," said Debney. "She just wants to win all the time. I think that's what makes the difference, because she just has a good attitude about it as well. I'm so incredibly grateful to Emily Reder for sharing her amazing horse with me!"

Debney trains with Leslie Lopardo when home in Massachusetts and continues her education on the road during the show season with Stacey

Weiss and Samantha Schaefer out of Shadow Ridge Farm in Maryland, which is where Debney keeps her competition horses.

"The biggest influences on my riding have been all three of my trainers," said Debney. "Leslie has always taught me how to be skillful and correct in my riding. Stacey and Sam have taught me to apply these skills on any horse in the show ring and they have given me many showing opportunities for which I'm truly grateful."

Debney's goals in life are to become a veterinarian specializing in the ophthalmology of horses. As a rider, she has her eyes and competition goals set on becoming a grand prix rider.

Adult Hunter

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Allison Cederberg and Zero Tolerance Win \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final

The \$10,000 Adult Hunter Final was won by Allison Cederberg of Billings, MT, with *Zero Tolerance*. The pair had the top score in the first round with an 86, followed by an 84 in the second round for a total of 170.00.

Cederberg and her 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, *Zero Tolerance*, owned by Dru Cederberg, have an extraordinary partnership which has culminated in many wonderful memories. Topping the list is the duo's first trip to the NAL Finals in 2017 where they had a top 10 finish before returning in 2018 to take the title.

"My favorite NAL memory is the first year I attended the NAL Finals. I had never attended a Final before and I just remember being so excited just to get to canter around the arena at Harrisburg," said Cederberg. "Winning the Final this year was an amazing experience, but I will never forget how excited I felt the very first time I competed in 2017."

It is evident the partnership of Cederberg and "*Zero*" is strong, but like many equestrians, the best moments are the quiet ones away from the arena lights.

"*Zero* is my favorite," said Cederberg. "He has helped me accomplish so many of my goals and for that I am so grateful. He also has such a sweet and cuddly personality. My favorite thing to do with *Zero* is to just hang out with him. I love going and visiting him in his stall, giving him treats, and scratching him in his favorite places!"



Cederberg has been training with Michael and Stephanie Desidario of Tranquility Farm in Chester, NJ for the past six years and attributes her success with *Zero* to the continuous support she receives from her mother and the team at Tranquility Farm.

"I would like to thank the entire Tranquility Farm team for all of success *Zero* and I have achieved," said Cederberg. "They have brought *Zero* and me so far from where we started, and I can't thank them enough for everything they have done."

A student at Colorado State University, Cederberg is in the midst of attaining her master's in human resource management with the hopes of entering into the organizational development side of HR. When not in the saddle or in her books, Cederberg enjoys hiking with her dog, Wanda.

Children's Hunter

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Sienna Pilla and Pop Rocks Claim \$12,500 NAL Children's Hunter Final

Sienna Pilla took home first and second in the \$12,500 Children's Hunter Final to close out her 2018 season.

Winning the Final, Pilla 13, from Ridgefield, CT demonstrated two beautiful rounds ending with a final score of 170.00 aboard *Pop Rocks*, owned by Piccolino Farm LLC. Her second ride of the day proved to be just as wonderful with *Allura*, owned by Samantha Cohen, as they produced a final score of 166.00.

"*Pop Rocks* and *Allura* have been practicing indoors back at our barn and we've been getting ready for here (Pennsylvania National Horse Show)," Pilla continued. "We've put a lot of hard work into it."

Making the victory extra special, this is the first year that Pilla has competed in the NAL, transitioning from the ponies. "This is my second year here," said Pilla. "Last year, I did ponies and this is my first in the Children's Hunters.



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\$5,000 Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Calgot Hero	Katie Murray
2	Cassito Del Diablo	Brooke Morin
3	Curtis 57	Kate Abajian
4	Highjack	Austin Krawitt
5	Centurion	Sloan Elmassian
6	C'est Indezz	Rachel Freer
7	Caspar	Mary Frances Looke
8	Boomerang	Caroline Bell

\$5,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Blue Calvados	Evette Delong
2	Cavalino 30	Whitney Coleman
3	Kessel Run	Lauren Wilson
4	Bonita	Brenna McGovern
5	Lady Pezi	Gabriela Turner
6	God of War	Nicole Dewinkeleer
7	High Hopes	Tara Brownstocks
8	Vamira Fernantes Z	Theresa Boucher

\$5,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Hindee	Erin Nichols
2	Cagoldas	Jake Cheikha
3	Arco Z	Lola Stern
4	All Afrika Z	Allyson Meister
5	Favoritt	Zabel Kerivan
6	Canaletto	Taylor Coker
7	Camillo	Haley Green
8	Avacon	Isabel Coxé

\$5,000 Adult Hunter Final – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Cortez	Kristyn Hill
2	Leonetti	Harriet Posner
3	First & Goal	Jennifer Rawlings
4	Spot On	Julia Greenspan
5	Primetime	Stephanie Goodson
6	Copine	Amy Eynon
7	Vanessa	Meredith Mateo
8	Snowflake	Katie Cook

\$5,000 Children's Hunter Final – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Valentino	Victoria Simonds
2	El Cid	Angela Herring
3	Gabriel	Mika Clear
4	Quincy	Makena Reeves
5	Chantilly	Marina Boudreau
6	Lollypop	Lola Stern
7	Baloubina	Alexus Wilson
8	Arizona	Whitney Hejmanowski

\$10,000 Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight– National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Fairy Tale	Danieli Miron
2	Ausi	Natalie Jayne
3	Ax-cent	Mimi Gochman
4	Aurora	Molly Struve
5	Skyfall	Caroline Michele Dugas
6	Van Gogh	Erika Jakobson
7	Canberra S.E.	Kathryn Hall
8	Adoctro	Madeline Schaefer
9	Zersina	Kennedy McCaulley
10	Baronesse	Morgan Champey
11	Arvid	Siena Vasan
12	Beja	Elizabeth Lang

\$10,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	SLF Destiny	Leslie Schillat
2	Tipperary Hill	Izabelle Quadracci
3	Carany	Anna Lerch
4	Ciola	Hope Batchelor Dvm
5	Co-Starr	Stephanie King
6	Casablanca 108	NilaniTrent
T7	Lola	Elizabeth Eaton
T7	Ensor Van Het Moleneind	Elizabeth Brock
9	Calimero XXVI	Taylor Repchick
10	Skys Burnin Blue	Phoenix Cooke
11	Butterfly Ambition	Barbara Rochford
12	Belle Bleu S	Kelly Bauernschmidt

\$10,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Byolga	Grace Debney
2	Available Ohio	Eliza Kimball
3	Zabelle S	Emily Aitken
4	Lilly	Claudia Citrin
5	Russell	Erin Floyd
6	Carlos G	Emmanuelle Greenberg
7	Tenacious D	Lauren McCaulley
8	Donnalaris	Molly Canfield
9	Trillick's Black Magic	Elizabeth Woods
10	C'est Bon Cidane	Calista Bell
11	Butterfly	Eleanor Thompson
12	Escape	Dakota Champey

\$10,000 Adult Hunter Final – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Zero Tolerance	Allison Cederberg
2	Fabrege	Laurie Barna
3	Quintus	Britta Lippert
4	Glyndon	Patti Schindler
5	Balsamic	Kendall Meijer
6	Axtrex	Addie Jabin
7	Encore B	Mercy Paine
8	Capella	Garland Alban
9	Can't Touch This	Sydney Hannon
10	Pluto LWF	Claire Taylor
11	Kensington	Stacy Wolf
12	Sawyer	Elizabeth Devor

\$10,000 Children's Hunter Classic- National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Pop Rocks	Sienna Pilla
2	Allura	Sienna Pilla
3	Cassini's Home Run	Angela Jager
4	Select	Gabrielle Young
5	Downtown Brown	Kathleen Mathews
6	Casual	Chloe Watrous
7	Chago	Jordan Bell
8	O. Henry	Sydney Hamel
9	Swagger	Hugh Turner
10	Gossip Girl	Katie Triantos
11	Shimmer	Libby Bishop
12	Chunky Monkey	Brynn Topolski

This show offers one or more classes that are recognized by the

North American League



In order for riders to receive credit, they must be a current member.

Membership is valid for the qualifying year and entitles the rider to earn points on one or more horses shown in accredited classes.

National Finals are held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

West Coast Finals are held at the International Jumping Festival.

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