



North American League News

August 2010

North American League Finals Just Around the Corner

NAL is excited to announce that it will be adding West Coast Finals to its 2010-2011 Season

With the North American League (NAL) Finals just two months away, riders continue the quest for points in the competition rings with the hopes of qualifying for the 2010 NAL Finals, held at the 65th annual Pennsylvania National Horse Show, October 14-23, in Harrisburg, PA.

The NAL offers a year-long Series in six divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter presented by Cavalor, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, Pony Jumper, and the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper. The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada.

Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in the qualifying classes, but only members earn points toward the year-end finals. The current NAL qualifying period began on September 1, 2009 and runs through August 31, 2010.

"As the season continues, riders are very aware that the NAL Finals are approaching," said Lloyd Longenecker, North American League President. "They are working hard to earn the points that will secure them an acceptance to the Finals at Harrisburg."

In the Children's Hunter division, Thomas O'Mara, Jr. of Rumson, NJ, leads with 4,272 points aboard Dire Wolf. In second place with 3,138 points is Lauren Rasmus of Atlanta, GA with Excurs. Following in third with 2,633 points is Lene Bruheim of Houston, TX with A Bit of Gold.

In the Adult Hunter Division, presented by Cavalor, Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN, and Overseas lead the standings with 4,025 points. In second is Cheryl Rube of Bellaire, TX on Riesling with 2,393 points. In third with 2,350 points is Tory Watters of Cincinnati, OH and Eye Remember Rio.

In the Children's Jumper Division, Sydney Shulman of Greenwich, CT, lead with Justice League with 4,379 points. In second is Barbara Ruziska of Frederick, MD and Rebound with 4,059 points. In third is Lene Bruheim of Houston, TX, and NLF Valhall with 3,563 points.

In the Adult Jumper Division, Alissa Kinsey of Fort Meyers, FL, lead with 9,792 points aboard Grisset. In second is Dr. Juan Carlos Gamboa of Aiken, SC and Partizan with 3,572 points. In third is Tracey Mack-Gorin of Noank, CT, and Denmark with 3,555 points.

In the Pony Jumper Division, Nina Montross of Bedford Hills, NY, and Indigo lead with 546 points. In second is Chelsea Babcock of Bedford Hills, NY, and Glitter Girl with 470 points. In third is Nicole Kapusta of Oak Ridge, NJ, and Go Go Gidget with 444 points.

In the Low Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper Division, Saly Glassman of Gwynedd Valley, PA, and Ginger Watt lead with 3,945. In second is Molly Newsome of Santa Cruz, CA, with 3,616 points with Touch and Go. In third is Catherine Tyree of Chicago, IL and Carinthie Z with 3,056 points.

For more information on the North American League and a list of qualifying competitions for the 2010 season, please visit the Ryegate Show Services website at www.Ryegate.com.

To compete in the NAL Finals at Harrisburg, riders MUST file entries by September 8 if they want to be considered. No invitations are issued and only those that enter will be considered.

The NAL is excited to announce that it will be adding West Coast Finals to its 2010-2011 Season. The West Coast Finals will take place during the Las Vegas National Horse Show at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas in Nov. 2011.

The qualifying season for both the East Coast and West Coast Finals will take place September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011.



North American League is pleased to announce NEW West Coast Finals

Las Vegas National Horse Show
South Point Hotel & Casino
November 2011



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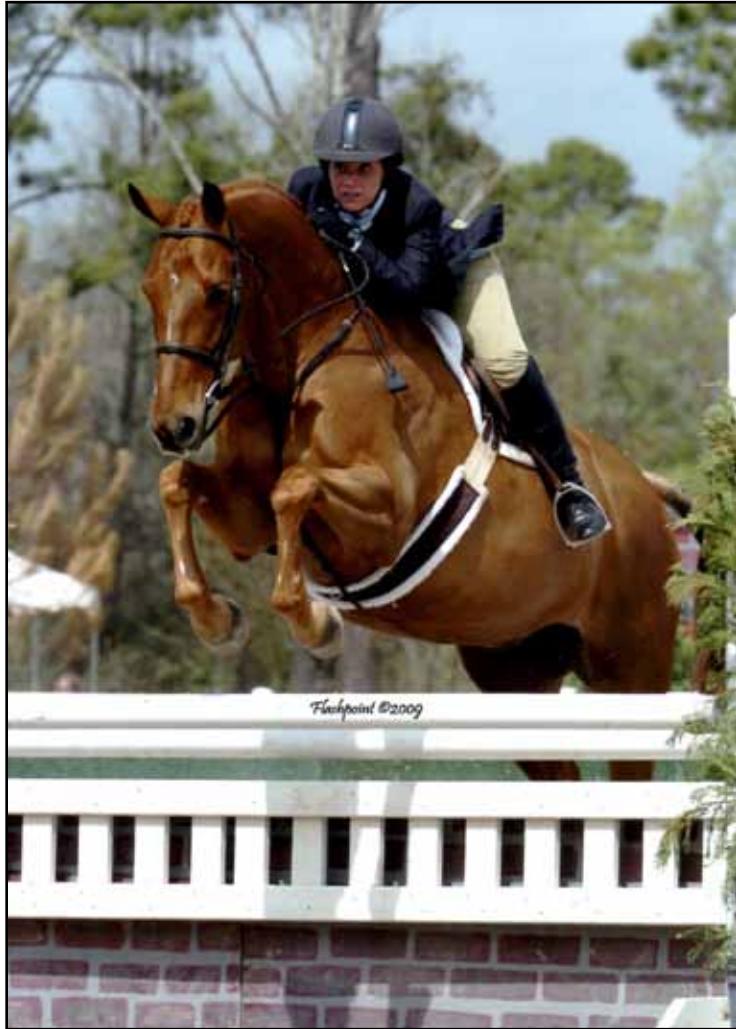
The NAL is adding new West Coast Finals to its 2010-2011 season (Sep 1, 2010-Aug 31, 2011)
Championship Finals in: Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper,
Adult Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper.

For qualifying, membership and other information:

www.ryegate.com

Mindy Wurzburg

Adult Hunter Division, Presented by Cavalor



Mindy Wurzburg's is the current leader of the North American League Adult Hunter Division, presented by Cavalor, with her mount Overseas. As with many top competitors, Wurzburg has been riding since childhood. Her passion for horses began when she attended a day camp that offered riding, and it has continued ever since.

Her first taste of competition occurred when she rode her pony, Snow Cone, in the short stirrup division. From the short stirrup ring, she has worked her way up the ranks to become a well-respected and dedicated competitor on the national circuit.

Wurzburg's first competed in the NAL in 2001 riding Starstruck. She enjoys the NAL competitions because, "It is fun and I like to compete and qualify for the Finals."

Mindy Wurzburg trains with Phoebe Sheets of Germantown, TN. Sheets has been a major influence on Wurzburg as both a rider and horsewoman. "My trainer Phoebe is one of the hardest working people in the industry. She is a great rider, trainer, friend, and the horses always come first. She is always a positive influence," said Wurzburg.

As all riders know, it is a combination great training and talent, of both the horse and rider, which leads to success at the highest levels. In her mount, Overseas, Wurzburg has found a knowledgeable companion with whom she has been enjoying success for many years.

Most of Wurzburg's free time is spent caring for and loving her four horses. When she isn't riding during the week, she works with her husband's landscaping architecture business, Blair Parker Designs.

"I've been lucky to have the horse that I have and the support of family and friends," she said.



Thomas O'Mara

Children's Hunter Division

We caught up with Thomas O'Mara and had a chance to ask him a few questions about his riding career.

Q. When did you start riding horses?

A. My sisters, Abby and Meg have always ridden, and they inspired me to begin riding. I watched my sisters ride for years and finally decided to give it a try.

Q. What influenced your decision to begin riding?

A. I thought that it was really cool to work with an animal.

Q. When did you start riding in the North American League?

A. This is my first year riding in the NAL. My trainer and I were discussing what year-end finals I wanted to try to qualify for and I recognized the NAL because my sisters did it.

Q. How did you come to compete with Dire Wolf?

A. Both of my sisters rode him. One day my sister asked me to warm him up for her, and my trainer said that I did a good job with him. So I started riding him too. I also ride Tequila and Wild Wild West. I compete with Tequila in the NAL as well in the Pony Jumper Division.

Q. Who are your biggest influences?

A. My sisters, Abby and Meg. I think they are great riders, and I like to watch what they do. Sometimes they give me tips on how to be a better rider.

Q. Who is your trainer?

A. My trainer's name is Mary Babick. She trained my family before and she lets me train with my sisters. Don Stewart is another trainer who I work with. When his barn attends a show he helps me out.

Q. How often do you ride?

A. I ride 5 to 6 days a week. I take 2 lessons each week and then I do flatwork on the other days.

Q. What do you like to do in your free time?

A. I like to play baseball. I play on a team, so when I'm not riding I am usually at baseball practice or at a game.

Q. What are your goals as a rider?

A. My goal is to get into the higher divisions and to keep riding. I would like to go to the Olympics one day.

Q. What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment?

A. My biggest accomplishment was taking second place at the Capital Challenge because it increased my self confidence.

Q. What type of jump do you feel is the most difficult?

A. The natural jumps with bushes. My horse gets a little freaked out, so I have to get his attention to get him over the jump.

Q. What obstacle do you enjoy riding the most?

A. I enjoy the one strides the most. They feel weird because you go over the first jump and there is just a second before you pop up again over the second jump.

Alissa Kinsey

Adult Jumper Division



One could definitely say that Alissa Kinsey has horses in her blood. With horses having been in her family for generations, Kinsey is the first to ever take riding to the next level – national competition.

As a strong competitor in the NAL, Kinsey and her mount Grisset are currently leading the standings in the Adult Jumper division. As a junior, Kinsey rode in the hunter and equitation classes and later moved onto the jumper divisions. This marks the second year that the pair have competed in the NAL.

Kinsey imported her mare, Grisset, from Germany. Grisset was an accidental find, and was out of budget. However, Kinsey knew that she was perfect so she did what she had to do to bring Grisset home.

In the past two years, Kinsey and Grisset have developed into a very strong force in the North American League, which hosts horse shows across the country and in Canada. “I like to travel all over the country and the NAL allows me to do that while also giving me a goal for the end of the year.”

The trainers that Kinsey worked with as a young rider, and the upper level riders that she continues to watch, have been a big influence on her. She takes time to watch the upper level riders, as it gives her something to aspire to. However, Kinsey no longer works with a trainer and does everything herself now. She originally took a break from working with a trainer to help stay within budget but since she continued to win and do well she figured why not continue on her own for a bit. Kinsey, who has four horses, rides everyday. With the horses requiring so much of her time Kinsey does not maintain another position outside of riding.

For Kinsey there is not a lot of free time due to the fact that she cares for her horses on a daily basis herself. When there is free time or she is able to “pull herself away,” she enjoys traveling and taking the occasional vacation.

When asked what her biggest accomplishment was she explained that she was unsure, because every time she thinks she has figured it out she does something else that seems to trump her last thought. Her first big accomplishment was winning at the Devon horse show and the success has just continued from there.

With such ambition Alissa Kinsey continues to be a strong competitor in the NAL with hopes of continuing her success for years to come.

The North American League

The NAL offers a year-long Series in six divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter presented by Cavalor, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, Pony Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper. The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada.

East Coast Finals will be held for all divisions are held during the 2010 Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, October 14-23.

West Coast Finals will be added to the NAL 2010-2011 Season. The West Coast Finals will feature competition in five divisions: Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper, and will take place during the Las Vegas National Horse Show at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas in November 2011

All classes held at shows starting on or after September 1, 2009 through shows starting on or before August 31, 2010 are counted toward the 2010 finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in any qualifying classes, but only current members accrue points towards year-end finals. Annual fee is \$35 per rider. Membership must be received at the League Office within 10 days of the completion of an event for points from that event to count.

Riders may join the NAL at a horse show in order for points from that show to count. Membership forms are available from the show secretary, however exhibitors are encouraged to mail the application themselves. For more information and a list of qualifying competitions, please visit the Ryegate website at www.Ryegate.com.

Ryegate Show Services

Upcoming shows, along with specifications for all the North American League classes, are available on the web at www.ryegate.com or by contacting the League office.



**Riders may join online at
www.ryegate.com**

Please complete and mail the application with payment to:

North American League
1298 Royal Road, Annville, PA USA 17003-2226

Tel: (717) 867-5643 Fax: (717) 867-2174

<http://www.ryegate.com> email: NAL@ryegate.com

Today's Date _____ Valid for the Qualifying year **2011**

Please enroll me as a member of the North American League:

Adult Child

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Saly Glassman

Low Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper

When did you start riding horses? When did you start riding in the North American League?

I began riding 47 years ago, with trail riding, fox hunting, and local showing. In those days, our horses did a little of everything, including hunters and jumpers. In the mid 1990's I decided to focus on one discipline, show jumping, as I appreciated its objectivity and I enjoyed the excitement of speed in competition.

Who are your biggest influences?

George Morris, Frank Chapot, Bert DeNemethy, Kathy Kusner, Franke Sloothaack (we were born on the exact same day and year!), and my trainer, Kevin Babington. I periodically like to review my horsemanship books with famous puissance photos of my heroes.

What is your favorite horse show and why?

I have too many "favorites!" I enjoy each show's unique attributes. I especially appreciate a "thinking" course designer, and the value of safe and reliable footing. Devon has a warm place in my heart, as it is close to home and I have been showing there since 1963, including pony hunters, equitation, hunt teams, the driving marathon, and amateur owner jumpers.

Who and where is your trainer?

My trainer of 16 years is Kevin Babington, and he is based here on our farm in Gwynedd Valley, PA

How often do you ride?

Every day! I ride 3-4 horses each day. Last year, when my daughter Janice had shoulder surgery, I rode her horses as well, so the total was 7. Janice healed quite nicely and is successfully back in competition. We ride together in the Amateur Owner division and sometimes even swap horses. We've been fox hunting and showing together since she was 6 years old.

What is your occupation?

I have been a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch for 30 years. My title is Managing Director-Investments, Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management. My practice is one of the largest in the industry and I am fortunate to have an outstanding team of 8 women with 140 years of collective experience.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I am an avid cyclist, so when I am not working, or on a horse, I can be found on my bike! I also lift weights, practice yoga, and run regularly. We have a training center here on our farm where we help clients and riders to improve their wellness and competitive fitness levels. In addition, I do a fair amount of public speaking related to investments, particularly since the publication of my book, "It's About More than the Money," FT Press 2010.

What are your goals in life and as a rider?

My goal is to perform at my best, every day, and make a meaningful contribution to the world, as a mother, wife, representative of my firm, rider, athlete, and guest of our planet. As for the horses, they have taught me many lessons: Treat others with respect and kindness. Keep your signals clear and reliable. When you mount up, leave your frustrations behind. Stay in the moment.

What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment?

My children! After that, I'd say the positive influence I've had on others in the investment industry and the equestrian community.



Saly Glassman competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival earlier this year. (c) Janice Syphers

"My relationships with horses have been such an integral part of my life. I'm grateful for everything they've done for me and how they've shaped me as a person."

-Saly Glassman

Sydney Shulman

Children's Jumper Division



Like many who love horses, Sydney Shulman grew up in a barn atmosphere. At the age of 3 years old she began riding at Back Country Farm where her mother, Jill Shulman, is the Farm's owner and operator.

Shulman made her debut appearance in NAL competition in 2007 in the Pony Jumper division aboard her mount, Set Sail.

Two years later, the pair qualified to compete in the NAL Pony Jumper Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg. In their first NAL Final competition, Shulman and Set Sail finished in second place, taking home the Reserve Champion award.

The Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show quickly become her favorite NAL event of the year. "The finals are more fun and more dramatic," she said. "I like them because you are competing against the best, so it's more intense!"

It wasn't without hard work, dedication and inspiration that Shulman and Set Sail qualified to compete at Harrisburg in 2009. While Shulman put in a lot of practice in the stirrups, she attributes much of her success to the equal amount of work and dedication that her mother and trainer, Jill, has dedicated to her show schedule.

"My mom has definitely influenced me the most," she said. "She works very hard and we travel all around the country to horse shows. I have two siblings and it is a lot work for her."

In addition to her busy show schedule, Shulman rides 6 days a week, and up to four horses each day. The constant practice has helped propel her to the top of the NAL's Children's Jumper standings,

and has helped to make her feel right at home in the show ring.

For Shulman, many of the riders she competes against have become friends, making horse shows even more fun. And, when the competition gets too intense she focuses on the future.

It's probably safe to say that right now she is focusing on qualifying for the 2010 NAL Finals!



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Nina Montross

Pony Jumper Division



- Q. When did you start riding horses?**
- A. I started riding when I was around 5 years old. My mom and my grandmother both rode so I got into it and liked it. I have continued to ride ever since.
- Q. When did you begin competing in the North American League?**
- A. I started riding in the NAL last summer.
- Q. What do you enjoy most about competing in the North American League classes?**
- A. The NAL gives me a goal to work towards for the end of the year. It is exciting to set a goal that you want to accomplish; Hopefully I will qualify for the Childrens Jumper Finals next year.
- Q. How did you come to compete with your mount, Indigo?**
- A. I started competing in the jumper divisions in Florida two years ago. My trainer found Indigo, the best pony ever! Indigo is very careful, fast, and an amazing jumper. She tries very hard. It has been an amazing experience having Indigo, and she has taught me a lot about the jumpers.

- Q. Who are your biggest influences?**
- A. My trainer. She's an amazing rider and she has fun even if she doesn't win.
- Q. Who and where is your trainer?**
- A. My trainer is Jennifer Bliss and she is located in North Salem, NY. However, she spends her winters training in Wellington, FL. Jennifer found Indigo for me in FL two years ago.
- Q. How often do you ride?**
- A. I work on flatwork and jumping 5 to 6 days a week.
- Q. What do you like to do in your free time?**
- A. I like to swim for fun in the summer with my older brother. I also enjoy lacrosse, soccer and basketball.
- Q. What are your goals as a rider?**
- A. I would like to move up to the Low Junior and High Junior divisions and the Grand Prix eventually. I like the jumpers because I feel like it's not competing against the group, but that you're up against yourself and the course.
- Q. What do you consider to be your biggest riding accomplishment?**
- A. Winning Circuit Champion in Florida on Indigo, Champion at Devon on Indigo, and qualifying to compete on the Zone 2 team for Pony Finals.

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