

Patricia Hennessy and Little Tom Finish Big in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final

Patricia Hennessy captured the championship title in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Finals with Little Tom. Only two seconds separated first and second place.

“It was exciting because I had never done that well before and it was like, finally, I did it!” said Hennessy. “I knew I was able to do it; I just had to execute it.”

Hennessy, of Kintnersville, PA, competed against 29 other riders. The course designed by Steve Stephens proved to be a challenge for many of the 30 riders. Thirteen returned for the jump-off, with only five double clear rounds in all. Hennessy watched the first three riders in the jump off, so she knew the times she had to beat. She was the second to last rider to go, and made an impressive round with the winning time of 28.143 seconds.

“I saw Murray (*Murray Kessler and All That*) go right before me. I knew he was pretty fast and his horse was really careful so I knew that I had to be clean,” said Hennessy. “It was anybody’s game though. Anyone that was in the jump-off could have won. I just happened to get lucky.”

Hennessy and Little Tom, a 16-year-old bay, gelding had help from her trainer, Olympic Gold Medalist Chris Kappler, who came to Harrisburg just to help Hennessy for the class. Her husband Kevin was acting as her groom and many of her family members were on hand to provide support in the cheering section.

“They try to come and watch me as much as possible, especially my mother; she loves horses and she really enjoys it when we win.” said Hennessy. “It meant a lot to win here.”



Patricia Hennessy won the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Finals with Little Tom ©Al Cook Photography