

## **Sarah Van Der Walde and Vigo Win the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final**

Sarah Van Der Walde won the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final with a time of 31.114. A fraction of a second between Van Der Walde and the second place finisher was more than enough to claim the championship title.

"It was such a surreal moment," said Van Der Walde of her win. "I never even wanted to ride jumpers and then when I learned, I thought that it was so much fun."

Van Der Walde, 15, of Ann Arbor, MI rode Vigo, a 9-year-old, bay gelding owned by Thinklikeahorse, and Aaron Vale. Van Der Walde was grateful for the opportunity to ride him. "I started riding Vigo this spring and I have been having so much fun with him. He's not mine, but I really, really love him. He's so great. He knows when it's time to go fast and get the job done. When he hears the buzzer, he's ready to go."

With a field of 30 qualifiers, only nine came back for the jump-off, and three had double clear rounds. Van Der Walde had to wait for five riders to jump before being declared the winner and she said it was agonizing.

"I watched everybody else go and it made me so nervous every time someone else came in," said Van Der Walde. "[Madison] was going really, really, quick and my heart was beating so fast when she was going."



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