



North American League News

Winter 2013

The North American League offers Series in five divisions – Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Adult Hunter Presented by Practical Horseman, Children's Hunter, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper. The 2013 Finals marked the last time that Pony Jumpers competed in the NAL as that division is no longer part of the NAL.

The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada. The NAL gives riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major indoor shows – The NAL National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show at Harrisburg in October and the NAL West Coast Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show in November.

Among the prizes presented to the winners of this year's National Finals at Harrisburg were a crystal bowl, an NAL coolerette; Equi-Fit Custom D-Teq Boots; personalized Signature Spurs and a custom NAL Scrim from the Clothes Horse. The NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Champion also won a custom tack truck from David Fowler Trunks.

Among the prizes presented to the winners of this year's West Coast Finals at Las Vegas were an engraved Wellfleet Halter, generously donated by SmartPak; Equi-Fit Custom D-Teq Boots; personalized Signature Spurs; an NAL Coolerette; a custom NAL Scrim from the Clothes Horse; and a polished pewter trophy from the Las Vegas National Horse Show.

Every rider competing in all the NAL Finals received a gift bag with an assortment of gifts from the NAL including a commemorative NAL Finals stall plaque.

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





National Finals at Harrisburg

Adult Jumper, Presented by SmartPak

Cathleen Driscoll Wins \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final, Presented by SmartPak

Cathleen Driscoll, of Elk Mills, MD, and *Forever Blue*, won the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper National Final, presented by SmartPak.

Only nine competitors made it through to the jump-off out of 28 starters, and Driscoll and her 7-year-old mare were the only pair to produce a second clear round, stopping the clock in 33.707 seconds.

Driscoll, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Delaware studying biomedical engineering, trains herself on her parents' 40-acre farm, so her win was an exciting feat. This was her first time competing in Harrisburg and the first time at the NAL Finals. "It's a really nice class and it's great to be able to show here. I'm glad I got the opportunity to come here and do that," she said.

"I was a little nervous going second, but she really jumped well and I came back in the jump-off. I knew I had to go fast, since there were eight other horses, so I said 'let's go, let's leave it on the table and see what happens.'"

Incredibly, Driscoll picked her Thoroughbred out of a field. "She was a giveaway," she said. "I thought she looked athletic, and she's turned out to be quite a little jumper."

Driscoll, who tries to ride every day, began riding at the age of 5 and got her first pony when she was 8. She rode in her first USEF show when she was 11.

Since she does not have a trainer, she says she has turned to online resources for learning. With all of the live streamed events these days, she says she can watch a wide variety of top show jumpers and hunters from across the country. Seeing the different riding styles, she tries to educate herself with how different techniques affect the way each horse goes. "I love how Mclain Ward and Beezie Madden ride, with their base in proper equitation, but I really respect the ability of riders like Aaron Vale to produce a great jump without the focus on equitation. I try to create my own riding style that mimics various aspects of riders like them."

Driscoll says winning the NAL adult jumper finals was a special moment. "Getting to lead the victory gallop at Harrisburg is a big accomplishment for me, and my first win at a national final. I plan to compete in the low Amateur Owner jumpers in 2014, and hope to compete at the NAL Finals again next year in that division," she said.

While her win at the NAL finals was her biggest win, she says she is more proud of the fact that she won on a horse she picked out of a field for free and trained on her own to compete successfully at this level. She says that winning a class like this on a free horse that she trained from scratch is really a special feeling. "It sums up the years of work I have put in to make this dream a reality in a sport where having an expensive, well bred, and well trained mount is a necessity. It means much more to me than winning more ribbons on an expensive horse ever would," she said.



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National Finals at Harrisburg

Children's Jumper, Presented by EquiFit

Giavanna Rinaldi Wins \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final, Presented by EquiFit

Giavanna Rinaldi of Wayne, IL won the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper National Final, presented by EquiFit with her mount *Juliette*.

Only six of the twenty-four starters made it through to the jump-off. Rinaldi was last to go, and she steered *Juliette* expertly around the course, jumping clear in 36.054 seconds. Wimberly Debono and *Tusker* also put in a fault-free round, but had a slower time of 39.724.



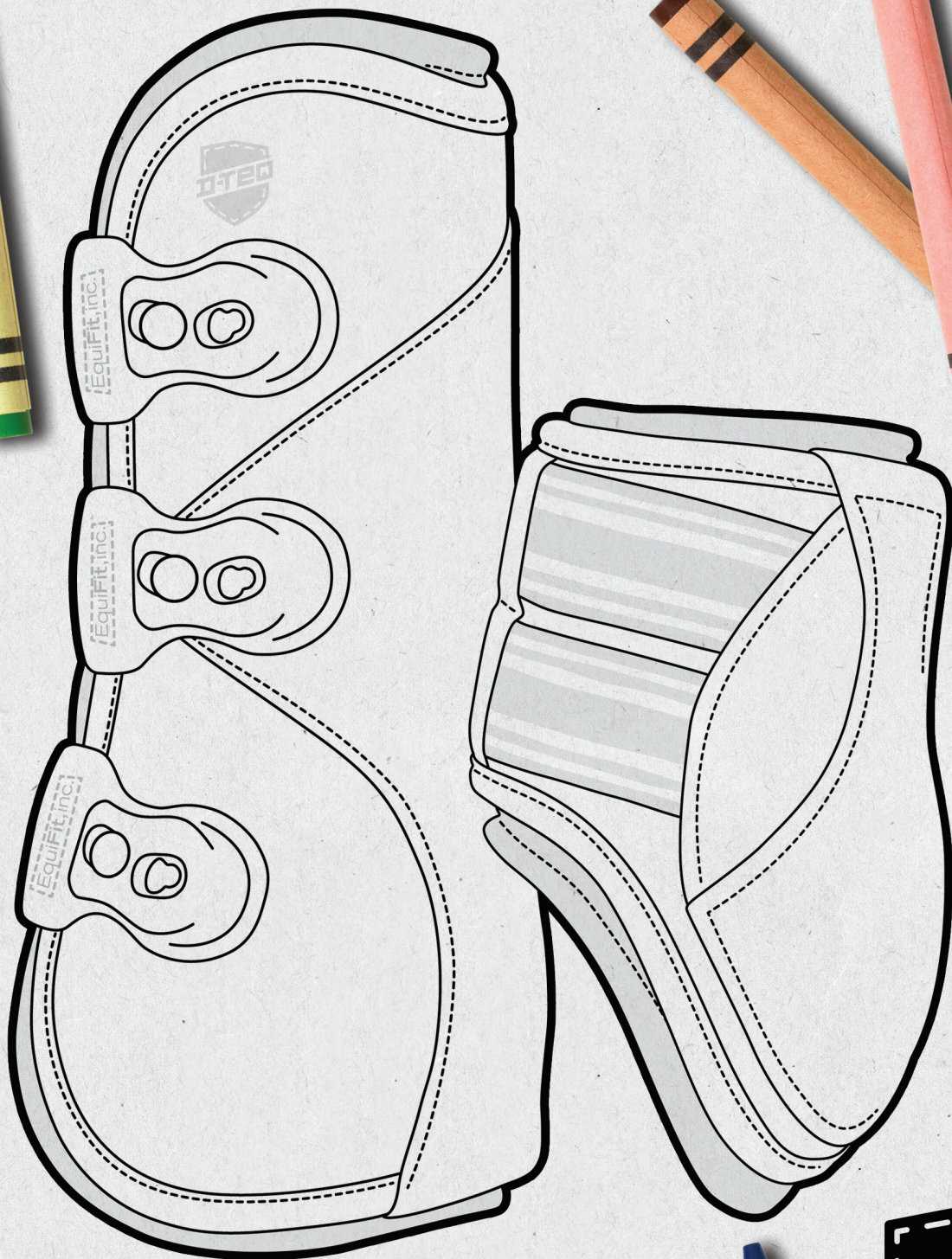
"Winning this title means so much because we worked so hard to get here," said Rinaldi. "I just really wanted to win."

As the second-to-last rider to go in the first round, Rinaldi was able to watch the other competitors on course before her round. "I got a little nervous just because I didn't know how she was going to handle the pressure. A lot of people seemed to have trouble with it [the course] - I even had trouble with it - but she saved me a couple of times," commented Rinaldi about her warmblood mare that she has had for two years. "In the first round I wasn't as fast as I needed to go, but thankfully she knows her job. The rest of it went pretty well. In the second round, she was a lot more forward off my leg, and she's just so good at the turns."

Rinaldi trains with Maggie and Alex Jayne of Our Day Farm and rides 6 days a week for 4-5 hours a day. "My favorite thing to do when I ride is to really make sure the horses are worked properly and are ready for the start of the new show season," said Rinaldi.

Rinaldi describes her biggest influences when saying, "Reed Kessler is such an amazing rider and I got to meet her at one of the Kentucky shows one year and she seemed really nice! My other influence is Beezie Madden, she is such a good rider and I also love the horses she rides!

"I would like to thank everyone from Our Day Farm for the successes they have brought me through in the few months I have been there including my trainers Maggie Jayne, Hailey Jayne, Alex Jayne and Charlie Jayne for all of their help in getting me to where I am at now and the huge accomplishments I have had in the past few months," she said.



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By EquiFit



National Finals at Harrisburg

Adult Hunter, Presented by Practical Horseman

Barbara Spizzirro Wins \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final, Presented by Practical Horseman

Barbara Spizzirro, of Mamaroneck, NY, exemplified how to keep cool under pressure by winning the \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter National Final, presented by Practical Horseman. Riding her own *Hundred Acre*, she also took home the Lisa A. H. Cudahy Perpetual Trophy, donated by Lisa Cudahy.

"I'm so happy," said Spizzirro. "I didn't think we'd be here. It was a long, hard winter. He probably wanted to be in Florida," she joked. "We had a really successful summer, and I just can't believe it's still going. I'm riding the ride. I keep waiting for the other shoe to fall, and it just isn't. Knock on wood. Every time he steps in the ring he gets better and better!"

Spizzirro was 23rd to go out of the 31 starters in the first round, and her harmonious ride on the 6-year-old chestnut gelding put them into the lead with a score of 87.0. The pressure was on in the second round, as the riders went in inverse order of merit, therefore Spizzirro was last to go. However, she kept her cool and once again earned the top score of 84.0 and a two-round total of 171.0 points.

"The one thing I will say is that I have nerves of steel - I just hit the reset button," commented Spizzirro. "I say the first round never happened. I just have to do it again."

M. Stuart Landin and *Kipling*, owned by The Barracks, also had a fantastic ride in the first round, scoring 83.0 points which put them into fourth place going into round two. The pair then scored 82.5, giving them a total score of 165.5, moving up the placings to finish in the Reserve position.

Spizzirro started riding at the age of six and only took a brief break during her pregnancies. She started competing in NAL classes just a few years ago. She says her favorite memory is of the day that she and her horse *Milo* (*Hundred Acre*) won the NAL class this past summer with scores of a 90 and a 92. "I was on cloud nine! Never have I come close to scores like that! I was shocked," she said.

Spizzirro has been riding with Brooke Baldwin DeGrazia of Riverside Farm in North Salem, NY for over 2 years. With the exception of horse shows, she rides Tuesday through Friday and keeps the weekends for family time. In her free time, Spizzirro loves to take wine/food education classes with her husband.

Spizzirro credits winning the NAL as one of her biggest accomplishments, but says her children are most certainly her greatest accomplishment. "I'm very proud of the kind of people they have become," she said.

"I would like to thank so many people...Brooke, Kim, Keirstin, Laurie, Christina, Alex, Estan and Ish as well as our BELOVED vet, Carolyn Weinberg!! And, of course, I'm thankful for the support of my family. But, honestly, I just retired two of my show horses before I decided to get *Milo*. I was maybe even thinking of taking a break from riding for a little bit....*Milo* made me really want to be back in the ring....I really love him for that. My "journey" with him has been extremely rewarding and I adore him so."





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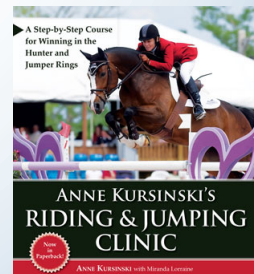
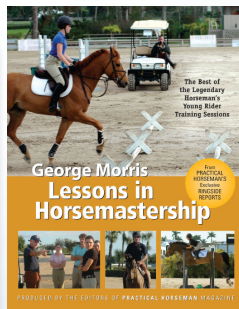
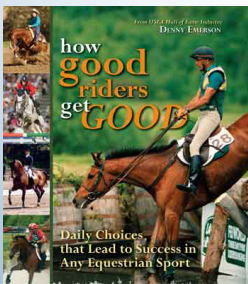
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National Finals at Harrisburg

Children's Hunter

Emma Fass Wins \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final



Emma Fass, of Newport News, VA, rode her own horse *Son of a Sailor* to first place in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter National Final and won the Laura Palmer Pickett Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by Annie & Barbara Friedman.

"This title means so much!" said Fass. "I've been doing Children's for a long time and it's great to be able to come here and to compete against so many kids that have done so well throughout the year. To do well in this competition means a lot and shows that I've progressed so much over the year."

Peg Seals, with whom Fass has trained for the past three years, was also thrilled. "I'm very proud of her," said Seals. "I expected no less of her, to be perfectly honest. She's a great student, a great kid, has a great mother that has been so supportive, and the horse just wants to be good at all times. He always puts his heart in anything he does. Everything came together for us today."

The competition was fierce, as the top 30 qualified riders from across the nation competed against each other in the first round. The top 12 from that round then proceeded to the second round. Scores from both rounds were then combined to determine the placings and winner. Fass scored an 85 in the first round which put them into second place going into the second round. In the second round, she scored 82.5 giving her a total of 167.5.

"I was really happy with my first round so I tried to make my second round similar," said the 17-year-old Fass. "In the first round I tried to be more ambitious, but in the second round I tried to make it prettier and nice."

Alexandra McReady of Annapolis, MD and her *Czech* also had a super trip, scoring an 83.5 in the first round and an 81.5 in the second to give her a total score of 165.0 and the Reserve Championship.



National Finals at Harrisburg

Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper

Giavanna Rinaldi Wins \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final



In addition to winning the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final, Giavanna Rinaldi also won the \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper National Final on her own *G.P.S. Brilliant Disguise*.

Rinaldi, just fourteen years old, was one of only eight riders to make it to the jump-off, setting an unbeatable time of 34.993 seconds as the second rider into the ring. Madeline Thatcher and *Esquilino Bay*, owned by Pony Lane Farm, were last to go in the jump-off, and put in a very exciting round, nearly parting ways at one point, but she recovered

like a pro to cross the timers fault-free in 35.180 seconds to take second place.

Rinaldi started riding when she was 5 years old and her first time competing in the NAL was two years ago in the Pony Jumper and Children's Jumper divisions.

"The class was really fun because last year I had a rail in the first round so I wanted to redeem myself this year," she said with a laugh. She says her biggest accomplishment is winning two NAL Finals and competing in her first Grand Prix earlier this year.

Rinaldi bought the big grey gelding in Ocala last year as a medium junior horse, but did a grand prix to prepare for Harrisburg. "He's really easy to ride," said Rinaldi. "We've been doing a lot on the flat to get him off my leg, get him a little hotter, and do lots of bounces to get him ready for this."

Rinaldi says, "My favorite experience in my past two years competing in the NAL was the jump off of the children's jumper and the low junior jumpers because I just really wanted to do well and I went into the ring knowing that I had a real chance to place well in this big competition."

Rinaldi dreams of becoming a professional rider and some day going to the Olympics!



National Finals at Harrisburg

Pony Jumper

Emilie Rucci Wins \$4,000 NAL Pony Jumper Final



Emilie Rucci, of Pittstown, NJ, and *I Spy a Rainbow* won the \$4,000 NAL Pony Jumper Final.

Out of eleven starters, only four made it to the jump-off. Spectators - including the top jumper riders - filled the best seats in the house and encouraged the smaller competitors with cheers and 'clicks' at moments where the ponies might have had a moment's hesitation.

Rucci and her 9-year-old home-bred, *I Spy a Rainbow*, raced around the jump-off course cutting corners wherever possible, and crossed the timers in 34.107 seconds. Merrill Harvey and *Pandemonium* had a faster time in 29.522 seconds, but they incurred 8 jump faults which relegated them to second place.

"Jumping in the NAL Pony Jumper Final means a lot to me because this is probably our last pony jumping show ever - I'm getting too tall for him," said Rucci. "He's probably going to do hunter ponies now, and I think he's tired of doing jumpers. He always tried really hard and he tries to go clean. He doesn't go very fast, but he can turn really, really well.

"I thought the course was fun, they didn't make it boring and also didn't make it impossible, so it was just enough to keep them interested," said Rucci.

When Rucci was asked what kind of courses she prefers, she said, "I like jump-offs the best. They're shorter and I just like to go fast!"

Rucci will be remembered as the last winner of an NAL Pony Jumper Finals as the NAL is no longer offering the division as of the 2013-14 season.

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West Coast

Riders from across the western United States converged on Las Vegas to compete in the North American League's West Coast Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show, November 12-17.

Dozens of riders competed in the West Coast Finals in five different divisions. The winners of the five divisions were Kerri Grosslight, Adult Amateur Jumper, Presented by SmartPak; Annie Miller, Children's Jumper, Presented by EquiFit; Hannah Holik, Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper; Mindy Coretz, Adult Amateur Hunter, Presented by Practical Horseman; and Abby Barrett, Children's Hunter.

"The NAL Finals represent important year-end championships for West Coast riders," said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, which administers the North American League. "We are pleased to continue to reward West Coast riders with their own Finals in Las Vegas as a way of honoring them for their accomplishments throughout the year."





West Coast Finals at Las Vegas

Adult Jumper, Presented by SmartPak

Kerri Grosslight Wins the NAL's \$5,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final, Presented by SmartPak

Kerri Grosslight of Scottsdale, AZ, rode her 14-year-old grey Warmblood mare, *Sapphira Wade*, to win the NAL Adult Jumper Final, presented by SmartPak. "Phenomenal," she said afterwards. "It's really kind of unbelievable. She is a new ride for me; this is only my third show with her. It's our first win and what a great place to have it!"

Grosslight, who began riding when she was 7 years old, rode two horses in the class that featured 21 entrants, five of which made it to the jump-off. Grosslight made it with both her horses. She also placed fifth with *Quidam Van de Kapel*.

"I love showing and all venues have something unique to offer, but I've had great success every time I've shown in Las Vegas. It's such an 'all inclusive' experience and the sponsors and horse show management make it very special," said Grosslight. "And my favorite experience just happened with the NAL West Coast Final win in Las Vegas!"

Grosslight trains with Rich and Shelley Fellers in Wilsonville, Oregon. Because she lives in Arizona, and travels extensively professionally, Grosslight feels it's important to keep "riding fit" between shows and so she trains with Betty Beran in Arizona as well.

Grosslight rides as much as possible, daily if her schedule permits, although that's rare, given her business as a Lead at a risk management organization for the technology and operations division of a large financial institution.

"I love all aspects of riding from grooming, flat work, and jumping to visiting my horses during the quiet hours. Early mornings or late evenings are great bonding times," she said. "My husband and I are also avid skiers, mountain bikers and hikers and we love to get away to our "happy place" in Telluride, Colorado.

"My first impression of winning this class was "WOW!" I was stunned...I was fortunate to bring two horses to the show and was having consistent success with both throughout the week. However, *Quidam's* placings were higher and it was only my third show on *Sapphira Wade*, so I was wonderfully surprised with *Sapphira* (affectionately called *Suede*) that I had a double clear and a winning round thanks to amazing coaching and encouragement from Rich and Shelley."

"*Suede* came to me unexpectedly via McLain Ward and Betty Beran. Although an unplanned addition, she came at the perfect time and was exactly the ride I needed. *Suede's* a "pleaser" and the best all around mare I've ever owned. After having success with *Suede* in our first two shows, I decided to bring her to Las Vegas and it turned out to be an incredible outcome. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the NAL for a terrific event, my amazing coaches Rich and Shelley Fellers and Betty Beran for their continuous support."



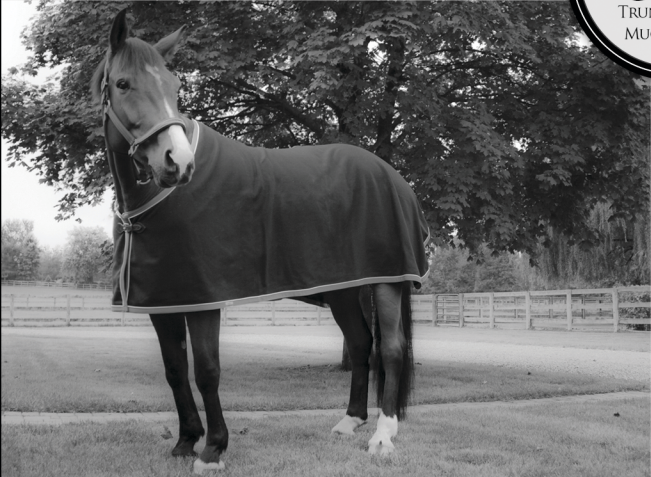


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West Coast Finals at Las Vegas

Children's Jumper, Presented by EquiFit

Annie Miller Wins \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final, Presented by EquiFit

Riding *Amore Mio*, Annie Miller of Salt Lake City, UT rode to the win in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final, presented by EquiFit. The class had 32 horses with 11 reaching the jump-off after going clean in the first round. In the jump-off, Miller clinched first place aboard her 11-year-old Bavarian Warmblood by going clean again in 37.692 seconds. Prior to Las Vegas, Miller hadn't competed with *Amore Mio* in Children's Jumpers. "I never would have thought that we'd win," she said.

Miller, a senior at Olympus High School in Salt Lake City, started riding when she was six years old, but did not ride competitively until she was twelve. She hasn't competed in very many horse shows offering NAL classes so winning at the Las Vegas National Horse Show was unexpected. Miller says she counts the Las Vegas National Horse Show as her favorite because she loves watching the amazing riders and horses that come for the World Cup qualifier.

"My favorite NAL memory was walking into the ring and seeing the NAL banner hanging from the side of the arena – that really struck me," said Miller. "For me, after seeing the banner, it almost made the dream of winning more realistic."

"This is honestly the biggest class I have ever won. In the past I really haven't done very many jumper classes, and I just started showing in the high children's jumpers. I have done a lot of equitation in the past, and to me this win showed me I am ready for the jumper ring," she said.

"*Mio* is just the sweetest horse, he loves his turnout and all of the friends he has outside. Every day when you come into the barn he will whinny at you to let you know that he is ready to go outside. I have owned Mio for around eight months, and already he has taught me so much. He is a once in a lifetime horse and I am so grateful to have him."

Miller trains at the Equine Pavilion with Margaret Keate in Heber City, UT. She has been training with Margaret for around four years and rides at least five days a week. On weekends she usually spends six to eight hours at the barn.

One of Miller's favorite things to do is ride on the tracks and trails outside. She loves riding out there especially in the summer when she can just gallop around without any restrictions. Her free time is taken up by riding, but she also tries to stay involved in school activities and spend time with family.

"My goal is mainly to stay involved in the horse industry, it is my passion and I couldn't imagine doing anything else. As a rider, my goals are mainly to progress and learn to be the best that I can be," she said.

"I would consider my biggest accomplishment to be participating in the Emerging Athletes program last summer in Parker, CO with clinician Cynthia Hankins. I learned so much, not only about riding, but also about horsemanship and camaraderie. I believe participating in clinics and learning is the most valuable tool at a rider's disposal. Any time I learn and improve as a rider, I consider that to be a great accomplishment."





West Coast Finals at Las Vegas

Adult Hunter, Presented by Practical Horseman

Mindy Coretz Wins \$5,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final, Presented by Practical Horseman

Mindy Coretz of Tulsa, OK rode *Stone Town*, owned by KAC Horses LLC, to victory in the NAL Adult Amateur Hunter Final, presented by Practical Horseman with a two-round total of 169 points. Coretz also came in third with *Gretta*, also owned by KAC Horses LLC, with 161 points narrowly missing second place by two points which went to Stephanie Goodson on her *Leonetti*.



“It was such an incredible experience,” said Coretz of riding in the NAL Final. “I wasn’t able to compete in the Finals at Harrisburg because I couldn’t miss class. Having Finals here in Las Vegas is absolutely phenomenal. It was a lot of fun.”

Coretz began riding the day she turned 7 years old. “I have been participating in the NAL for a couple of years now and can only say good things about it,” said Coretz. “Prior to winning this final, my favorite NAL memory was winning an NAL Classic in Ocala at the start of 2012. I hadn’t ridden in about 3 months due to a surgery, but, despite my nerves, my horse, *Gretta* took care of me and carried me to a score of 91 and the class win! I had hoped to show at the NAL Finals in Harrisburg in 2012, but was unable to make it.”

Coretz rides every day and loves thinking about the technicalities of riding. She said she loves doing something, critiquing it, and then doing it again, better. She considers herself fortunate that her horses live at a facility with a big riding field at the back of the property so she can ride in the open space on “low key” days!

“My dad has always told me to ‘do what you love, and love what you do!’ – ultimately, that’s my goal in life!” Between keeping horses ridden, and keeping grades up in school, she doesn’t have free time! But that’s ok with her.

“Winning in Las Vegas was a really rewarding experience. The night of my win was almost seven years to the day after a bad fall that resulted in an injury that almost ended my riding career. I spent the better part of the last seven years jumping from surgeon to surgeon for opinions, experimental surgeries, and more. Although I was allowed to do a little bit of riding between operations, my parents, frightened by the accident, prohibited me from jumping. I have a huge amount of respect for my parents, so I truly never thought I’d be back in the show ring again.

My little sister rides, so I still traveled from show to show and watched her and all of my best friends compete, but it feels good to be leading the victory gallop instead of cheering from the sidelines! That said, I did not make this journey alone! I am truly so fortunate in that I have always been tremendously well mounted, and have an unbelievable team of people standing behind me.

“*Harley* is absolutely awesome – in every sense of the word. I wish I could tell you that I am a superb or consistent rider, but, in reality, *Harley* is just THAT – kind, consistent, and reliable. He doesn’t put a foot wrong – he just lives to keep people happy! This weekend, he gave me one job – that was to stay out of his way! *Harley* is really sweet and affectionate, and loves to have his ears rubbed. In between horse shows, I just hack him and keep him fit because he is so made to the jumps that he doesn’t need the practice. Unfortunately, the time has come for me to sell *Harley*. I wish I could keep him forever, but it’s nice to have this win together as it helps give me a little bit of closure when I think about someone buying him!”



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West Coast Finals at Las Vegas

Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper

Hannah Holik Wins \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Final



Hannah Holik of Jackson Hole, WY claimed the win in the \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Final aboard *Santiago*, a 13-year-old Warmblood owned by Czech Mate, LLC.

Only three horses made it to the jump-off from the starting field of the 25 entries. Holik won the championship with another clear round and a jump-off time of 32.944 seconds. Olivia Chowdry and *Gaja* 20 finished second with a jump-off time of 34.633 and Angela Burns was third with a time of 35.407 on *Acordyno*.

“I saw Olivia go and she was so fast that I didn’t think I could beat her,” said Holik. “But *Santiago* has a giant stride and I relied on that in the jump-off. That’s where *Santiago* is always at his best!”

“I am very proud of *Santiago*. I feel very fortunate to have such a special horse with that kind of heart and determination,” she said. “I consider *Santiago* (*Santi*) my speed horse. He loves making tight turns and thrives in the jump-offs. At home, he is a completely different horse. He is extremely lazy and sometimes cranky when I ask him to work hard on the flat. *Santi* has been a wonderful teacher and has taught me a lot about riding a horse that truly wants to win.”

Holik started riding horses when she was 4-years-old. Her first NAL class was 4 years ago with her first jumper, *The Contender* (*Kenny*).

Holik, who has been training with Randy Henry for four years, counts Devon as her favorite horse show because she has been going there since she was showing ponies and has many good memories there.

Holik, a junior in high school, rides every day and says her favorite thing is to condition and gallop her horses in the fields where her farm is located. Besides riding, she enjoys skiing and reading and also likes to bake horse cookies! “My goal in life is to go to college, possibly in the medical field. As a rider, I would like to start doing more Grand Prix and have a strong finish to my junior years,” she said. “Balancing my riding with my schoolwork is my biggest challenge and biggest accomplishment.”

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West Coast Finals at Las Vegas

Children's Hunter

Abby Barrett Wins \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final

Abby Barrett of Rancho Santa Fe, CA won the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final. The 17 entries competed in two rounds with the sum of their two scores determining the Champion. Barrett, riding *Quilambo*, owned by Katie Kelso, won with a two-round score of 167. "I've never won anything this big before," said Barrett. "It's great to have something special for the hunters and for the kids...it gives us something big to compete in!"

Barrett began riding when she was nine, and two years ago started competing in the NAL Finals at the Las Vegas National Horse Show. She is trained by Tanya Levorchick out of Rancho Santa Fe, CA and rides six days a week. Barrett and *Quilambo* have developed a special relationship. "Though I do not own *Quilambo*, I have been lucky enough to develop a relationship with him at my barn. He is definitely a character...sometimes too big of a character," she said.

"If I have learned anything about him it's not to ride him bareback. My first week riding him I wanted to take him out to graze and I figured I'd just hop on him without a saddle. Two bloody palms and a ripped pair of riding pants later I learned that he had never been ridden bareback before...and will never be ridden without a saddle by me again!"

Barrett says her favorite NAL experience is definitely showing in the Children's Hunter Classic this year in Las Vegas. "However," she says, "I really enjoyed showing in Colorado at the Rocky Mountain Horse Show because it was a beautiful facility and a lot of fun. If I'm having a good show it doesn't matter where I am, I'm usually having a good time.

Barrett names her biggest accomplishment as being able to achieve what she has as a rider, while not yet owning her own horse. Of winning this year she says, "I realize how lucky I am to have done well in a class like this. The whole experience was very humbling; it feels good when hard work pays off."

Abby, who is currently a student says, "My goal as a rider is to be successful on any horse I am privileged to ride, and to eventually have the opportunity ride in a grand prix."

