



North American League News

Summer 2013

As summer draws to a close, riders hoping to qualify for the 2013 North American League's two year-end finals are giving their best efforts with the hopes of earning the right to compete in one or both of the finals.

The NAL hosts National Finals in six divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper, Adult Jumper, Pony Jumper, and Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper – at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, in October. It also hosts West Coast Finals in all divisions except Pony Jumpers at the Las Vegas National Horse Show in Las Vegas, NV, in November.

"Although time is starting to run out, there are still plenty of chances to earn points to qualify for the NAL Finals in Harrisburg and Las Vegas," said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. "We urge everyone to make sure their NAAL membership is up to date so that they get their points to help qualify for one, or both, of the Finals."

The NAL qualifying period runs September 1 through August 31. NAL competitions are open to all who wish to compete, however points only count for current members. Now is the time for those wishing to qualify for Harrisburg and Las Vegas to join the North American League.

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.

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Photo by Sara Jorgensen



NAL Adult Hunter Division Presented by Practical Horseman

Amy Zettler and *Glad Rags* Lead the NAL Adult Hunter Division Presented by Practical Horseman

Amy Zettler, of Aldie, VA, leads the North American League's Adult Hunter division Presented by Practical Horseman aboard *Glad Rags*. Mid-season, the pair had 4146 points in a tight race with last year's series leader, Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN.

Amy started riding when she was six and kept it up through high school. She then took 10 years off and started riding again when she was 27. She's competed in the NAL for the past 3 years.

Amy credits her trainers, Peter Foley and Dale Crittenberger of Woodhall Farm in Aldie, VA, with whom she's been training four years, as her biggest influences. "Both are amazing and I've learned so much from them," she said.

She says that riders Elizabeth Solter, Amanda Steege and Jane Gaston have also impacted her riding. "I respect all three and love watching them in the ring."

Amy's favorite show is the Upperville Colt and Horse Show in Virginia. "It's so beautiful there," she said. "Upperville is just down the road from the farm and so many of my friends are at the show. My Mom usually comes to watch as well, as well as Primo's breeders, Sally and Steve McVeigh."

She considers her greatest accomplishment to be winning the Adult Championship at Washington last year. She's also proud of winning the NAL Adult Classic at Upperville earlier this year. "It was pouring rain and we showed in the main ring. Primo was amazing, after the first jump I forgot about the rain and just enjoyed the ride."

Amy has her eyes set on the \$250,000 HITS Hunter Prix finals, the USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Final and, of course, the NAL Finals at Harrisburg.

She rode in the NAL Final each of the last two years, finishing in the ribbons (ninth) last year. "It's a great class and I look forward to it."

Polly Sweeney and *Duet* Lead the West Coast

In the West Coast Adult Hunter Division, Presented by Practical Horseman, Polly Sweeney of San Marino, CA and *Duet* held first place with 2430 points.



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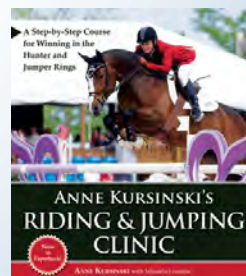
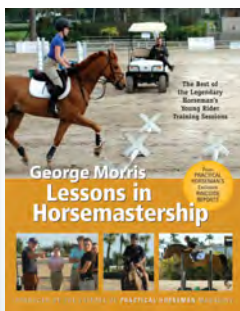
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NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Alissa Kinsey and *Grisset* Lead in the NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak



Alissa Kinsey of Danville, NH, is leading the North American League's Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak. Aboard her horse *Grisset*, Kinsey continues the commanding lead she's had in the standings throughout the year. She has 5072 points, over 1000 points ahead of the second place holder. This continues an incredible streak for Alissa and *Grisset* as the pair topped the final standings in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Kinsey has been an equestrian her whole life, finding herself in the saddle before she could walk. Kinsey rode with a trainer until age 15, after which time she struck out on her own. Now she trains and manages multiple horses of her own, and always looks forward to her goals.

"My horses are my job. I don't have a 'regular' job. I am on the road almost every week going to shows. I take care of my horses, so even if there isn't a show, I still have a full plate every day," said Kinsey.

Kinsey and *Grisset* have experienced great success as a riding team. In addition to topping the past four North American League Adult Jumper standings, they've won Classics at many horse shows including the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington.

It's their consistent performances which Kinsey is most proud of. "I would have to say that my proudest achievement is being successful in this sport . . . knowing that my horse performed well because of the training and care that I personally gave it."

She credits *Grisset* for the contributions she's made to their success. "My horse is so special; she just keeps topping herself. I'm just along to maintain it," she said.

Kinsey looks forward to competing at this year's NAL Finals at Harrisburg, with the tough competition she's come to expect in the NAL. "It is so nice to have a big final like the NAL to look forward to each year. We have a great group of riders that are really strong competitors year after year and Indoors always seems to bring out the best in everyone!"

Jennifer Elliot and Vancouver Lead the West Coast Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

As of mid-summer, Jennifer Elliot of Oceanside, CA and *Vancouver* were in first place in the West Coast Adult Jumper Division, Presented by SmartPak. They led the division with 1025 points.

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NAL Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Grace Knox and *Rapidash* Lead the NAL Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Grace Knox leads the standings in the North American League's Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit. The young rider and her horse *Rapidash* from North Barrington, IL held the lead with 3268 points.

Knox started riding when she was five years old, and entered NAL classes for the first time in 2012. She's been with her trainers, Mary and Lisa Goldman of Red Coat Farm in Hawthorn Woods, IL, for the past nine years.

"My biggest influences would have to be, Mary and Lisa for teaching me how to become a successful rider, and also my Mom for helping and supporting me to get as far as I have," Grace said.

Grace rides 2-3 hours every day; her favorite thing to do when riding is practicing tight turns. She will be starting high school at Barrington, IL this fall, and her goal is to become the most successful rider she can.

Her favorite horse show is Horse Shows by the Bay in Traverse City Michigan, says "It's a very fun horseshow along with being a beautiful place." She considers winning two of the \$15,000 Children's Jumper Classics at HITS in Ocala this past winter on *Rapidash* as her greatest accomplishments to date.

Grace qualified for the NAL Children's Jumper Final last year at Harrisburg on *Rapidash*.

"I was only on him for five months prior to the Final, so I am really looking forward to returning this year, as we are a great pair now."



NAL Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Gina Kumar with *Ribery 7* lead the West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Gina Kumar leads the North American League's West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit. The young rider from Bellevue, WA and her horse *Ribery 7*, lead the division with 1385 points.

Gina started riding when she was four years old, and this is her first year competing in the North American League. Her trainer is Sayre Happy of HC Sporthorses and Sayre Happy Training, of Lexington, KY and Wellington, FL. Gina trained with Happy on, and rejoined her former trainer this year. She credits Happy with whom she rides 6 days a week, with being a major influence on her.

"My trainer, Sayre Happy, is a major influence because she has taken me under her wing and she teaches me about riding, horsemanship and, especially, communicating with the horse," Gina said.

When not riding, Gina likes to read and spend time with her family. A freshman in high school, she credits Reed Kessler with being the rider who inspires her most to aim for big goals at a young age.

"My aim in life is to be the best person I can be and the best rider I can be," Gina said. "As a rider, I'd like to compete in Grand Prix before I attend college."

She points to the move she made this year from Seattle to Kentucky in order to train with Sayre Happy as her proudest accomplishment. "It was hard work, but it helped me get into a great high school and get some wonderful riding experience along the way."

She cites winning an NAL Classic at the Kentucky Horse Park as her most rewarding experience.

Gina thinks the NAL's West Coast Finals that take place at the Las Vegas National Horse Show are a great opportunity for west coast competitors. "Before this year I was competing almost exclusively on the West Coast, and having a Final out West is more convenient for competitors and horses there."

Gina thanks her trainers and family for their help and support, and looks forward to the NAL Finals. "Thanks to Sayre Happy Training and my family for supporting me. I've thoroughly enjoy competing against other riders in my division and watching them ride and improve. I hope to see everyone at Finals this fall."





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By EquiFit



NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Division

Kate Morrison aboard *Vaillant* lead the NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Division

Kate Morrison, of Dublin, OH, leads the North American League's Low Junior/Amateur-Owner standings aboard her horse *Vaillant*. The pair held the lead with 5110 points at the middle of the summer.

Morrison began riding when she was eight years old, and began competing in the North American League last year. She credits her trainer Angela Moore of Stealaway Inc. in Dublin, OH, along with veteran rider Margie Engle, with helping her along the path to success, citing their teamwork as trainers and in helping Morrison find top horses.

"I have been training with Angela for four years now and can't thank her enough for all the hard work and dedication she has put into pushing me to accomplish all my goals."

Kate rides six days a week, and likes, when she's not jumping, to incorporate poles into her flat work.

She'll be starting school at Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall to pursue her love of photography, which she hopes to turn into a career while still competing, someday, hopefully, at the Grand Prix level.

When asked about how she spends her free time, Kate said, "I like to stay busy and so when I am with my friends we like to bake, go get our nails done or just hang out and talk!"

She says her proudest accomplishment came during the gap year she took after graduating high school in 2012. "I was on the combined Zone 5 and Zone 3 Bronze Medal team at Young Rider and then went on to get the Individual Bronze Medal for Young Riders. It meant a lot to me because it meant that everything I worked for paid off!"

Last year, Kate entered the NAL finals for the first time and qualified with two Low/Junior horses, *Sweet Leonie* and *Vaillant*, taking fourth and seventh respectively.

"I am very fortunate to have a top trainer like Angela Moore in the central Ohio area and right next to my house, which allows me to get out to the barn 6 or 7 days a week to practice. I can't thank her enough for everything she has done for me. But not only is Angela supporting me, my parents are always there 100%, providing me with horses that I never would have imagined riding, cheering me on and allowing me to do what I love – ride! Thank you to all the support I get from the Stealaway barn family and all the hard work the staff puts forth getting my horses ready at every show! I couldn't do it without all the people behind me!"



NAL Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Division

Madeline Thatcher and *Esquilino Bay* lead the West Coast Standings Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division



Madeline Thatcher leads the standings in the North American League's West Coast standings in the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division. The high school senior from Bluffdale, UT had ridden her horse *Esquilino Bay* to 4496 points by mid-summer.

Thatcher started riding young with her family, and entered her first competition at age 7. At 11, she started riding in the NAL's Pony Jumper Division with *Bally Mac*. She credits her Mom, Maura Thatcher, as being the biggest influence on her life.

"She loves horses and wants to win more than anyone I know," Madeline said. "My Mom taught me to be tough and never give up in a round."

Thatcher's favorite show is the Showplace Spring Spectacular in June at the Lamplight Equestrian Center. She credits the horse show's organization and fun atmosphere, as well as the exciting Grand Prix atmosphere, with always drawing her back there.

Her most exciting NAL moment came when she won the NAL Low Junior Classic at the 2011 Winter Equestrian Festival aboard *Manneken du Coty*, winning the class by 6 seconds!

Madeline has been training with Maggie Jayne and Haylie Jayne-Rolfe of Elgin, IL for the past five years. She rides 6 days a week, and likes to read when she's not in school. After finishing her senior year, she plans to go to college for biology.

Madeline has competed in the NAL Children's Jumper Final aboard *Victor*, and in the Pony Jumper Final, taking 3rd with *Bally Mac*. Both of these came in 2009.

Her proudest accomplishment came when she took 5th place in the \$50,000 Grand Prix this past summer in Parker, CO. "I have competed there since I was doing short stirrup and it's unbelievably cool to come full circle, be competing and have clear rounds in the Grand Prix," she said.

She says that her personal motto for success is that "tomorrow will never know."

"Horses can be difficult, you can chip the first jump, you can fall off in the closing circle," Madeline said, "but there's always a tomorrow and you can learn from past mistakes and benefit your ride next time."



NAL Children's Hunter Division

Mallory Hensley and *Van Gough* Lead the NAL Children's Hunter Division



Mallory Hensley of Yukon, Oklahoma competes in the NAL's Children's Hunter Division. Midway through the summer, she and her horse *Van Gough* were leading both the west coast and the National standings.

Mallory started riding when she was 5 and began jumping when she was 9. Last year was her first year riding in the NAL.

Mallory has been riding with Libby Barrow of Tulsa, Oklahoma at Farewell Farm and Loren McDougal from Oklahoma City for 3 years. She rides at least 5 or 6 days a week.

Mallory says that she really likes to work on the flat with a lot of dressage involved and, of course, that she, "Loves to jump!

"I also like to hunt, and in my spare time I enjoy Bible studies and watching TV."

Mallory's biggest accomplishment to date was winning a USHJA Hunter Derby in Houston. She says that the Pin Oak Horse Show in Houston is her favorite horse show because it has a lot of different types of horse riding and the charity is wonderful.

While she has never competed in an NAL Final, she did get to share the excitement of one when her friend Elizabeth Adelson won the Children's Hunter Final in Harrisburg in 2011.

Mallory cites her parents as her biggest influences, "because they always support me in all the horse riding that I participate in." She says that, "My goals in life are to introduce people to Christ and to become a better horsewomen. I would also like to thank Missy Davis for getting me started in the jumping world and Libby and Loren for taking me to where I am now."

NAL Pony Jumper Division

Emilie Rucci and *I Spy A Rainbow* lead the NAL Pony Jumper Division

As of mid-summer, Emilie Rucci of Pittstown, NJ and *I Spy A Rainbow* were in first place in the Pony Jumper Division with 516 points. Elizabeth Monaco of Oak Ridge, NJ and *EZ To Spot* were in second place with 452 points.

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