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**Summer Heat Sets North American League Competition Afire**

Annville, PA—June 8, 2012— With summer's arrival firmly in place, competition has heated up in the 2012 North American League (NAL)! The NAL's two year-end finals are just months away, and riders are continuing to put in stellar performances in the show ring with the hopes of qualifying for one or both of the finals.

The NAL will maintain its traditional year-end 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 will also host West Coast Finals in all divisions except Pony Jumpers at the Las Vegas National Horse Show in Las Vegas, NV, in November.

“As we continue through the summer the excitement keeps building towards the Finals in Harrisburg and Las Vegas,” said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. “The summer months are the perfect time to earn points to help qualify for one, or both, of the Finals.”

Riders need not be members of the NAL to compete in the qualifying classes, but only members earn points toward the year-end finals. With the annual membership fee only \$35, most riders join in hopes of earning a trip to Harrisburg or Las Vegas. The current NAL qualifying period began on September 1, 2011 and runs through August 31, 2012.

The NAL recently announced two new Semi-Finals in September that will award double points to help riders qualify for the year-end Finals. The Semi-Finals will be held as part of the Blenheim Fall Tournament in San Juan Capistrano, CA and the High Prairie Fall Classic in Parker, CO in September. While both Semi-Finals are after the August 31 end of the 2011-2012

qualifying season, the points earned at those events will count towards the 2012 Finals. Those results will not be included in the 2013 season even though they occur in that time period.

At the start of June, Emma Fass of Newport News, VA, and *Son of a Sailor* led the Children's Hunter Division with 2,804 points. In second, with 2,645 points was Gabriella Thompson of Franklin, TN and *Nameretto*. In third was Rachel Turk of Glen Ellyn, IL and *Patriot* with 2,196 points.

In the Adult Hunter Division, presented by Practical Horseman, Mindy Wurzburg of Memphis, TN and *Overseas* led with 2,091 points. In second with 1,810 points was Brooke Cole of Rockville, VA and *About Time*. Third place belonged to Judy H. Lefferdink of Chicago, IL and *Gucci* with 1,741 points.

In the Children's Jumper Division, McKayla Langmeier of East Granby, CT, riding *Denmark* led with 2,977 points. Second place belonged to Nina Montross of Bedford Hills, NY and *Voigtsdorfs Ohio* with 2,519 points. In third place was Cloe Hymowitz of Sagaponack, NY and *Anique* with 2,324 points.

In the Adult Jumper Division, Alissa Kinsey of Danville, NH and *Grisset* held first place with 4,875 points. In second place was Dr. Juan Carlos Gamboa of Aiken, SC and *Partizan* with 3,817 points. In third place was Lea H. Allen of Boca Raton, FL and *Komedie de Monte Sec* with 2,520 points.

In the Pony Jumper Division, Katherine Pontone of Redbank, NJ and *Wicked* led with 800.50 points. In second place was Taylor Cox of Stockton, NJ and *Midnight Heart* with 499.50 points. In third place was Becca Cahill of Pottstown, PA and *Blues Clues* with 421 points.

In the Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Division, presented by SmartPak, Alexandra Crown of New York, NY and *Can Be Good*, led with 8,547 points. Second place went to Madeline Thatcher of Bluffdale, UT and *Manneken Du Cory*, with 4,787 points. In third place was Claudia Billups of Oxford, MS and *Rockefeller* with 2,984 points.

The North American League is sponsored by SmartPak and Practical Horseman.

Riders are invited to highlight their wins, as well as find information on upcoming shows, at the [NAL's Facebook page](#). Post your winning photos today!

For more information regarding the NAL series, including series specifications, current standings and a list of upcoming events, please call (717) 867-5643, email to [NAL@Ryegate.com](mailto:NAL@Ryegate.com) or visit [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com).