



# North American League News

## Summer 2018

With the end of the qualifying season for the North American League (NAL) in sight, the summer competition results have been changing the rankings with riders rapidly gaining points that will take them to the top of the standings, along with a chance to compete at one or both of this year's NAL Finals this fall. This summer newsletter features the top rider in each division as of the end of July.

**The NAL West Coast Finals take place at the International Jumping Festival hosted by Blenheim EquiSports in San Juan Capistrano, CA, September 19-23. The National Finals will be held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, October 11-20.** Both Finals include five divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, and Low Junior/Amateur Jumper.

The NAL qualifying season runs from September 1 through August 31. NAL qualifying classes are open to all competitors, but only current members are awarded points. By joining the NAL, riders can accumulate the points necessary to make it to the Finals. Annual memberships are only \$40 per rider.

“Now is the time for those wanting to qualify for the Finals at San Juan Capistrano and Harrisburg to join the NAL and secure their spots today!” said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. “There's still time to accumulate points, but you have to make sure your NAL memberships are up to date to make your points count so you can ride in the Finals.”

For more information regarding the North American League, please call (717) 867-5643, email to [NAL@Ryegate.com](mailto:NAL@Ryegate.com) or visit [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com). Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



# NAL Children's Jumper Division, Presented by EquiFit

## Lauren McCaulley Leads National Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Lauren McCaulley of St. Charles, IL and Umano De La Ruche are in the lead in the Children's Jumper division Presented by EquiFit. Lauren holds the lead with 4,154 points thus far in her first season competing in the NAL High Children's Jumper. She is also ranked 15th with her other mount Blue Sugar OTJ.



Lauren started her riding career at age nine. Now at sixteen she has found her passion in the jumper ring. Having two horses in the top 20 in the NAL Children's Jumper Division standings, Lauren is hopeful to move Blue Sugar OTG, or "Sugar", her 9-

year-old Oldenburg mare, up the leaderboard. Her top mount, Umano De La Ruche, a 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, had a successful spring earning a sizable lead in the standings; however the partnership has ended allowing Lauren to focus on Sugar's 2018 season. Lauren also hopes to bring along her other mare, Tenacious D, aka Darcy, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare.

Lauren's success in the 2018 season has generated many accomplishments of which to be proud, including first place in the overall NAL and WIHS High Children's standings, and Reserve circuit champion at the 2018 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in the High Children's Jumpers with Umano De La Ruche. She also earned third place in the High Children's circuit standings with Blue Sugar OTJ at WEF 2018.

With two horses on the circuit, Lauren is at the barn six days a week training with Maggie Jayne at Our Day Farm in Elgin, Illinois. Lauren began training with Maggie in August of 2017.

"My favorite thing to do when I show my horses is, of course, jump-offs. It is such a good feeling when you have a fast and tidy jump-off ride while still nailing every distance," said Lauren. "When hacking at home, I like to work on getting a good connection with my horse. Something Maggie told me that has greatly improved my riding is that every time you flat a horse, it translates to how you ride them in the show ring."

In her freshman year in high school, Lauren enjoys Algebra and is excited to start her Spanish coursework. In her free time she enjoys reading, swimming, spending time with friends and family, especially her sister, with whom she frequently goes to Muay Thai and kick boxing classes together.



## Elizabeth Woods and Trillick's Black Magic Lead West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Elizabeth Woods of Lincoln, NE and *Trillick's Black Magic* lead the West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit with 1,405 points.



Now a junior in high school, Elizabeth began riding at the age of seven. This year will be Elizabeth's first year competing in the North American League with *Trillick's Black Magic*, a 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding. Elizabeth and *Trillick's Black Magic* or "*Magic*" have been in training with Sarah Young in Spring Hill, KS for the past year and a half.

The partnership between Elizabeth and *Magic* has generated many wonderful memories at some of the most iconic horse shows in the county. Placing at The Devon Horse Show, The Pennsylvania National Horse Show, and at the Washington International Horse show are just a few of the accomplishments that Elizabeth treasures.

"*Magic* always knows when he's at a horse show," said Elizabeth. "Right when he gets into the ring, he just wants to go. He can turn easily and go fast, so that helps me a lot in the jumper ring. He loves getting treats and as soon as he comes out of the ring, he walks straight to my trainer because he always knows she'll have a peppermint or a cookie for him."

While Elizabeth's favorite horse show to attend is Devon, because of its fun atmosphere, her favorite memory took place in another location. "My favorite NAL experience was when I won the NAL Children's Classic in Gulfport, MS this past winter," reflected Elizabeth.

With her dedication to riding and training with *Magic* four to five days a week, Elizabeth enjoys developing the partnership and connection with *Magic*. "My favorite thing to do when I ride is flatwork because I feel like it gives me a good connection with my horse," remarked Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's time out of the saddle is also special to her as she finds the balance between her studies and spending time with her friends when not on the road horse-showing. Her goal is to be on a Division 1 Equestrian Team in college once she has graduated from high school.



This show offers one or more classes that are recognized by the

### North American League



In order for riders to receive credit, they must be a current member. Membership is valid for the qualifying year and entitles the rider to earn points on one or more horses shown in accredited classes.

National Finals are held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

West Coast Finals are held at the International Jumping Festival.

Please complete and mail the application with payment to:

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# NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

## Two-Time NAL Champion Lindsey Tomeu Sits in First and Second in the Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

The 2015 and 2017 NAL Adult Jumper Final Champion Lindsey Tomeu of Wellington, FL, is in first place with her mount, *Gold Lux*, in the Adult Jumper standings Presented by SmartPak with 6,802 points. Lindsey also sits in second place riding *Bonapart* with 5,771 points.

The partnership between Lindsey and Gold Lux, a 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare, is a bit of homecoming story as the duo reunited in early 2018. Lindsey initially sold Gold Lux, known as “Goldie”, four years ago, but recently bought her back when the mare returned to Sweet Oak Farm. Since then, the pair has been winning in the Adult Amateur Jumper division, including earning the circuit championship at the Winter Equestrian Festival earlier this year.



Lindsey’s other mount, *Bonapart*, a 17-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, have continued their winning partnership and seek another trip to the NAL Finals. Lindsey first became a member of the NAL in 2014. She and Bonapart went on to clinch the 2015 and 2017 titles in the NAL Adult Jumper Finals.

For the past 11 years, she has been training with Michael DeFiandra along with Ali and Shane Sweetnam of Sweet Oak Farm where she rides six days a week. Some of her favorite moments are when she can enjoy a nice pleasant hack around the field.

A focused competitor, Lindsey’s goals are to win the Adult Jumper Finals again and the Ariat Finals. Along with her two NAL Championship titles, Lindsey says her other biggest accomplishment so far is winning the Adult Jumper Championship at the 2017 Devon Horse Show, which is her favorite horse show.

“Devon is a totally different experience than any other show I’ve been to with the fair and the huge amount of spectators,” said Lindsey. “Also, getting to show at night is a great experience.”

When she’s not riding or showing, Lindsey likes to spend a lot of time with her family.



## Tara Brown Stocks Holding Top Spot in West Coast Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Returning from a successful 2017 season of winning, Tara Brown Stocks of Coto De Caza, CA, again leads the West Coast Adult Jumper Division, Presented by SmartPak aboard *High Hopes*.

Tara, who first joined the NAL in 2016, is living the dream with *High Hopes*, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, by her mantra “you get what you give.” Brown has certainly developed a special bond with *High Hopes*.

“My favorite thing to do with my horses is spend alone time with them,” said Tara. “That’s the special moments that let them know you care and love them so very much. Building a bond and trust starts on the ground.”

Tara has ridden with Joe and Katie Lifo at Pacific Coast Show Jumpers since she was 12 years old but decided to take time off to experience college and family life. During her time out of the saddle, the equestrian bug never left and Tara returned to her passion and the Lifos.

“I want to thank my trainers, Joe and Katie Lifo, for helping me chase my dreams and always being there to care for me and my horses. I am so happy to be back in the saddle!” said Tara. “They understand me, my horses and the way I need to learn. I admit that I love to ride my daughter’s pony as well and they have figured that out too!”

Outside of the ring, Tara’s biggest influences are her faith and family, especially her six-year-old daughter. “My daughter teaches me about life and myself every day. She is my heart and soul and she is now riding with Joe and Katie,” noted Tara. “History is repeating itself and I could not be happier, I just don’t want to compete against her, she has no fear!”

Tara works in the healthcare field in Arizona. She is looking forward to competing at her first NAL West Coast Final aboard *High Hopes*. However, her favorite NAL memory took place at the 2017 Finals at Blenheim in the Adult Amateur Jumpers where they placed first, winning the division.



When asked about her goals in life, it’s clear that Tara is enjoying her life’s path along with success in and out of the ring. “To have fun and learn something new every single day about how we (she and her horses) can improve together.”

“Treat your horses the way you want them to treat you. Always thank them. You are a team. Work together and take care of one another.”



# NAL Low Junior/Amateur Division

## Alexandra Welles Leads National Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division

In a competitive division on the East Coast, Alexandra Welles sits in the lead in the Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division with *XM* with 5,901 points.

Based in Wellington, FL, Alexandra and *XM*, a 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, are making the most of the 2018 season by securing a sizable lead in the division standings. *XM* is by far the favorite in Alexandra's eyes.



"*XM* is my forever favorite. He has the biggest heart of any horse I've ever met. He is so competitive and so kind at the same time, and we know each other so well. Every ride on him is a gift," said Alexandra. "While showing him is the most fun, *XM* is truly my pet. He follows me around like a dog at home."

Alexandra has trained with her husband, Andrew Welles, out of his business, Andrew Welles LLC, based in Wellington, since 2011. This helps her maintain the balance between training, competing, and time with friends and family.

"I really admire those riders who are able to ride at a high level and run successful businesses while simultaneously maintaining a good family life," said Alexandra. "We are so fortunate to take part in this sport, but it is incredibly demanding of your time and energy. I think it's admirable to see professionals and other members of the sport successfully maintaining this balance, they set a great example. My husband, family, and friends are my greatest influence outside of riding. They keep my feet on the ground."

Alexandra's biggest accomplishment to date was her win at the Washington International Horse Show in 2017. An avid traveler to equestrian and non-equestrian venues, it is Spruce Meadows that holds a special place for Alexandra who notes that "the tradition involved and the standard to which the show is run is unmatched; everything about it is special."

When not in tall boots and breeches, Alexandra freelances in marketing management and enjoys spending time with her husband, family, friends – including her dogs – and enjoying all the sights and sounds in her travels.



## Ashley Vogel in Pole Position in West Coast Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division

The West Coast Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division is also a fairly tight race, and Ashley Vogel of Mequon, WI, and *Twist Des Forets* continue to lead the division with 1,102 points.

A gift of riding lessons for her eighth birthday started Ashley down her equestrian path. She always rode hunters until February 2017 at the Winter Equestrian Festival when she began to compete in the North American League and took a sudden interest in jumpers. It was then that Ashley began leasing *Twist Des Forets*, an 11-year-old Selle Francais, from Neil Jones Equestrian.



"*Twist des Forets* or *Twist* as known around the barn, is such a character," said Ashley. "He has become a favorite of everyone for Sea Change Farm. I can always count on him to be consistent in the ring and always try his hardest. He's truly one-of-a-kind and was the perfect horse to take me around the jumper ring for the first time."

Ashley has trained with Maria Rasmussen and Jeff Wirthman at Sea Change Farm, located in Illinois for the past two years and she recently began training with Chris Ewanouski for the jumpers.

"My trainers are some of my biggest influences as they show me how to maintain a positive, yet determined, attitude to continue to work my hardest. I believe the biggest thing Jeff and Maria have taught me is to push through negative outcomes and learn from my mistakes so I can continue to excel," she said.

Ashley also credits her parents for being her number one supporters. "My parents have always been huge supporters in my riding and continue to go out of their way to make sure I continue to progress."

Of all the horse show locations, her current favorite is the famed Kentucky Horse Park where the complex is inviting and her horses are always happy showing there. Her favorite NAL experience to date took place in Kentucky during the Country Heir II where *Twist* and Ashley finished in the top two in all her classes and were crowned Champion in the Low Junior Jumpers after receiving a second in the Classic.



Ashley also plays lacrosse and field hockey in high school and enjoys traveling to different places to ski in the winter. However, her future plans remain focused on the horse world. "My goals right now include having a successful indoor season with all my horses and continuing to improve in all aspects of my riding. In the future, I think it would be exciting to show in Europe."



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# NAL Children's Hunter Division

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## Jordan Bell and Chago Lead National Children's Hunter Division

In the Children's Hunter division, Jordan Bell of Friendship, MD maintains her lead aboard *Chago* in the Children's Hunter standings for the third month in a row with 3,811 points.

Jordan and *Chago* train with Rachel Agee and Sue Chambers at Harmony Ridge Stables in Lothian, MD.

Their strong performances to date put them in a strong position for the West Coast Finals at the International Jumping Festival hosted by Blenheim EquiSports in San Juan Capistrano, CA, and the National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA.





## Gabrielle Young and Select Top the Chart in West Coast Children's Hunter Division

Gabrielle Young of Spring Hill, KS and *Select*, a 2002 Swedish Warmblood gelding, lead the West Coast Children's Hunter Division.

Gabrielle, daughter of fellow hunter rider Sarah Young, started riding at an early age when her mom bought her a mini horse to ride alongside her when she was two-years-old. With her mom as her biggest supporter and influence in her life, Gabrielle attributes her success to riding every day, with focus on her flatwork and a special connection with *Select*.

"He [*Select*] loves being scratched under his chin and being brushed. He is very affectionate," said Gabrielle. "*Select* also has a sweet tooth. His favorite treats are bananas, moon pies, oatmeal crème pies and apples. But he eats everything!"

Riding six days a week with instruction from her mom, Gabrielle also is under the tutelage of Jane Schweiger, Shannon Hicks and Diane Young. With a great support team behind her, Gabrielle's most memorable moments were winning the Classic in Parker, Colorado at the Summer In The Rockies show, being Reserve Champion at Devon and taking second place over fences at Pony Finals.

"*Select* is like my pet. He follows me everywhere. If you scratch his chin or whither he likes to scratch you back."



Gabrielle enjoys reading, hanging out with friends and going to the movies. Her goal is to learn as much as possible and to be a good person. Her riding goals are to be consistent in her training and get better.



# NAL Adult Hunter Division

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## Alex Johnson and Poetic Justis Lead National Adult Hunter Division

As of the beginning of July, Alex Johnson of Portsmouth, VA held the lead in the Adult Hunter standings aboard *Poetic Justice* with 3,351 points, having earned more than 945 points since May.

*Poetic Justis*, nicknamed “PJ”, is a 19-year-old chestnut Hanoverian gelding. Alex trains with Chris Wynne of Virginia Beach, VA. The pair has generated an impressive list of accomplishments during their partnership, placing in the 2017 Washington International Horse Show Adult Amateur Hunter Championship and they are currently among the leaders on the qualifying list for the WIHS \$10,000 Adult Amateur Hunter Championship for 2018.





## Cathy Morris-Schmitt Leads West Coast Adult Hunter Division

After coming back from a five- year hiatus from the competition ring, Cathy Morris-Schmitt from Greenwood Village, CO, leads the West Coast Adult Hunter Division with her own *Andover*, a 10-year-old Oldenberg gelding. This is Cathy's first year competing in the NAL.



*Andover*, who is notably her favorite horse, is reminiscent of her first AO Hunter, Cactus Jack. She noted, “They both have given me confidence in the show ring when I returned to riding after a long hiatus.”

Cathy, who is based in Colorado, depends on the partnerships she has with her beloved gelding, *Andover*, and the team around them to be successful in and out of the show ring.

“We live in Colorado and *Andover* lives in California. We meet at shows. He is the consummate professional. He knows when it is time to step into the ring and put on a game face,” said Cathy.

The successful duo train with longtime friends Joie Gatlin and Morley Abey based out of The Oaks in San Juan Capistrano.

“After taking a 5-year break from riding, the most rewarding thing I rediscovered was that it’s the power of the team that makes this sport special. Our trainers, grooms, supportive barn mates, family, and of course, the partnership with your horse are what make this so fulfilling. Bad days happen in the show ring. I will take a bad day in show ring over a lot of other things in life.”

Cathy’s biggest influences in riding are attributed to those to seek to better their riding in and out of the ring. “In riding, it is those who come to improve themselves every time they step foot in the ring, regardless of their level of experience or talent,” said Cathy. Outside of the saddle, Cathy’s number one supporter is her husband.

When not in the irons, Cathy is the Chief Strategy Officer at Arrow Electronics, a Fortune 115 NYSE Company, and serves on Public Company Boards. To add to her credit, and one of her biggest professional accomplishments, she was named as one of the Most Powerful Women in Technology. “I have the best job in the world. I would not want to do anything else,” said Cathy.