



North American League News

Summer 2024

The North American League (NAL) offers year-long series in six divisions – Adult Hunter Presented by R & R Hunter Horses, Children's Hunter Presented by Charles Ancona, 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartPak, 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper Presented by EquiFit, 1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper and 1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti. The series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada, giving riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – the West Coast Finals at the International Jumping Festival hosted by Blenheim EquiSports in San Juan Capistrano, CA, September 18-22, and the National Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, September 26-October 6.

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. Annual memberships are only \$45 per rider. Further information on the NAL series is available by calling 717-867-5643, emailing NAL@Ryegate.com or online at www.ryegate.com. Follow the NAL on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NALFinals>.

Good luck to all competitors through the final weeks of the NAL qualifying period, and congratulations to the division leaders as follows:



CHARLES ANCONA
NEW YORK

Children's Hunter

Presented by Charles Ancona

National Standings

Sarasen Jablon and *Kingstown*, 3,046 points

Sarasen Jablon, of Charleston, SC, and her 11-year-old mount *Kingstown* are often a busy pair at horse shows, riding in multiple equitation and Children's Hunter classes as well as some USHJA National Hunter Derbies. They started the 2024 season with a bang, earning the Children's Hunter 14 & Under Championship at the Aiken December Classic. Then they maintained consistent top placings through Aiken's Winter Encore and March Madness events, including a fifth-place finish in the National Hunter Derby at March Madness.

After claiming the Children's Hunter Reserve Championship during the first week of the Tryon International Spring Series, the duo continued to shine at several horse shows in Aiken and Tryon under the watchful eye of Annie Walters and the team at AMW Stables. With their focus on clear, rhythmic rounds and overall good sportsmanship, Sarasen and *Kingstown* have secured more tri-color ribbons for this year and ultimately their summer lead in the NAL National Standings.



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A stylized white signature of Charles Ancona.

CHARLES ANCONA
NEW YORK

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*Equestrian teams only

Adult Hunter

Presented by R&R Hunter Horses



National Standings

Stephanie King and *Play Maker*, 5,272 points

Stephanie King, of Anthony, FL, and her 10-year-old *Play Maker* are familiar faces in the Adult Amateur Hunter 36-39 divisions at WEC Ocala and Tryon International. Stephanie often focuses on enjoying her time with the Oldenburg gelding and setting him up for consistent, rhythmic courses when they step through the in-gate. That mindset becomes obvious through their results, which include several tri-color ribbons and hunter classic wins from WEC Ocala's Winter Spectacular Series. Most recently, they finished second in the \$1,500 NAL/WIHS Adult Hunter Classic 36+ at WEC Ocala Summer 5, and Stephanie's sights are on carrying that pace forward into the fall.



1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartPak



National Standings

Kimberly Coyle and *Dartani*, 5,542 points

From an equestrian family, Kimberly Coyle has always had horses in her life, but she didn't ride competitively until she met her husband, Jordan Coyle, in 2017. She owns her own Falkirk Farm based in Central Valley, NY, and Wellington, FL, where she focuses on keeping her horses fit, spoiled and ready to give their riders their best.

Kimberly first rode the 12-year-old Holsteiner mare *Dartani* during the summer of 2020 without owning her. "We ended up parting ways that year, but as the old saying goes – if you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it's yours forever," she said. "*Dartani* came back to us in 2021, and this time it's for good! She's a bit strange in her own way. She loves getting attention but only on her own time; in the ring, she mostly wants to be left alone. She loves to be in charge, knows her job, and aims to win, so being more of a passenger is fine by me. I trust her 110 percent! I think we have a strong bond and understanding for each other, and I love her all the more for it."

While her sights are on winning this year's NAL Finals at the Capital Challenge and competing at Washington International, Kimberly looks forward to meeting her most important goal of all – keeping everyone on her team safe and happy around the farm.



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EquiFit®

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper Presented by EquiFit

National Standings


Grace Lowe and *Kilbrackan Blue Jay*, 3,706 points

About eight years ago, Grace Lowe started taking lessons at a barn local to her Arlington, VA, home. Then in 2021, she began training with Havens Schatt and Fred Commissaire at Milestone Farm in Wellington, FL. Under their watchful eyes, she has ridden *Kilbrackan Blue Jay* for over two years, moving from the .80m classes into the Junior Jumper division.

“Blue Jay and I have really gotten to know each other well,” Grace said. “He’s a fantastic horse, always enthusiastic and giving his best effort. This season has been great so far; we finished as WEF Circuit Champion in the 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumpers and have won multiple classics. We also placed third in the NAL Finals last year. I’m so grateful for him and the team at Milestone, and I hope to continue moving up the Junior Jumper ranks in the future.”



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1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

PARLANTI

National Standings

Carter Ware and *Kalahari*, 4,389 points

Currently living and working full-time in New York City, Carter Ware is always grateful for any moment she can spend in the saddle. She grew up on a farm in Middleburg, VA, and was introduced to horses early on by her mother, a professional grand prix rider. Carter started her riding journey with Pony Club and foxhunting before joining the hunter/jumper circuit, competing in the pony divisions through the junior jumpers. After taking a break during her college years, she has returned to the show ring with trainer Sloane Coles and the team at Spring Ledge LLC.

“Riding with Sloane has been amazing,” Carter said. “She has really given me the tools I need to be successful as an amateur. She’s given me so much confidence and has also matched me with my horses of a lifetime: *Kalahari* and *MTF Saint Simeon*. I have had Kali for almost five years now; she was one of the first horses I tried when looking for an Amateur Jumper. We know each other so well now, and she gives me so much confidence every time we step into the ring.”

Carter and Kali had a consistent winter season in Wellington, placing among the top three in most of the 1.35m classics they entered. Because she does not always get to practice and often meets Spring Ledge at the shows, Carter has focused primarily on jumping consistent, clear rounds and having fun with this special horse.

“Kali knows her job, has so much heart, and is a blast to ride,” Carter said. “I know she won’t let me down, and to me, having that sort of partnership with a horse is the best feeling in the world. I just have endless love and appreciation for every minute I get to spend with her.”



© SPORTFOT



PARLANTI
ASPEN PRO

1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

National Standings

Collin Sweetnam and *Lucy In The Sky*, 4,839 points

After winning last year's \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit riding *Just Noble*, Collin Sweetnam is back on top in the NAL Standings, this time riding *Lucy In The Sky*. Having grown up around horses thanks to his parents, professionals Shane and Ali Sweetnam, Collin has ridden since he was ten years old. The Wellington, FL, resident trains with his family and the rest of the team at Sweet Oak Farm.

Collin and "Lulu" have been partnered for about a year, working from the 1.10m to the 1.30m jumpers. While Lulu has wonderful ground manners, she can get wild sometimes under saddle as she knows her job and always wants to win. The duo has had a consistent season in the 1.25m classes, including several top placings at the recent Split Rock Hunter Jumper Classic and Great Lakes Equestrian Festival. Collin and his team have decided to keep the 15-year-old mare at this height as she ages, but he still has his sights on a successful 2024 championship season.



© KindMedia

Children's Hunter

Presented by Charles Ancona

CHARLES ANCONA
NEW YORK

West Coast Standings

Sienna Smith and *Skyhawk*, 2,036 points

Although *Skyhawk* is a fairly new ride to Sienna Smith, the resident of Villa Park, CA, has found a great learning partnership with the 15-year-old gelding she leases from Laura Wasserman. *Skyhawk* has competed up to the High Performance Hunter division and in some USHJA International Hunter Derbies with top riders such as Brianne Goutal-Marteau, TJ O'Mara, Stella Wasserman and owner Laura, who placed consistently in the Performance and Amateur-Owner 3'6" hunter classes.

Sienna took over the reins in late 2023, securing a top-ten finish in the \$1,500 NAL Children's Hunter Classic in their first outing together at Desert International's National Sunshine Series Week 2. Since then, she and *Skyhawk* have put in the work and found their rhythm, earning multiple top-five placings in the Children's Hunter 13 & Under classes and NAL Children's Hunter classics during the Desert Circuit. At the Blenheim Surf & Turf Classic and Temecula Valley National 2, they continued their rise to the top of the leaderboard with the ultimate goal of having a fun, successful season through the fall.





Adult Hunter

Presented by R&R Hunter Horses

West Coast Standings

Cathy Morris-Schmitt and *Andover*, 2,571 points

Cathy Morris-Schmitt has a familiarity with her longtime partner *Andover* that is evident nearly every time they step into the ring together. From Bainbridge Island, WA, she and the 16-year-old Oldenburg placed consistently throughout the winter circuit at Desert International Horse Park, which helped them take an early lead in the NAL West Coast Standings. Kicking off their fantastic season were performances that helped them earn multiple tri-color ribbons in the Desert Circuit's Adult Hunter 50 & Over and Amateur-Owner 3' Hunter divisions. Although they are currently taking a bit of a break, they continued to steal the spotlight at the Blenheim Spring Classic and maintain their top spot among the NAL hunter rankings.



© McCool Photography

1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

Presented by SmartPak



West Coast Standings

Juliet Johansson and *El Casper*, 1,475 points

For Juliet Johansson, participating in the sport is all about having fun and riding her best. Juliet's mother grew up in England where horses were a way of life; the resident of Fort Lauderdale, FL, inherited that passion. She has ridden since she was four years old, training and occasionally showing locally near her childhood home in Pennsylvania, and started seriously riding jumpers in her late 20s. She and her partner of the last one and a half years, *El Casper*, currently train with Amy Foster at How-Lyn Acres.

"*El Casper* is a hoot and has quite a personality," Juliet said. "He knows how to bow and will do it whenever he wants a carrot, which is quite often. He will look me in the eye and shake his head up and down like he's saying yes when he wants hay, and he will neigh to let me know if I'm late serving dinner. Every day, I feel fortunate to ride him and am blessed with a fantastic trainer, amazing horses and great barn mates (Nikki, Jess, April, Chrissy, Abi and my daughter, Coral)."

While Juliet always strives for the win at shows, putting in a well-ridden, solid clear round makes her day no matter the ribbon. She hopes to carry that mindset into Zone Finals, the "battle for the saddles" at Fox Lea Farm and, of course, the NAL Championship this fall.



EquiFit.

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper Presented by EquiFit

West Coast Standings

Samantha Siler and *Jurania Van't Lozerhof*, 3,169 points

Samantha Siler, of Eastvale, CA, claimed an early lead in this year's NAL West Coast Standings with her 15-year-old *Jurania Van't Lozerhof*, finishing with several top placings in the 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumpers during the winter circuit at Desert International Horse Park. Among their Desert Circuit victories were the 1.10m Junior Jumper 15 & Under Championship (Weeks 3, 6 & 9) and 1.15m Open Jumper Championship (Week 9). Since then, they have continued putting in consistent rounds at the Temecula Valley National Premier and Tryon International Summer Series, maintaining their lead in the NAL Standings as they look forward to the championship season this fall. They are also working on their consistency in the 1.20/1.25m Junior Jumper classes.



© McCool Photography

1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

West Coast Standings

Isa Lippman and *Imberto*, 753 points

When Isa Lippman was nine years old, she visited the barn her best friend rode at and instantly fell in love with the horses. She didn't grow up in a horsey family, but she asked for lessons for Christmas and has been riding ever since. Isa, of Austin, Texas, currently trains with Rachel Lindsey at Madrone Ranch Stables, where she has been bringing *Imberto* along for nearly two years. "Bert" is a sweet, playful 8-year-old still learning his job, but Isa looks forward to a bright future with him.

"Every time we go into the ring, I know he's going to try his best for me," Isa said. "So far this season, Rachel and I are slowly moving him up and getting more miles on him over the bigger tracks. We just moved up to the 1.30/1.35m Amateur Jumpers this summer, and my goal for the fall is to continue being competitive and start schooling bigger jumps. Eventually, I hope to bring him to the Grand Prix height and confidently ride around the FEI levels. He is such a cool young horse, and I am extremely excited for his future!"



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