



North American League News

Year-End Review 2019

The North American League offers Series in five divisions – Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Low Junior/Amateur Jumper presented by HorseFlight, Adult Hunter and Children's Hunter. The Series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada. The North American League (NAL) gives riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – The NAL West Coast Finals at the International Jumping Festival in San Juan Capistrano in September and the NAL National Finals at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg in October.

The winners of this year's Finals were presented with fantastic awards including a coolerette and gift certificate for an NAL scrim sheet from The Clothes Horse, SmartPak Supplements courtesy of SmartPak, D-Tec Boots from EquiFit and a trophy courtesy of the NAL. Every rider that competed in the NAL Finals received a gift bag with an assortment of gifts from the NAL.

This annual newsletter encompasses articles about each of the NAL's five division winners from the West Coast Finals and the National Finals.

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

NAL would like to thank its sponsors & product donors

*Blenheim EquiSports; EquiFit; HorseFlight;
Kathy Hobstetter/ijump Sports; Pony Pizza Company; The Clothes Horse and SmartPak.*

Low Junior/Amateur Jumper

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Rachel Freer and Cheers Twin Win \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight

In her second year of NAL competition at the 1.30m level, 17-year-old Rachel Freer was in it to win it with Cheers Twin. One of six pairs to go clear over Anthony D'Ambrosio's first-round track in the \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight, Freer found the course perfectly suited for her big horse. "I thought the course had nice big lines and he's great about getting down them."

Second in the jump-off, their time of 42.927 seconds held for the win. "The jump-off was really fun, with no crazy inside turns but plenty of places to cut off a few seconds," Freer noted.

A student of Erin Isom and Alden Giacopuzzi at Alderin Sporthorses in the Los Angeles area, Freer has been focused on the jumper division since she was a pre-teen. She's grateful for a scopey and careful partner in Cheers Twin, with whom she hopes to ascend to the 1.40m and 1.45m ranks next year in pursuit of the North American Youth Championships.

"I love these Finals," Freer concluded. "It's a great experience and I loved competing on the grass."



horseflight.com

Excellence in International Horse Shipping



WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO AND FROM EUROPE | AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

.....

office +1 (844) 832-5848
fax +1 (866) 467-6704
www.horseflight.com

237 Old Turnpike Road
Califon, NJ 07830



Transporting the
competitive horse world one flight at a time.

Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Constance Kilmartin Take Home the Title in the \$5,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

Constance Kilmartin from San Diego, CA, had a big smile on her face well before she won the \$5,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak. Riding the 6-year-old Lucent and coming back from some riding related injuries within the past year, the 60-year-old former professional was exuberant to be galloping around the international ring on a warm, beautiful afternoon.

“It’s just a great experience to ride in this league and Final”. She said. “It’s been my goal all spring and summer and we worked hard to be prepared for it. I think it paid off!”

Of the four pairs to go clean in the first round, Kilmartin and “Luke” were the only ones to make it a double-clear day. As for the future, Constance had so much fun that she may aim to defend her NAL title next year, or possibly move up a notch to the 1.20m division with her talented young horse. Kilmartin trains with the Show Jumping Hall of Famer Hap Hansen in San Diego.



Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Charlotte Murray Takes Home the Title in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

Charlotte Murray didn't mind if her big sister Alexandra missed a few more shows this season. The rising equitation rider got to borrow Alexandra's mare, RMF Fara Van De Maltahoeve, for the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit and she made the most of it. Tackling the jump-off fourth of the five who turned in clean first-rounds, Charlotte shaved nearly three seconds off the runner-up's time without sacrificing sanity or style. Their efficient track made the most of the mare's excellent turning radius.

"She is the best turner in the world!" raved Murray. "Sometimes I almost fall off when she turns, because she turns so fast!" There was no hint of falling off in the Final, however, as Charlotte rode a wise, angled track per her plan from the outset.

Charlotte's trainer, Jeni Brown, applauds the NAL Finals as a big goal for the jumping students in her Los Angeles area training program. "It's a very nice final, with good prize money and it's great for the jumpers to have a big event they can prepare for all year long like our equitation riders do."



EquiFit.net



ESSENTIAL
AN EQUIFIT COLLECTION

**THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE.**

ESSENTIAL.
FOR
EVERY
RIDE.

EquiFit



Official Performance
Horse Boot and Leg Wear
of US Equestrian

Adult Hunter

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Cathy Morris-Schmitt Wins the \$5,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final

The winning horse in the \$5,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final, Andover, didn't have to travel far – his trainers, Morley Abey and Joie Gatlin based out of The Oaks in San Juan Capistrano, are minutes from the venue in Southern California. But his owner, Cathy Morris-Schmitt, who is based in Greenwood Village, Colorado, depends on the partnerships she has with her beloved Andover, the 11-year old Oldenberg gelding, and the team around them to be successful. Traveling from her home in Colorado to the Finals, Morris-Schmitt determined the journey was well worth every mile.

“The NAL Finals were very important to me,” Cathy said, while praising her coaches for readying her horse so well. “I came and had the most wonderful and prepared horse that you could imagine.”

With scores of 84 and an 87 score from judge Jim Zulia, Cathy and Andover were unbeatable. The lifelong rider now gets saddle time only when she meets up with Andover at shows, but she entered the NAL Finals without worry. “When you are sitting on a horse like him, there's no cause to be nervous. All you have to do is stay out of his way!”

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.”

Outside of the saddle, Cathy's number one supporter is her husband.

It's no secret that Cathy enjoys the thrill of competition with her current favorite show being the Capital Challenge since it really celebrates the Hunters. However, the National Horse Show when it was at Madison Square Garden will always be most memorable. “It was a thrill to compete in a venue that hosts the best athletes in the world,” she said.

Cathy's goals as a rider and in life are straightforward - - to have fun and aspire to mentor and coach extraordinary women leaders.



Children's Hunter

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

Finals Dream Becomes a Reality for Peyton Seltzer in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Finals

Peyten Seltzer had been hoping and preparing to make the NAL Finals since learning of the league in the spring. The (show-age) 12-year-old admitted to being a tad nervous about the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final, but trusted her Que Crème to be his usual self. "We'd already done a few rounds early in the morning and I didn't think he was going to change how good he was being," said Seltzer.

With her trainer, Philip Cillis, "We've been working on keeping him straight and just doing what we've been doing." That's what it took to walk away with the win from judge Bill Ellis over a grass field course designed by Joe Lombardo.



Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Hunter Champey and Hill Top Van Het Gavershof Win the \$12,500 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight

Hunter Champey of Bedminster, NJ rode Hill Top Van Het Gavershof, the 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood owned by Champey to the winners circle in the \$12,500 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight at the 2019 Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS).

"Hill Top is just the bravest horse. He really tries his heart out for me," the 14-year-old Champey said. "I did make a few mistakes along the way, but he held all the jumps up and I couldn't be more grateful for such an amazing horse.

"My plan for the jump-off was just to stay neat, not more galloping," Champey continued. "It was a good plan because he needs a little more room at the verticals. Then it was just neat everywhere else."

Champey, who trains with Alex Inganamort and Elinor Kunsman, has been competing at Harrisburg since she was "8 or 9" doing small ponies. "I've grown to this level doing the low juniors and I owe a lot to my trainers who push me along the way. Hill Top is the horse I never thought I could have," said Champey. "He's taken me to my first Nations Cup, my first Young Riders, and now my first win in Harrisburg. He's just amazing, helping me feel much more confident in my ride. I love him."



Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Phoenix Cooke Win Highly Competitive \$12,500 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

Phoenix Cooke won the highly competitive \$12,500 North NAL Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak at the 2019 Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS).

Eight out of 31 entries qualified for the jump-off in the New Holland Arena, where Michel Vaillancourt designed a track that presented numerous options to save time. Cooke's 13-year-old Appendix Quarter Horse mare Skys Burnin' Blue nipped around the course easily, posting a time of 32.170 seconds, which held as the fastest clear in the deciding round.

"I have to say that in round one I went in feeling pretty confident. I wasn't too nervous or anything," said the 26-year-old of Eastlake, OH, who works as an association relationship manager for PNC. "I watched one (jump-off round) and then I had to warm up. I don't like to watch a lot because I start over thinking. I know my track, I know what I need to do, and I just have to execute. ... My goal was just to go in there and trust my horse, and it was my day so I was very happy with that."

Skys Burnin' Blue, also known as "Gracie," has come a long way since Cooke's trainer, Stefanie Portman, rescued her as a skinny, unstarted 4-year-old. The mare has paid back her kindness in spades with her efforts in the ring, which have earned impressive accolades, including the USHJA Zone 5 Adult Jumper Championship and USHJA Zone 5 Adult Jumper Horse of the Year.

"She's a cat. She's very sensitive. She's very, very quick. She loves her job so much that she outthinks me," Cooke said. "No matter what arena I go in, I feel confident that it's going to be okay whether I make a mistake or not. We just have such a wonderful bond."



Celebrating
20 years
OF

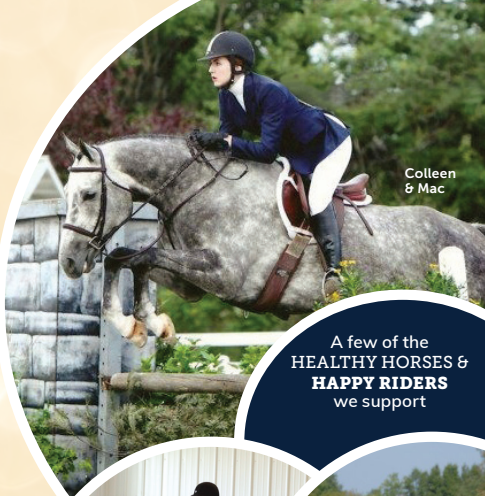
**HEALTHY HORSES &
HAPPY RIDERS**

At SmartPak, we know that your horse is more than just a horse. He's your best friend, your partner, and your family. But we also know that a bond that special comes with great responsibility. Your horse relies on you to take great care of him, and we're honored that thousands of riders have chosen us to help them do just that since 1999. We're thrilled to be a part of their journeys with their horses, and we can't wait to see where we'll go with you and your horse!

♥ *Your friends at SmartPak*



1-800-461-8898 | SmartPak.com



Colleen
& Mac

A few of the
**HEALTHY HORSES &
HAPPY RIDERS**
we support



Zazou
& Tara



Tempo
& Jessica

Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Ana Ramos Wins \$12,500 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

Ana Ramos of Ocala, FL rode Jorno, her own Belgian Warmblood, to the win in the \$12,500 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit at the 2019 Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS).

After 13 of 29 entries qualified for the jump-off by riding without penalty over the 15-effort, 1.15m first-round course designed by Michel Vaillancourt, they returned for the 8-effort abbreviated course.

Leading up to the Finals, the duo's new partnership earned success in the Ocala HITS circuit winning the \$25,000 Grand Prix in Ocala, champion at Kentucky over the summer, and completed in the Tryon Zone teams, where Ramos and Jorno was regarded as champion for the week.

"I was really nervous since this is my first indoor show," said Ramos. "In the jump-off, we walked the first line as a five, but that was really far out there, so we decided to do six to make quick turns because he turns really fast and he's just naturally fast," added Ramos. "His scope and natural ability helped. He was there for me and I was there for him. I'm really happy with how it all went."

Ramos has been in training with Megan Wexler, from Los Angeles, California, for the past three years.

"She is such a hard worker," said Wexler about Ramos. "She comes to the barn every day and you can really see her drive and wanting to jump bigger. Her family is all here to support her. We just had the best year. I couldn't ask more from the horse. They both are true athletes and trust each other and delivered on Championship day."



Adult Hunter

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Betty Oare and Sidenote are the NAL Adult Hunter Final Champions

The \$12,500 NAL Adult Hunter Final Championship, held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, was awarded to Betty Oare of Warrenton, VA, and Emo Stables' *Sidenote*. *Sidenote*, affectionately called "Ted" in the barn, skyrocketed to the top of the leaderboard in the first round with a score of 86.00.



"This horse has given me a lot of confidence to jump. I'm just lucky to have him," said Oare.

Enjoying the moment, and the crowd of friends surrounding the in-gate, Oare and "Ted" galloped around the ring in the final test leaving nothing to chance. Their second and final score of 89.00 confirmed them as the 2019 NAL Adult Hunter Final Champions and recipients of the Lisa. A.H. Cudahy Perpetual Trophy.

"I think NAL is a wonderful organization and I'm thankful to have such a nice class in the Adult. It was a darn good class," said Oare. "Most that came back were in the 80's; there was lots of quality. People aim for that (high score), it's not just the 'here comes the adults' class."



Children's Hunter

National Finals at Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Abigail Gordon and Delightful are Champions in the NAL Children's Hunter Final

Abigail Gordon and Delightful won the \$12,500 NAL Children's Hunter Final during the 2019 Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS).

Gordon, 13, from Charlotte, NC, and Delightful, owned by Sloan Lindemann-Barnett, took home the blue ribbon and the Laura Palmer Picket Memorial Perpetual Trophy in the \$12,500 NAL Children's Hunter Final.



In the first round, the pair earned the highest score of 87.00. The last horse-and-rider combination to ride in the callback, Gordon and Delightful, lovingly called “Smooch,” bested their first-round score earning an 88.00 in the second round to decisively take the win with a final score of 175.00.

Thrilled with their new partnership, Gordon talked about the connection she has with “Smooch.” “Every time I ask him (Delightful) to do something, he tries. He always relies on me, and we trust each other. The main part is that I have fun on him.”

With an all-star support team behind them, Gordon and “Smooch” look forward to transitioning out of the ponies. “I ride with Ashland Farm. I’m glad I ride with them because we are all a team, we support each other. I can’t thank my trainers enough,” said Gordon. “This is my first time not doing ponies. It was my first time doing the horse in the three-foot class. I was nervous because I wanted to do well, and I just took a deep breath and told myself just to have fun.”



Thank You Sponsors & Product Donors



Blenheim EquiSport

EquiFit

HorseFlight

Kathy Hobstetter/ijump Sports

Pony Pizza Company

The Clothes Horse

SmartPak

\$5,000 Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Cheers Twin	Rachel Freer
2	Legis Air	Marnye Langer
3	Boheme Lerchenberg	Mauricio Huesca
4	Wonder Kid	Mary Frances Looke
5	Quiz	Jacqueline Patmore
6	Diamond	Melody Liu
7	Legis Let's Do Lunch	Marnye Langer
8	Urlando De Coquire	Whitney Feng

\$5,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Lucent	Constance Kilmartin
2	Kilarado	Trish Jacobs
3	Polanka Jmen	Silvia Loftus
4	Gumby 94	Lauren Katzenellenbogen
5	Caldiano	Jennifer Elliott
6	Comtess	Jennifer Elliott
7	Cat's Pik	Kenzie Murray
8	Howard VDL	Michael Aguilera

\$5,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	RMF Fara Van De Maltahoeve	Charlotte Murray
2	Balisar	Ariana Marnell
3	Eragon	Emily Johnson
4	Cosmic Dream	Della Walker
5	Carrickview Gin And Tonic	Cameron Trimino
6	Grand Nemo	Jaden Cheikha
7	Cazz C	Kyle Cline
8	King's Rugby	Skylar Wireman

\$5,000 Adult Hunter Final – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Andover	Cathy Morris-Schmitt
2	Deja Blue	Tonia Cook Looker
3	Hinckley	Debra Chambers
4	Valedictorian	Ashley Haskins
5	Leonetti	Harriet Posner
6	First & Goal	Jennifer Rawlings
7	Close Up	Stephanie Goodson
8	Aspen	Donna Harris

\$5,000 Children's Hunter Final – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Que Crème	Peyten Seltzer
2	Cici Top	Kate Parker
3	Arizona	Whitney Hejmanowski
4	Wonderwall	Madison Parma
5	Luisant	Maddie Edwards

\$12,500 Low Junior/Amateur- Jumper Final Presented by HorseFlight– National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Hill Top Van Het Gavershof	Hunter Champey
2	SFS Harriet	Mimi Gochman
3	Darc Kiss Z	Grace Debney
4	Ausi	Natalie Jayne
5	Santos	Emma Pell
6	AD F16	Ellie Beard
7	Adoctro	Madeline Schaefer
8	Cornishman	Chloe Terestchenko
9	Tenacious D	Lauren McCaulley
10	Twitter	Natalie Jayne
11	Aurora	Molly Struve
12	Idream	Andrea Vogel

\$12,500 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Skys Burnin' Blue	Phoenix Cooke
2	Zafira	Angela Swanson
3	Role Model	Alison Flury
4	Lexus	Stephanie King
5	Gold Lux	Molly Athey
6	Escot 6	Charlotte Powers
7	Lea	Jeannette Pettit
8	Wender R	Stefani Green
9	Lola	Elizabeth Johnson
10	Penn	Hannah Showell
11	Britta Of Berga	Jennie Towner
12	Butterfly Amition	Barbara Rochford

\$12,500 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Jorno	Ana Ramos
2	Abilitydance	Claire Campbell
3	Livius Van't Bijlebos	Lindsay Sheldon
4	Papaver LS	Avery Moore
5	Lady Bird	Sydney Lin
6	Lyla	Claudette Yarbrough
7	Buenos Aires	Alexis Ortiz
8	Calicool	Isabella R Gunningham
9	Casseur	Lauren Miller
10	Zersina	Allison Sinclair
11	Cilke Quality SC	Halle Quadracci
12	Camera Ready	Katalena Prusso

\$12,500 Adult Hunter Final – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Sidenote	Betty Oare
2	For Ever	Peggy McNeil
3	Falcon	Kathryn Sanders
4	Clooney	Meredith Maxwell
5	Glyndon	Patti Schindler
6	Hundred Acre	Laurie Barna
7	Bambolino	Jacquelyn Maggiore
8	Kensington	Stacy Wolf
9	Believer	Julia Martinez
10	Eurythmic	Laura Owens
11	Cornetto	Barbara Brungess
12	Renaissance	Susannah Raff

\$12,500 Children's Hunter Final - National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Delightful	Abigail Gordon
2	Pop Rocks	Alexa Lignelli
3	Bender	Sally Ives
4	Resonate	Alexa Lignelli
5	Eloquence	Vanessa C. Rosso
6	Everglade VDL	Taylor Landstrom
7	Rubix	Kaitlun Kiely
8	Lando's Silver Tear Drop	Emma Shove
9	Sienna	Reagan Williams
10	Chago	Jordan Bell
11	Santinos	Lauren Satola
12	Zeus	Sophia Strahan