



North American League News

Year-End Review 2023

The North American League (NAL) offers year-long series in six divisions – Children’s Hunter Presented by Charles Ancona, Adult Hunter Presented by LAURACEA, Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, Children’s Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti, and Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by R & R Hunter Horses. 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 23-24, and the National Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show at the Prince George’s Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, September 28-October 8.

The winners of this year’s Finals were presented with a number of awards including generous gift certificates provided by EquiFit, SmartPak and The Clothes Horse; a trophy courtesy of the NAL; and an NAL coolerette and gift bag with an assortment of gifts including a dated stall plaque. Additionally, ACE Equestrian donated non-slip pads for the National Finals awards, and Topline Ribbon Wreaths and DCTM, LLC, presented the high point winner of each division’s year-end standings with unique gifts.

This annual newsletter encompasses articles about each of the NAL’s division winners from the National Finals and West Coast Finals. For more information on the NAL, please call 717-867-5643, email NAL@Ryegate.com or visit www.ryegate.com. Follow the NAL on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NALFinals>.

NAL would like to thank its sponsors and product donors for another fantastic year:



CHARLES ANCONA
NEW YORK

Children's Hunter

Presented by Charles Ancona

National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan Claims Top Honors in \$10,000 Children's Hunter Final Presented by Charles Ancona

Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan of Irvine, CA, made her first trip to Capital Challenge a winning one, presenting her 16-year-old Hanoverian Cross gelding *Ratatat* against a competitive field in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final Presented by Charles Ancona. She and "Nick" quickly jumped to the top of the leaderboard with a first-round score of 85.75 points, and they maintained their lead with an 83.25-point second-round score to bring home the win with 169 total points.

"Nick's really such a sweetheart," Jeyanandarajan said of her partner for the last two years. "We've never been here, it was our first time showing at night, and he was just such a good boy. To be in a prestigious ring like this, I just wanted two solid rounds. I knew he had the jump to place high in the class, but I never thought we could have won it our first time!"

"There was definitely pressure going into (the second round) with the high score and coming back last," she added. "You know you can do it, but you want to make sure to have a good ride and put in the best round you can. My trainer wanted me to relax, breathe, and not be nervous, so I tried to take that advice and stay in our rhythm. This is definitely my top win and all-time top achievement with this horse."

Taylor Abraham of Aiken, SC, finished second with Leanna Lazzari's *UFO De Nisi* on a 163.25-point score. Taking third with 162.25 points were Campbell Cauthen of Lexington, KY, and DCTM LLC's *Quoriolis Effect SCF*.



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A white, stylized signature of Charles Ancona, consisting of a large 'C' followed by a series of fluid, connected strokes.

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Adult Hunter

Presented by LAURACEA



National Final at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Julia McNerney Takes the Title in the \$10,000 Adult Hunter Final Presented by LAURACEA

Although Julia McNerney has only owned *Cascartini* for about a month, the flashy Holsteiner gelding is no stranger to the hunter ring. After watching “Marty” compete successfully in several International Hunter Derbies with trainer Havens Schatt, McNerney, of Washington, DC, figured she would test their new partnership in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final Presented by LAURACEA. She wound up being thrilled to walk away with top honors on a 170.37-point score.

“It’s the first time we have shown indoors together,” McNerney said. “I was really happy with how the distances came up in our first round and how balanced he was through all the turns. Then, in the second round, I really tried to carry pace and have a nice little hand gallop to the single jumps. He’s a spectacular jumper, so I wanted to make sure to highlight that when we returned.

“He’s a big horse with a big personality,” she added. “He’s definitely a bit of a mooch around the barn. If I don’t come with treats, I just shouldn’t come at all. In that way, we get along very well. We have a bunch of big personalities at Milestone, and I can’t thank the team enough for helping me to do it all!”

Meghan Rohrbaugh Bear of Mechanicsburg, PA, earned second place aboard R&R Sport Horses LLC’s *Fievel K*. Third went to Judy Rutkowski of Center Valley, PA, and her *Spanish Harlem*.



LAURACEA

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Cara McFadden (L)
Lily McFadden (R)

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Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak



National Final at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Kendall Casaccio Sets Uncatchable Time to Beat in \$10,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

Riding with steady efficiency over the initial course and setting a blazing time to beat of 36.048 seconds in the jump-off, Kendall Casaccio of Marmora, NJ, and her *Indigo ES* claimed top honors in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak. The pair have developed a great understanding of each other since becoming partners in the spring of 2022 under the watchful eye of trainer Emil Spadone.

“I’ve ridden with Emil since I was about 14 years old, and he’s always given me really awesome horses,” Casaccio said. “*Indigo* is such a sweet horse in the barn. She can be a little quirky, a little spooky at certain things, but I just love her to death. I did do a winger in the last line (of the jump-off), riding it in seven strides which was a bit of a stretch, but I really committed and she had my back. That was all I could ask for.”

Afterward, Casaccio walked around the schooling area with *Indigo ES* as if in a pressure cooker. “My heart was racing, because my time kept being announced as the one to beat, the one to beat, the one to beat,” she said. “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, did all these horses go and I held onto it this long?’ Typically, going first is the worst spot in the jump-off, but I was so happy to hold onto it for all that time. I have been so hungry for a win like this with this mare. She’s amazing, and it really means a lot.”

Chasing Casaccio’s time but ultimately taking second place was Charlotte Powers of Leesburg, VA, who stopped the clock in 36.625 seconds with her *Escot 6*. Madison Smyth of Dayton, MD, and her *Encore* claimed third in 37.197 seconds.



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Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

National Final at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Collin Sweetnam Blazes to Victory in \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

Bringing home victory in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit was Collin Sweetnam of Wellington, FL, and Sweet Oak Farm's *Just Noble*, who sliced and diced their way to a double-clear time of 34.58 seconds. Sweetnam watched his older sister, Olivia, ride the 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare nicknamed "Noelle" for several years before taking over the reins at WEF this year. He has been coached every step of the way by his parents, Shane and Allison.

"Noelle is pretty small, but she's very, very quick," Sweetnam said. "The first round was pretty tricky for us in a small indoor under the lights. There was a lot of pressure, but I think we handled it well. My dad inspires me a lot and actually called me before we went in to go over the course.

"When we went clear, I just got some water and chilled out for a second, then went over my jump-off," he continued. "I was nervous in the first round, but in the second I was like, 'I got this. I'm prepared.' There were no really sneaky turns; I just went really fast and tried my best. Noelle was amazing, and it was very fun zipping around that ring."

Vivian Golden of Wyomissing, PA, and her *Chester* tripped the timers on a faultless 35.167-second score for second place. Grace Lowe of Arlington, VA, guided her *Kilbrackan Blue Jay* into third with a double-clear time of 37.961 seconds.



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Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

PARLANTI

National Final at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Isabelle Ehman Proves Unbeatable in \$10,000 Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Parlanti

For their first indoor show together, Isabelle Ehman of Milton, GA, only wanted a good experience with *Aston Des Etisses*, the 13-year-old Selle Français gelding her Double E LLC just bought in the spring. She and “Aston” gave each other 100% in the \$10,000 NAL Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Parlanti, tripping the timers fault-free in a blistering 33.832 seconds for the championship.

“We definitely didn’t expect these results this weekend, but I’m super happy with how he was!” Ehman said. “He has a really big stride, and he’s quick across the ground and very adjustable. We had a plan going into the ring beforehand, just trying to be super tidy everywhere and riding the least number of strides possible. Our first-round course didn’t seem too bad, and then we were able to execute our jump-off exactly how I wanted.”

As the first pair to return for the jump-off, Ehman and Aston set a speedy time to beat that ultimately gave them a 1.5-second lead over their fellow competitors. “He’s got quite the personality, especially if it’s dinnertime, but overall he’s just the sweetest horse,” Ehman added. “He has experience with 3* and 4* grand prix, so he’s very trustworthy and I know he’ll always have my back. I just love him so much.”

Elise Stephens of Whitefish Bay, WI, claimed second in 35.393 seconds aboard Ashland Farms’ *Diablo*. Olivia Sweetnam of Wellington, FL, and Triple S Group’s *Ina* finished third in 35.967 seconds.





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Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by R & R Hunter Horses



National Final at Capital Challenge Horse Show

Hailey Guidry Reigns in \$10,000 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by R & R Hunter Horses

Following an unfortunate rail in the NAL Children's Jumper Final that knocked her out of the final placings, Hailey Guidry of Wellington, FL, returned to the ring with only one goal for the \$10,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by R & R Hunter Horses: ride two clear rounds. She and *Byzance Mail* did that and more, securing a first-place finish in a faultless time of 33.468 seconds.

“Bee’ is such a queen,” Guidry said of Honor Hill Farm LLC’s 12-year-old Selle Français mare. “We got her earlier this year, and she’s been so perfect overall. We’ve won so many classics already, and I feel so lucky to be able to come here on her. My plan for our jump-off was to go smoothly, try not to have any rails, and be very quick. It rode very well for her since she’s a tiny little mare and can go around the turns pretty quickly. Honestly, I was surprised at how fast she could go because I’ve never actually gone that fast with her! I’m very proud of our round.”

Bringing home second were Maddie Tosh of Milton, GA, and Julia Curtis’s *Kennedy VD Rechri* with a double-clear time of 33.992 seconds. Guidry also finished third with *Ezmeralda EH Z*, another entry from Honor Hill Farm LLC, after stopping the clock in 34.497 seconds.



Children's Hunter

Presented by Charles Ancona

CHARLES ANCONA
NEW YORK

West Coast Final at International Jumping Festival

Sienna Slusser Brings Home the Win in \$5,000 Children's Hunter Final Presented by Charles Ancona

Birchmont Farm LLC's *Ivy League*, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding ridden by Sienna Slusser of Manhattan Beach, CA, claimed top honors in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Finals Presented by Charles Ancona. After taking sixth at the NAL Finals last year, Slusser was excited to make her return a winning one.

"I've been competing for about two years now," she said. "It's so great that this year was really my year! I was pretty nervous coming here, but we put a lot of work into this season. I'm so glad and thankful that it all paid off."

Sloane Hollingshead of Rolling Hills Estates, CA, walked away with second for her performance on *Caruso*, Georgy Maskrey-Segesman's 7-year-old Holsteiner gelding. Third went to Ann Adams' 9-year-old Holsteiner mare *Compliment*, with Caroline Freeman of Los Angeles, CA, in the irons.



LAURACEA
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Adult Hunter Presented by LAURACEA

West Coast Final at International Jumping Festival

Karen O'Leonard Stars in \$5,000 Adult Hunter Final Presented by LAURACEA

Karen O'Leonard of Elfin Forrest, CA, brought home the win in the \$5,000 NAL Adult Hunter Finals Presented by LAURACEA aboard Savannah Pike's *Swan Song*. O'Leonard and the 12-year-old Warmblood gelding kept a beautiful rhythm throughout the two-round class and earned a total score of 177 points.

"Riding here this week was fun!" O'Leonard said. "I love riding on the grass ring. It's what I love the most about coming here, and I just had a blast. I'm always a little nervous going into any show, but I know I can trust my horse. He does anything and everything and is just such a good boy. I really focused on relaxing and letting him do his job, and here we are!"

The top three entries were each separated by seven points, with Alex Maida of Danville, CA, and Glenda Monkmarsh's 11-year-old Oldenburg gelding *Monaco* earning 170 points for second place. Marissa Maas of Ventura, CA, and her 12-year-old Westphalian gelding *Gray's Anatomy* walked away with third following their 163-point score.





Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

West Coast Final at International Jumping Festival

Kimberly Guichard Slices and Dices to Win \$5,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

In the \$5,000 NAL Adult Jumper Finals Presented by SmartPak, Kimberly Guichard of Palos Verdes Estates, CA, blazed 1.12 seconds ahead of her competitors with a foot-perfect jump-off time of 34.544 seconds aboard *Escape VS*, the 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare owned by Viksberg Sateri AB.

“This course was amazing, and my mare is such a great horse,” said Guichard, who was the last to return for the jump-off. “I knew we needed to be fast coming back in and that I could make up a lot of ground on the inside turn to Fence #8. She’s naturally quick across the ground, so I just let her keep coming to each fence and executed our plan.”

Second-place honors went to Lexi Miller of Huntington Beach, CA, and her 6-year-old Hanoverian mare *Clinton’s Girl* for their time of 35.660 seconds. *Cresta SA*, a 9-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare owned and ridden by Kiera Hennigan of Malibu, CA, finished third in 38.704 seconds.



Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

EquiFit®

West Coast Final at International Jumping Festival

Lucia Perry Is Fabulous in \$5,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

Of the 18 horse-and-rider combinations to tackle the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Finals Presented by EquiFit, it was Lucia Perry of Palos Verdes Estates, CA, who came out on top. She stopped the clock on a double-clear score of 32.845 seconds aboard *Fabulous*, her 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding.

"I feel really great now!" Perry said with a laugh. "I got a bit nervous before the jump-off, but *Fabulous* is really, really good. I wanted to make up some time over the last three jumps, and he kicked into another gear for me. He's such a great horse and just jumped his heart out."

Finishing in second place was Destiny Stewart of Aliso Viejo, CA, who tripped the timers in 33.385 seconds with her 17-year-old Holsteiner gelding *Clavius*. With her 35.226-second time aboard her own 10-year-old Warmblood mare *Bernadette*, Grace Wahlberg of Beverly Hills, CA, took third.



PARLANTI

Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

West Coast Final at International Jumping Festival

Megan Holliday Earns Blue in \$5,000 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

The only entry to ride double clear through the \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Finals Presented by Parlanti, Megan Holliday of Littleton, CO, earned blue-ribbon honors with her own 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding *Revelation*.

“It feels so good to be here,” Holliday said. “We’ve been meaning to come here for so long, and this was just a great, exciting way to end the season. I knew going into the jump-off that I just had to ride clean, so my goal was to ride smart, do what I do without pushing it or going too crazy, and let my horse do his thing. I heard our rub on that last jump, but when I looked back and saw it was still up, I was like, ‘Oh, thank goodness!’”

Kate Hovland of Newport Beach, CA, placed second aboard *Good Time Girl*, AE Swanson Farms LLC’s 11-year-old Westphalian mare, on a four-fault jump-off score. Finishing third for her five-fault initial-round score was Katherine Fertig of Laguna Hills, CA, on her own 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding *New White M*.



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\$5,000 Children's Hunter Final Presented by Charles Ancona – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Ivy League	Sienna Slusser
2	Caruso	Sloane Hollingshead
3	Compliment	Caroline Freeman
4	Chinyero	Charlie Clarke
5	Ninetto	Lana Weber

\$5,000 Adult Hunter Final Presented by LAURACEA – West Coast

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Swan Song	Karen O'Leonard
2	Monaco	Alex Maida
3	Gray's Anatomy	Marissa Maas
4	Scirocco 91	Laura Owens

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

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Fabulous	Lucia Perry
2	Clavius	Destiny Stewart
3	Bernadette	Grace Wahlberg
4	Europa SR Z	Tess Nicholson
5	Timeus JL Z	Samantha Siler
6	Bromigo	Tatum Loyd
7	Jurania Van't Lozerhof	Samantha Siler
8	Deseo Des Cinq Chenes	Lily Grosz

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

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Escape VS	Kimberly Guichard
2	Clinton's Girl	Lexi Miller
3	Cresta SA	Kiera Hennigan
4	Castro	Dustin Williams
5	Harina Touch W	Tara Brown
6	Spartelina G	Isabel Baker
7	Haido	Dustin Williams
8	Cocobell	Catherine Antonelli

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

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Revelation	Megan Holliday
2	Good Time Girl	Kate Hovland
3	New White M	Katherine Fertig
4	MJ	Rachel Glicklich
5	Legenda Van't Winnenhof	Kalea Iuliano
6	Hooverphonic Odeveld	Katy Vataha
7	Cascalido Pro	Emmerson Busch
8	Bianca Castafiore	Lauren Katzenellenbogen

\$10,000 Children's Hunter Final Presented by Charles Ancona – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Ratatat	Lakshmi Jeyanandarajan
2	UFO De Nisi	Taylor Abraham
3	Quoriolis Effect SCF	Campbell Cauthen
4	Best Chance	Sophie Sherman
5	Brightside	Drew Mallahan
6	Consensus	Nyla Semaan
7	Curill	Maxima Lanasa
8	Heaven Sent Harley	Ivy Bonds
9	Emenem S	Alexis Johnson
10	Apanage	Chloe Canter
11	Surf City	Cody Yurman
12	Spero	Ella Adams

\$10,000 Adult Hunter Final Presented by LAURACEA – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Cascartini	Julia Mc Nerney
2	Fievel K	Meghan Rohrbaugh Bear
3	Spanish Harlem	Judy Rutkowski
4	Limitless	Stephanie King
5	Party Started	Tricia Barr
6	Chevito	Rachel Boggus
7	Play Maker	Stephanie King
8	Golden Goose	Mimi Moulton
9	Nureyev SCF	Jaclyn Fisher
10	Le Diplomate	Nicole Harris
11	Exclusive	Lori N. Matthews
12	Casallo	Maryann Zeira

\$10,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Just Noble	Collin Sweetnam
2	Chester	Vivian Golden
3	Kilbrackan Blue Jay	Grace Lowe
4	G-Star	Sydney Lin
5	SFS Harriet	Taylor Kamataris
6	Nicarmargue	Marielle Walrath
7	Flashback VDS	Luna Valobra
8	Contara 15	Eloise Eisner
9	Just Kevin	Elizabeth Lile
10	Collin W	Caroline Hoover
11	Zuma	Madison Stewart
12	Charmeur P	Ava May Jacobs

\$10,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Indigo ES	Kendall Casaccio
2	Escot 6	Charlotte Powers
3	Encore	Madison Smyth
4	TC Cayman De Joyarie Z	Elizabeth Harris
5	Kalvo	Noa Diener
6	Greta	Jeanne Reid
7	MTM Axel	Meredith Huddle
8	Cassonetti	Charlotte Oulanoff
9	Elsa	Kristan Lassiter
10	Lucky Star	Jennifer Rossano
11	Falco Van De Noordhoek	Olivia Parr
12	Falciana	Caroline Lloyd

\$10,000 Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Parlanti - National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Aston Des Etisses	Isabelle Ehman
2	Diablo	Elise Stephens
3	Ina	Olivia Sweetnam
4	Kalahari	Carter Ware
5	Hocus Pocus Van De Lucashoeve	Caroline Signorino
6	Milan IV	Lisa Butzer
7	Good Choice	Paris Levy
8	Eurostar 1	Callie Seaman
9	Chakalaka 8	Stella Propp
10	Encanta	Isabelle Ehman
11	Candice Bergen	Gabriella Curry
12	Essie Starlight	Julia Greenspan

\$10,000 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by R & R Hunter Horses - National Final

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Byzance Mail	Hailey Guidry
2	Kennedy VD Rechri	Maddie Tosh
3	Ezmeralda EH Z	Hailey Guidry
4	I Mose VLS	Elodie Watrous
5	Jenni's Chance	Emma Linton
6	Slackjaw	Faith Schuttemeyer
7	Witches Goldberg B	Josephine Samuelson
8	Diamant Blue RBF Z	Peyton Rathbun
9	Souplesse	Stella Propp
10	Glynnwood Mer Calido	Alexis Mierzwa
11	Danna RJ	Mary Rose Canterbury
12	Clonseer Clay	Heather Spagnoli