



DAILY UPDATE

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FARMS & ESTATES WELLINGTON, FLORIDA



Looking Back and Looking Ahead

The success of the Capital Challenge began with a vision 20 years ago. When Prince George's Equestrian Center broke ground in 1993, Oliver Kennedy and Billy Glass shared a dream to create a top competition, which would lead the indoor show season in North America. They hosted the first official Capital Challenge Horse Show in October 1994, and together they have run one of the nation's top horse shows for two decades.

"The whole basis of success for CCHS is the level of competition and bringing everyone together to compete," stated Glass. "We host many of the best horses and riders in the industry and we are lucky that we have a great facility to attract them. We have the highest level of hunter competition. Winners compete at Capital Challenge."

Some of the greatest moments and biggest achievements for Kennedy and Glass have come from the development and success of the developing pro rider and young hunter classes. Both men have a long history in the business and saw the opportunity to make their mark early on by creating original and ground-breaking classes for the rising stars of the sport.

While Pre-Green classes were offered in the early years of the Capital Challenge, the Future Hunter divisions started in 2001. The big winner that year was Dream Date, ridden by Louise Serio and owned by Rachel Barker, née Geiger. Barker said "The Future Hunters were that "make it" opportunity for

Dream Date. "Bubbles" success in these classes provided a stellar finish to his Pre-Green career," she added. "I am sure he gained confidence there that he carried with him throughout the rest of his very successful career, including returning to CCHS the next year to be champion in the First Year Greens."

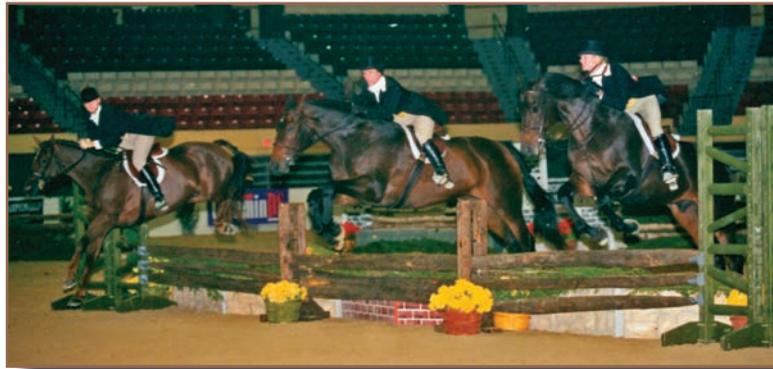
Other hunter superstars that graduated from the Future Hunter ranks were Gray Slipper, Hollywood, In Disguise, West Point, Declaration, and Bacardi.

As the Capital Challenge Horse Show begins its 20th year, the goal is now to keep the best of the best coming to Upper Marlboro each fall and keep the competition fresh and original.

Kennedy is not sure what the future will bring, but

he plans stay ahead of the curve.

"When we originally started the show, Billy and I decided that we wanted to do a show the way we thought it should be done," Kennedy stated. "We didn't want a cookie cutter horse show. We didn't want it to be just like the next week or the week before that. We wanted ours to stand out and I think the hardest thing is to stay current and keep your ideas fresh. I think our horse show spearheaded a lot of change in the industry and now the most important thing is staying ahead of the curve and fresh with new ideas."



For four years Hunt Night was held on Monday night.

The Capital Challenge Equitation Weekend, presented by BigEq.com

Saturday

INDOOR RING 8:30am
 17 Year Old Equitation
 16 Year Old Equitation
 15 Year Old Equitation
 13/14 Year Old Equitation
 12 Year Old & Under Equitation
 North American Jr. Flat
 Equitation Championships
 THIS National Children's Medal Warm Up
 Adult Amateur Equitation

OUTDOOR RING 8:00am

17 Year Old Equitation
 16 Year Old Equitation
 15 Year Old Equitation
 13/14 Year Old Equitation
 12 Year Old & Under Equitation
 Taylor Harris Insurance Services
 National Children's Medal Warm Up
 Adult Amateur Equitation
 Open Equitation 3'6"
 Open Equitation 3'

Sunday

INDOOR RING 8:00am
 North American Junior
 Equitation Championships
 Taylor Harris Insurance Services
 National Children's Medal Finals
 North American Adult
 Equitation Championships

The Evolution of the Poster



Every year, the Capital Challenge Horse Show's program and official poster feature new artwork by artist Michael Tang. This year's cover art is a beautiful painting of 2012 World Championship Hunter Rider champion Scott Stewart and one of his top mounts, Dedication, owned by Dr. Betsee Parker. The process that goes into creating the cover art each year is a great challenge for artist Michael Tang, and he is meticulous in his research and planning. The following are his thoughts on how he goes from blank canvas to finished piece.

"The notion of the artistic creative process has been the subject of much debate and research. Some insist that creativity is spontaneous; others argue that spontaneity is an unreliable and that creativity consists of the original use of accomplished technique. Whether spontaneous or carefully planned, there is nothing more anxiety producing than a painter faced with a blank canvas or piece of paper.

Each year, as I begin to think about rendering the painting for the Capital Challenge Poster, there is anxiety. In other words will I be able to find a suitable photo to use as inspiration; one that flatters both horse and rider? In the last eighteen years or so that I've created the painting for the poster, there have been only one or two times that I've found a photograph that I can utilize straightaway.

Most years, the inception of the painting begins with a laborious search; a process in which I try to find photos of the rider and horse that might work. As one might imagine, there is never one photo that is perfect. There might be good shot of the rider in which his equitation is exemplary, but then he or she is riding a different horse. The horse in question might be jumping in perfect form, but the lighting isn't flattering. Thus the finished painting is a combination of twenty or thirty sources; research which

suggests ways to render light on the braided leather of a rein, to the gloss of a polished boot, to the way shadow falls on a saddle pad and girth.

If a combination of photos can help the artist arrive at a final solution, there are those problems that can only be guessed at, such as the rider's ear which is hidden beneath a strap, or the way light falls on a worn velvet hunt cap versus a hard plastic helmet. With all the sources assembled, it's time to finally begin the painting, and there isn't anything more anxiety producing than the first day of putting down the initial series of washes on paper. People always ask me how long it takes to finish a painting. I always say, "I don't know." I don't know as I take frequent breaks to look what I've put down, to study it with the hopes with what I have will lead to the next step.

Little, by little however, answers are found and forms take shape and there is always relief when the end is in sight, in other words, when I know instinctively how to finish the final painting. Satisfaction finally arrives when all the major questions are answered and all I need to do is to "polish," to refine the decisions and solutions I've previously made."

This year's program can be purchased at the Capital Challenge Souvenir stand located on the concourse.

Spotlight on THIS

Avery Hinson and Nina Vogel and their journey to the finals

Fifteen-year-old Avery Hinson is one of the forty riders who qualified to compete in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal Finals held this Sunday, September 29. Avery, of New Albany, OH, sits third in the standings coming into this weekend's competition and looks forward to showing.

She said, "It is quite surreal to finally be going to Taylor Harris finals and I'm so excited to have this opportunity. This is my third, and last year, competing in the THIS medal, and the first year that I've qualified to ride in the final. Last year, I was in the top 40 but was knocked out in the final week so it is a relief that I made it this year!"

Avery rides with Angela Moore at Stealaway Farm in Dublin, OH, and will show Elaine, an 11-year-old Warmblood mare that she recently leased. Avery admits that even though it was her third year competing in the THIS medal classes, they didn't get any easier. She said, "I think the first Taylor Harris that I competed in in 2013 was at the Winter Equestrian Festival where I scored an 87 and ended up winning. That first success of the year was what gave me the confidence and composure to do well throughout the whole year. Also, competing in the Maclay, USEF Medal, and WIHS for the first time this year gave me more experience to help me in the THIS medal classes."



Riding to the third place in the national standings required consistency at every show. She said, "Taylor Harris finals is very hard to qualify for, because you have to place well in almost every class you show in to stay in the top 40. Because the barn I ride with tends to travel to the larger equestrian destinations, I have had the opportunity to compete at WEF, all the way up to the Lake Placid Horse Show in New York, where I have gained a lot of experience, which I think will help me greatly at finals this year."

Avery credits a strong team who enabled her to get to the

Avery continued on next page...

Just last year Nina Vogel, 15, traveled from Los Angeles, CA, to the try horses at Capital Challenge. It was her first experience at an East Coast horse show and it was during that trip she found Jamestown, a 15.3-hand Dutch warmblood she rides now. She said, "when I set the goal of qualifying for the THIS Medal Final this year, it helped to know that both Jamestown and I would be comfortable showing here.

"Jamestown and I have been working hard since he came home with me to California last October, and we are becoming a better and better team every day. We competed in many THIS qualifier classes throughout the year, and I learned to focus and pull all the pieces of my riding together to ride a course consistently and smoothly."

Nina believes it is great that the THIS classes offer such competitive competition at the three-foot level. She said, "The wide variety of riders does not stop the THIS classes from being competitive." One of the things she learned this year through competing in the THIS classes was that "consistency is the most important part of success in classes with work-offs, like the National Children's Medal."

Reflecting on her year of qualifying Nina said, "Wanting to qualify made me more nervous in the THIS classes than other classes, so I got lots of practice managing my nerves. I am so excited to be able to participate in this final, and I am so thankful to all my trainers at Far West Farms for their instruction and support throughout the year, and to my parents for making it all possible."



Avery continued...

finals. She said, "I am very lucky to have had a great team to support me throughout my journey to qualify, including my trainer Angela Moore of Stealaway, my parents, Alan and Lisa, and my grandparents and show friends. Also, I had great horses to compete on and the partnership with them really is what has made the difference in being able to go to the THIS Finals. Most people wouldn't know that Ohio has a lot of talented young riders. For example, Ali Wolff, Kate Morrison, and Gabriella Mershad are from central Ohio and ride at the grand prix level. I have looked up to them as I have progressed in this sport, and they have been role models to me. I look forward to finals this year and can't wait to see what it has in store for all of us. I also can't wait to reunite with my friends that live all over the country, who will also be competing in the Taylor Harris finals."



The Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal is a competitive stepping-stone into the 3'6" equitation division.



We are grateful to Taylor Harris Insurance Services who has been sponsoring the National Children's Medal since 2008.

Congratulations to this year's finalists:

Emma	Benson	Madison	Maners
Kammie	Berns	Mckenzie	Miller
Billi Rose	Brandner	Maria	Moore
Brett	Burlington	Rhian	Murphy
Emily	Calikoski	Kelsi	Oken
Charlise	Casas	Addison	Piper
Jane	Chiavelli	John	Porter
Samantha	Cohen	Jacqueline	Putegnatt
Haley	Davis	Tyler	Raftery
Elizabeth	Ekberg	Adam	Rittenberg
Katie	Epinger	Megan	Romeo
Gemma	Geist	Adriana	Savettiere
Catherine	Guyman	Syona	Shah
Sarah Jane	Haskins	Deanna	Speranza
Megan	Hilton	Ava	Stearns
Avery	Hinson	Tegan	Treacy
Emily	Keane	Nina	Vogel
Kelsey	King	Helen	Voss
Gina	Kumar	Sarah	Vossers
Hayley	Lannotti	Nolan	Wein
Grady	Lyman	Samantha	Wight
Emily	MacLean		

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