



Ballard and Shulman Tie for First in the \$36,000 Keystone Classic Speed Stake



Very rarely do competitors tie in a one-round speed class, but Canada's Erynn Ballard and Israel's Sydney Shulman did just that in the \$36,000 Keystone Classic Speed Stake Friday night at the 2019 Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS). Both went clear during their rounds and stopped the clock at an unbeatable 52.59 seconds.

Riding ninth in a field of 25, Ballard quickly surpassed early pacesetters with the blistering time of 52.59 seconds aboard Skymaster LLC's Judge Hof Ter Zeedycke. No other competitor could catch that time as the class continued, until Sydney Shulman and Azilis Du Mesnil, owned by Jill Shulman, entered the ring as the eighteenth to go in the order.

"In a class like this when there are so few strides in between the jumps, it was pretty technical, which is why I think there was a tie," Ballard said of the Michel Vaillancourt-designed course. "Basically through the entire course, you did no more than eight strides between the jumps. It makes it harder to go super fast, or much faster than somebody else. You have to be accurate - it's how fast your horse is in the air, how easy they ride."

Ballard and her team saved Judge Hof Ter Zeedycke for Friday's Speed Stake after competing in Wednesday's \$15,000 Dash for the Cash, knowing they had a chance of taking top honors.

"Judge is really straightforward, and I know him well," Ballard said, noting that she started competing with the 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood last winter. "He just gave me a great round tonight. I walked all of the turns in my course walk, and I stuck to my plan and nailed all the strides, and it paid off."

Earning a total of 15 points from their classes this week, Ballard and "Judge" also tied with Beezie Madden and Jiva for the Open Jumper Speed Reserve Championship. Taking the top honor and the Showday Farm Challenge Trophy as Champion was Shulman with Azilis Du Mesnil, who earned a total of 21 points.



"I really look up to and really like Erynn, so it's great to be up (on the board) with her," Shulman said. "I actually didn't follow my trainer's plan tonight, so I'm lucky I ended up staying (at the top). I was supposed to do one less stride in the first line, but I ended up adding because I didn't see it."

Noting Vaillancourt's courses are usually hard for her, Shulman rode to the win under extra pressure, with Michael Desiderio stepping in as her trainer because John Roach and her mother Jill were unable to attend. It was also Azilis Du Mesnil's first time indoors.

"She's not normally my speed horse, but I thought (these would be) nicer classes to introduce her to indoors to let her go forward a little bit and teach her," Shulman said of the 9-year-old Selle Francais. "She handled it great, and every night she got better."

The Amateur Owner Jumper Championship was also awarded Friday night, with Jazz Johnson Merton and her Corona SB earning the tri-color and the Hunterdon Challenge Trophy. Reserve went to Chloe Field and Rubina VIII, who received the winner's share and the Otis R. Dodson Perpetual Trophy in the \$7,500 Amateur Owner Jumper Classic after outpacing fellow competitors earlier in the afternoon.



Therapeutic Riders Go for Gold

The Therapeutic Championship is traditionally held on Foundation Friday, which is dedicated to highlighting the work of the PNHS Foundation. Established in 1999, the PNHS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which supports equine rescue efforts and the education and training of persons in equestrian endeavors. Foundation grants provide scholarships for therapy students, care for therapy horses, and equipment for horses and riders.

During the Championship, riders competed at the walk and trot. Riders in the Assisted class could have leaders for their mounts and side-walkers if needed. Riders in the Unassisted class performed without help. They were judged for their horsemanship and equitation by returning judge Renee Poff with assistance from World Equestrian Games Canadian team rider Erynn Ballard and Pan American Games double gold medalist Marilyn Little.

In the Unassisted Championship, Leyna Ribner won top honors, Ava Little was named Reserve Champion, and Emily Estilow placed third.

Ribner's mother Angi Shindledecker said that horseback riding not only taught her daughter, who has cerebral palsy and Asperger syndrome, how to walk, but has also inspired her to pursue a competitive career as a para-equestrian.

"When she was little, she had trouble getting up and getting walking," Shindledecker said. "She had a therapist who understood the value of therapeutic riding and said that's the only way she was really going to get good bipedal motion - we needed to get her on a horse. She was two at the time. That's what started it. She fell in love with the horses. ... She's fallen in love with the sport now and she wants to go para-equestrian. That's our next big hurdle. We're getting ready to get her classified."

In the Assisted division, returning champion Charles Turnbaugh defended his title and once again took home the Championship. Alexis Wanner earned Reserve Champion, and Fiona O'Rourke placed third.



Tentative Time Schedule

| | |
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| 8:00a | 168 Amateur Owner Hunter Classic |
| 11:00a | Set for Jumpers |
| 12:00p | 231 NAL Children's Jumper Final |
| 1:50p | 232 NAL Adult Jumper Final |
| 3:50p | 233 NAL Low Jr./Amateur Jumper Final |
| 7:15p | PNHS Hall of Fame Ceremony |
| 7:30p | \$134,000 Grand Prix de Penn National |

Pennsylvania National HORSE SHOW



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2020 Show Dates
October 8 - 17

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Pennsylvania National HORSE SHOW FOUNDATION 2019 silent AUCTION

Exhibitors and spectators are invited to stroll the concourse and to view Silent Auction items at participating vendors as well as at the PNHS Merchandise Booth on the upper concourse at the horse show.

Items will be available to the highest bidder. Silent Auction bidding closes at 2:00 pm.

The Silent Auction is located near SECTION 31 in the PA Room

Amateur Owner Hunters Awarded for Top-Notch Scores



Foundation Friday began with the crowning of champions in four Amateur Owner Hunter divisions, including a horse-and-rider combination who earned four of the highest scores the show has seen this year.

Following three exceptional over-fences classes that scored 92.00 each, Kelly Tropin and Chablis felt the pressure of maintaining their top spot going into the last round of the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6", Riders 18-35 division. The two put in a breathtaking final round, and she became emotional when the judges announced a score of 94.00.

"I'm just really grateful for my horse," Tropin said of her 11-year-old Wurttemberger. "He's so special. I know that I'm riding my horse of a lifetime, so I just try and soak up every minute of it. I know they don't last forever so I'm trying to enjoy it. Peter (Lutz) and I were joking before I went in for the last round that we'd look back and say, 'Remember the time Chablis got three 92's at Harrisburg?' And then he topped it."

Noting that she and Chablis have been together for seven years, Tropin added that she had chills in her last closing circle because she knew they had a fantastic round.

"Chablis was amazing," she said. "I wasn't thinking about (repeating our first 92) too much to be honest. I try not to think about the scores and just focus on the quality of my round. I remember when I walked in (the first time) I saw the high score was a 90, which can be kind of intimidating. I just thought 'Focus on your horse, focus on yourself, and do the best you can.' There was a little more pressure going into the final round because I thought to myself, 'You had three 92's, it would be pretty bad if you got a 65 right now.' I really wanted to end on a high note, and I was so proud of him for jumping so well in the final round."

Tropin and Chablis took top honors with the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6", Riders 18-35 Championship and the Wintarra Ring Perpetual Trophy. Because they earned the highest score of every hunter division during the show, the duo also walked away with the EMO Agency Amateur Owner Hunter High Five Award and the EMO Agency Overall Hunter High Five Award.

With a total of 40.5 points from their near-clean sweep of the division, Tropin and Chablis then returned to the ring to receive the Grand Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" Championship and the Legend Has It Perpetual Trophy. Israel Gamez accepted both Grooms Awards as the caretaker of Chablis.

"Last weekend I was doing my lessons at home getting ready for Harrisburg, and Peter told me it was the best Chablis had ever felt in his life," Tropin said. "We're sort of prone to hyperbole at our farm, but he was right. Chablis was really, really on."

In the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6", Riders 36 and Over division, Katie Robinson and On the Slye earned the Championship and the Carlos F. Bodwell Memorial Perpetual Trophy with a total of 38 points. Stephanie Germain accepted the Grooms Award for her care of On the Slye.

First time champions at the PNHS, Dorli Burke and Classic won the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3", Riders 36 and Over Championship and the Mae West Perpetual Trophy, earning a total of 34.5 points for their beautiful performances in the division.

"Honestly, I get nervous and I just have to say, 'Okay, just get your rhythm, keep him in front of you, and whatever happens happens,'" Burke said. "When I concentrate too much (on results) I always make a mistake. I was thinking about (the championship) but trying not to."

The pair also took top honors and the Art Dunphy Perpetual Trophy as the Grand Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" Champion. Gerardo Rejas accepted both Grooms Awards for his care of Classic.

"I just love him (Classic)," Burke said of her 11-year-old Warmblood. "You get him in his little pace and just point him at the jumps, and he's like, 'Okay Mom!' He's just a really good guy, and the team at Rolling Acres has been fantastic. The whole thing is just positive and has been really, really fun."

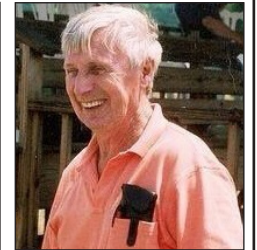
With a total of 32 points in the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3", Riders 18-35 division, Stephanie Danhagl and Quest were awarded the Championship and the PNHS Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" Perpetual Trophy. Rudel Tovar accepted the Grooms Award as the caretaker of Quest.



Caffarey-Hennessy Perpetual Grooms Award



Each year a dedicated group of grooms from the past and the present generously donate to the Moira Caffarey - George Hennessy Memorial Perpetual Grooms Award. This outstanding trophy is awarded each year to the groom of the winning horse in the Grand Prix de Penn National. This year's winning groom will earn an abundance of goodies worth more than \$3,000. Thank you to all who donate to this award and to the hardworking grooms who always put their horses needs above their own.



Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hall of Fame Class of 2019



Rick and Didi Hornberger

Rick started as a volunteer at the PNHS in the Trophy Stand in the early 70's. At the start, Rick worked evenings, coming to the show directly from his day job. Eventually, his involvement grew until he was in the Trophy Stand during the entire event. He was elected to the board of directors in 1997 and has served as a Director, Vice President, Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the PNHS Foundation, and Treasurer.

Didi grew up loving horses and started riding by age 6. When her family was transferred in 1960 to the Olmstead Air Force Base in Middletown, PA, her connection with the Pennsylvania National Horse Show began. She showed that year at PNHS in Local Hunters. Didi is also in her second decade serving as a valued member of the trophy committee, spending ten full days at the PNHS, plus two full days before and after the show.



Idle Dice

Sired by Hay Hook and foaled in Oklahoma in 1963, Idle Dice won over \$400,000 in his show jumping career which by today's standards would be more than triple that amount. Originally a failure on the race track, he was campaigned as a hunter by Bernie Traurig and later purchased by Harry Gill - Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hall of Fame Inductee, 2016. Idle Dice was ridden in the show ring by many riders including Terry Rudd, Michael Hunter, Steve Stephens and Buddy Brown - but his greatest accomplishments were with Rodney Jenkins - Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hall of Fame Inductee, 2015.

He was formally retired in 1986 at the American Gold Cup and retired to Harry Gill's Pennsylvania farm. Rodney Jenkins summed up Idle Dice by saying "You just had to stay out of his way and let him do his job. And that job was winning."