

## THURSDAY - OCTOBER 17, 2019



# Little and Chapot Set the Pace

Many top jumper riders were first seen in the New Holland Arena at this year's Pennsylvania National Horse Show (PNHS) on Wednesday night competing for a total of \$25,000 in the 1.40m Speed Challenge and the 1.45m Dash for the Cash. A preview of what's still to come in classes such as Thursday's \$60,000 Pennsylvania Big Jump and Saturday's \$134,000 Grand Prix de Penn National, Marilyn Little and Laura Chapot have proven themselves the ones to beat.



Piloting Karen O'Connor's Clearwater, Little bested a field of 33 riders in the \$10,000 1.40m Speed Challenge, a single-round class with an 11-fence course designed by Michel Vaillancourt. The duo's sharp inside turns and steady pace earned them a faultless time of 54.15 seconds, beating the time of 56.58 seconds from early pace-setters Chapot and Calafornia.

"I came thinking I was going to jump four or five jumps out there and find our feet, but as I was watching the class I saw those two inside turns, and I know what he (Clearwater) can do on the landing of the jump and it doesn't usually affect his next jump," Little said, noting that the pair have not shown since June. "It was a great opportunity for him, so we just changed our plan and said 'Okay, we'll utilize this' instead of going back in the 1.45m tonight.

"On the one hand, I thought maybe we needed to have a slow round, but sometimes when you're rusty, the best you can do is practice what you know," Little continued. "He likes to carry a good lick, and I'm not sure a slow class was really going to prep us for the rest of the week."

Returning to the ring in the \$15,000 1.45m Dash for the Cash, Chapot topped a field of 18 riders with Mary Chapot's Chandon Blue. With a speedy trip of 51.88 seconds around another Vaillancourt-designed course, the pair beat second-place Sydney Shulman and Azilis Du Mesnil by just three-hundredths of a second.



"(Chandon Blue) is a naturally fast horse," Chapot said. "He was very excited to be here today. He was prancing and dancing in the schooling area, and I think he was just on fire. Fortunately, he has a really quick way of going and his natural speed is just a bit above what a lot of other horses can do."

Chapot is familiar with her mount's natural speed after riding him more than a year, and her plan for Wednesday's class was a smooth round. "He's a great horse for me," she added. "He suits my style really well. He's got a lot of energy, and he really wants to go and try hard."

Chapot plans to have both Calafornia and Chandon Blue compete later in the week in several classes, including the Pennsylvania Big Jump and the Grand Prix de Penn National. She will face off against other riders seen in Wednesday's opening classes, including Little, fellow Olympian Beezie Madden, and returning champion Beat Mandli.

The PNHS also hosted the Pony Up for Pink Celebrity Challenge in partnership with the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition. In this friendly competition, familiar faces from local media teamed up to ride in a stick-horse relay race, and a total of \$1,500 was donated to the Breast Cancer Coalition.









### Tentative Time Schedule

8:00a 152 A/O Hunter 3'3" 18-35 153 A/O Hunter 3'3" 18-35 Handy 9:05a 10:05a 162 A/O Hunter 3'3" 36 & Over 163 A/O Hunter 3'3" 36 & Over Handy 11:10a 151 A/O Hunter 3'3" 18-35 U/S 12:20p 161 A/O Hunter 3'3" 36 & Over U/S 12:35p 132 A/O Hunter 3'6" 18-35 12:50p 1:50p 133 A/O Hunter 3'6" 18-35 Handy 2:50p 142 A/O Hunter 3'6" 36 & Over 143 A/O Hunter 3'6" 36 & Over Handy 3:50p 131 A/O Hunter 3'6" 18-35 U/S 4:55p 5:10p 141 A/O Hunter 3'6" 36 & Over U/S 5:20p Set for Jumpers 5:45p 227 \$1,500 Amateur Jumper (II.1) 203 \$36k 1.45m Harrisburg Sprint (238.2.1) 6:30p 8:10p Tack Room Award Presentation 8:15p 212 \$60k Pennsylvania Big Jump (238.2.2)

Barrel Racing Exhibition

9:45p

### HEART Equine Ambulance Stands Ready at PA National

When a horse is seriously injured during competition, the treatment or stabilization must occur on site – often in less-than-ideal conditions and in full view of onlookers. Recognizing the sensitivity of spectators, riders and owners to these procedures led founders of HEART to create a humane and efficient method of removing an incapacitated horse from a competition course.

Ongoing first aid may be administered as the horse is transported to a facility for additional medical treatment. If the horse is unable to stand, HEART's highly-trained crew utilizes a specially-designed sled to load the horse into the customized trailer where the attending veterinarian has ample room to administer treatment.

In all cases, HEART strives to preserves the health and safety of a horse that is unable to leave the arena or course under their own power.



"We hope that there is never a need for HEART's services," said Susie Webb, PA National Horse Show Executive Director. "But it is comforting to know they are here on the show grounds."

#### Silent Auction New Location!!

Across from Upper Concourse Section 31. We Want Your Bidness! Lots of great items donated by our Equine Community, Local Community and more!! Open Daily. LOOK. REGISTER. BID. Proceeds benefit the PNHS Foundation in support of Therapeutic Riding and Equine Programs











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## Gogul and Rasmussen Claim \$25,000 Winners' Stakes

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show debuted two new classes Wednesday with the \$25,000 Champion of Champions Winners' Stake and \$25,000 Green 3' & 3'3" Winners' Stake. Open to competitors who previously placed in the top four of a hunter over-fences class, resulting in an impressive entry list, the Stakes offered another opportunity for top hunters to show off their very best.



Riding to the win with a score of 92 in the \$25,000 Champion of Champions Winners' Stake was Jeff Gogul and Roberts Stables LLC's Just Ask. This win was the culmination of a stellar competition for the pair, which included several blue ribbons and the tri-color in the High Performance Conformation Hunter division.

"He (Just Ask) gave me a ride today that is a ride I'll remember for a long time, for the rest of my life really. He was just spectacular. I just had to stay out of his way and let him do his job, and he just went beautifully," Gogul said of the 10-year-old Warmblood. "It's a great match for me. His canter is amazing, his jump is amazing, he's careful. For sure we trust one another."

The win is that much sweeter given that Gogul has produced this horse from the start. Gogul is the only person to have shown "JT" since he was imported about three years ago. Moving quickly through the levels, Just Ask was Grand Champion Hunter at PNHS last year.

"He loves this ring. He just seems to get better and better here," Gogul said. "This is a great venue. I have always loved riding in this ring. For the hunters to be able to compete for a bigger check is amazing whenever you have that opportunity. It's so nice for the owners. I can't be more grateful. None of this would be possible without the Roberts family ... and our whole team of people. The main goal is always to do right by the horses and for everybody to have a good time, and we certainly had that this week."



Taking home top honors in the \$25,000 Green 3' & 3'3" Winners' Stake was Maria Rasmussen aboard Maya Grove's Business Time, earning a score of 91. Rasmussen and the 7-year-old Swedish Warmblood also won Tuesday's Green Hunter 3'3" Over Fences and Green Hunter 3'3" Under Saddle classes.

"We bought him (Business Time) in May. He's been just fun and quiet and known his job from the get-go. He's a little bit green but it's always been really easy and fun for him," Rasmussen said. "This is his first real experience with indoors. He was good, he handled it well. When he jumped a good trip yesterday and he won, he still spooked a little at the end of the ring. He walked out today like he's been here for a year."



Topping off Tuesday's special win in the Grand Green Hunter Championship, Stephanie Bulger's Moonshot was awarded the PNHS Grand Hunter Championship and the Beaufort Hunt Perpetual Trophy. Bulger received the Grand Hunter Championship Owner's Award, while Karen Caristo earned the Grand Hunter Trainer's Award and the Jack Stedding Memorial Perpetual Trophy. Peter Luyckx accepted the Grooms Award for his care of the 10-yearold Holsteiner.

"We purchased him in the middle of Florida last year (2018) from Courtney and Scott Langford," explained Moonshot's rider Sandra Ferrell, who earned the Elizabeth M. Solter Memorial Perpetual Trophy as this year's Leading Hunter Rider. "It just happened I wasn't showing Hemingway one week, and I went down to watch the first years, and I saw this gray horse go around and thought 'Shoot, if Hemingway doesn't win, this horse is the winner.' And I went back to Team Meadowview, and I was like 'Guys, I think we need to buy this horse, because if Hemingway makes (even the tiniest) mistake, this horse will beat us."



In addition to these winners, Carleton Brooks was champion of the Green Conformation Hunter division and recipient of the Wild Air Farms Challenge Trophy aboard Balmoral's Pritchard Hill. Jeff Gogul picked up the Green Hunter 3' Championship and PNHS Green Hunter 3' Perpetual Trophy with Roberts Stables LLC's Graciano, who also finished second just one point behind the winner in the \$25,000 Green 3' & 3'3" Winners' Stake. Nick Haness piloted West Coast Equine Partners LLC's Crowd Pleaser to victory in the Green Hunter 3'3" Championship.