

Abbie Ross and TNT Blow Away the Competition in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final

For the second year in a row Abbie Ross and TNT blew away the competition in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final.

Owned by Lillie Ross, Abbie's older sister, and coach, TNT is a 16-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare who stands a petite 14.1 hands. As the smallest equine in the class, Abbie said of her mount, "In the first round, the triple combination was difficult because the pony had to book it to make the distances, but she's had a horse stride since we've been doing less pony classes."

Abbie's mother, and trainer, Allison Ross, said of TNT, "She's small but mighty. If you look, she will go." At age 14, Abbie, of Wheaton, Ill., has been riding for eight years and has been riding TNT for the past three years, each year competing with her at the Pennsylvania National.

"It was fun," Abbie said of the class, "I was really nervous, but as I went into the ring I felt like I could do it. I was worried about one of the turns in the jump-off, but we went fast and tidy, and after the jump-off I was worried about the final competitors, they were my best competition. This might be my last year riding TNT because I might be passing her on to my little brother soon, but when that happens I'll start riding my new horse, a Hanoverian named Chianti 67."

Abbie and TNT completed the jump-off course in a speedy 29.794 seconds, ahead of KC Van Aarem, of Woodbine, Md., aboard her horse Mastermind who finished with a 32.032 second time. Finishing third was Claudia Styslinger, of Birmingham, Ala., aboard her horse Quatro with 32.394 seconds.



Champions Abbie Ross and TNT in the NAL Children's Jumper Finals ©Al Cook Photo