



North American League News

With the end of the qualifying season for the North American League (NAL) in sight, the summer competition results have been changing the rankings with riders rapidly gaining points that will take them to the top of the standings, along with a chance to compete at one or both of this year's NAL Finals this fall. This summer newsletter features the top rider in each division as of the end of July.

The NAL West Coast Finals take place at the International Jumping Festival hosted by Blenheim EquiSports in San Juan Capistrano, CA, September 18-22. The National Finals will be held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, PA, October 10-19. Both Finals include five divisions – Children's Hunter, Adult Hunter, Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, and Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by HorseFlight.

The NAL qualifying season runs from September 1 through August 31. NAL qualifying classes are open to all competitors, but only current members are awarded points. By joining the NAL, riders can accumulate the points necessary to make it to the Finals. Annual memberships are only \$40 per rider.

"Now is the time for those wanting to qualify for the Finals at San Juan Capistrano and Harrisburg to join the NAL and secure their spots today!" said Annette Longenecker of Ryegate Show Services, Inc., which administers the North American League. "There's still time to accumulate points, but you have to make sure your NAL memberships are up to date to make your points count so you can ride in the Finals."

For more information regarding the North American League, please call (717) 867-5643, email to NAL@Ryegate.com or visit www.ryegate.com. Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Summer 2019



North American League

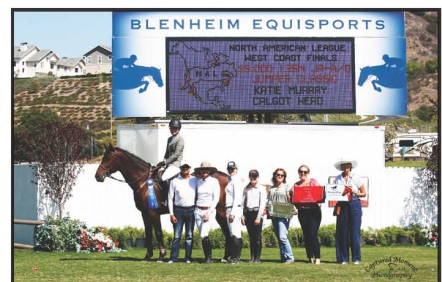


**The NAL hosts year-end championships at
two of the nation's most prestigious horse shows**

West Coast Finals at
International Jumping Festival
San Juan Capistrano, CA
September 18-22, 2019

and

National Finals at
Pennsylvania National Horse Show
Harrisburg, PA
October 10-19, 2019



**Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by HorseFlight
Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak
Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit
Adult Hunter • Children's Hunter**

**Join the NAL before competing in NAL classes at any horse show to
ensure your eligibility to receive valuable points.**

The NAL hosts classes at more than 600 horse shows across the US and Canada.



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NAL Children's Jumper Division, Presented by EquiFit

Hunter Kava Leads National Children's Jumper Division Presented by EquiFit

Hunter Kava of Parkland, FL, currently leads the NAL Children's Jumper Division presented by EquiFit with Miss Moneypenney with 3571 points. Kava started riding horses when she was 5 years old at a summer camp and began showing in the North American League in 2017.

Kava credits her biggest influences as her trainers, Alan Korotkin and Susan Tuccinardi of Castlewood Farms in Wellington, FL, because they train and challenge her to be the best rider she can be. She says that their support and dedication inspires her every day to push herself to be her very best! Kava has been training with them for two and a half years and she rides 6 days a week.

Kava says her favorite horse show is the Winter Equestrian Festival – not only because it's close to where she lives, but also because it allows her the opportunity to compete against the most competitive riders in the nation.



Kava attends Calvary Christian Academy in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and in her free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as traveling and spending time outdoors.

Her favorite things to do when riding are double and triple combinations because, "It's beneficial for the horse and allows for them to focus on their front end."

"My goals in life are to ride for a Division 1 University where I can study veterinary medicine," she said. "My lifelong goal is to become a professional rider."

Kava says her biggest accomplishment as a rider so far is being WEF Circuit Champion for the 15-17 High Children's Jumper Division in 2019. Also, placing 3rd in her first USHJA Zone 3/4 Individual Jumper Finals in Tryon, NC in 2018. Kava's favorite motto for success is, "**We never lose, we either win or learn.**" She says, "I think this is important as a competitive rider because it's best to learn from your mistakes in order to better yourself each day."



Emma Flett Leads the West Coast Children's Jumper Division Presented by Equifit

Q & A with Emma Flett who leads the West Coast Children's Jumper Division presented by Equifit on Washington with 1708 points.

When did you start riding horses? I started riding when I was 6 and I started riding in the North American League two years ago.

Who are your biggest influences? Courtney and Scott Lenkart out of South Haven Farm in Argyle, TX. I've been training with them since we moved to Dallas three years ago!

What is your favorite horse show and why? The Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington. They have great grounds and great competitors, and it's not too far from a beach!

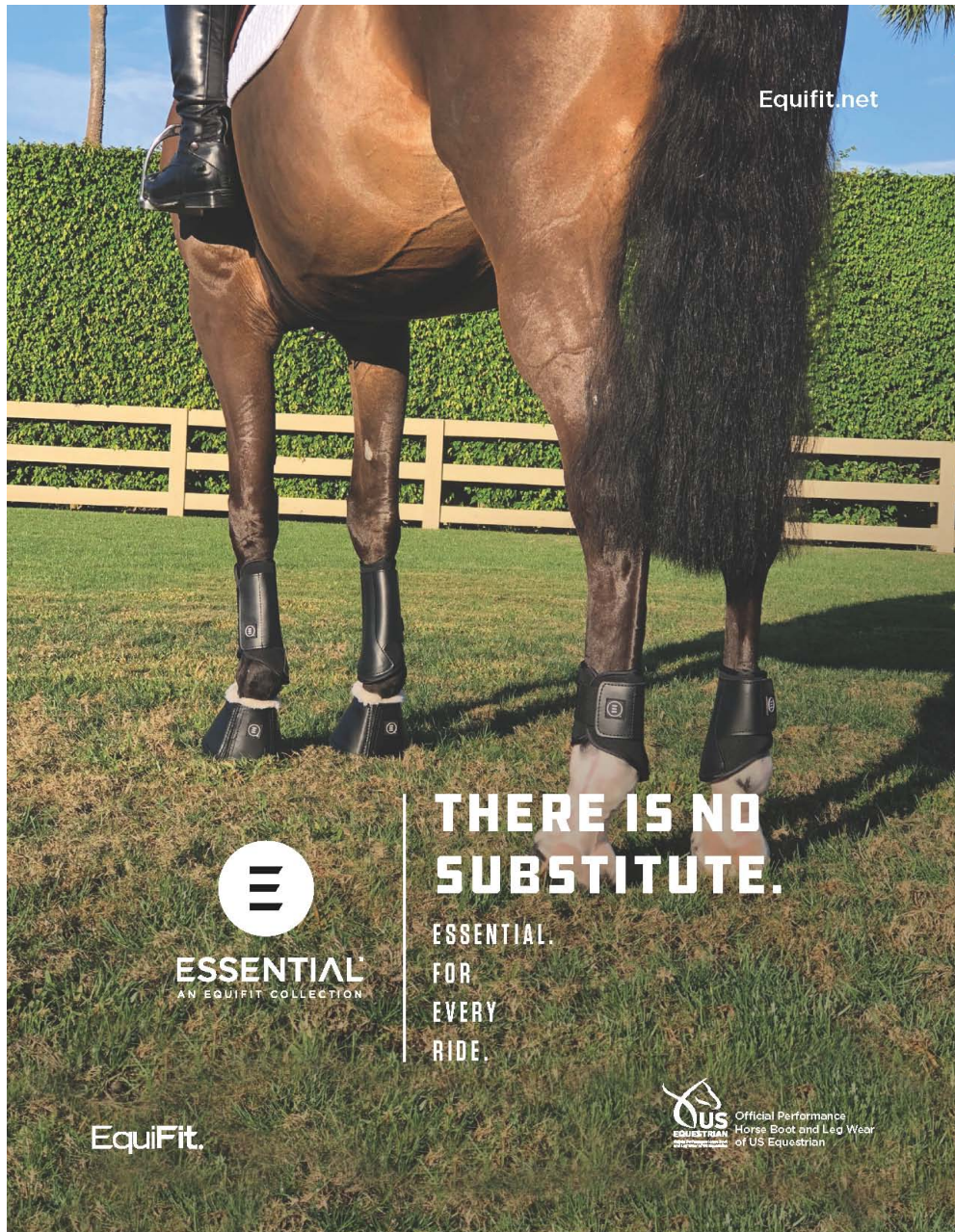
How often do you ride? 5 or 6 days a week

What is your favorite thing to do when you ride? Gymnastics

What school do you attend? Caroll High School Southlake, Texas and I'm going into my Junior year

What do you like to do in your free time? Be with friends and read





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This show offers one or more classes that are recognized by the

North American League



In order for riders to receive credit, they must be a current member. Membership is valid for the qualifying year and entitles the rider to earn points on one or more horses shown in accredited classes.

National Finals are held at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

West Coast Finals are held at the International Jumping Festival.

Please complete and mail the application with payment to:

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1298 Royal Rd
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Please enroll me as member of the North American League:

Date _____ Membership is effective the Amateur Junior
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(Sept 1 - Aug 31) _____

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NAL Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Stephanie King Leads National Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Stephanie King leads the National Adult Jumper Division presented by SmartPak with 4599 points on Co-Starr. She has been riding all of her life. Her mom was a trainer so she basically had a pony as her first babysitter. She took about ten years off to focus on her education and career and started riding again about 5 years ago.

King, who now rides six days a week, has been training with Brooke and Chad Watridge at Ridgewater Show Stables for almost 4 years. She says they are phenomenal trainers and really understand how to manage each horse's program. They have a barn full of very happy horses!

This is King's third year riding in the NAL as an adult. Winning the evening class at Devon this past year was a bucket list experience for her. The Devon Horse Show is her favorite horse show because the atmosphere there is just electric and it's fun for her to see the crowds get excited watching the horses. "The Adult jumpers don't typically draw a big crowd at other shows so it's fun to have the opportunity to compete in front of them at Devon," she said.



Winning the WIHS adult jumper championship last year was a huge moment for King. "That show is unique and it's always such a competitive class. To win amongst some of the best riders in our division was an amazing experience.

"I love being in the show ring but I also really enjoy taking the horses out on a group trail ride on our days off from the show," she said. "Grand Prix Village in Wellington or the cross-country course in Tryon are great places to have a relaxing walk around on horseback."

This will be King's third year competing in the NAL Finals at Harrisburg. Her first year she took 6th place and last year she took 5th when she had the fastest time in the jump-off but took out the second jump with her toe! She said her horse was so confused, he knew he didn't hit a rail! This year, she'll be sure to tuck her toes in!

"While I am very competitive I also always try to make sure I'm having fun and not putting too much pressure on myself. Having two horses I am very comfortable with and feel safe riding is important to me and I'm lucky to have found two great matches," she said. "This is a sport where there's always room to improve, so I try to take in as much knowledge as I can, whether it involves having lessons with my trainer myself or watching others train and show.



"I am lucky enough to be able to focus 100% of my time on riding. We travel a lot to shows so it's nice to be able to have the freedom to do that," said King. "My husband and I both enjoy playing golf or traveling. We are always on the go. I also love to cook, whether it's at home or on the road."

King so grateful for her trainers, Brooke and Chad Watridge – they really are the dream team! She's looking forward to the upcoming indoor season!



Molly Athey Leads the West Coast Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak

Molly Athey of Enid, OK and *Gold Lux* hold the lead in the West Coast Adult Jumper Division Presented by SmartPak with 2,084 points.

Gold Lux, lovingly called "Goldie", is a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare owned by Lindsey Tomeu of Wellington, FL. Athey and Gold Lux had a wonderful start to the 2019 season winning the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Classic 35+ during week nine at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Athey rides out of Sweet Oak Farm with Ali and Shane Sweetnam.



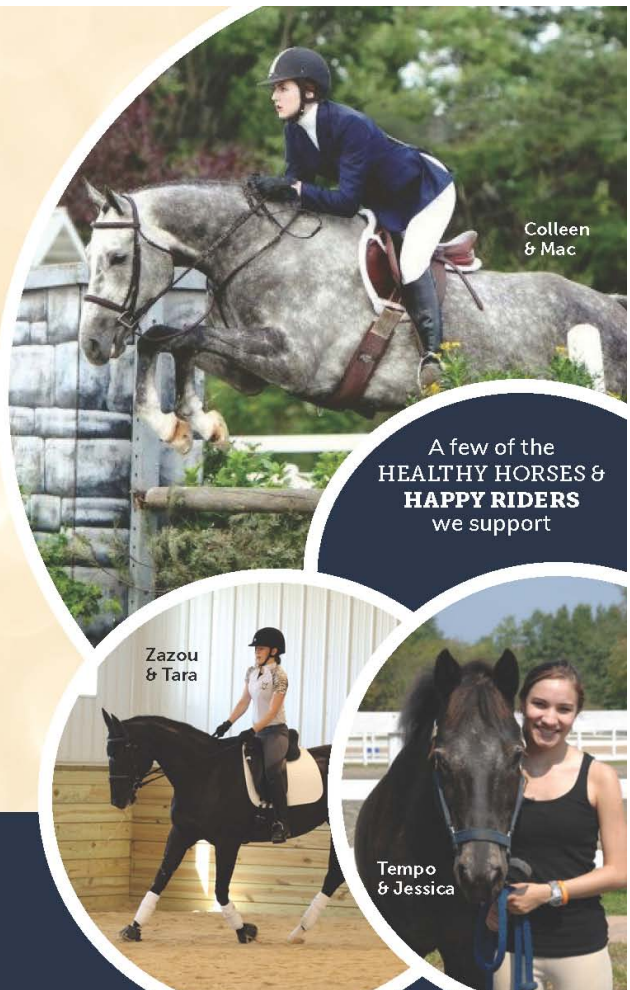
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NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division Presented by HorseFlight

Brianne Link Leads the National Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division Presented by HorseFlight

Brianne Link of East Islip, NY, leads the National Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division presented by HorseFlight with Wednesday Mornin with 8783 points. Link started riding when she was just four years old and began competing in the North American League at the age of nine.

Link credits Jeffery Welles as her biggest influence in the equestrian world. She has been training with him at his farm, Triton Ventures, in Brewster, NY, for about six years. Link says there is no one who gives her as much courage as he does. Jeffery has countless accomplishments of his own, and therefore she is beyond grateful to learn from his experience, knowledge, and love of horses.



Link says her favorite horse show is the Lake Placid Horse Show. She loves being able to compete on the beautiful grass field with the stunning views of the mountains in the background.

Link, who rides 4-6 times a week, travels a lot with her horses to compete. She also rides 2-4 times a week while attending Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA where she is a senior, majoring in Equestrian Studies with a minor in Business Management and Entrepreneurship.

“My favorite thing to do when I ride is to go on a long walk. I enjoy trails through trees and fields at Jeffery’s farm and walks along the creeks in Wellington while competing at WEF,” said Link. “In my free time I enjoy making art. I have been painting custom animal portraits for about three years now. I also enjoy spending quality time with family and friends at home.”

Link’s goal is to graduate college and pursue a job within the equestrian world revolving around the art and design within the sport. She is focusing on creating an equestrian clothing line, as well as course design and plans to continue riding and competing at the top levels of the sport.

“My greatest accomplishment is something I am continuously striving to reach,” she said. “I have been very lucky to achieve many successes throughout my career so far. As I continue to move up in the jumper divisions, I believe my greatest accomplishment is yet to come.”

Link has been a JustWorld Ambassador for over ten years. She has visited Guatemala with the organization four times and raised money to build a roof on the original school building, a medical center, and to supply books and electronic tablets. She represents JustWorld by competing in a blue show coat to raise awareness for the great cause.

Link would like to thank all of the people in her life who have made her riding career possible. Her parents and sister offer endless love and support to help turn her dreams into reality. Jeffery Welles, and everyone at Triton Ventures are such an incredible team and she feels lucky to be a part of it. With the help of her family and trainer, she has been able to work with spectacular horses who have greatly influenced her career.



Hallie Grimes Is Tops in the West Coast Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Division Presented by HorseFlight

Entering her senior year of high school, Hallie Grimes of Houston, Texas is having a banner summer. Riding multiple horses in the West Coast Low Junior Amateur Jumper Division Presented by HorseFlight, Grimes currently sits in first with 2,362 points aboard *Quickly Stated* and third on *Ero Del Pierire* with 1,958 points.



Starting out in the low amateurs a year ago, Grimes and *Quickly Stated*, loving called "*Tutu*", moved up in 2018 and competed in their first North American League (NAL) class. In their first 1.30 meter class during the Welcome Grand Prix in Texas, Grimes reflected on how special "*Tutu*" is to her.

"When I walked the course (Welcome Grand Prix in Texas) it was gigantic," said Grimes. "I was nervous but Tutu was wonderful. She stepped up and gave me so much confidence. It was a special moment for us. She is a special horse."

Spending six days a week at the barn to ride and train, Grimes attributes her success to the extensive knowledge of Berry

Porter of Brookside Pine Farms whom she has been riding with for the past three years. She also credits Missy Clark and John Brennan of North Run with whom she recently connected during the 2019 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) Season.

"It is a great experience to learn from Berry Porter, Missy Clark and John Brennan. We all work really well together and it's great to learn from so many different backgrounds," said Grimes. "It benefits my riding and my horse's well-being."

In the midst of completing her first year in the NAL, Grimes has competed at some of the most iconic and historic shows in the country. Her favorite shows are the Washington International and the Devon horse shows.

"Washington is one of my favorite venues. It's so much fun and it's such a special event. The excitement and energy is amazing," said Grimes. "Devon is also another personal favorite. I just love the atmosphere and the show management makes it feel special and welcoming. It has so much history."

Grimes is also competing with *Leasure Z*, *NKH Calango*, and *Andiamo VH Kapelhof Z* in the Low Junior Amateur Jumper division.



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NAL Children's Hunter Division

Jordan Bell Leads the National Children's Hunter Division

Jordan Bell and Chago lead the National Children's Hunter Division with 3,467 points. Bell started riding at the age of 7 and has been riding in the NAL for four years. She competed in her first NAL Finals last year, placing seventh.

Bell credits her trainer, Robin Johnson, as her biggest influence because Robin puts so much faith in her and truly wants her to succeed. She has been training with Robin at Hunter Ridge Stables in Davidsonville, MD for about 7 months, often riding six days a week.

Bell, an incoming freshman this fall at Goucher College, enjoys cantering and doing cavaletti work. Her favorite horse show is the HITS Culpeper series because everything runs smoothly and quickly. Going to the Washington International Horse Show in 2018 and earning Reserve Champion honors ranks amongst her biggest accomplishments to date.

Besides riding, Bell also enjoys spending time with friends and family. She would like to graduate college and eventually become a professional rider.

"I really want to thank Robin so much for training me and Chago for the past few months," Bell said. "I can't wait to see what the rest of this show season and the following show seasons bring us!"





Peyten Seltzer Leads the West Coast Children's Hunter Division

Peyten Seltzer leads the West Coast Children's Hunter division with 1414 points on Que Crème. Seltzer started riding horses when she was 6 years old and she is now 13 and going into 8th grade in the fall at R. Roger Rowe Middle School. She has been training at Westwood Show Jumping Stables in Rancho Santa Fe, CA with Philip Cillis for the last year.

Seltzer credits Cillis as her biggest influence because he is a great rider, teacher and is always positive.

"My favorite NAL experience has been the Blenheim Spring Classic IV show because I got to show on the grass field," she said. "My favorite horse show that I have been to is the Pony Finals. I liked it because it was really fun and it was a great experience."



During the school year, she rides her pony and horse 4 days each week and during the summer she rides 6 days a week, preferring to jump and to ride bareback.

Like most kids her age, she likes to hang out with friends. She has goals to go to college and to be successful and wants to compete in the Junior Hunters next year.

"My biggest accomplishment is doing so well at every show on my horse this year," said Seltzer. "I would like to thank my trainer Philip Cillis for finding me my amazing horse, Que Creme, and also for teaching me so much this past year!"





NAL Adult Hunter Division

Patti Schindler Leads the National Adult Hunter Division

Patti Schindler leads the pack in the National Adult Hunter Division with her own, *Glyndon* with 4,826 points. Schindler's second mount, *Pinch Hit*, is also ranked highly, currently sixth with 2,640 points.

Heading into the fall, Schindler is humbled and happy by how this season is playing out. "Hard work and perseverance triumph for me; who knew after all these years that I would be riding at this level!"

Schindler, a Reisterstown, MD, native, started riding when she was 14 in her local 4-H group. Proclaiming herself as a self-taught, "old-fashioned horseman", Schindler keeps her horses at home where she is their everything. From the daily barn chores and training to the show ring, dedication to her horses is paramount.

"I do it all. I'm from the old school. Keeping the horses in a program and being there everyday makes me happy. It's all about the horses," said Schindler. "I can't believe how well this year has gone."

Since her days in 4-H, Schindler's riding career has taken off. Schindler trained with the late Jack Stedding, and continues to train with Jennifer Marshal three times a week. During her years of riding with Stedding, Schindler competed at many prestigious venues, most notably at The National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden, the Devon Horse Show, and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.



"The people I've met (while showing and riding) are family to me and I really care about the sport. Every day I get to ride, I'm lucky," said Schindler.

With her hard work and experience, Schindler has found her niche in the 3-ft. division. "I found that the 3-ft. division was and is the best for me and the horses," said Schindler. "*Pinch Hit* is so quiet and sweet and just lovely. He knows his job and allows me to ride and figure out the course. So I always ride him first. *Glyndon* is such a character and is wonderful. Every night he waits for his nightly pat before he eats his dinner."

When not in the barn, which is in her backyard, Schindler is an avid gardener who will be entering her potted creations in a flower show at the Maryland State Fair. Schindler also volunteers with the local equine community to keep the spirit of local and regional showing going strong.



Sandra Bierman Leads the West Coast Adult Hunter Division

With a successful start to the 2019 season, Sandra Bierman of Phoenix, AZ and *Kalvert* are maintaining the lead in the West Coast Adult Hunter Division with 3,101 points. Bierman is also competing in the West Coast Adult Hunter Division with *Indian Ocean* and they have earned 597 points. Bierman rides with Craig Allen and Don Sheehan of Wayside Farm.

