



# North American League News

## Year-End Review 2021

The North American League (NAL) offers year-long series in five divisions – Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak, Children’s Jumper Presented by EquiFit, Low Junior/Amateur Jumper presented by Horseflight, Adult Hunter and Children’s Hunter. The series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada. The NAL gives riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – The NAL West Coast Finals at the International Jumping Festival in San Juan Capistrano in September and the NAL National Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show in Maryland in October.

The winners of this year’s Finals were presented with fantastic awards including gift certificates generously donated by EquiFit, Horseflight, SmartPak, and The Clothes Horse; an NAL coolerette; and a trophy courtesy of the NAL. Every rider that competed in the NAL Finals received a gift bag with an assortment of gifts from the NAL.

This annual newsletter encompasses articles about each of the NAL’s five division winners from the West Coast Finals and the National Finals.

For more information regarding the North American League, please call (717) 867-5643, email to [NAL@Ryegate.com](mailto:NAL@Ryegate.com) or visit [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com). Follow the NAL on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NALFinals](http://www.facebook.com/NALFinals).

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# Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Horseflight

National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

## Emma Blumenkrantz Earns First Major Finals Win in the \$10,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight

In her first major finals win, Emma Blumenkrantz, 16, of Colts Neck, N.J., took home the spoils after topping a field of 29 entries in the \$10,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Jumper Finals Presented by Horseflight. Eight went clear in the first round to advance to the jump-off, and Blumenkrantz rode her own Collin W to the win in 36.818 seconds.

“My horse jumped incredible,” Blumenkrantz said. “Going around the course, it was really a great opportunity to let him go in some places, like from jumps two to three in the jump-off. I got to watch the first and second riders go, so I stood at the gate and got an idea of how it rode.”

Blumenkrantz has been riding Collin W, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding and “the barn favorite,” for nearly two years. “He’s been great bringing me from the Children’s Jumpers to here,” she said. “His hind end is powerful when you’re going around. He helps you out everywhere, and he is a great horse.”



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# Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

## Hope Batchelor Takes the Title in the \$10,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

Top honors in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Jumper Finals Presented by SmartPak went to Hope Batchelor aboard her own Byolga. Batchelor, of Chester Springs, Penn., and Byolga crossed the timers at 36.097 seconds to best a field of 29 competitors.

Batchelor was happy to have her trusted partner, “Lola,” with her for the jump-off. She and the 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare took on the shortened course with nine additional competitors.

“The jump-off was challenging because it required some inside turns and speed,” Batchelor said. “I think my inside turn to the one-stride was where I saved some time. Lola is so quick and so professional, so I was really just thinking about riding the track and staying on!”

This victory marks the second time that Batchelor has had success in the NAL Adult Jumper Finals, having won it previously on Orlando.



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# Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

## Taylor Landstrom Wins \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

In the \$10,000 NAL Children's Jumper Finals Presented by EquiFit, Taylor Landstrom of Excelsior, Minn., rode her own Colina SN to the victory. Landstrom, 16, and Colina SN were one of 16 combinations that returned for the jump-off after producing a fault-free first round. Last to return for the jump-off, Landstrom did not disappoint when she stopped the timers at 33.021 seconds to claim the top of the leaderboard.

"Going into the jump-off, I had to make sure that I kept my mind mentally calm," Landstrom said. "There were some fast rounds, so I just had to trust my horse. I also had to trust myself and mentally calm myself down through all of it."

Landstrom and the 11-year-old Warmblood mare have been partnered for two years and are going into their final indoors season together. The rider, trained by Abby Blankenship, was thrilled to have this success at one of her favorite horse shows.

"Lina is a very reliable girl," Landstrom said. "She's a lot like me because she's very competitive and wants to go in and win. We make such a good pair because we want to do well together. I'm really hoping to have a successful last indoors season with her. To win at Capital Challenge means a lot to me because it's something that I've worked toward all year."





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# Adult Hunter

## National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

### Kathryn Kranking Earns the \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final Championship

Kathryn Kranking of New Market, Md., and Mahalo were crowned the winners of the \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Finals. In the first round, Kranking and the 21-year-old Warmblood gelding led the pack of 28 horse-and-rider combinations with a high score of 87 points. They followed up in the second round with 84 points, for a total winning score of 171 points.

While Mahalo is a hunter ring veteran with major wins, including victory in the \$500,000 Diamond Mills Hunter Prix with Samantha Schaefer in 2011, Kranking has only been riding him for a year. This win was even more special as Mahalo is the first horse Kranking has ever had to herself.

“I’ve been riding my whole life,” Kranking said. “I’ve been with Rolling Acres for the past 10 or 11 years, and I’ve basically been catch riding for them for all 10. I’ve just ridden whatever I can, so it was really special to have one horse for a whole year and have a relationship with him that I’ve never really had before. It shows that consistency really builds a great relationship. I’m extremely lucky to have him; he’s incredible. I never thought I’d get here.

“My goal [for the second round] was to go in and ride like I did the first round and have fun,” Kranking added. “Mahalo does his job, so if I rode like I did all year, I knew we would be fine.”



# Children's Hunter

National Finals at Capital Challenge Horse Show

## Ava Berman and Kingsbury are Champions in the \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter Final

In the \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter Finals, Ava Berman of Baltimore, Md., piloted her own Kingsbury to the blue ribbon against a field of 28 horse-and-rider combinations. Berman, 13, and the 15-year-old Kingsbury earned a combined score of 170 points after earning 86 points in the first round and 84 points in the second round.

"I thought [the first round] was probably one of the best rounds I've ever had on him," said Berman, who trains with Samantha Schaefer and Kate Conover. "He was relaxed and having a good time in the ring. I think he was just happy."

"[Kingsbury] is probably one of the sweetest horses," Berman added. "Everyone loves him. He's like an old man; he just kind of sits there and you can do anything on him. I've had him for more than four years, and he was the first horse I ever had."





# Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Horseflight

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

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## Jake Endicott Wins the \$5,000 NAL Low Junior/ Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight

A 23-horse field of strong contenders tackled a solid track filled with ample turn and bending line options on the famed Oaks International Field, the carefully tended grass on which many Olympians have tested their mettle over the years. The September 25 afternoon class was won by Jake Endicott and Gauguin Du Pachis, one of many sales horses the 17-year-old rides for his family's Pegasus Show Stables.

"I'm happy with the round and the outcome, and the course fit my horse pretty well," he said. A slip after the first fence in the jump-off required an extra stride going to the next, but otherwise Endicott was able to stick to his plan. He secured the win with time-efficient tracks everywhere offered and good foot speed on the straightaways.

Although he is the son of top professionals Michael and Christa Endicott, and his older brother Mitch is an accomplished jumper rider, the younger Endicott only started riding two years ago. Football and soccer were his passions. "I guess I just wanted to be different," he said. Those sports have now been back-burnered in favor of the equestrian path.



# Adult Jumper Presented by SmartPak

## West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

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### Selah Shephard Takes Home the Title in the \$5,000 NAL Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak

The five clear first rounds in this competitive class were laid down by two contenders riding three and two horses, respectively. The ultimate winner, Selah Shephard, had three horses in the hunt and it was her second ride, on Skyliner, that had the fastest time to win the Finals. She was third on Indigo VDL and fourth on Escada.

“I thought Skyliner might be my fastest horse,” Shephard shared after the round. “He is the most enthusiastic, but the other two are a little more careful. I knew if Skyliner left the rails up, there’d be no doubt he’d be on top.”

Trained by Tina and Craig Yates of High Point Farm, Shephard rode all three horses with control and efficiency. “My goal is to continue to do well in the upper levels, so you want to have consistent rounds. It was not my goal to ‘turn and burn,’ but that’s what wound up happening with Skyliner.”

Having three horses in the class, let alone in a jump-off, was a new challenge Shephard was thrilled to master. “I really had to collect myself and make sure I knew exactly what the plan was for each horse. To go that quickly was new for me.”



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# Children's Jumper Presented by EquiFit

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

## Grace Belmont Rides to Blue in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit

Riding last in the four-horse jump-off, Grace Belmont knew what was needed to win the Children's Finals with Dia Fina. Having had the mare less than a week, however, she wasn't totally sure how things would pan out. "She is so sporty and game for anything," Belmont reported. "It was really fun to try something new with a new horse."

After a few days of experimenting with bits, Belmont and her mom and coach, Cassie Belmont, found a hackamore to be the perfect choice. "In the turns in the jump-off, she just needs a second to see the jumps and -- boom! -- she is right there. She's got her own motor and is just great about going to all the jumps."

The 18-year-old is debating between college and going directly into a professional equestrian career. "I think I have already found my calling. Working for my mom has been great, especially getting to train the kids moving up the ranks at our schooling shows."



# Adult Hunter

## West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

### Kristi C. Siam Wins Her First \$5,000 NAL Adult Hunter Final

Kristi C. Siam and her gorgeous flaxen-maned mount, Surfside, set a high bar in this two-round competition with a first round score of 85. They were only the second pair to go, giving Siam ample time to think about their position that wound up being 4 points higher than any other first-round go. “That made me more nervous, of course,” said Siam, who was elegant in and out of the saddle. “We all know that being on top puts a little more pressure on us, and this was my first time doing the North American League Finals.”

Centering herself mentally, staying focused on the plan she and trainer Peter Lombardo had worked out, and trusting her relatively new equine partner paid off. Their second round was even better than the first, earning an 88 for a total score of 173. “I know my horse will do whatever I ask him to do,” commented Siam, who is a grandmother of four. “He is normally pretty consistent and today he was spectacular, thanks to Peter (Lombardo) and John (Zambrano). They always do a wonderful job preparing the horses.”

After riding as a junior, Siam left horses in favor of family and career. It was her daughter’s interest in horses that led Siam back into it about 15 years ago. “I never thought I would ride again,” she still marvels. Siam called the NAL win a perfectly timed confidence boost. “When you get a little older, nerves can be an issue. You have to talk yourself back from the ledge now and then. You have to figure out what works for you, and not get caught up in what works for others.”



# Children's Hunter

West Coast Finals at International Jumping Festival

## Lauren Padilla Tops the Field in the \$5,000 NAL Children's Hunter Finals

Twelve-year-old Lauren Padilla had to gallop over from a winning performance in the pony ring to jump on her handsome gray horse Way Maker for this Final. They were worth the wait. Riding both rounds back-to-back and with blue ribboned braids flying down her back, Padilla laid down two 85 scores to top the field on a 170 total.

Padilla was more impressed with her horse than she was with her own double duty victories. "He is only 7 and I am really proud of him going into this big ring today," she explained. "He felt good and loose. After the first jump I knew this was going to be a good day!"

Padilla shares the sport with her mother and they both train with Mike and Christa Endicott at Pegasus Show Stables. Padilla's long-term goal in the sport is to "try my best to help my horses as much as I can to be the best I can."



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**\$5,000 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight – West Coast**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Gauguin Du Pachis	Jake Endicott
2	Tinkerbelle	Elisa Broz
3	MJ	Rachel Glicklich
4	Dilka	Claire Follmer
5	Indigo Van De Muggenhoek	Zume Gallaher
6	Eames MZ	Stella Buckingham
7	Great White	Stella Buckingham
8	Lexus Z	Sarah Freedman

**\$5,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – West Coast**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Skyliner	Selah Shephard
2	Chaperon	Lexie Looker
3	Indigo VDL	Selah Shephard
4	Escada	Selah Shephard
5	Quanto Fino 2	Lexie Looker
6	Harina Touch W	Tara Brown
7	Comtess	Jennifer Elliott
8	Pavi's Sinfandel	Jamie Lawrence

**\$5,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – West Coast**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Dia Fina	Grace Belmont
2	Chelsy 17	Mackenzie Greer
3	CCF Hibiscus Coast	Erica Cooper
4	Camus Z	Katalina Raiszadeh
5	Canterbury 10	Ashley Buchanan
6	True Love	Londyn Wright
7	EG Vincent	Harliana Otto
8	Donique	Ashley Buchanan

**\$5,000 Adult Hunter Final – West Coast**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Surfside	Kristi C. Siam
2	Soul Mate	Stephanie Byrne
3	First & Goal	Jennifer Rawlings
4	Speechless	Glenda Monkarsh
5	Wilten's Bubblegum	Lexie Looker
6	Roger That	Elizabeth Gallucci
7	Lighthouse	Olivia Brandon
8	Mon Tresor	Katherine Bleich Kemp

**\$5,000 Children's Hunter Final – West Coast**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Way Maker	Lauren Padilla
2	Labrinth	Grayson Pacelli
3	Acoradus	Grayson Pacelli
4	Carambo Z	Marian Ehlers
5	Wow the Crowd	Allyn Marie Creel



**\$10,000 Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final Presented by Horseflight – National Final**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Collin W	Emma Blumenkrantz
2	Ciemusic Z	Gabriella Curry
3	Skara Glen's Signature	Sydney Myers
4	Girl Scout	Alexa Lignelli
5	Huck	Lilly Goldstein
6	Iselle Van Orshof	Caia Watridge
7	Skywalker	Lauren Rachuba
8	Virginia ODF	Gabriella Curry
9	Kaprice DV	Nicole Rodriguez
10	Eleanor 3	Taylor Landstrom
11	Dutchess	Francesca Guidi
12	Korino Von Bueren	Anna Koenig

**\$10,000 Adult Jumper Final Presented by SmartPak – National Final**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Byolga	Hope Batchelor
2	Trix Rabbit	Megan Jones
3	Roos	Lexi Maounis
4	Stakkadera	Christina Kourgelis
5	Qualle	Kirsten Pollin
6	Given	Lexi Maounis
7	Chambrinus	Mercy Paine
8	Wender R	Stefani Green
9	Escot 6	Charlotte Powers
10	Volodia D'Argouges	Texie McHenry
11	Larent	Jessica Leonard
12	KT Bugs Bunny	Casey Zuraitis

**\$10,000 Children's Jumper Final Presented by EquiFit – National Final**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Colina SN	Taylor Landstrom
2	Gold Lux	Olivia Sweetnam
3	HH Gypsy	Avery Hanson
4	Toy Soldier	Abigail Gordon
5	Emy	Emma Covarrubias
6	WT Scorsese	Charlotte Clivio
7	Empty Spaces	Hailey Guidry
8	Jonnas Corint	Jayden Toomy
9	Heer Aldus	Riley Hogan
10	Adoctro	Claire Campbell
11	Just Noble	Olivia Sweetnam
12	Belladonna Z	Madyson Diaz

**\$10,000 Adult Hunter Final – National Final**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Mahalo	Kathryn Kranking
2	Verdi	Traci A. Baldwin
3	Wyatt	Heather Bamford
4	Carlot	Genevieve Cullen
5	Mon Tresor	Katherine Bleich Kemp
6	Light It Up	Kimberly Maloomian
7	Coastline	Karen Howey
8	Basalt	Heather Bamford
9	Cinderella	Ashley DeWolfson
10	Conquistador	Arianne De Kwiatkowski
11	Casander	Roberta Previ
12	Sidenote	Betty Oare

**\$10,000 Children's Hunter Final - National Final**

Place	Horse	Rider
1	Kingsbury	Ava Berman
2	Cortado	Samantha Yagoda
3	Denmark	Ellie Sadrian
4	Altesse	Samantha Karp
5	Conlaro	Payton Flanders
6	Greyta	Meredith Smith
7	Drommels	Addie Manson
8	Exceptional	Caroline Hoover
9	Fiat	Lily Epstein
10	Act of Valor	Lillie Parr
11	Paperboy	Kylie Reynolds
12	Kensi	Katherine Ellis