

Frequent Flier Fenney Conquers At Capital Challenge

The professional travels almost 1,500 miles in order to win at two venues in the same week.

BY KIMBERLY LOUSHIN AND KIERAN PAULSEN



At the beginning of the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 8, Tracy Fenney thought she had her schedule ironed out.

She'd qualified to compete in the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, so she planned on competing MTM Outbid in that class. Since the show

doesn't hold any open jumper classes, and the professional hunter divisions finished on Wednesday, Fenney shipped three grand prix mounts to Mill Spring, N.C., to compete in the Tryon Fall Series over the weekend.

But her carefully orchestrated schedule got thrown out the window when she won the Pro Challenge,

Tracy Fenney surprised herself when she won the \$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge aboard MTM Outbid at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. KIMBERLY LOUSHIN PHOTO

which moved her up to the top six in the national standings and qualified her for the WCHR Professional Final, held Friday night in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Liza Boyd partnered with O’Ryan to top her second WCHR Professional Final at Capital Challenge. *KIMBERLY LOUSHIN PHOTO*

“Everyone’s giving me grief about that,” said Fenney with a laugh. “It’s funny because my husband [Mike McCormick] asked, ‘What gets you in the top six?’ And I said, ‘Well, a lot of horse shows.’ And we didn’t do all that many this year.”

She’d checked the national standings before making her plans and thought she was out of the running. She never dreamed she’d win the Pro Challenge, earning 140 points in the process and a spot in the feature WCHR class.

That’s when things got a little dicey. Fenney hopped on a plane Thursday morning to take second in the welcome stake on MTM Reve Du Paradis at Tryon, before hoofing it back north. She finished fourth in the Pro Final, then turned around and headed back to Tryon, where she and MTM Reve Du Paradis topped the \$86,000 MD Barnmaster Grand Prix CSI**.

Fenney was quick to credit the team behind MTM Farm, which she operates with her husband in Flower Mound, Texas.

“It’s all the people who are behind it, who kept all the horses and got them there and kept them worked and ridden and everything,” said Fenney. “They made it a lot easier, and then having such nice easy horses.”

Fenney and McCormick purchased “Outbid,” a 7-year-old warmblood of unrecorded breeding, at auction in Germany two years ago. As with all their young hunter prospects, they began developing him with the plan to sell.

But in the meantime, they kept attending shows that featured an international hunter derby, and McCormick started wondering why they didn’t have a horse competing in the class. So when Outbid didn’t sell at the end of his pre-green year, Fenney decided to aim him at the derbies.

“We were finally like this is going to be a real derby horse,” said Fenney, 52. “This is perfect—this is probably a good horse for us to keep. He’s made a lot of money this year just being able to do the derbies and the 3’6”



**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER PROFESSIONAL FINALS
Upper Marlboro, Md.—Oct. 6**

Judges: Panel 1: Danny Robertshaw, Brian Lenehan; Panel 2: Bobbie Reber, Chance Arakelian;
Panel 3: Steve Wall, Linda Andrisani

RIDER	ROUND 1 AVERAGE/HORSE	ROUND 2 AVERAGE/HORSE	ROUND 3 AVERAGE/HORSE	FINAL TOTAL
1. Liza Boyd	90.00/Chevito	90.50/Carolino	94.50/O’Ryan	275.00
2. Hunt Tosh	88.00/Cocoluxe	90.00/Falcon	94.16/Gotham	272.16
3. Scott Stewart	87.00/Carolino	89.16/Chevito	94.33/Private Life	270.49
4. Tracy Fenney	91.33/Corsair	85.66/Redeemed	93.00/MTM Outbid	269.99
5. Tori Colvin	89.66/Falcon	81.66/Cocoluxe	94.00/Airport 48	265.32
6. John French	88.50/Redeemed	87.33/Corsair	88.66/Skyhawk	264.49

Horses: Airport 48 (John & Stephanie Ingram LLC); Carolino (Redfield Farm); Chevito (North Shore Farm LLC); Cocoluxe (Tate Beteta); Corsair (Small Oak Investments LLC); Falcon (The Barracks); Gotham (Betsee Parker); MTM Outbid (MTM Farm); O’Ryan (Stella Styslinger); Private Life (Betsee Parker); Redeemed (Carol Ruth); Skyhawk (Laura Wasserman).

▶ HORSE SHOWS

green hunters. He's almost like having a grand prix horse. A lot of the grand prix horses we keep because he earns his keep and makes money instead of just costing us money."

Since Fenney feels more comfortable competing in the jumpers, she was thrilled to find herself winning against the country's top hunter professionals.

"We've come a long way with that horse," she said. "We've had him since he was a 5-year-old, and it's really fun to see him come into this night class and go against all of those awesome horses.

"He's always been very brave at everything he does," she continued. "Since he's been a baby we've really

liked him. He's just really easygoing and likes to do his job and likes to jump and does it easily. So that makes it really nice. I don't think there's a jump he can't jump."

Boyd Gets The Last Laugh

Liza Boyd and Hunt Tosh have enjoyed a friendly rivalry since their junior days, so when Boyd beat Tosh in the WCHR Professional Final, she knew exactly how she wanted to commemorate the occasion. She made Tosh join her in a victory photo, replicating a photo taken 25 years ago.

"Hunt was so good, and I kind of wanted to beat him," said Boyd, 38.

"This week he beat me by half a point in the 3'6" performance. I was like, 'I'm going to get you tonight, buddy, sorry.'"

In a unique class where riders negotiate a hunter course aboard two borrowed mounts before completing a handy round on a horse of their choosing, Boyd led after the first two rounds.

"It's a little bit luck of the draw," said Boyd. "I got the horse that was a little bit nervous the first round for Scott [Stewart], and he did a beautiful job of warming it up for me. So I kind of felt like the amateur rider who got to get on after the pro rode it around—thank you, Scott."

When first-time participant Tori Colvin turned in a top notch handy course, Boyd admitted that suddenly she was the most nervous to ride her own mount, O'Ryan.

But she chose wisely. Stella Styslinger's 15-year-old Holsteiner of unrecorded breeding is a master of the handy course. He even won the handy at the 2016 USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship (Ky.).

"I like horses about 15 and older," said Boyd, Camden, S.C. "That's when Brunello got really good. I think that we use [O'Ryan] sparingly. I've been showing him a bit lately, but he's such a trier. He's such a great horse.

"This is a whole year of work. We all strive and work really hard on WCHR weeks, and we have to thank the horses and the owners who got us here," she continued. "They're really the reason



Ashley Foster rode Carlsberg to the top of the North American Adult Equitation Championships at Capital Challenge. KIERAN PAULSEN PHOTO

NORTH AMERICAN ADULT EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 30

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Ashley Foster	Brookeville, Md.
2. Caroline Ingalls	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
3. Allyson Blais	Boynton Beach, Fla.
4. Sara Ballinger	Marion, Ohio
5. Mahala Rummell	Jacksonville, Fla.
6. Dana Brawley	Double Oak, Texas
7. Tess Fortune	Greendale, Wis.
8. Caroline Molther	Parker, Colo.
9. Lilli Power	Crestwood, Ky.
10. Claudia Millstone	Davie, Fla.

31 riders competed.

that we're here today. Then tonight we just go in there and have fun. We're all great riders, and it's just whoever's night it is. It happened to be mine tonight, and I feel very lucky to be here."

Foster Channels Western Riding To Win

Ashley Foster had some unusual help in preparing for the North American Adult Equitation Championship. The 21-year-old attends Auburn University (Ala.) and credits the equestrian team's "switch days," where the English riders ride the western horses, for giving her an edge.

"You can take some relaxation from the western ring into the hunter ring," Foster said. "Western riding has lots of emphasis on the whole body going with the horse and being a little more flowing than English riders typically are. It's helped me ride more with my entire body, not just my leg and hand."

Foster partnered with Carlsberg, an 8-year-old warmblood gelding of unrecorded breeding, for the win. She imported him from England last December with the intention of bringing him along as a jumper. However, Carlsberg showed more promise in the equitation ring, so Foster made the switch and set her sights on Capital Challenge.

"I spent the summer trying to make him the best equitation horse I could," Foster said. "We definitely had Capital Challenge as a goal, so it was really nice to get there. I thought all three of our rounds were awesome; I couldn't have been more proud of him."

Carlsberg first stood out to Foster because of his looks. The striking bay towers over Foster, who admitted his size was a little intimidating and earned him the nickname "Llama."

"He's beautiful," Foster said. "He's quite large for me, but he has a massive stride, and he doesn't care about much, which is great for the equitation. He walks around the ring like it's really easy for him. Then he's a sweetheart in the barn, just a lovebug with a great personality."

Foster has been riding all her life and training with her mother, Patty Foster, whose family owns Rolling Acres Show Stables in Brookeville, Md.



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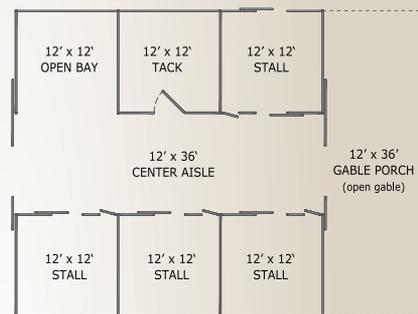
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Lee-Kellogg Sadrian waited a year to show Sochi, and she pulled off a trip of a lifetime at Capital Challenge when she won the WCHR Amateur Owner Championship.
KIMBERLY LOUSHIN PHOTO

▶ HORSE SHOWS

Ashley grew up riding project horses and enjoys building a partnership and working toward a goal. She and Carlsberg have been successful in the adult amateur equitation division since they started working together, but Capital Challenge marks their biggest win.

"It took him some time to settle in," Foster said. "When he first came over he was very reserved and kind of shy. He has a really kind heart and tries his hardest. He's a good egg, and he's really become himself and has relaxed a lot this year."

Ashley is on track to graduate in December with a degree in horticulture and plans to work with her mother while she figures out what comes next. She wants to take advantage of her time as an amateur in the hunter ring and find Carlsberg the perfect home.

"I love the hunters; that's where I really like to be," Ashley said. "I want to just do it for fun while I can. I don't want to rush into anything."

▶ Damico Rockets To WCHR Developing Pro Win



Dominique Damico and Rockette made an unexpected appearance in the Developing Pro Challenge and walked away with the win at Capital Challenge. KIMBERLY LOUSHIN PHOTO

Enter Rockette. The 9-year-old warmblood mare Damico co-owns with her student Kaitlyn Williams earned enough points to qualify

for the challenge, so Damico saddled up for her inaugural ride in the class.

"I, of course, wanted to win," Damico said. "But I wanted to put in a good, positive round for the horse. So I just gave it my best shot, and it paid off. I was ecstatic and super excited. It's really, really a special moment."

Dominique Damico wasn't planning to compete in the \$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge. Her go-to partner, Nemesis 11, was sidelined after two colic surgeries in the spring, which left her without a qualified horse to ride.

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A Trip Of A Lifetime

Two years ago Lee Kellogg Sadrian was enjoying a rare moment in the horse world where both her current and future mounts were on track. She earned good ribbons at the country's top shows on her amateur-owner horses, and her future ride, Sochi, took home the first year green championship at the Washington International Horse Show (D.C.) with John French in the irons.

Sadrian was gearing up to start competing the Holsteiner (Quirado—Utah III) full time when he injured his right front leg in a pasture accident. It took nearly a year of rehabilitation, but the 8-year-old gelding returned to showing at the end of 2016.

"It's been really fun now to have the opportunity to show him and be successful because I feel like everyone's like, 'He's such a good jumper, and you're like, 'Oh God, I've got to live up to that,'" said Sadrian.

But she exceeded her expectations

when she rode Sochi to the top of the WCHR Amateur-Owner Challenge.

"It was the trip of a lifetime," said Sadrian. "I was going in, and I was like, 'OK, I've got to settle myself. I can do this.' And then every single jump came perfect, so it was really fun. He just soars through the air.

"I'm so excited about this," she continued. "You never usually have the

trip of a lifetime at the right time, and I did it! It's usually when nobody is watching, and it doesn't matter."

Sadrian, 46, juggles riding with caring for her three children, who are all under the age of 10. She didn't get to stay to celebrate her win because she had to head home to Summit, N.J., so she could take her oldest to school early the next morning to take a test. 🐾

Damico knew the odds were in her favor when she saw the direction for the second course.

"She lands left great and jumps a super jump out of that," Damico said. "So I thought my first two jumps were exactly how I wanted to ride them—a little bit bold to make an impression. She was consistent and stayed really relaxed, which was key."

Damico, 32, Berwyn, Pa., had some help at the in-gate from her good friend and former Developing Pro champion, Brian Feigus.

"I said, 'Brian, I really want to win,'" Damico said. "And he said, 'You can win but just ride.' It was super exciting to follow such big names and top professionals. It's very motivating, and I think it's a crucial part of a young professional's career to be able to compete in a class like this and get used to the pressure."

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▶ Tidbits

▶ **DAWN FOGEL** just started riding **STORY TELLER** at the Kentucky National at the end of September, but they've already pulled out a big win together. With scores of 90 across the board from the three judging panels, Fogel and Foxridge Farms Stables' 7-year-old Westphalian mare (Son Of Cologne—Dancing Daylight) took top call in the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge.

"She is just a lovely horse to ride and work around," said Fogel, Louisville, Ky. "She's quiet every day. Nothing seems to faze her. She's never been here before, and she didn't bat an eye."

Fogel, 44, has sold equine insurance for 17 years, and the job has given her flexibility to combine her career with her hobby.

"It's been super, and it's something that I can do on the road," she said. "I can travel with it and still work, and just have my files on an iPad."

▶ **MAHALA RUMMELL** was out of the equitation ring for six years, but that didn't stop her from winning the Ariat National Adult Medal Final on a borrowed horse. Rummell retired her jumper in May, just in time to get the ride on Zoe Ganek's 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Bellagio.

Rummell, 25, New York City, was second in the Adult Medal Final in 2011 aboard Papillon 136. She competed regularly throughout her junior career, then attended New York University and now works for executive search firm Spencer

Stuart, covering investment services and private equity.

"I don't get to ride very much anymore, so it really means a lot for me to be here and get to do this," Rummell said. "[Bellagio] felt amazing today. He's so gentle and beautiful across the ground. He's got that impressive quality. I pretty much rode him once and showed up and showed. It was comfortable from Day 1. He gives you a lot of confidence."

▶ **MARTHA INGRAM** marked her first year competing at Capital Challenge as an amateur by winning the WCHR Low Amateur-Owner Challenge aboard **LYONS CREEK BELLINI**. Ingram, 20, chased challenge wins throughout her junior career, but they evaded her until she and the 11-year-old Polish Warmblood topped this year's class.

Ingram said "Bellini" is one of the smartest horses she's ever ridden. "He knows when it's game time," she said. "He loves his treats. He likes to announce himself in the ring; you probably heard him whinnying in the victory gallop. I couldn't have asked more of him today."

Ingram attends Furman University (S.C.) and prioritizes her studies over riding, but she made an exception for Capital Challenge.

"I get to show with my dad [John Ingram], and all of the amateurs are so nice and such good sports," she said. "The horses are of top quality; you really have to be on top of your game if you want to do well here."

**ARIAT NATIONAL
ADULT MEDAL FINALS**
Upper Marlboro, Md.—Oct. 6

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Mahala Rummell	Jacksonville, Fla.
2. Allyson Blais	Boynton Beach, Fla.
3. Ashley Foster	Brookeville, Md.
4. Caroline Ingalls	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
5. Elyse Ruschmeyer	South Glastonbury, Conn.
6. Abigail Friedman	San Francisco, Calif.
7. Jackie Keliher	Norwell, Mass.
8. Catie Staszak	West Palm Beach, Fla.
9. Jessica Barno	Clinton, N.J.
10. Tracey Gorin-Byrne	Wellington, Fla.

30 riders competed.

▶ **Capital Challenge**

Upper Marlboro, MD—Sept. 29-Oct. 8.

- 3'6" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. A CH:** Mayfield, Strasburg Morin Inc.
RES: MTM Outbid, MTM Farm.
3'6" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. B CH: Always, Victoria Colvin LLC.
RES: Kings Landing, Meralax Farm.
3'9" GREEN HUNTER CH: William Hill, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.
RES: Early August, Deeridge Farms.
HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.
RES: Olympic Fire, Roger Smith.

- GREEN CONFORMATION HUNTER CH:** Private Life, Betsee Parker.
RES: Top Shelf, Milissa Summer.
HIGH PERFORMANCE CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Boss, Laura Wasserman.
RES: Lucador, Betsee Parker.
3'6" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Gotham, Betsee Parker.
RES: Cassanto, Stella Styling.
3'3" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. A CH: Flint, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.
RES: Soon To Be, Jennifer Smith.
3'3" GREEN HUNTER, SEC. B CH: Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.
RES: True Story, Cathy Zicherman.
3' GREEN HUNTER, SEC. A CH: Playbook, Fashion Farm.
RES: Hulla-Balou, Renee Howard.
3' GREEN HUNTER, SEC. B CH: Bieber, Four Winds Farm.
RES: Giovanni, Martha Gangemi.
3'-3'3" GREEN HUNTER, MARE CH: Kamera Shy, Heatherfield Hunters LLC.
RES: Small Occasion, Iwasaki & Reilly.
3'-3'3" GREEN HUNTER, COLT/GELDING CH: Status, Krista & Alexa Weisman.
RES: MTM Page 6, MTM Farm.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Sutherland, Peter Pletcher.
RES: Antinori, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-50 CH: Top Shelf, Melissa Summer.
RES: Story Teller, Foxridge Farms Stables.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 51 & OVER CH: Forever, James Anderson.
RES: Ocean Mist, Jennifer Smith.
AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: First Light, Stephanie Danhak.
RES: Bozeman, Lindsey Roberts.
AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.
RES: Koala, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.
LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Belgravia, Lindsay Maxwell.
RES: Lyons Creek Bellini, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC.

- LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH:** Carma, Virginia Fout.
RES: Comex Gold, Lee Sadrian.
ADULT EQUITATION CH: Ashley Foster.
RES: Caroline Ingalls.
GRAND 3'6" GREEN HUNTER CH: Mayfield, Strasburg Morin Inc.
GRAND 3' & 3'3" GREEN HUNTER CH: Kamera Shy, Heatherfield Hunters LLC.
GRAND GREEN HUNTER CH: William Hill, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.
GRAND CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Boss, Laura Wasserman.
LEADING HUNTER TRAINER: Ken Berkley.
GRAND HUNTER CH: A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.
LEADING HUNTER RIDER: Scott Stewart.
EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, PROFESSIONAL HUNTER: A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.
EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.
EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER: Breaux, Kaitlin Porath.
EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER: Sutherland, Peter Pletcher.
EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, 3'-3'3" GREEN HUNTER: Hemingway, Stephanie Bulger.
GRAND ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: Sutherland, Peter Pletcher.
BEST ADULT AMATEUR RIDER: Jef Lauwers.
GRAND AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Catch Me, Gochman Sport Horse LLC.
BEST AMATEUR-OWNER RIDER: Becky Gochman.
GRAND LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Belgravia, Lindsay Maxwell.
BEST LOW AMATEUR-OWNER RIDER: Lindsay Maxwell.
BEST MEDIUM AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER RIDER: Charlotte Jacobs.
BEST LOW AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER RIDER: Bailey Doloff.
BEST ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER RIDER: Whitney Lind.
LEADING EQUITATION TRAINER: Amanda Lyerly.