

# THE CHRONICLE *of the* HORSE

24 INTERCOLLEGIATE  
ISSUE

30 LIVING LEGEND  
BOB CACCHIONE

38 5 CATCH-  
RIDING TIPS

74 TRIBUTES TO TWO GREAT  
EVENT HORSES



**Taylor Ashe Cawley**

WCHR Pony Challenge  
Champion

# From Coyote Hunting To Rescue Ponies, Gibbs Finds His Way To Capital Challenge Victory

The 16-year-old takes an unusual path to win over 116 competitors in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championship.

By **Laura Lemon**

**B**ack in the first decade of the new millennium, on a ranch in Pueblo, Colorado, Gordon and Erin Gibbs stored a pile of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazines from the 1980s. As a Colorado native, Erin grew up with the horse bug, but she didn't have much opportunity to advance beyond local shows.

Even still, whenever she saw her name in the results pages of the *Chronicle*, she saved the issue. She put her equine passion aside to pursue college and a journalism career and raise a family of three. But then her eldest son, Dominic Gibbs, began to take an interest.

"He would see pictures in *The Chronicle of the Horse* of people at horse shows dressed in formal riding attire," said Erin. "He assumed this was the uniform for riding every day. So, without me ever asking, he would put on these tiny little jodhpurs plus cowboy boots. Then he would put on a white button-down with a black zipper tie and his leadline coat. He would top it off with his velvet Troxel helmet, and he would put that on to go out to ride the pony literally in the backyard. He'd be fully dressed to the nines, and we're out in the middle of nowhere."

As a toddler, Dominic learned to ride sitting in front of his mother on her old event horse. Eventually Erin invested in a small pony named Duncan, and Dominic and his little sister Jordan grew

horse crazed, while their middle brother Patrick remained immune.

"When I started having a family, for sure I wanted them to learn how to ride," said Erin. "My dream was just to ride together—I didn't have any expectations out of that whether they wanted to show or anything else. At that time, I was in a hunt club, and we had a fabulous pony that I could pony alongside. They would hang on. We were out galloping around the prairie chasing coyote—not fox.

"I wouldn't say he was the A show quality; he was just

the best all-around pony," she continued. "We did the state fair parade with that pony, and the kids would ride him. We did horse shows. Dominic did a dressage show on him. He was quite a pony. That was the trail pony that could do everything."

The Gibbs family garnered a reputation as a rescue pony safe haven. And though these ponies weren't any glistening show steeds, Dominic dressed up to ride them.

"I put him on everything that came home. And that was what was so entertaining because we had these kind of rough-around-the-edges type ponies, and he would be so dressed formally to go out to trot," said Erin. "I wanted to make sure that the kids learned the love of

## PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY NORTH AMERICAN JUNIOR EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 29

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Dominic Gibbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
2. Paige Matthies	Lake Leelanau, Mich.
3. Breanna Bunevacz	Calabasas, Calif.
4. Stella Buckingham	Los Angeles, Calif.
5. Erin Floyd	Austin, Texas
6. Brooke Morin	Calabasas, Calif.
7. Emily Perkins	West Linn, Ore.
8. Alexis Ortiz	Hoffman Estates, Ill.
9. Augusta Iwasaki	Calabasas, Calif.
10. Jordan Allen	West Bloomfield, Mich.
>110 riders competed.	





Dominic Gibbs won the Capital Challenge Horse Show's Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championship on Cent 15. SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

horses in every environment and not just in a lesson and not just for competition. Winning is rare, and so I wanted them to feel like they were winning just having horses around.”

As Dominic entered fifth grade, the family sold their ranch, found homes for the maverick rescue ponies, and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he started training with Karen Catov-Goodell. For four years, Catov-Goodell guided Dominic through the workings of a green pony to his first horse. Then at the beginning of 2018, Catov-Goodell took Dominic to Wellington, Florida, for a week and introduced him to Katie Prudent, who started helping him in the jumpers. She offered him a spot at her barn that summer.

“I lived in a camper on her barn property in Middleburg, Virginia,” said the 16-year-old. “I rode every horse that I could possibly ride. I was there to learn and to work, and so I took every opportunity that was presented to me.”

Dominic wanted to pursue equitation, and while Prudent didn’t want to necessarily teach equitation, she knew the next step. In the middle of the warm-up ring at the Lake Placid Horse Show (New York) that summer, Prudent yelled

to Stacia Madden, “Stacia! You need to train this kid.” And she did.

Compared to his peers who had been competing on the circuit their whole lives, however, Dominic felt late to the game.

“Definitely my start with horses is unique. It’s not a traditional route,” said Dominic. “I have always felt behind because the other kids I compete against have been on the A circuit for so much longer than me. They moved to horses and into jumpers long before me too, so I often felt at a disadvantage being from far away and with less competition experience.

“But it wasn’t like I was sitting on the couch,” he continued. “I was riding a lot, just in a different way. My mom taking me with the Fort Carson Hounds was so much fun, like freedom. The rescue ponies, trail rides, eventing lessons and parades were all just fun, without any pressure. I could just be a kid on a horse, definitely not the normal lesson program most kids have. Being exposed to so many things made me feel like anything was possible. But in the end, hunters, jumpers and equitation sort of chose me.”



## YOUNG ENTRY

To combat the pressure to catch up, Dominic started talking to sports psychologist Diana McNab every week. After presenting his parents with a proposal on why wintering in Florida would help him achieve his aspirations, he started online schooling and traveling with Madden. And with Cent 15, his 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Carenzo—Sarafina), Dominic earned his first medal final victory in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equestrian Championship held at Capital Challenge in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on Sept. 29.

“Winning against the people I always considered ‘ahead’ is a great measure to my training. I think I’m right where I need to be. The training program I’m in, my coaches, my horse, and all the changes I made and sacrifices that my parents agreed to in the last 12 months have fast-

*Horses allow me to be me in every sense—intense and fun.”*

—Dominic Gibbs

tracked things to where I am today,” said Dominic. “Each competition teaches me more about what is missing in my riding or mental game, so I’ll never run out of things to practice. I definitely think that horses are fun, even though

## ROSIA IS READY TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY

Coming up through the junior ranks, Morgan Rosia, 17, never had her own horse. She’d get the ride for a few weeks on a sales horse or a mount that might get leased out. Instead of getting discouraged, though, Rosia used her experience figuring out a new partner to win the EMO Insurance/USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Final at Capital Challenge.

“I didn’t have a horse until a week before, so I knew I was going to have to adjust really quickly to whatever horse I had,” said the Germantown, Maryland, native. “I just didn’t know who it was going to be.”



She ended up riding Clearano Z, Jacqueline

Fogel’s 9-year-old Zangersheide gelding. “I rode him for the first time Thursday and ended up showing on Friday,” Rosia said. “It was quick, but he was incredible the entire time!”

Neither Rosia nor Clearano Z had ever competed at indoors, and Rosia used the 2019 USHJA Foundation J.T. Tallon Memorial Equestrian Grant to help her get there. “I never had a horse that stuck around long enough to take it to indoors,” she said. “They always sold or got leased before that.”

When she’s not winning equestrian finals, Rosia flies around the country to ride unfamiliar horses as a freshman member of the Texas A&M University equestrian team. “A lot of times we stay in Texas [to compete], but we also go to California, South Carolina and Georgia. We go to Auburn [Alabama],” she said. “The girls are so supportive. It’s such a cool thing to be a part of.”

Morgan Rosia put her catch-riding chops to the test with Clearano Z, winning the EMO/USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Final at Capital Challenge.

SHAWN  
MCMILLEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
PHOTO

### EMO INSURANCE AGENCY/USHJA 3’3” JUMPING SEAT MEDAL FINAL Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 27-28

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Morgan Rosia	Germantown, Md.
2. Nicole Dorwart	Etters, Pa.
3. Texie Loyd	Windermere, Fla.
4. Alexandra Ryden	Cary, N.C.
5. Sophia Mitchell	Wrightsville Beach, N.C.
6. Kyla Sullivan	Wallingford, Conn.
7. Samuel Gleason	Darien, Conn.
8. Ella Frey	Los Angeles, Calif.
9. Maura Lautenbach	Indianapolis, Ind.
10. Julia Hasler	Libertyville, Ill.

►114 riders competed.

MARTHA DRUM



the pressure and the competition of equitation makes this side of riding very serious. But it also fits my personality. I have always been very competitive and intense, but I have a completely other side to me that is easy to laugh and joke. Horses allow me to be me in every sense—intense and fun.”

## CAWLEY'S IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

When Taylor Ashe Cawley, winner of the WCHR Pony Challenge, considers her future goals, the 11-year-old from Wellington immediately jumps 10-plus years forward to winning the American Gold Cup like her mother, Molly Ashe Cawley, did in 2018, aboard D'Arnita. She also jokes about adding an Olympic medal to the family's résumé.

“My mom had her horse D'Arnita, who sadly passed away last year,” said Taylor. “She was an amazing horse, one of the best my mom's ever had. And she had a little bit of some struggles with her, but she went into the ring and said, ‘I'm here to win it.’ And she was amazing. I watched on the livestream while my brother was there—lucky him. She came home, and she had all of her ribbons



Taylor Ashe Cawley benefitted from a team of trainers on her way to winning the WCHR Pony Challenge on By4Now at Capital Challenge. LAURA LEMON PHOTO



ST. TIMOTHY'S  
EQUESTRIAN

## Ride Smart.

St. Timothy's is one of only a few schools in the U.S. to offer both the International Baccalaureate (IB) and a competitive equestrian program.

★ ★ ★

[stt.org](http://stt.org)

[riding@stt.org](mailto:riding@stt.org)



YOUNG ENTRY

and everything. She was so happy, and I was so happy for her.”

“The Gold Cup and then the Olympic medal in the family, I almost fell off my horse when I heard that one,” said Molly. “Oh dear, I guess we’re in this for the long haul. That cracked me up because that was not something she’s said to me. I think she has her plans. She’s pretty strong minded. When she wants something she’s going to go get it. I hope she sticks that way. She’ll need to be that strong minded if that’s what she wants to do.”

At first Molly didn’t necessarily want her daughter to get involved in horses. As a grand prix professional and daughter of professional Susan Ashe, Molly knew all too well the benefits of the horse industry but also its

drawbacks—and those drawbacks led Molly to want her daughter to explore more.

“I think I tried too hard to make her not want to ride,” said Molly. “The show circuit is so all consuming. She’s a great kid, and I would love it if she liked the horses and loved to do it, but I would really love it if it didn’t take everything else away from her that she might do and enjoy. It’s a tough sport. It teaches you a lot of great life lessons. But at the same time, it can chip away at who you are a little bit, and your positive outlook sometimes I think can get chipped away at. I would really hate to see that happen to her. I don’t want to see her start doubting herself and second guessing and all that stuff, which is part of life. You’ve got to learn how to cope with it at

LAST-MINUTE OFFER

Two weeks before leaving The Woodlands, Texas, to head to Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Eleanor Rudnicki still didn’t know which horse she was going to ride in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children’s Medal Finals at Capital Challenge. The 14-year-old’s own horse had acquired a slight injury in May, and she and trainer Berry Porter were giving it extra time to recover. As a working student for Porter, Rudnicki had qualified for the THIS National Children’s Medal Finals on a mix of horses, but she lacked one that stood out as a strong partner for her first trek to Capital Challenge.

But then one of Rudnicki’s barnmates, Sophia Cady, got sick right before the show and couldn’t compete her horse CF Cosmic.

“She called up, and she was so nice. She was just like, ‘I’m sick and I can’t go,’ ” said Porter. “We didn’t even have to ask. It was her generous offer to let us use the horse.”

Although Cady couldn’t compete, she flew to Maryland to support Rudnicki and the 8-year-old Oldenburg gelding (Cantoblanco—Contessa), who led the way during the first round.

“That was really nerve-wracking because I just wanted to stay on top,” said Rudnicki. “I was really nervous, but when I got into the ring for the second round all I was thinking was, ‘All right it’s just another show. Just put in a good round.’ And then after that round, when I saw my score, and I saw that I won, I was just so relieved and glad that it was over. We were all really relieved and super happy. And Sophia, she’s great. She was super happy that her horse had pulled it off.”



Eleanor Rudnicki got a last-minute ride aboard CF Cosmic to win the THIS National Children’s Medal Final at Capital Challenge. SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

TAYLOR HARRIS INSURANCE SERVICES NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MEDAL FINALS Upper Marlboro, Md.—Sept. 29	
RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Eleanor Rudnicki	The Woodlands, Texas
2. Amira Kettaneh	Hollis, N.H.
3. Isabel Rudaz	Westport, Conn.
4. Lilly Goldstein	Argyle, Texas
5. Madison Fankhauser	New Albany, Ohio
6. Blythe Goguen	Lexington, Ky.
7. Madison Nadolenco	Calabasas, Calif.
8. Taje Warrick	Wellington, Fla.
9. Sophie Whidden	Westport, Conn.
10. Annalise Manoog	Centerville, Mass.
►40 riders competed.	



some point. But this business and sport can sometimes really throw some things at you. The good parts I love. The hard parts of the business and the sport, it's hard as a mother to watch that happen.

"Despite all my concerns and hesitations and desires that she not love it, she's headfirst in it," she continued. "And that's by her choice. We will support her in every way we can to do what she wants with it."

While Molly admits they can't provide Taylor all the fancy animals that her competitors may have, she's surrounded her with a little army to bring her up in the horse business the right way. Never wanting to be a mother-and-trainer package, Molly enlisted Charlie Moorcroft, Geoff Teall, Tom Wright and Mitchell Robinson to help squire Taylor, with Robin Greenwood and Alexa Karet and her family offering pony rides.

"You couldn't ask for better, more correct, and kind and generous people than she's ended up having surrounding her," said Molly. "That's what makes it OK for me—that she's got good role models. They do right by her, and she has to do right by them. That's been a big, big bonus for me."



Peyten Seltzer and Que Creme topped the WCHR Children's Challenge at Capital Challenge. "This is my first time at Capital Challenge, so it was a good first week," said Seltzer. "I've never won anything this big before." MARTHA DRUM PHOTO

## BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE Equestrian Program

### BRIDGEWATER'S RIDING OFFERS:

- IHSA, IDA and USEA Event Teams
- "A" rated and local shows
- Outstanding facility including a 300 ft. x 140 ft. indoor arena and two 125 ft. x 250 ft. outdoor arenas
- Academic credit while honing your riding skills
- Option of adding equine studies minor to your major

### PROGRAM SUCCESSES:

- 2019 IHSA National Championship, Intermediate on the Flat, 3rd Place, Georgia Osborne
- 2019 Individual IDA First Level Champion, Melissa Lempicki
- 2019 IDA National Championship Team, 4th Place
- 2019 Longines IHSA Showcase winner Michael Golinowski
- 2019 ODAC Team Championship, 4th Place
- 2019, 2014, 2013 Tournament of Champions Series Reserve Champions
- 2018 7th place team at IDA National Championships
- 2017 IHSA Intermediate Flat National Champion, Zellie Wothers



2019 IHSA Showcase Champion at Longines, NYC

**ADMISSIONS:** 800-759-8328 | [bridgewater.edu](http://bridgewater.edu)  
**DIRECTOR OF RIDING:** H. Jerry Schurink | [hschurink@bridgewater.edu](mailto:hschurink@bridgewater.edu)







"This is the biggest accomplishment I think I've ever had," said Mae Mannis after winning the WCHR 3'3" Junior Challenge at Capital Challenge on Cloney's Pleasure. *LAURA LEMON PHOTO*

And with the army, Taylor entered the WCHR Pony Challenge with By4Now, GC Ponies LLC's 7-year-old Welsh Pony gelding (Maple Side Wish List—Elite Rain Dance). She had a rough go in the morning classes, making some mistakes, but after calling Molly, who was away judging the Platinum Performance USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals—East (New Jersey), she pulled together to finish with a win.

"She just kind of gave me some happy info and just told me that everything's OK; you just need to keep your leg, and they'll help you out for the rest," said Taylor. "Winning a championship definitely means a lot because I know my mom wasn't here. I was really doing it for her because I know she really wanted to be here for this."

"That day she went from having a few rough goes at it, then she sort of gave herself a talking to or heard what I said or whatever, and made up her mind and went out there and did it," said Molly. "When they do that, and it works out, that's fantastic because that gives you the gumption to go out there and do it again."

And who knows—maybe the Olympics aren't so far off. "If she doesn't have ponies to ride that day, and she's

## SIMPLE SERENDIPITY

**W**hen it comes to future goals Juliette Joseph likes to keep it simple.

"I try not to get too ahead of myself—just to keep improving and see where that gets me," said the 17-year-old from San Diego. "I never really know what horse I'm going to be riding and what the future's going to be like, so I just kind of do my best and hope for the best."

As a working student for Robyn Stiegler of Citrus Hill Farms, Joseph rides any and every horse she can. And at the horse shows, Stiegler organizes catch-rides for her, since the high school senior doesn't own her own horse.

"[I've been catch riding] since I've been on ponies," said Joseph. "These last two years have been big for me in that, and I've gotten more rides."

One of those rides is San Marco, Ann Russo's 8-year-old Selle Français gelding of unrecorded breeding. Joseph started meeting him at shows on the winter circuit, sometimes only hopping on him the day of her division. Aboard San Marco, she topped the WCHR Junior Challenge.

"This is definitely a big goal that I feel like was out of reach, and I wasn't completely thinking about," said Joseph. "It was really nice to be able to actually achieve it."



Juliette Joseph rode San Marco to the win in the WCHR Junior Challenge at Capital Challenge. *SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO*



not in school, she's following me around and trying to ride all my horses," said Molly. "She rides Cassandra some of the time. She steals Taylor St. Jacques' horse Qantar [Des Etisses]. Anything she can talk her way onto she's up there. It scares me to death, and I'm very careful of who she gets on. But she rides Adamo sometimes. She'll climb on anything she can talk her way up there on. She's got big plans." 🐾

### CAPITAL CHALLENGE

Upper Marlboro, Md.—  
Sept. 27-Oct. 6

**SMALL JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** Calou, Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Firestone.

**RES:** Wisdom, Temple Equestrian LLC.

**SMALL JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Beach Boy, Emily Williams.

**RES:** O'Ryan, Maggie Hill.

**LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** For Fun, Troy Christiansen.

**RES:** Quite Ruffy, Blackhearts LLC.

**LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Cassanto, Maggie Hill.

**RES:** Unanimous, Ella Reinauer.

**3'3" JR. HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Higgs, Lilly Goldstein.

**RES:** Cold Harbor, Betsee Parker.

**3'3" JR. HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Worthy, Sunset View Farm LLC.

**RES:** Northface, Ashland Farms.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Outlook, Luke Rajan.

**RES:** Cartani Croft, Anna Gassib.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Jade, Shaw Price.

**RES:** Casallo, Erin McGuire.

**CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH:** Effervescent, Ava Pearlman.

**RES:** Ontario, Olivia Hershey.

**SMALL PONY HUNTER CH:** Heavenly Patch Of Blue, Enchantment Farms LLC.

**RES:** Farmore State Of The Art, Eva Mackenzie.

**MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH:** Astro Boy, GC Ponies LLC.

**RES:** Island Grace, Aquitaine Equine.

**LARGE PONY HUNTER CH:** Spellbound, Ponies & Palms Show Stables LLC.

**RES:** Prestige, Sterling Malnik.

**EQUITATION, 12 & UNDER CH:** Campbell Hudkins

**RES:** Alexa Lignelli.

**EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. A CH:** Kyla Sullivan.

**RES:** Sofia Roberts.

**EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. B CH:** Grace Debney.

**RES:** Augusta Iwasaki.

**EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Gwyneth Babington.

**RES:** Cate Crawford.

**EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** Dominic Gibbs.

**RES:** Breanna Bunevacz.

**EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Olivia Broder.

**RES:** Rylee Shufelt.

**EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** Ellie Ferrigno.

**RES:** Maggie Hill.

**EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Jordan Allen.

**RES:** Emily Perkins.

**EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** James Faloni.

**RES:** Kaitlyn Lovingfoss.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. HUNTER:** Wisdom, Temple

Equestrian LLC.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, 3'3" JR. HUNTER:** Higgs, Lilly Goldstein.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, PONY HUNTER:** Maranatha Flash, Harmony Ridge Stable.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, CHILDREN'S HUNTER:** Cartani Croft, Anna Gassib.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. EQUITATION:** Ellie Ferrigno.

**GRAND JR. HUNTER CH:** Beach Boy, Emily Williams.

**HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** For Fun, Troy Christiansen.

**HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Beach Boy, Emily Williams.

**BEST JR. RIDER:** Emily Williams.

**GRAND 3'3" JR. HUNTER CH:** Higgs, Lilly Goldstein.

**BEST 3'3" JR. HUNTER RIDER:** Lilly Goldstein.

**STEWART-WARNER JR. CUP CH:** Jordan Allen.

**GRAND CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH:** Outlook, Luke Rajan.

**BEST CHILDREN'S HUNTER RIDER:** Caroline Signorino.

**STEWART-WARNER CHILDREN'S CUP CH:** Sydney Raidy.

**GRAND PONY HUNTER CH:** Heavenly Patch Of Blue, Enchantment Farms LLC.

**BEST PONY RIDER:** Shiloh Roseboom.

**STEWART-WARNER PONY CUP CH:** Sterling Malnik.

**BEST MEDIUM JR. JUMPER RIDER:** Graciela Robert.

**BEST LOW JR. JUMPER RIDER:** Ellie Beard.

**WCHR JR. CHALLENGE CH:** San Marco, Ann Russo.

**RES:** Boss, Laura Wasserman.

**WCHR 3'3" JR. CHALLENGE CH:** Cloney's Pleasure, Mia Mannis.

**RES:** Captivated, Shayne Wireman.

**WCHR PONY CHALLENGE CH:** By4Now, GC Ponies LLC.

**RES:** Hey Scooby, Hagen Blackwell.

**WCHR CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE CH:** Que Creme, Peyton Seltzer.

**RES:** Jade, Shaw Price.

**GEORGE H. MORRIS EQUITATION CH:** Dominic Gibbs.

**BEST EQUITATION RIDER:** Dominic Gibbs.

**LEADING EQUITATION TRAINER:** Stacia Madden.

# HOLLINS

## UNIVERSITY



21  
ODAC WINS

20  
SWVHJA  
MEDAL WINNERS

19  
IHSA NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONS

Join the Legacy  
[riding@hollins.edu](mailto:riding@hollins.edu)