



CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 7, 2018 UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

[RESULTS](#)

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Gabrielle Sokolow and Benetton are Best in Pony Hunters

The 25th anniversary Capital Challenge Horse Show spotlighted the show's youngest and smallest competitors on Saturday, October 6, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. The top honor of the day, the Grand Pony Hunter Championship, went to Gabrielle Sokolow of Westlake Village, CA, and Benetton.

On their way to earning the grand championship title, 13-year-old Sokolow and Benetton, a 10-year-old Warmblood gelding owned by Pretty Penny Farm, swept all three of the Large Pony Hunter division over fences classes to also take the Large Pony Hunter Championship, presented by the World Equestrian Center.



Gabrielle Sokolow and Benetton won the Grand Pony Hunter Championship on Saturday. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"I'm so happy about it," said Sokolow, who trains with Elizabeth Reilly and only started leasing Benetton in May. "I love this pony. It was such a big accomplishment for me. I've only been riding him since Devon, so it wasn't for very long. He goes back soon, but I'm just so happy with it."

"He's such a good pony. He always tries his best to be amazing. He never really cares about anything; he's always so focused and listens so well. And he's so cute!" - Gabrielle Sokolow

For the grand championship, Sokolow and Benetton were awarded the VanderMoore Designs Trophy, donated by VanderMoore Designs, and Sokolow was presented with the Best Pony Rider Award, sponsored by Archibald Cox & Brookway Stables.

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WORDS FROM THE WINNER

Hear from Gabrielle Sokolow following her wins!

[Watch Here!](#)

Madeline Schaefer Sails to \$10,000 North American Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic Win

While the hunters headlined the daytime sessions on Saturday at Capital Challenge, the Junior and Amateur-Owners Jumpers had their turn in the spotlight on Saturday evening. Winning the \$10,000 North American Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic was Madeline Schaefer of Westminster, MD, riding her own Adoctro.

A field of 33 entries contested the track set by Ken Krome, with 10 advancing to the short course. Schaefer and Adoctro were the final pair to jump-off, and when they returned, the time to beat was set at 35.211 seconds by Charlotte Jacobs of East Aurora, NY, and Darthus, owned by North Star.



Madeline Schaefer and Adoctro won the \$10,000 North American Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

While Jacobs took advantage of an inside turn on the short course, Schaefer knew she could likely still catch Jacobs's leading time without utilizing the inside track.

"We went just around where Charlotte did the inside turn because he's naturally fast. If I do a lot of tight turns and get handsy, he gets mad." - Madeline Schaefer

With a leave out to the final fence and a quick finish, Schaefer not only bested Jacobs's time, she shaved more than three seconds off of it, finishing in 32.206 seconds.

"At about halfway through the last line I heard them yelling," said Schaefer, referring to her family gathered at the in-gate. "And I was like, 'Okay, I'm going for it.'"

With the win secured for Schaefer, second place went Jacobs, while Ashley Foster of Brookeville, MD, and Capella rounded out the top three with a time of 36.861 seconds.

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Callie Seaman Stays Clear to Win \$10,000 North American Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic

Nineteen horses competed in the \$10,000 North American 1.30-1.35m Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic, with only four horses jumping clean to advance to the jump-off. The first three riders posted faults on the board, so when Callie Seaman of Greenwich, CT, rode in on Jet Set DB as the last to go she knew she needed a fault-free round to win. A conservative but clean trip stopped the clock at 45.510 seconds, securing the blue and the Remy Martin Trophy, donated by Rolling Acres and Melanie Wright, for Seaman.

"I was thrilled with the first round because we've really been working on being smoother and calmer. I've been struggling a little in jump-offs because I get really excited, and I want to win," admitted Seaman. "Sometimes I think I get a little too much into my own head. Having the benefit of knowing all I had to do was go clear kind of took a little pressure away."



The win in the \$10,000 North American Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic went to Callie Seaman and Jet Set DB. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"I could not ask for a better horse. I made some real mistakes in that jump-off, and I asked a lot of her. She always takes care of me. She's a very fiery, sassy mare. She really is a winner in her heart, and she'll fight for you no matter what. She's just really special." - Callie Seaman

After recovering from multiple back surgeries in recent years, Seaman made it her goal to compete at the fall indoor circuit this year, starting with Capital Challenge Horse Show.

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Small Pony Hunters

Champion: Rollingwoods Knee Deep, ridden by Alexa Lignelli and owned by the Lignelli Family

Reserve: Bit of Love, ridden by Maddie Tosh and owned by Dr. Betsee Parker



Medium Pony Hunters

Sponsored by Rosemont Farm

Champion: Farnley Corsair, ridden by Amira Kettaneh and owned by Leigh Kettaneh

Reserve: Anisette, ridden and owned by Tessa Downey

GALLERY OF CHAMPIONS

All photos by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

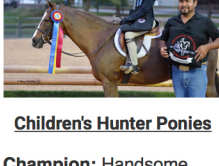


Large Pony Hunters

Sponsored by World Equestrian Center

Champion: Benetton, ridden by Gabrielle Sokolow and owned by Pretty Penny Farm

Reserve: D'Artagnan, ridden by Brynn Kuhnell and owned by Simply Ponies, LLC



Children's Hunter Ponies

Champion: Handsome Honey Do, ridden and owned by Xia Tabanou

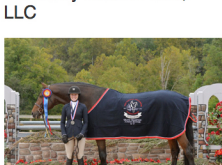
Reserve: Jamrock, ridden by Payton Willson and owned by Willson Sport Horses, LLC.



Small Junior 16-17 Hunters

Champion: A Million Reasons, ridden by Emma Kurtz and owned by Dr. Betsee Parker

Reserve: Castle, ridden by Kaitlyn Lovingfoss and owned by Eaton Place, LLC



Large Junior 16-17 Hunters

Sponsored by Beacon Hill Show Stables & Stonehenge Stables

Champion: Dedication, ridden by Emma Kurtz and owned by Dr. Betsee Parker

Reserve: Tztargazer ridden by Chloe White and owned by Steve Schaefer

BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEOS



The Capital Challenge Horse Show team surprised show manager and co-founder Oliver Kennedy with this touching tribute video, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the horse show!

[Watch Here!](#)

DAILY UPDATE



Get more news in the Capital Challenge on-site, daily newsletter, [The Daily Update!](#)

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Gabrielle Sokolow and Benetton. Photo by [Jump Media](#)

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