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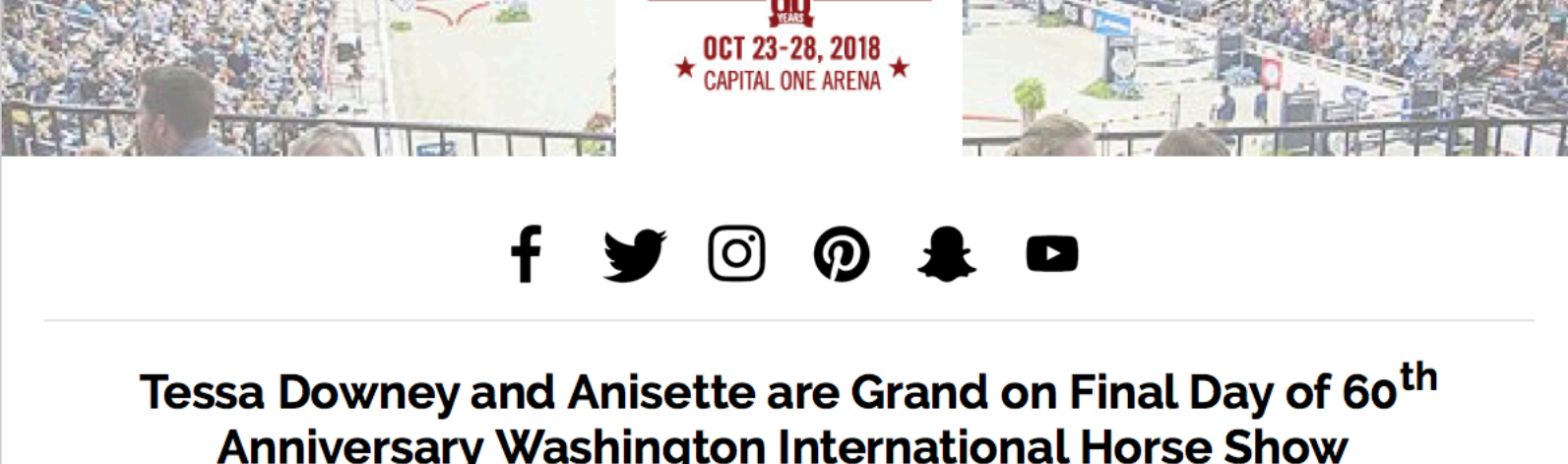
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Daily Briefing

Sunday, October 28, 2018



Tessa Downey and Anisette are Grand on Final Day of 60th Anniversary Washington International Horse Show



Tessa Downey and Anisette on their way to winning the Grand Pony Hunter Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

October 28, 2018 – Washington, D.C. – The 60th anniversary Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) concluded on Sunday, October 28, at Capital One Arena in downtown D.C. with the arena of the 2018 Grand Pony Hunter Champion, as well as WIHS Pony Equitation Finals and WIHS Regional Hunter Finals winners.

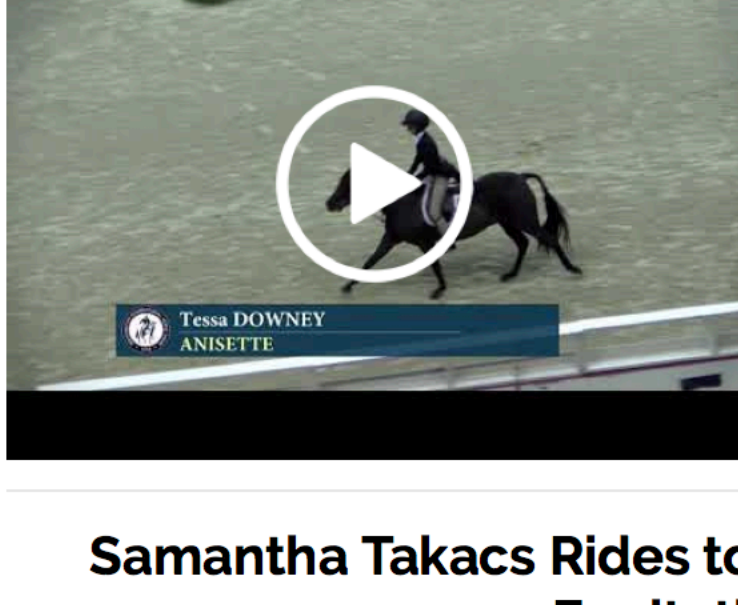
Taking the weeklong show's top pony hunter honor was Tessa Downey of Houston, TX, riding her own Anisette.

Downey, 13, and the 12-year-old black Welsh Pony Cross mare topped two of the Medium Pony Hunter over fences classes and finished second in the handy to earn the Medium Pony Hunter Championship, for which they were presented the Shenandoah Sundowner Perpetual Trophy, donated by Evan Coluccio and Ashmont Farms, Lt.

The pair's consistent rounds proved to be enough to then clinch the Miles River Moonglow Perpetual Trophy, donated by Scott Novick & Rustic Woods, as the Grand Pony Hunter Champions. Downey and Anisette also received the Potomac Trophy for the High Score Junior Hunter Rider on a Pony, and Downey was named the Best Child Rider on a Pony, sponsored by Gotham North. For the Best Child Rider award, Downey received the Captain V.S. Littauer Perpetual Trophy.

"I grew up watching Maddie Schaefer and everyone who is now in the big eg win this trophy, and I'm just super excited. We came here just with our goal being to jog in every class. That was our goal at Harrisburg too; we just wanted to be consistent. Then we go and this happens, and we're over the moon!" - Tessa Downey

Watch How They Won



Downey started riding Anisette this past year, after purchasing the mare from the Hoch family, and she has seen great success with her since, including winning the Medium Pony Hunter Championship at the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) Pony Finals in August.

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Samantha Takacs Rides to Redemption in WIHS Pony Equitation Finals

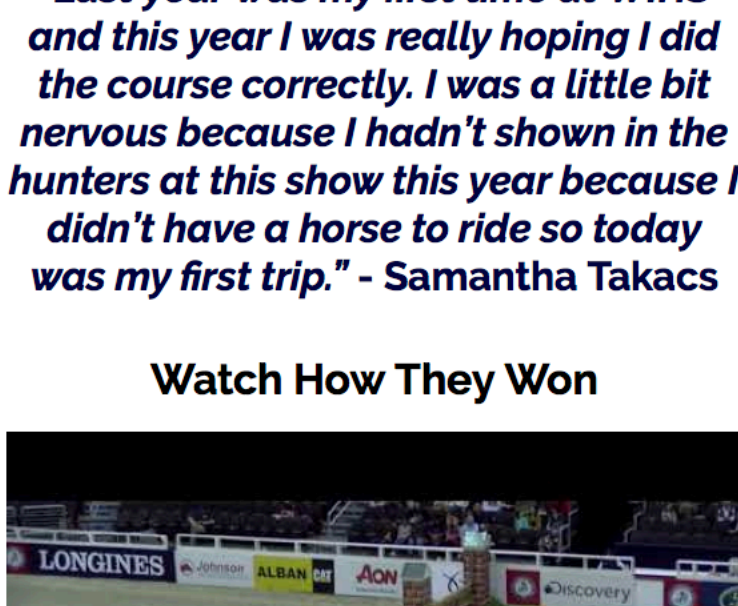


Samantha Takacs of Oldwick, NJ, won the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals riding Storyteller. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Samantha Takacs of Oldwick, NJ, scored an 88 in the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals to take home top honors riding Storyteller. The win was a redeeming effort for Takacs after going off course from the first in the order in the very same class during the 2017 WIHS.

"Last year was my first time at WIHS and this year I was really hoping I did the course correctly. I was a little bit nervous because I hadn't shown in the hunters at this show this year because I didn't have a horse to ride so today was my first trip." - Samantha Takacs

Watch How They Won



Thirteen-year-old Takacs borrowed the ride on Storyteller, owned by Temple Equestrian, LLC and led by Caroline Signorino. Despite qualifying for the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals, Takacs didn't have a mount available to compete and jumped her first fence with Storyteller the morning of the final.

"I am so thankful that my friend Caroline and Temple Equestrian were both kind enough to let me borrow him," said Takacs of the 15-year-old German Sport Pony gelding. "I rode him this morning and I felt like he was such a good boy and we were a good match. Then in the schooling area, I got a little self-conscious and wasn't sure how it was going to. But, once I got in the ring I knew he would do it for me."

After the jumping phase of the WIHS Pony Equitation Finals, the top ten riders were tested on the flat. Takacs pocketed the top score to best second-place finisher Kat Fuqua, who finished one point off the lead with an 87.

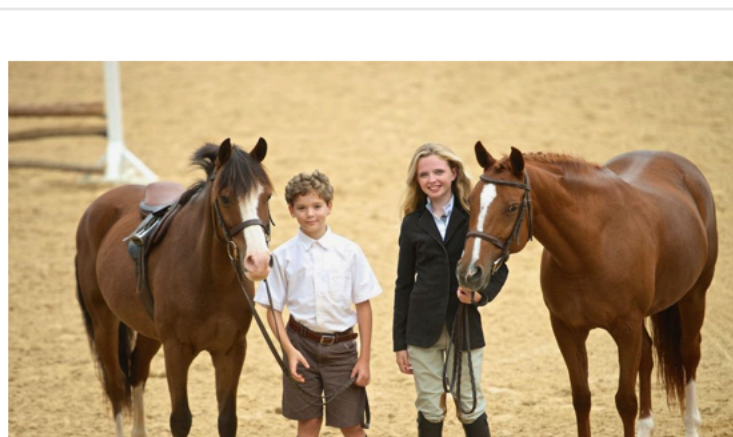
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On the Rail: Fuqua Goes From 2018 Winner's Circle to 1930s Show Ring Set

While at the 2018 Washington International Horse Show (WIHS), Kat Fuqua claimed the Large Pony Hunter Championship with her own Brighton, but just a few weeks prior, the 11-year-old rider traded in her KEP Italia helmet, new breeches, and the big city show ring atmosphere for a different kind of 'horse show.'

For two weekends in September, Fuqua and her Medium Pony Hunter, Finesse RF, took a step back in time to be a part of "Billy and Blaze," a first-time movie adaptation of a series of equestrian classics by C.W. Anderson, set and written in the late 1930s.

"I got to be in the competition scene where the main character, Billy, wins. It was a lot different [than showing]! I didn't get to wear a helmet because it was shot to look like the 1930s; I wore my own jacket, but they had more old-fashioned pants for me to wear. It was definitely a lot of fun!" - Kat Fuqua



Kat Fuqua (right) with Henry Lesko, who plays the part of Billy. Photo by Patrice Casanova Photography

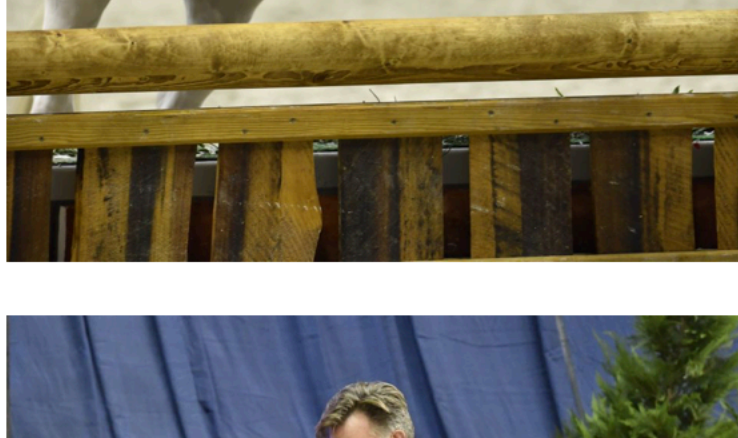
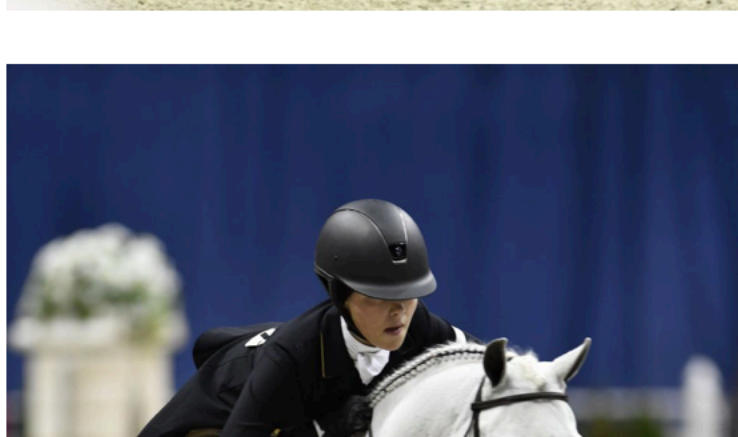
Fuqua was selected for the movie, produced by Michael Erkel, by associate producer Pat Hommel, and Fuqua selected Finesse RF as her mount for the filming, as she knew she could count on the 14-year-old American Warmblood mare.

"She was great; she was the most reliable," said Fuqua, of the mare.

"It was a great experience because we were somewhat between Indoors," said Fuqua's mom, Shereen Fuqua.

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Behind The Lens At Capital One Arena



Photos by Alden Corrigan Media

WIHS Winners

Small Pony Hunters
Champion: Bit of Love, ridden by Maddie Tosh and owned by Dr. Betsee Parker
Reserve: Benlea Mizzou, ridden by Clara Propp and owned by Aquitaine Equine

Medium Pony Hunters
Champion: Anisette, owned and ridden by Tessa Downey
Reserve: Alex Creeks Curious George, ridden by Alexa Lignelli and owned by the Lignelli Family

Large Pony Hunters
Champion: Brighton, owned and ridden by Kat Fuqua
Reserve: Caleche, owned and ridden by Lola Head

Best Child Rider on a Pony, sponsored by Gotham North: Tessa Downey

Potomac Trophy for High Score Junior Hunter Rider on a Pony: Tessa Downey

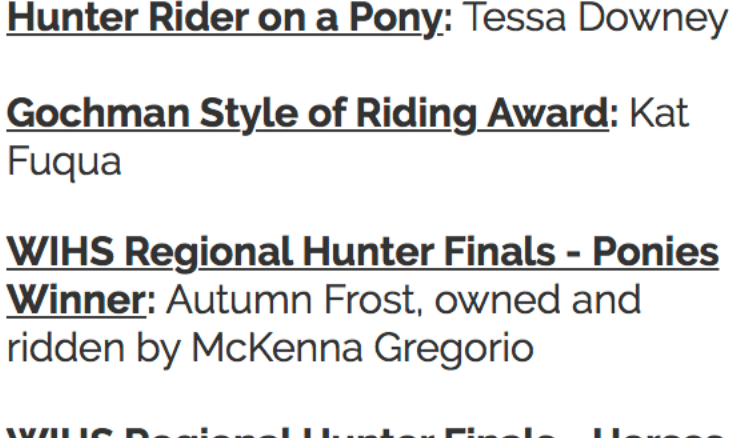
Gochman Style of Riding Award: Kat Fuqua

WIHS Regional Hunter Finals - Ponies
Winner: Autumn Frost, owned and ridden by McKenna Gregorio

WIHS Regional Hunter Finals - Horses
Winner: Rococo, owned and ridden by Brittani Director

WIHS Regional Hunter Ponies
Champion: Autumn Frost, owned and ridden by McKenna Gregorio
Reserve: Shenandoah Jasmine, ridden by Maddy Wilson and owned by Molly McLaughlin

WIHS Regional Hunter Horses
Champion: Romulus, owned and ridden by Jessica van Brocklin Smith
Reserve: Rococo, owned and ridden by Brittani Director



Autumn Frost, owned and ridden by McKenna Gregorio, won both the WIHS Regional Hunter Finals - Ponies and the WIHS Regional Hunter Pony Championship. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Relive WIHS on NBC Sports!

Watch the \$135,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup Washington, presented by Events DC



NBC Sports Network
 Friday, November 2
 12 - 1 p.m. ET

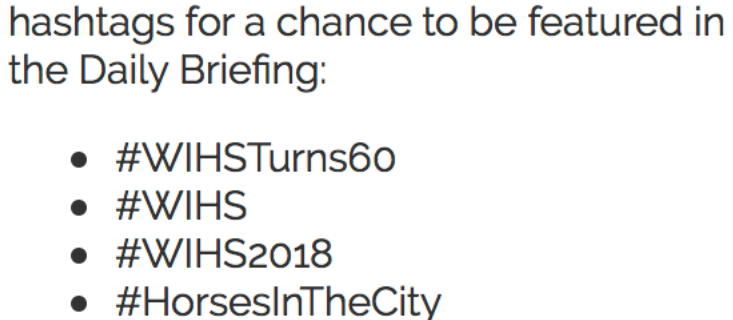


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- #WIHS
- #WIHS2018
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- #FEIWorldCup
- #Longines

#WIHS2018



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nancyjaffer How amazing is Guy McLean? His horses will do anything for him. Here is the photographic evidence at the Washington International Horse Show. He's the guy who feeds them and travels with them on trucks and planes. He's their leader. @LawrenceJ.Nagy #WIHS2018 #horsesinthecity #washingtoninternationalhorshow2018 22 HOURS AGO

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