

YOUNG CANADIAN TALENT SHOWCASED AT ROYAL HORSE SHOW'S OPENING WEEKEND

Canadian talent was showcased on opening weekend of the Royal Horse Show, held as part of the 96th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in downtown Toronto.

Nicole Walker Wears the Canadian Crown

The featured event, held over two days, was the \$125,000 Canadian Show Jumping Championship. Friday night's opening speed phase, presented by Lothlorien, saw Nicole Walker of Aurora, ON, lay down the winning trip with her partner of three years, Falco van Spieveld, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding.

Riders returned in reverse order of finish for Saturday night's two-phase final, giving Walker the advantage of going last. Last year's defending champion, Amy Millar of Perth, ON, kept the pressure on until the end with her 2016 Rio Olympic mount, Heros, but Walker kept her cool and jumped clear, save for one time fault, in the final round to claim her first Canadian Show Jumping Championship title.

"I will never forget this!" said Walker, who is based north of Toronto at Adena Springs. "I had a lot of friends and family here as it's very close to home. Beyond everything, the atmosphere is incredible here at The Royal. It has so much tradition. I would recommend every rider to come visit it at some point, even if they're not riding. It's just such a cool experience."

The big win came one day before Walker's 25th birthday, giving her even more reason to celebrate. Interestingly, Walker entered this year's Royal Horse Show as the defending Under 25 National Champion, making her successful progression up to the senior ranks even more impressive.

"The Under 25 program is a great stepping stone," said Walker who trains with 2012 Irish Olympic individual bronze medalist Cian O'Connor and his assistant, Mark Kinsella. "You get to be in [the Coca Cola Coliseum] and be in that kind of pressure situation. Being indoors is a bit of a different vibe than outdoors. You really need to be on it. Just having that experience [competing in the Under 25 Final] helped to get to the next level."



Nicole Walker, pictured aboard Falco van Spieveld, is presented as the 2018 Canadian Show Jumping Champion by Kim Phillips (left) and Karen Hendry-Ouellette, Equestrian Canada Jumping Manager.



Jordan Macpherson and Fiestamunde on their way to claiming the National Junior/Amateur Championship, presented by Dominion Regalia.

Jordan Macpherson Takes National Junior/Amateur Championship Title

Toronto's Jordan Macpherson, 29, claimed the 2018 National 1.40m Junior/Amateur Championship, presented by Dominion Regalia, on opening weekend of the Royal Horse Show. Macpherson was consistent throughout the division, comprised of three classes, and won the final class, the \$10,000 Junior/Amateur Stake, to take the national title. Macpherson has been riding Fiestamunde, an eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare owned by Sved Stables, for the past year, and the Royal Horse Show was the pair's first indoor event.

"The Royal is always such a great event in front of the home crowd," said Macpherson, who trains with the Millar family at its Millar Brooke Farm in Perth, ON. "It's great to win, but it's even better when you win at The Royal!"

Susan Horn of Bolton, ON, was named reserve champion with Egano van het Slogenhof, a 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding (Electro x Nagano) owned by Kingsfield Farm.

Royal Pony Power for Kilby Brunner Deforest

Kilby Brunner Deforest of Hillsburgh, ON, won the \$5,000 MarBill Hill Farm Royal Pony Jumper Final to take the division championship title riding Beaverwood's Halo on Sunday, November 3. In the jump-off, Deforest, 14, posted the winning time of 27.88 seconds to take

the win over Tatum Horan of Oakville, ON, who had stopped the clock in 29.50 seconds riding the aptly named Royal.

Having also won the Royal Pony Jumper Stakes class earlier in the day, Deforest was unbeatable to earn the Royal All-Canadian Pony Jumper Championship title, presented by MarBill Hill Farm.

"This is my fifth time competing in the pony jumpers at The Royal and it's exciting to be here!" said Deforest, 14, who was the reserve champion in both 2016 and 2017.

"This is a new pony for me; I got her one year ago and have been competing on her all summer," continued Deforest of the 14-year-old mare owned by her mother, Kristen Brunner. "She is very fast and really good in the turns. She's very confident and handled the noise and the Coca-Cola Coliseum very well. I love coming here and competing over a few days in front of a big crowd."



Kilby Brunner Deforest, pictured on Beaverwood's Halo, is presented with the 2018 Royal All-Canadian Pony Jumper Championship, presented by MarBill Hill Farm, by Alexa Clark (left) and Marion Cunningham.

DECEMBER DEADLINE TO DECLARE FOR 2019 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

The 2019 Pan American Games Jumping criteria are now available [here](#) on the Equestrian Canada website with December 14, 2018, being the deadline to declare.

The 2019 Pan American Games will be held in Lima, Peru, with the show jumping portion taking place from August 6 to 10 at the Escuela de Equitacion del Ejercito. In order to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Canadian Show Jumping Team must finish in the top three, or top four if the United States, who qualified through its team gold medal at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games, places ahead of it.

To submit declarations of interest by the December 14, 2018, deadline, use the major games portal at <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login>. For those who have never used the major games portal, visit <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/register?user=new> to create a new account.

FINE LADY 5'S DAM NAMED HANOVERIAN MARE OF THE YEAR

Dorina (Drosselklang II x Grannus) was recently named the 2018 Hanoverian Mare of the Year during the Verden Elite Auction in Germany. Dorina has produced 13 foals in her 18 years, her first being Fine Lady 5 who, under the saddle of Eric Lamaze, claimed the individual bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Dorina's owner and Fine Lady 5's breeder, Wilhelm Leymann of Bassum, Germany, was honoured during a special presentation in the sold-out Niedersachsenhalle.

