



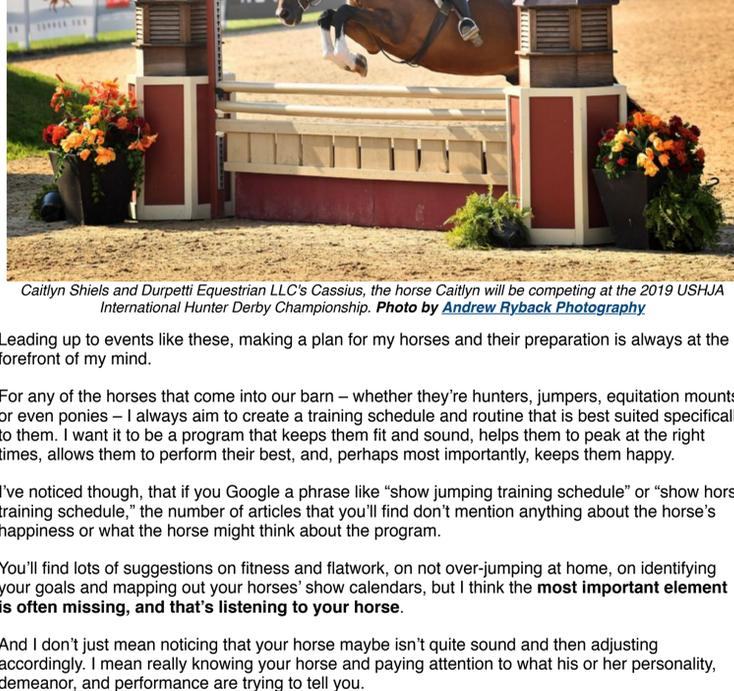
TRUE NORTH NEWS

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What You Need to Create the BEST PROGRAM for Your Horse

By Caitlyn Shiels

We're currently only a few days away from the Platinum Performance/USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship and the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship – two of the biggest events of the year for hunters, including for some of the hunters in our barn at True North Stables.



Caitlyn Shiels and Durpetti Equestrian LLC's Cassius, the horse Caitlyn will be competing at the 2019 USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship. Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography

Leading up to events like these, making a plan for my horses and their preparation is always at the forefront of my mind.

For any of the horses that come into our barn – whether they're hunters, jumpers, equitation mounts, or even ponies – I always aim to create a training schedule and routine that is best suited specifically to them. I want it to be a program that keeps them fit and sound, helps them to peak at the right times, allows them to perform their best, and, perhaps most importantly, keeps them happy.

I've noticed though, that if you Google a phrase like "show jumping training schedule" or "show horse training schedule," the number of articles that you'll find don't mention anything about the horse's happiness or what the horse might think about the program.

You'll find lots of suggestions on fitness and flatwork, on not over-jumping at home, on identifying your goals and mapping out your horses' show calendars, but I think the **most important element is often missing, and that's listening to your horse.**

And I don't just mean noticing that your horse maybe isn't quite sound and then adjusting accordingly. I mean really knowing your horse and paying attention to what his or her personality, demeanor, and performance are trying to tell you.

[Click here to continue reading on The Chronicle of the Horse!](#)

Great Lakes Equestrian Festival WRAP-UP

Our True North Stables team spent three weeks competing at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival (GLEF) with fantastic results! If you missed our recap from our first week in Traverse City, MI, [you can find it online here](#), and now, enjoy our photo recap of GLEF III and GLEF IV here!



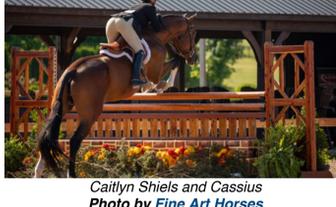
Durpetti Equestrian LLC's Cassius was presented as the High Performance Hunter champion during GLEF III. Photo by Fine Art Horses

Cassius, owned by Durpetti Equestrian LLC, kicked things off during GLEF III in winning style. With Caitlyn Shiels in the irons, he earned the High Performance Hunter championship.



Michelle Durpetti and Cassius
Photo by Fine Art Horses

Watch Caitlyn Shiels talk about Cassius's High Performance Hunter championship and all the things that we love about the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival on the [#GLEF YouTube channel here!](#)



In preparation for the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship, Cassius also jumped in the \$25,000 USHJA Copper Fox International Hunter Derby on July 27, finishing fourth in a competitive field!



Caitlyn Shiels and Cassius
Photo by Fine Art Horses

Caitlyn picked up another championship during GLEF IV, this time in the Open Hunter 3'3" riding With Honors, owned by Corporate Way LLC.



Caitlyn Shiels and With Honors
Photo by Shaun Sellers

Michelle Durpetti had a fantastic GLEF IV in both the hunter and jumper rings. She and her own Lucca claimed three top-three finishes in the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3."



Michelle Durpetti and Lucca
Photos by Fine Art Horses

In the jumper ring, Michelle finished sixth in the High Adult Jumpers with Serafina.



Michelle Durpetti and Serafina
Photo by Fine Art Horses



Michelle Durpetti and Serafina
Photo by Diana Hadsall Photography

Marisa Malevitis and KT Forest put in two clear rounds to earn two top-five finishes in the Low Amateur-Owner Jumpers during GLEF III.



Marisa Malevitis and KT Forest
Photos by Fine Art Horses

Caitlyn also had a great two weeks in the jumper ring, including finishing in second in the 1.35m Jumpers with Incorporated, owned by Corporate Way LLC, during GLEF III.



Caitlyn Shiels and Incorporated
Photos by Fine Art Horses



Caitlyn Shiels and Incorporated
Photos by Fine Art Horses



Show ring ready!
Photo by Fine Art Horses

Thanks, Great Lakes Equestrian Festival for a wonderful, Great Lakes weeks! Next stop, Kentucky and Derby Finals!



Photos by Fine Art Horses

Erica Halstead Wins TEAM GOLD and INDIVIDUAL SILVER

While much of our True North team was in Traverse City, Erica Halstead and Blu Sanvalou were competing in the USHJA Zones 5 & 6 Jumper Championships at HITS Chicago at Balmoral Park in Crete, IL.

Erica and "Blu" not only helped their team, "Team Clint," take the gold in the USHJA 1.0m/1.15m Children's Zone 5 and 6 Jumper Team Championship on July 20, they also claimed the individual silver medal the next day!

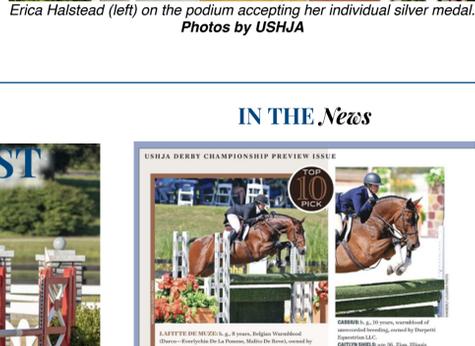
Congratulations to Erica and Blu!



Erica Halstead and Blu Sanvalou
Photo courtesy of Erica Halstead



Erica Halstead (left) on the podium accepting her individual silver medal. Photos by USHJA



For SALE

KT FOREST

2010, 16h Warmblood Gelding

Talented and trustworthy, KT Forest is ready for a competitive children/adult jumper rider looking to achieve top results or advance to the next level! Forest is currently competing in the low amateur-owner jumpers and is available to be bred at Country Hill in Lexington, KY!

Contact Caitlyn at truenorthstables.com for more information.

True North Stables is proud to offer for sale nine-year-old warmblood gelding, KT Forest!

"Forest" is perfect for the highly competitive child/adult jumper ready to move up to the low junior/amateur-owner jumpers! [Learn more about KT Forest here!](#)

IN THE NEWS

USHJA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW ISSUE

LAFFITE DE MEZEL, 6, 8 years, Belgian Warmblood (Owner: Equestria de La Ferme, Belgium) has been named by Cheryl Coates.

LA SASSA VENTURI, 6, 8 years, Dutch Warmblood (Owner: La Sassa, New Jersey) and (Owner: Florida).

RAMBOLD, 6, 8 years, Dutch Warmblood (Owner: Rambold Farms, California) has been named by the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship, as being the most talented and promising young horse in the current year's field.

REDFORD, 6, 8 years, Dutch Warmblood (Owner: Redford Farms, New Jersey) has been named by the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship, as being the most talented and promising young horse in the current year's field.

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Cassius, owned by Durpetti Equestrian LLC, spotted in the August 5 & 12 issue of [The Chronicle of the Horse!](#)

Thank you to OUR SPONSORS



True North Stables is a full-service hunter/jumper training program, dedicated to horsemanship and to providing top-class riding and training services to both horse and rider. Led by Caitlyn Shiels and with bases in Illinois and Florida, True North Stables offers highly-individualized instruction, horse acquisition and sales assistance, and the opportunity to excel in the sport and in nationwide competition.

ABOUT CAITLYN SHIELS

CONTACT

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