

CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 6, 2019 UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

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Dominic Gibbs Gets the Win in Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships at Capital Challenge

Upper Marlboro, Maryland – The final national championships of the BIGEQ.com Equitation Weekend at the Capital Challenge Horse Show were awarded to Dominic Gibbs and Eleanor Rudnicki on Sunday, September 29, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

From September 27-29, more than 450 riders contested the three days of equitation competition that mark the start of the Capital Challenge Horse Show, which runs through October 6, and on Sunday, Gibbs bested a field of 116 of those riders to win the Palm Beach International Academy (PIA) North American Junior Equitation Championships.



Dominic Gibbs and Cent 15
Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"It's really just an unbelievable feeling," said Gibbs, 15, of Colorado Springs, CO, following his win. "I can't thank my trainers and horse enough. It's just incredible to be here."

Following an opening jumping round, the top 20 riders in the PIA North American Junior Equitation Championship were invited back to jump a second round in reverse order of their standings.



Dominic Gibbs, 15, of Colorado Springs, CO, won the Palm Beach International Academy (PIA) North American Junior Equitation Championships. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships SCORE SHEET			
	Round 1	Round 2	Total
1. Dominic Gibbs	89.33	91.33	180.66
2. Paige Matthies	86.78	90	176.78
3. Breanna Bunevacz	86.8	88.16	174.96
4. Stella Buckingham	85.93	87.83	173.76
5. Erin Floyd	88.16	83.91	172.07
6. Brooke Morin	87	84.83	171.83
7. Emily Perkins	84.33	87	171.33
8. Alexis Ortiz	85.25	85.66	170.91
9. Augusta Iwasaki	84.83	84.33	169.16
10. Jordan Allen	84.41	82.66	167.07

With a score of 89.33 earned over the first-round course designed by Ken Krome, Gibbs sat atop the leaderboard coming into the second round.

For Gibbs, returning last as the top-ranked rider was nerve-racking, but he never let it show as he executed a seamless round to earn a score of 91.33 for a 180.66.

"I was saying to my mom earlier, before my second round, that I hate coming back in first!" said Gibbs, who trains with Stacia Madden and the team at Beacon Hill Show Stables in Colts Neck, NJ. "It's so much pressure on the rider...I think just focusing on other things and not putting the pressure on really helps a lot."

That approach worked on Sunday, with Gibbs's final total of 180.66 putting him nearly four points ahead of the rest of the field, which eliminated the need for any additional testing. Finishing in second place with scores of 86.78 and 90.00 for a 176.78 total was Paige Matthies of Lake Leelanau, MI, riding Blurred Lines, owned by Barbara Smith.

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Words From the Winner

Hear from Dominic Gibbs following his win in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships!

[Watch](#)



Eleanor Rudnicki Rides to THIS National Children's Medal Finals Win

The win in Sunday's Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal Finals went to Eleanor Rudnicki, 13, of The Woodlands, TX.

The top 40 THIS National Children's Medal competitors, qualifying from across the country, were invited to compete in the final at Capital Challenge, and the top 10 from Sunday's first round then qualified to come back for the second round.



The win in the 2019 Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals went to Eleanor Rudnicki of The Woodlands, TX. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Rudnicki sat in first place with a score of 89.83 following the first round, and she only further cemented her lead with a score of 88.16 in the second round for a winning 177.99 total.

Finishing in second place with scores of 86 and 88 for a 174 total was Amira Kettaneh of Hollis, NH, aboard Automatic, owned by Leigh Kettaneh.



Eleanor Rudnicki and CF Cosmic.
Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals SCORE SHEET			
	Round 1	Round 2	Total
1. Eleanor Rudnicki	89.83	88.16	177.99
2. Amira Kettaneh	86	88	174
3. Isabel Rudaz	87.16	83.46	170.62
4. Lilly Goldstein	85.66	84.66	170.32
5. Madison Fankhauser	87	82.33	169.33
6. Blythe Goguen	84.58	84.66	169.24
7. Madison Nadolenco	88.50	80.50	169
8. Taje Warrick	85	83.66	168.66
9. Sophie Whidden	86	80	166
10. Annalise Manog	85.91	77.33	163.24

Third place was awarded to Isabel Rudaz of Westport, CT, who earned scores of 87.16 and 83.46 for a 170.62 total with Ullrich, owned by Donald Stewart.

"To win the Taylor Harris Medal means a lot because my trainer and I have been working all year just to get here," said Rudnicki, who trains with Berry Porter at Brookside Pine Farms in Conroe, TX. "This is my first year being at Capital Challenge, so it means a lot. This is my favorite horse show that I've been to so far. It's just such a cool environment. It's really fun."

As the third-ranked rider in the THIS National Children's Medal national standings, Rudnicki knew she wanted to contest the final, but she was uncertain what horse she would compete on at Capital Challenge – until her best friend, Sophia Cady, made a kind offer.

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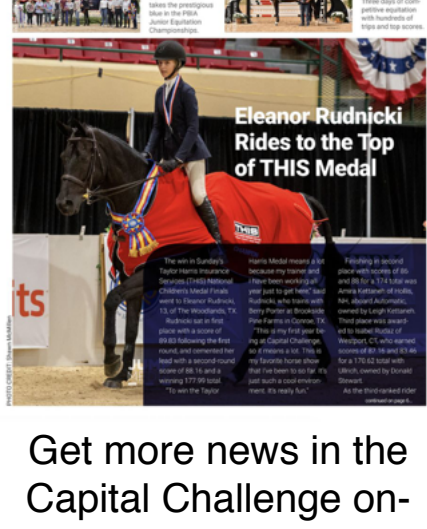
Words From the Winner

Meet the 2019 Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals winner, Eleanor Rudnicki!

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The Daily Update



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Winners' Circle



James Faloni, winner of the 17-Year-Old Equitation Section B.

Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

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About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

Now in its 26th year, the Capital Challenge Horse Show, presented by the World Equestrian Center, sets itself apart with a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. Held at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, the 2019 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show is taking place now through October 6. The 10 days of competition include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions. For more information, visit www.capitalchallenge.org.

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