

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 4, 2020 • WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER - OHIO

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Kendall Meijer Wins NAL Adult Hunter Finals at Capital Challenge

Wilmington, OH – Kendall Meijer of Grand Rapids, MI, rode Elliot to the win in the North American League (NAL) Adult Hunter Final, on Tuesday, September 29, at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, held at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, OH.

A field of 28 pre-qualified entries contested the NAL Adult Hunter Final, sponsored by the Famulak Family and Monkey Business LLC, and the top 12 returned in reverse order of their standings to jump a second round, designed by Ken Krome.

A score of 87 in the first round put Meijer and Elliot at the top of the leaderboard, and a second-round score of 84.75 for a 171.75 total cemented the pair's victory. Second place with scores of 85.00, 83.75, and a 169.25 total went to Kelly Bauernschmidt of Bratenahl, OH, and her own Mojito. Rachel Boggus of Indianapolis, IN, and Subject to Change rounded out the top three with an overall score of 168.00.



Kendall Meijer and Elliot. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"It's so fun; I've done this class the last maybe 10 years, and I was always a bridesmaid," said Meijer, who was presented with the Lisa A.H. Cudahy Perpetual Trophy for her victory. "I made the top 12 a few times, but to get a win on my seven-year-old was really special. Capital Challenge is the culmination of all your work through your winter and summer months and everyone comes together. It's definitely a special show. It has amazing history of some phenomenal riders, professionals, junior, amateur and the like. It's really special to be a part of that group."

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Nanda, Halle, and Gibbs Get NAL Jumper Victories

The Capital Challenge Horse Show for the first time welcomed the North American League (NAL) jumper year-end finals, and on Tuesday, September 29, three new NAL national jumper champions were named.

In the NAL Children's Jumper Finals, presented by EquiFit, Leigh Nanda dominated the competition with her horse El Casper, accomplishing a perfect show after also taking the win in the Welcome the day prior.



Leigh Nanda and El Casper. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

The 15-year-old from Wilmette, IL, bested a 21-horse jump-off, crossing the timers in 31.488 seconds. Nanda came into her first Capital Challenge appearance as the leader of the NAL Children's Jumper nationwide rankings and emerged victorious in every class this week, also earning the Leading Children's Jumper Rider award.

"I took a stride out in the first line and the last line, so I think that really did it for me," said Nanda of her winning round.

Emerging victorious in the NAL Adult Jumper Finals, presented by SmartPak, was Ellen Halle of Upperco, MD, with Iggy Pop, who completed the jump-off in a time of 34.01 seconds. Halle topped the 27 starting entries and took on the short course with nine other competitors, ultimately taking home the Leading Adult Amateur Jumper Rider title, as well.



Ellen Halle and Iggy Pop. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"The jump-off was icing on the cake for me," Halle said of her win.

Dominic Gibbs topped the NAL Low Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Jumper Finals, presented by HorseFlight, aboard Douwe with a double-clear effort and a winning jump-off time of 29.98 seconds. The Colorado Springs, CO, rider was the last of 12 entries to jump off and one of five double-clear rides.



Dominic Gibbs and Douwe. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"It definitely was a competitive jump-off," said Gibbs. "These were some of the best Gibbs. "These were some of the best in the country, but I know I have one of the fastest. He makes my job really easy and fun."

In addition to the three NAL jumper finals, Capital Challenge also hosted the \$10,000 1.30-1.35m Medium Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Classic on Tuesday.

After an unfortunate fall in the NAL Low Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Jumper Finals, Emma Seving pulled off a one-two finish in the Medium Junior/ Amateur/ Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic aboard Fantast and Brighton Bay, respectively. Ten horse-and-rider combinations jumped the first round clear, but Seving's time of 37.35 seconds in the jump-off took the win by nearly two seconds.



Emma Seving and Fantast. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

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Words From the Winners



Hear from Dominic Gibbs following his win in the NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Finals.

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Kendall Meijer talks about her win in the NAL Adult Hunter Finals.

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Hear from Ellen Halle on her victory in the NAL Adult Jumper Finals.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 EDITION

The Daily Update

Capital Challenge 2020 Show News



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Meijer Victorious NAL Adult Hunter



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Meijer has had her winning mount, Elliot, owned by her own Copper Fox LLC, for the past year, and she jokes that the seven-year-old grey Selle Français gelding is "seven going on 17." "I like a horse that's quiet and easy going, and he's just those things," said Meijer. "He's very quiet which always works for me." Meijer added, "I've shown here at the World Equestrian Center quite a few times, but the jumpers are always in the Sanctuary, so it was a special treat to get to do the Adult Hunters in there."

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