

Madeline Schaefer Sweeps Amateur-Owner Hunters at Capital Challenge

Wilmington, OH – Madeline Schaefer of Westminster, MD, claimed both the Grand Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunter Championship title with Sutton Place and the Grand Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter Championship win with Checkmate on Thursday, October 1, at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

The horse show, which continues through Sunday, October 4, at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, OH, also recognized the Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Champion on Thursday, with the award going to Barbara Brungess and Levianto.



Madeline Schaefer and Checkmate. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

For Schaefer, the road to the Grand Amateur-Owner 3'3" Hunter Championship, sponsored by Missy Luczak-Smith, began with the Amateur-Owner 3'3", 18-35 division championship with Checkmate. Schaefer and the 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, owned by Samantha Schaefer, won two of the over fences classes and the under saddle class to take the tricolor.

"I had a really great last two days!" said Schaefer, who aged up into the amateurowner hunter divisions this year following a highly successful junior career. "It's a big deal to win a grand championship at Capital Challenge. They always make it feel important. The presentations are always amazing. It's one of the best shows."



In the Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunters, it was Sutton Place's turn in the grand champion winners' circle. Schaefer and her 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding finished first, second, and third over fences and first in the under saddle before clinching the championship in the Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunter, 18-35 division, and ultimately the grand championship.

Madeline Schaefer and Sutton Place. Photo by <u>Shawn</u> <u>McMillen Photography</u>

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\$2,500 WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'3" Challenge Winner \$5,000 WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'6" Challenge Winner



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Madeline Schaefer and Checkmate

Words from the Winner

Hear from Madeline Schaefer following her impressive day at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, including wins in both the \$5,000 WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'6" Challenge and the \$2,500 WCHR Amateur-Owner 3'3" Challenge.





Sponsored by Robinson Ridge; Grooms Award Sponsored by Goshen Hill

Madeline Schaefer and Sutton Place



Barbara Brungess and Levianto Take Grand Champion Honors in Adult Hunters

Barbara Brungess and her own Levianto won the Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Championship title, sponsored by Steve Martines, and the Equus Entries Challenge Trophy, donated by Equus Entries and Sue and Ralph Caggiano, after earning 20 points and the division championship in the Adult Amateur Hunters, 36-50.

Brungess took the highest scores in both over fences classes with the 11-year-old warmblood gelding she has had for six years.



Barbara Brungess and Levianto. Photo by <u>Shawn</u> <u>McMillen Photography</u>

"He's a great horse," Brungess said of Levianto. "He tries so hard and he puts up with me – I'm an amateur, I make a lot of mistakes. But it finally all came together today. He was on his game and I was on mine."

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Amateur-Owner and Adult Amateur Hunter Champions



Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunters, 18-35

Sponsored by The Hallman Family & MerryLegs South LLC

Champion: Madeline Schaefer and Sutton Place



Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunters, 36 & Over

Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Ernest M. Oare

Champion: Dorli Burke and Charming



Adult Amateur Hunters, <u>18-35</u>

Sponsored by Lainie Wimberly & Brigadoon Show Stables, Inc.

Champion: Melissa Jacobs and Rocketman

Reserve: Carly Hoft and Coretto



Adult Amateur Hunters, <u>36-50</u>

Champion: Barbara Brungess and Levianto

Reserve: Nicole Jeffries and About Last Night



Reserve: Darby Toben and Killian



<u>Amateur-Owner 3'3"</u> <u>Hunters, 36 & Over</u>

Champion: Jaime Auletto and Idolize

Reserve: Kit McClorey and High Tide **Reserve:** Hannah Eddlemon and Luscious



<u>Amateur-Owner 3'3"</u> <u>Hunters, 18-35</u>

Champion: Madeline Schaefer and Checkmate

Reserve: Kaitlin Porath and Breaux

Adult Amateur Hunters, 51 & Over

Champion: Julia Barnes and Simply Cool

Reserve: Lynn Walsh and Hollywood Park

All photos by Shawn McMillen Photography.

The Daily Update Capital Challenge

2020 Show News





Shawn McMillen'20

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Challenges

blue ribbon in WCHR

Challenge Classes.

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ARIAT Spotlight

Riders share how they were able to rise to the challenge of 2020 and thrive.



Barbara Brungess of Spring City, PA, captured the Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Championship with Levianto, her 11-yearold Warmblood gelding, after they topped the Adult Amateur 36-50 Hunter division with two wins over fences.

Brungess has had Levianto for six years and he has become a wonderful horse for her. "He's a great horse," said Brungess. "He tries so hard and he puts up with me – I'm an amateur; I make a lot of mistakes. But it finally all came together today. He was on his game and I was on mine."

Coming to Capital Challenge has been on Brungess's calendar for years, and a nine-hour drive didn't deter her in this unusual year. "Capital Challenge is always a terrific show," she said. "I've struggled at this show in the past so I'm really happy that I finally rode my horse to his potential today."

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