



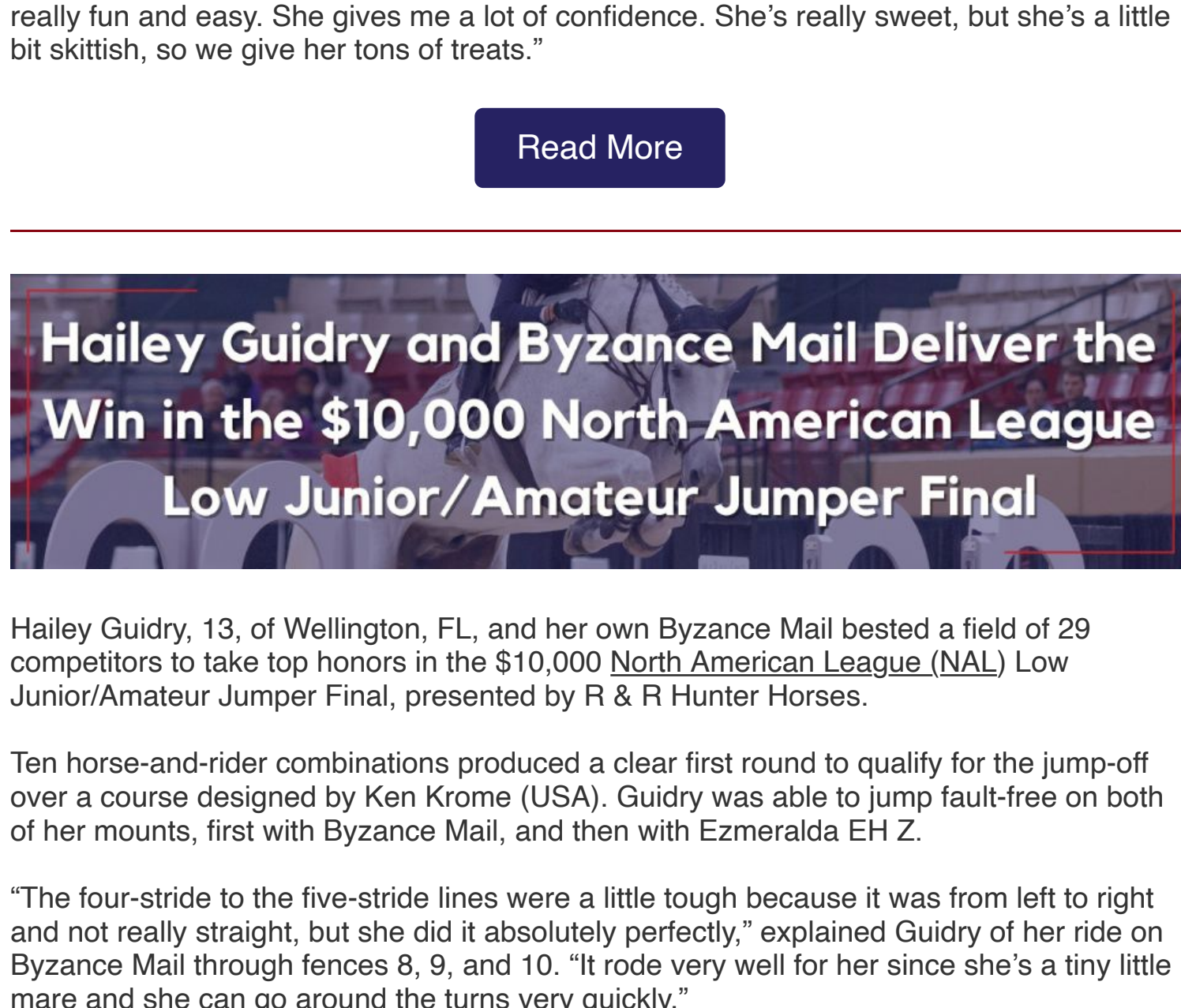
SEPTMBER 28-OCTOBER 8, 2023
 PRINCE GEORGE'S EQUESTRIAN CENTER • Upper Marlboro, MD

Results and Orders Live Stream

Currie Cooper and Paris Charm Dazzle for Grand Pony Hunter Champion

Ponies stormed The Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, on Saturday, October 7, during the 30th anniversary of the Capital Challenge Horse Show. Currie Cooper, 12, of Point Clear, AL, and Paris Charm bested a field of more than 100 small, medium, and large ponies for the Grand Pony Hunter Champion title, sponsored by Pegasus Show Stable and The Endicott Family, receiving the VanderMoore Designs Trophy.

Riding in just her fourth show with "Paris" and in her Capital Challenge debut, Cooper impressed the judges over both days of competition. On Friday in the Outdoor Arena, Cooper piloted the 15-year-old Welsh Pony mare by Halifax to the high score of 89.50 in the conformation over fences class, earning the Best EM Pony Trip of the Show, to kick off the division. They then strutted to the top of the under saddle class, picking up their second blue ribbon of the day. Cooper and Paris kept their hot streak alive into Saturday's deciding day of competition, notching a third-place finish over fences with a score of 86.50, and a final win in the handy with a score of 88.75. Their stellar results propelled them to the Medium Pony Hunter division championship, sponsored by Ox Ridge Riding & Racquet Club, and ultimately the overall Grand Pony Hunter Champion title.



Currie Cooper and Paris Charm
 Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"I thought my rounds were really good," reflected Cooper, who trains with Richard Cunkle along with the team at JET Show Stables. "I was really happy I found all my distances, especially in the handy when I made some really sharp turns."

While Paris is still a relatively new mount for Cooper, the flashy liver chestnut is no stranger to the winner's circle at Capital Challenge, having claimed the Medium Pony Hunter division championship in 2022 with owner JJ Torano. Now, Torano has stepped into a more supportive role helping his pony to shine with a new partner in Cooper.

"JJ rides Paris a lot, and he's really supportive and gives me tips," shared Cooper. "She's really fun and easy. She gives me a lot of confidence. She's really sweet, but she's a little bit skittish, so we give her tons of treats."

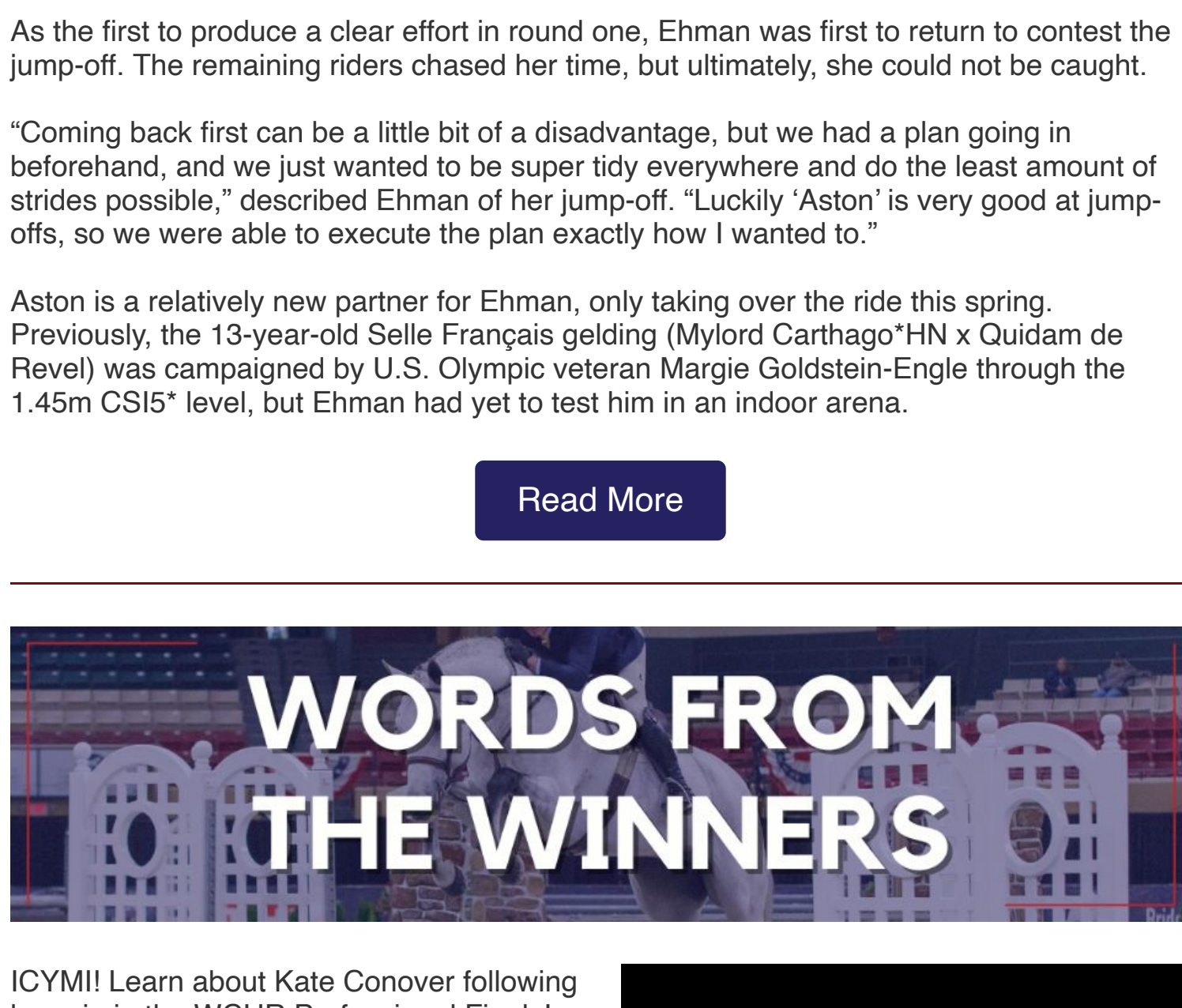
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Hailey Guidry and Byzance Mail Deliver the Win in the \$10,000 North American League Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final

Hailey Guidry, 13, of Wellington, FL, and her own Byzance Mail bested a field of 29 competitors to take top honors in the \$10,000 North American League (NAL) Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final, presented by R & R Hunter Horses.

Ten horse-and-rider combinations produced a clear first round to qualify for the jump-off over a course designed by Ken Krome (USA). Guidry was able to jump fault-free on both of her mounts, first with Byzance Mail, and then with Ezmeralda EH Z.

"The four-stride to the five-stride lines were a little tough because it was from left to right and not really straight, but she did it absolutely perfectly," explained Guidry of her ride on Byzance Mail through fences 8, 9, and 10. "It rode very well for her since she's a tiny little mare and she can go around the turns very quickly."



Hailey Guidry and Byzance Mail
 Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

In the jump-off, rounds got faster and faster until Guidry stopped the clock with Byzance Mail in 33.468 seconds. Maddie Tosh, 17, of Milton, GA, gave it a good shot, but just came up shy of the time to beat, crossing the timers in 33.992 seconds for second-place honors with Kennedy vd Rechri, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding by Va Vite owned by Julia Curtis.

"I did not watch anyone do the jump-off, unfortunately, because I got right on," said Guidry, who trains with Abby Blankenship of Three Ships LLC in Sheridan, IN. "I was just trying to think of a plan that I could do as easily as possible. I wanted to go very smoothly and try not to have any rails and be very quick. Honestly, I was so surprised at how fast she could go because I've never actually gone that fast with her. I'm very proud."

Guidry closed out the competition with a second double-clear effort, this time aboard Ezmeralda EH Z, an 11-year-old Zangersheide mare by Emerald van't Ruytershof owned by Honor Hill Farm LLC. Though they were fast in 33.468 seconds, it would be a third-place finish and the night belonged to Guidry's first speed queen, Byzance Mail.

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Isabelle Ehman and Aston des Etisses Ace the North American League Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Final

The \$10,000 1.30-1.35m NAL Medium Junior/Amateur Final, presented by Parlanti, closed out the evening competition, with 18 starting horse-and-rider combinations. Seven left all the poles in the cups to advance to the jump-off, where Isabelle Ehman, 17, of Milton, GA, and her own Aston des Etisses turned in an electrifying performance, victoriously crossing the timers in 33.832 seconds.

Hot off her win in Friday's \$2,500 NAL Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Welcome, Ehman was second to tackle the first-round course designed by Ken Krome (USA).

"The first-round course didn't seem too bad," said Ehman, who trains with Don Stewart. "We were really making sure that we were going to box the seven-stride line to the liverpool, because we watched the class before, and it seemed to get a little tight. We were planning there, and then in the last line, I was just making sure I got him off the front rail in that last six-stride."



Isabelle Ehman and Aston des Etisses
 Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

As the first to produce a clear effort in round one, Ehman was first to return to contest the jump-off. The remaining riders chased her time, but ultimately, she could not be caught.

"Coming back first can be a little bit of a disadvantage, but we had a plan going in beforehand, and we just wanted to be super tidy everywhere and do the least amount of strides possible," described Ehman of her jump-off. "Luckily 'Aston' is very good at jump-offs, so we were able to execute the plan exactly how I wanted to."

Aston is a relatively new partner for Ehman, only taking over the ride this spring. Previously, the 13-year-old Selle Français gelding (Myford Carthago*HN x Quidam de Revel) was campaigned by U.S. Olympic veteran Margie Goldstein-Engle through the 1.45m CSIS* level, but Ehman had yet to test him in an indoor arena.

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WORDS FROM THE WINNERS

ICYMI! Learn about Kate Conover following her win in the WCHR Conquer Final!

[Watch Here](#)



Hear from Hailey Guidry following her victory in the \$10,000 NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final!

[Watch Here](#)

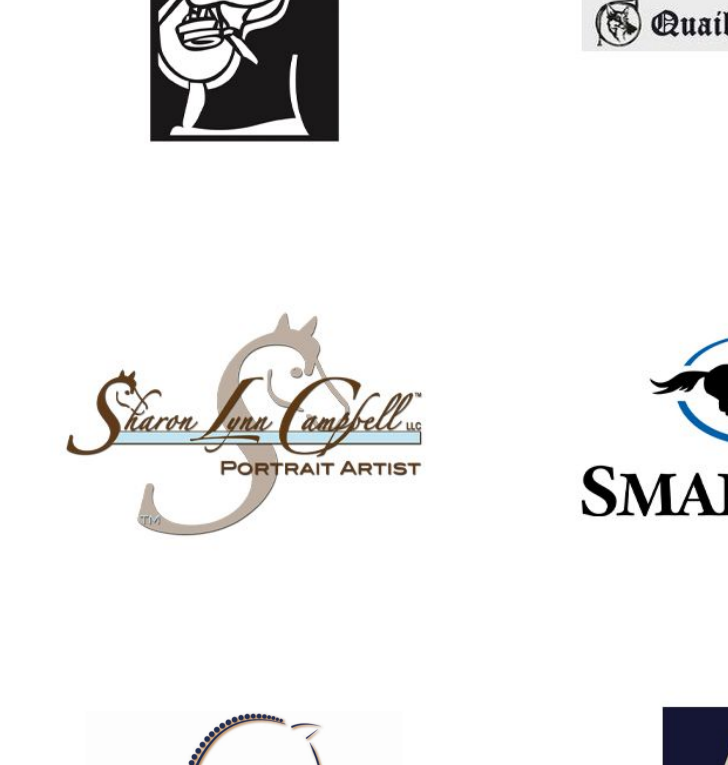


Watch an interview with Emi Richard after her win in the WCHR Pony Challenge!

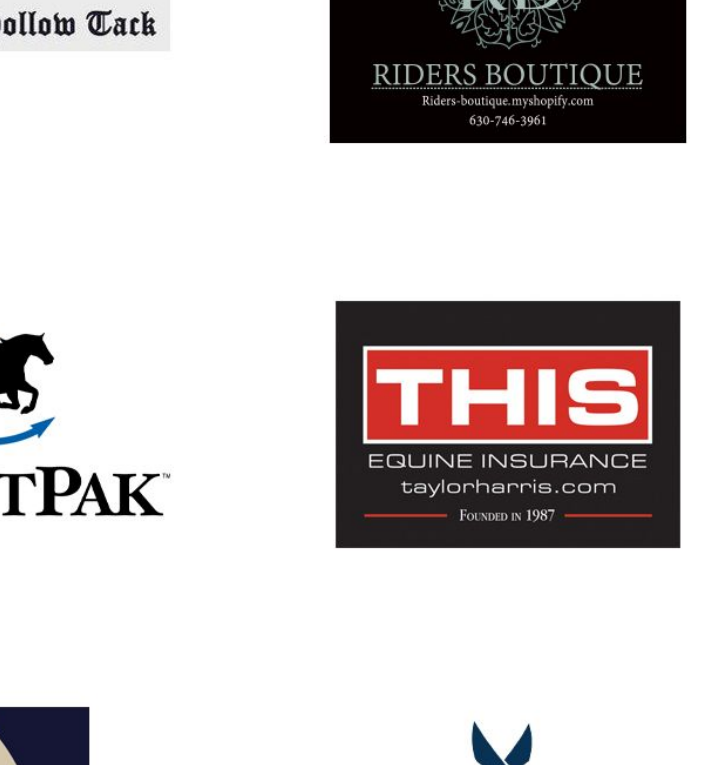
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WINNER GALLERY



Small Pony Hunter
 Champion: Spring Fling, ridden and owned by Finley Baras



Large Pony Hunter
 Champion: Tesoro, ridden by Emi Richard and owned by Gray Neville



Small Junior Hunter 16-17
 Sponsored by Three Ships LLC
 Champion: Babylon, ridden by Ariana Marnell and owned by Marnell Sport Horses



Large Junior Hunter 16-17
 Sponsored by Beacon Hill Show Stables
 Champion: Drumroll, ridden by Caroline Signorino and owned by Meridian Farm LLC



Children's Hunter Pony
 Sponsored by DFG Stables
 Champion: Sahara, ridden and owned by Taylor Silvius



\$2,500 WCHR Pony Challenge
 Sponsored by Sweet Oak Farm
 Winner: Prestige, ridden by Emi Richard and owned by Swede Ventures LLC

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

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About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2023 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 28-October 8. The 11 days of competition will 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.

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