

[Results and Orders](#)

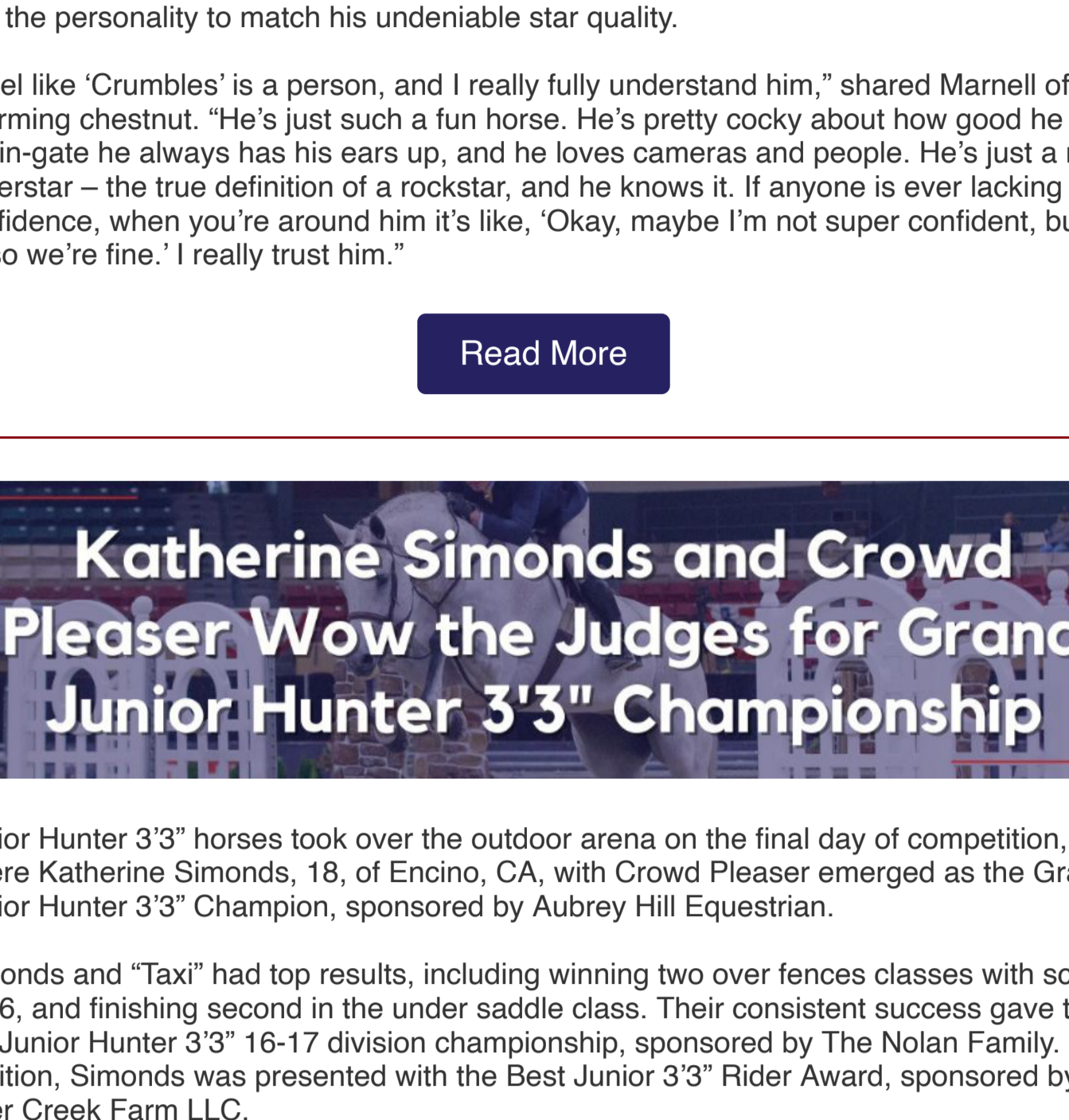
[Live Stream](#)

## Ariana Marnell and Babylon Continue Winning Ways for Grand Junior Hunter 3'6" Champion

On the final day of the 2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show on Sunday, October 8, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, Ariana Marnell, 17, of Las Vegas, NV, and Babylon were crowned Grand Junior Hunter 3'6" Champions.

Marnell and Babylon first earned the Small Junior Hunter 16-17 division championship, sponsored by Three Ships LLC, with stellar results throughout, including a first-place finish on the flat, second in the stake with a score of 83, second over fences with a score of 87, and first in the handy with a score of 89. Their strong performance propelled them to the Grand Junior Hunter 16-17 Championship, sponsored by Ben Simon Family, and ultimately the Overall Grand Champion Junior Hunter title, sponsored by Shadow Ridge. For her award, Marnell was presented with the Spontaneous Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Listrani Family. She was also given the Best Junior Rider Award, sponsored by Karen Healey.

In addition to his success with Marnell, Babylon also scored big earlier in the week with Marnell's trainer John French in the irons. With French, the eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding (L.B. Crumble x Balou Du Rouet) earned massive scores of 93.33 and 94.33 on their way to being named winners of the \$25,000 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Challenge, sponsored by The Gochman Family, which took place on Wednesday, October 4.



Ariana Marnell and Babylon with Leonardo Basualto. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"It's such a privilege that I get to work with somebody who taught the horse everything because I know exactly what he understands and who he doesn't," explained Marnell of training with French and Babylon. "There was so much pressure last year in the first season I showed Babylon, especially in the beginning, that I didn't really focus on enjoying him and the feeling as much as I think I should have. Now, I'm so comfortable and the pressure is not all from John's success with him, but it's also from our success together too, so it's a good feeling." It's like we've done this before and won this before so we can do it again."

It is no secret that Babylon is a top athlete and contender in any hunter ring, but he also has the personality to match his undeniable star quality.

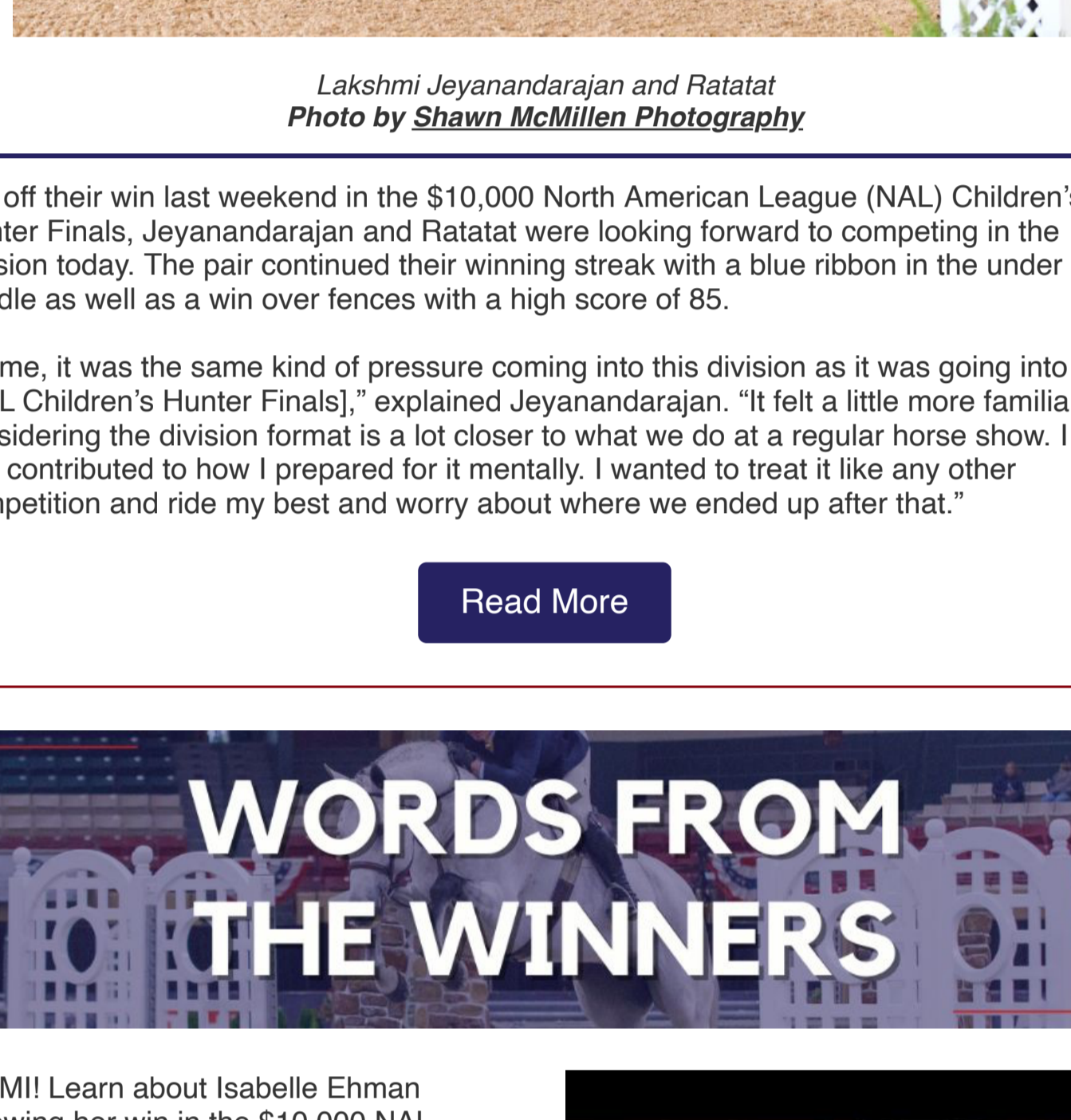
"I feel like 'Crumbles' is a person, and I really fully understand him," shared Marnell of the charming chestnut. "He's just such a fun horse. He's pretty cocky about how good he is. At the in-gate he always has his ears up, and he loves cameras and people. He's just a real superstar – the true definition of a rockstar, and he knows it. If anyone is ever lacking confidence, when you're around him it's like, 'Okay, maybe I'm not super confident, but he is, so we're fine.' I really trust him."

[Read More](#)

## Katherine Simonds and Crowd Pleaser Wow the Judges for Grand Junior Hunter 3'3" Championship

Junior Hunter 3'3" horses took over the outdoor arena on the final day of competition, where Katherine Simonds, 18, of Encino, CA, with Crowd Pleaser emerged as the Grand Junior Hunter 3'3" Champion, sponsored by Aubrey Hill Equestrian.

Simonds and "Taxi" had top results, including winning two over fences classes with scores of 86, and finishing second in the under saddle class. Their consistent success gave them the Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 division championship, sponsored by The Nolan Family. In addition, Simonds was presented with the Best Junior 3'3" Fider Award, sponsored by Deer Creek Farm LLC.



Katherine Simonds and Crowd Pleaser Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"He's a dreamboat," said Simonds of the 16-year-old Selle Français gelding by Quidam de Revel owned by West Coast Equine Partners, who is also ridden on the West Coast in the 3'6" Performance Hunter division by accomplished professionals Julia Rossow and Nick Hanes. "He's a little lazy and a little unimpressed by some things, but he's so game for anything. I've gotten the pleasure to learn on him, and he's awesome. He is the sweetest boy. He always wants to do well, and he's really trying to win."

Simonds and Taxi have been partnered together for a couple years now, and Simonds was determined to showcase their partnership on the big stage of Capital Challenge.

"I was really coming here trying to up my game," stated Simonds, who trains with Shari and Rainie Rose of Rose Hill Farm in Lake View Terrace, CA. "Capital Challenge is so special. They do such a good job of making every round feel important. I love the venue. I love the quality of the event. It's my favorite part of the year. I always look forward to Capital Challenge."

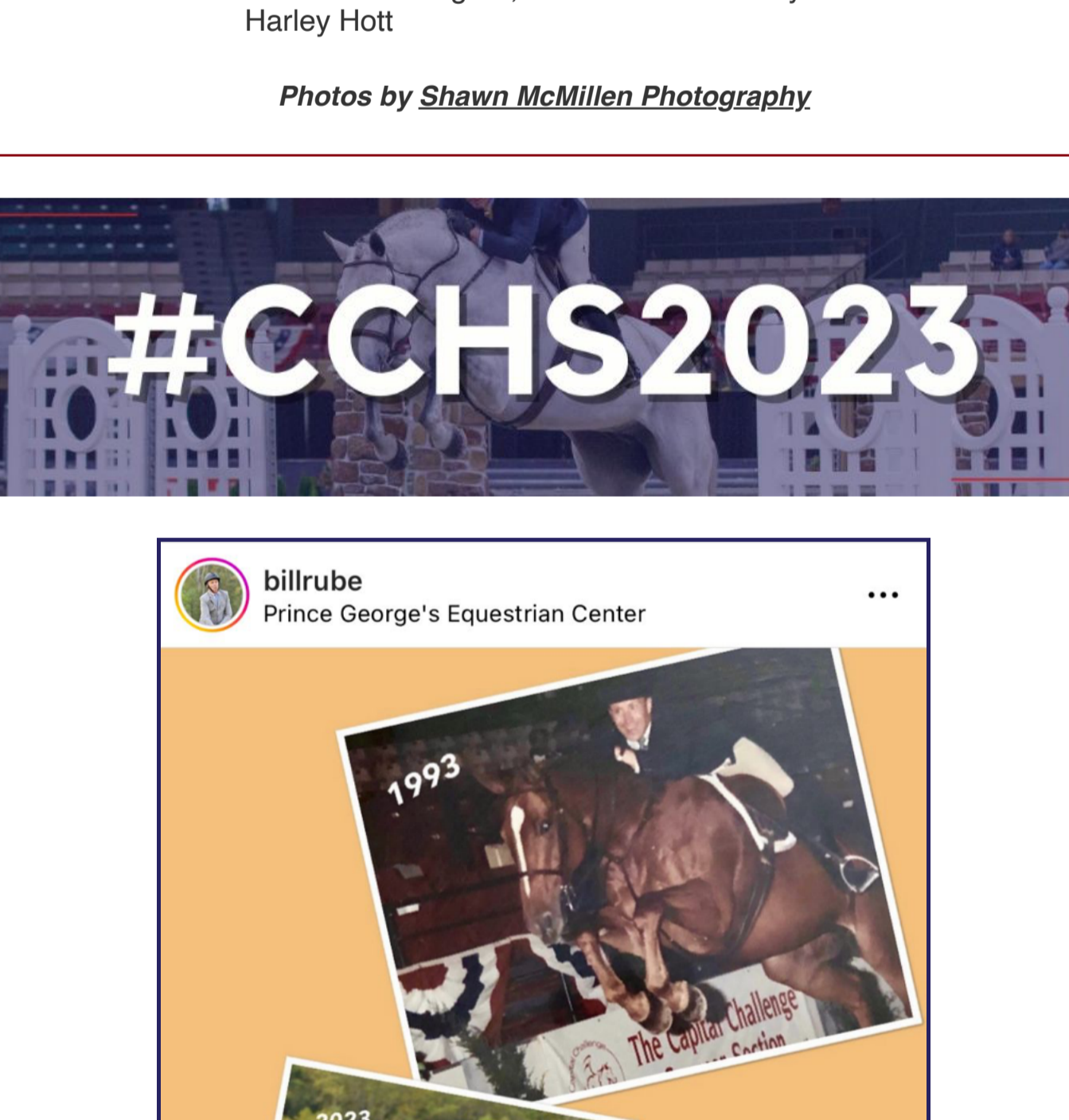
[Read More](#)

## Lakshmi Jayanandarajan and Ratatat Are All That To Claim Grand Children's Hunter Championship

In the covered arena, Lakshmi Jayanandarajan and her own Ratatat were awarded the Grand Children's Hunter Championship, sponsored by Mary Jane King. Jayanandarajan, 17, of Irvine, CA, and Ratatat dominated the Children's Hunter 15-17 division, sponsored by Katie Kappler LLC, to earn championship honors on Sunday, October 8.

"It feels insane," expressed Jayanandarajan. "He's been such a good boy. To come to Capital Challenge for the first time and do this well is just wonderful. I never thought that we would be Grand Children's Hunter Champions our first time here. I'm really happy to have that experience with him."

"He is the kind of horse that makes you feel like anything is possible," continued Jayanandarajan of the 16-year-old Hanoverian-cross gelding by Ragtime. "He's a real sweetheart. I know he will jump anything, and I know I can trust him 100 percent. I can come into situations like this knowing that he's going to be the same horse, and I'm very grateful for that."



Lakshmi Jayanandarajan and Ratatat Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

Hot off their win last weekend in the \$10,000 North American League (NAL) Children's Hunter Finals, Jayanandarajan and Ratatat were looking forward to competing in the division today. The pair continued their winning streak with a blue ribbon in the under saddle as well as a win over fences with a high score of 85.

"To me, it was the same kind of pressure coming into this division as it was going into the [NAL Children's Hunter Finals]," explained Jayanandarajan. "It felt a little more familiar considering the division format is a lot closer to what we do at a regular horse show. I think that contributed to how I prepared for it mentally. I wanted to treat it like any other competition and ride my best and worry about where we ended up after that."

[Read More](#)

## WORDS FROM THE WINNERS

ICYMI! Learn about Isabelle Ehman following her win in the \$10,000 NAL Medium Junior/Amateur Jumper Final!

[Watch Here](#)



## WINNER GALLERY



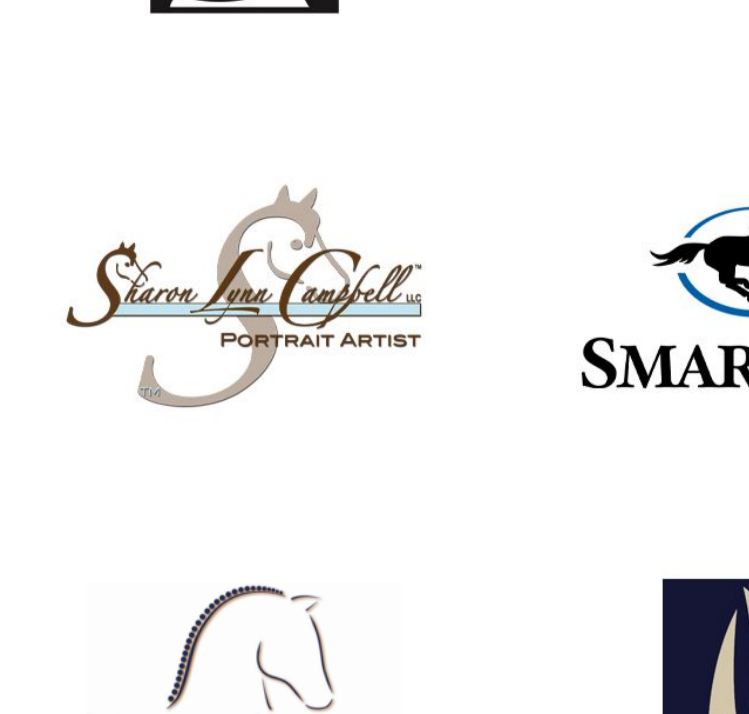
**Small Junior Hunter 15 & Under**  
Sponsored by Robert and Sandra Bierman



**Large Junior Hunter 15 & Under**  
Sponsored by New England Farm

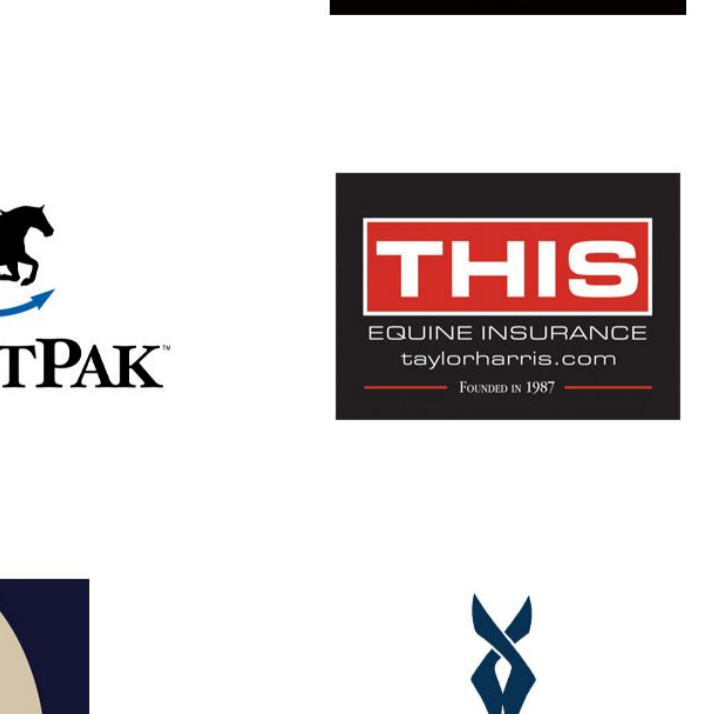
Champion: Acclaim, ridden and owned by Parker Peacock

Champion: Unpredefined, ridden by Ava Barnes and owned by Monkey Business, LLC



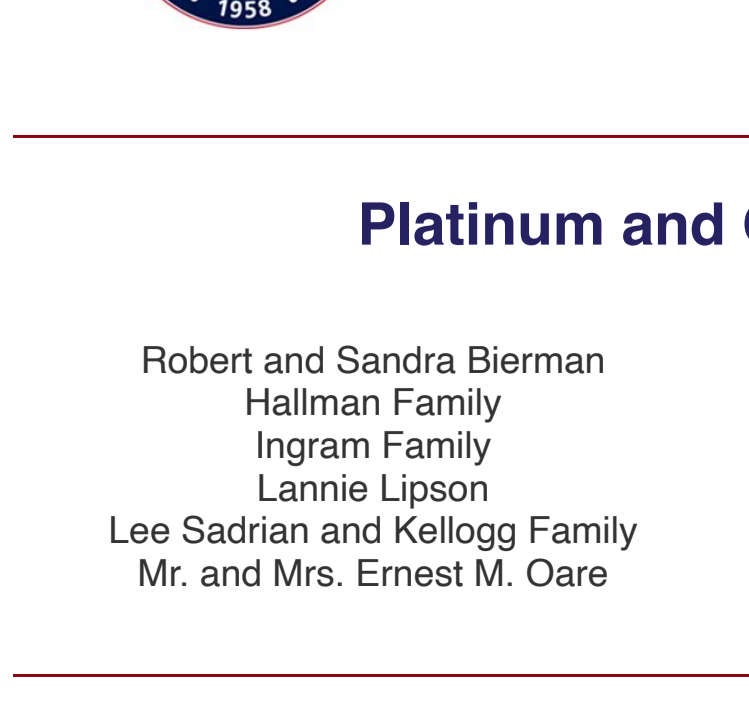
**Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 & Under**  
Sponsored by Hesslink\*Williams

Champion: SWS High Light, ridden by Violet Rheingold and owned by Steve Weder



**Children's Hunter 14 & Under**  
Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Garry Duffy and Little Brook Farms, Inc.

Champion: Con Figaro, ridden and owned by Harley Hott



**WCHR Junior Hunter 3'6" Challenge**  
Winner: Babylon, ridden by Ariana Marnell and owned by Marnell Sport Horses



**WCHR Junior Hunter 3'3" Challenge**  
Sponsored by Noelle Wolf Stables LLC  
Winner: Crowd Pleaser, ridden by Katherine Simonds and owned by West Coast Equine Partners LLC



**WCHR Children's Hunter Challenge**  
Sponsored by Stephanie Bulger & MeadowView  
Winner: Con Figaro, ridden and owned by Harley Hott  
Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

## #CCHS2023



When posting about the 2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show on Instagram and TikTok, be sure to tag us and use #CCHS2023 or #capitalchallenge for a chance to be featured in the daily newsletter.

[Follow CCHS on Instagram](#)

[Like CCHS on Facebook](#)

[Follow CCHS on TikTok](#)

### 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.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors



### Platinum and Gold Sponsors

Robert and Sandra Bierman  
Hallam Family  
Ingram Family  
Lannie Lipson  
Lee Sadrian and Kellogg Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Oare

Nolan Family  
Peter Pletcher  
Rein Family  
Michael Britt León & Kelly Sims  
Weisman Family  
Wheeler Family

