

The Virginia Festival of Champions

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The Lexington National Horse Show is Underway!

The Lexington National Horse Show, the final installment of the Festival of Champions Series to benefit the Virginia Horse Center, started today and will run through Sunday, August 15.

Ann De Michele of Haymarket, Virginia kicked off opening day with a win in the \$200 Open Jumper 1.20 m this afternoon in the Dee Dee Arena in the irons of Cantatu, LLC's *Q/L* besting a field of fifteen horse and rider teams over a course designed by Paul Jewell of Windsor, New Jersey.



The welcoming course saw a majority of the class advance to a second round opportunity where the time allowed was set at 45 seconds.

First to advance to a second round was *Catano 29*, owned by Emma Pell and ridden by David Matisz of Wellington, Florida. Their clear round in a time of 41.556 kicked off the horse race.

Erica Budd of Port Tobacco, Maryland, in the irons of her own *Wizalco* followed in the order and turned in a fault-free second round in a time of 36.182 seconds, setting the new time to beat.

The lead was short lived when Hayley Alcock of Philomont, Virginia aboard Nicole Perry's *Cadis 5* turned in back to back clear rounds with a second round time of 35.982 seconds.

Jackson Schurtz of Afton, Virginia and Jeanne McCusker's *Imago Z* followed Perry and *Cadis 5*, turning in double clear rounds with a second round time of 33.034 seconds, taking the lead.

Kate Johnson of Poolesville, Maryland and her own *Loose N Capable* followed as the next pair to advance to a second round. Four jump faults in a time of 34.091 seconds would see the pair finish in ninth place.

Brooke Kemper of Keswick, Virginia and Mackensie Bowles' *Lando Van De Oude Molenhoeve* also earned four jump faults in their second round and their time of 34.760 seconds would see them finish in tenth place.

Amy Lee of Aldie, Virginia and her own *Hirette KR* followed Kemper in the order and their clear second round of 35.290 earned them a fourth place ribbon.

Three trips later, the next to advance to a second round opportunity was Joe Fargis of Middleburg, Virginia in the irons of Tracey Weinberg's *Honolulu III*. The pair turned in a clear, fast second round and their time of 32.656 seconds took the lead.

The lead was fleeting after Ann De Michele of Haymarket, Virginia and Cantatu, LLC's *Q/L* followed in the order posting double clear rounds with a second round time of 31.056 seconds, grabbing the lead.

Sulu Rose-Reed of Mechanicsville, Virginia and Gail Thompson's *Doirin Clover Boy* sat in the enviable last to go spot. The pair turned in double clear rounds, but their second round time of 36.443 could not catch the lead and they would finish seventh overall, leaving De Michele and *Q/L* victorious and Fargis and *Honolulu III* in second place. De Michele commented, "I rode with Joe [Fargis] for a long time and I really appreciate him." *Imago Z* and Jackson Schurtz finished in third place and Hayley Alcock rode *Cadis 5* to a fifth place finish.

De Michele commented on her homebred *Q/L*. "I have a mare that I was unable to jump a lot because she got hurt about six months after I got her and so I decided to breed her. I bred her twice before and I ended up with two very quiet hunters and I sold them. I decided to try it one more time and bred her to *Quincy Car* [owned by Fernando Cardenas] and while *Q/L* is very pretty, he is not a hunter! He's 7 this year and I started him when he was 4 and well, last year was a bust; I showed him maybe twice at Swan Lake last year and maybe the Piedmont Jumper Classic. He did his first 1.30 m at Swan Lake this winter and then I showed him at WEC in Ocala in the 7 year old jumpers and was champion his second week we were there. He's a pretty cool guy. He's smart, he has a lot of personality and he thinks he is amazing," laughed De Michele. "I never had a horse who is as completely sure of himself like him. Right now I'm looking at him as my Grand Prix prospect. I hope in a couple of years he'll be able to do the Grand Prix. I want him to have the opportunity to figure it out," she added.

De Michele and *Q/L* also placed second in the \$500 Open Jumper 1.30 m today.

For more information, please visit horseshowsonline.com.

Jesse Smith Pilots *Chambery 25* to the win in the \$500 Open Jumper 1.30 m

Jesse Smith of Wellington, Florida rode her own *Chambery 25* to the win in today's \$500 Open Jumper 1.30 m with the only double clear round. With a second round time allowed of 45 seconds, the pair were the only horse and rider team to go clear in a time of 31.317 seconds.

Ann De Michele and Cantatu, LLC's *Q/L* had the fastest

second round time in 30.696 seconds, but four jump faults saw them finish in second place.

Smith also placed third with her own *Nadav* after earning four jump faults in their second round in a time of 32.343 seconds.

Alexa Lowe of Upperville, Virginia aboard her own *Bolybawn Rolo*, placed fourth for their four-fault first round in a time of 74.367 seconds, well within the first round time allowed of 82 seconds.

David Matisz of Wellington, Florida and Feelgood Farm's *Clearway's Ashfire* placed fifth for their four-fault first round in a time of 72.554 seconds and Marissa Degner of New Hill, North Carolina, aboard Aloft Equestrian's *Concardus*, placed sixth. Jack Mosely of Leesburg, Virginia, rode Cece Winter's *Durango Z* to a seventh place finish.

For more information, please visit horseshowsonline.com.



Congratulations Virginia Hunter Champions!

The Virginia Hunter Championships, presented by [Markel](#) wrapped up yesterday in the Anderson Coliseum and crowned the Champions!

Congratulations all!

\$10,000 Pony Hunter Classic

Champion: *Pescado*, owned and ridden by Virginia Harris

Reserve Champion: *Silver Lining*, owned by Elizabeth Self and ridden by Madison Stewart



\$15,000 Pro Hunter Classic

Champion: *Superlative*, owned by Grace Owens and ridden by Chris Wynne

Reserve Champion: *I.P.A.*, owned by Christina Brady and ridden by Peg Seals



\$9,700 Adult Amateur Hunter Classic

Champion: *Mexicali Blues*, owned and ridden by Missy Chiles

Reserve Champion: *Sidenote*, owned by EMO Stables and ridden by Betty Oare



\$9,700 Pre-Green Hunter Classic 3'1/3"

Champion: *Rion*, owned by Chris Wynne and ridden by Sarah Tyndall

Reserve Champion: *Sincere*, owned by Neysa Bryant and ridden by Peg Seals



\$10,000 Junior /Amateur Owner Hunter Classic

Champion: *TopGallant*, owned and ridden by Madeleine Lohr

Reserve Champion: *Chazeaux*, owned and ridden by Claire Parkinson



\$10,000 Children's Hunter Classic

Champion: *Prescott*, owned by Oakland Heights Farm and ridden by Michael Laccheo



\$10,000 Children's Hunter Classic Reserve

Champion: *Talisman*, owned by Molly Blasdel and ridden by Hannah Blasdel

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About the Virginia Festival of Champions

The Virginia Festival of Champions spans three weeks with two consecutive weeks April 28-May 9 and the final installment August 11-15, 2021 and are benefit events for the Virginia Horse Center Foundation.

If you would like to donate now, please Text VAHORSE to 833-614-1922 Thank you!

For more information, please contact Keedie Leonard colebelle@msn.com



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Interested in sponsoring the Virginia Festival of Champions series? Email Lisa at vafestivalofchamps@yahoo.com for more information.



About the Virginia Horse Center Foundation

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation provides a world-class facility hosting regional, national, and international equestrian events. The Virginia Horse Center Foundation envisions a unique, bucolic landmark to honor and celebrate the timeless, special bond between mankind and the horse through safe, fair and spirited equestrian competition.

If you would like to donate now, please text VAHORSE to 833-614-1922

Thank you!



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July 16, 2021

