



The Virginia Festival of Champions

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A Wynning Advantage, LLC

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The Comeback Kid!

Wyatt Wins \$5,000 USHJA National Derby, presented by the Heisley Family Foundation!

Twenty-eight horse and rider teams went on the hunt for the blue ribbon today in the \$5,000 [USHJA](#) National Hunter Derby, presented by The Heisley Family Foundation.

Marylisa Leffler of Brookeville, Maryland rode Heather Bamford's *Wyatt* to the blue ribbon after earning a combined score of 188. The pair sat in second place after the Classic round with a first-round score of 92 but went on to earn the highest handy score of 96 which included 4 high options.



"I didn't know if Tom [Brennan] was going to do any of the inside turns so I decided I would. Those turns were really sharp, but I've ridden *Wyatt* and know he can do it. I stuck with my plan," said Leffler.

Tom Brennan of Charles Town, West Virginia, and Joann Cangelosi's *slarnac* sat in first place after the Classic Round with their score of 94, but their Handy score of 93 for a total of 187 would see them finish in second place.

Today's Derby was the first time *Wyatt* has been shown at the Virginia Horse Center since getting injured last spring. "He was being ridden in the Junior Hunters last year and they just left too long for the jump. *Wyatt* flipped over the fence and when he got up, he just stood there. I was up on the hill watching down on all of this," she recollected.

"When we got him home, we x rayed him and did everything to make sure he was ok, but then sent him to Leesburg to get scanned. They determined that he had jammed his shoulder, but he also suffered from a severe concussion. He hit the ground that hard! I remember putting him in his stall and he kind of stood there with a glazed eye looking at the wall," she said.

"We gave him six weeks off. When he started back, I decided I wanted to be the first one to ride him in case he got scared. And you know, he was absolutely fine. He obviously didn't remember a thing," she said.

"Showing him today in the Derby, he wasn't fazed by any of it," she said. "I think it's especially cool that Heather Bamford's horses, although different horses, have won this Derby two years in a row. And I'm really happy I got to ride both of them. Just another reason why Lexington is one of my favorite shows," she said.

Third place was awarded to *Victor*, owned by Carelyn Monroe and ridden by Pat Vogtle of Hillsborough, North Carolina for their combined score of 175. Vogtle also earned a fourth-place finish with Hanna Greene's *Rhythm & Balous* and a combined score of 174.5.

Cobham Park, owned and ridden by Krysia Nelson of Keswick, Virginia placed fifth overall and also won the [EMO](#) Leading Amateur Derby Rider award. The pair earned a combined score of 171.5.

Sixth place was awarded to *Carry On*, owned by Charlotte Rossetter and ridden by McKenzie Canard of Philomont, Virginia for their combined score of 171.

Hela, owned by Kristen Cox and ridden by Megan Young of Jacksonville, Florida placed seventh with their combined score of 170.5 and *Roland Park*, owned by Mount Fair Equine, LLC and ridden by Dudley MacFarlane of Crozet, Virginia, placed eighth with their combined score of 169.750.

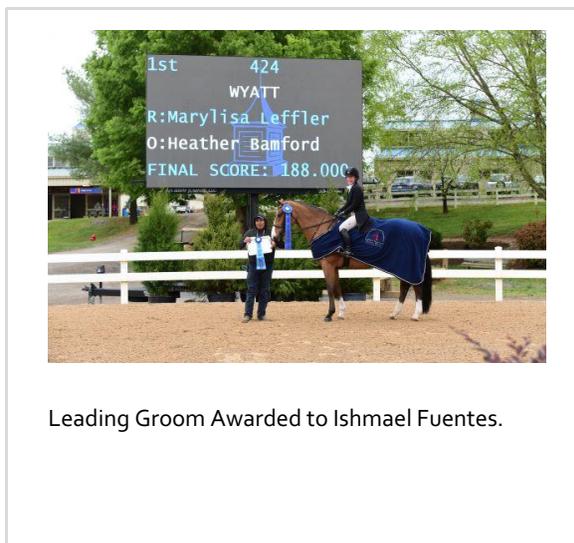
Raf LLC's *Mahalo*, ridden by Ashley Foster of Brookeville, Maryland, earned a ninth-place finish with their combined score of 167 and *Important*, owned and ridden by Sydney Callagy of Virginia Beach, Virginia placed tenth with a combined score of 166.5. The pair also won the [EMO](#) Leading Junior Derby Rider award.

Chris Wynne of Virginia Beach, Virginia rode Maryellen Kroll's *Correlation* to an eleventh-place finish with a combined score of 165.250 and he also rode Jan Bitzberger's *Maximo* to a twelfth place for their combined score of 147.

All Photo Credits: Theresa Ramsay



Wyatt and Marlylisa Leffler awarded the \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby, presented by The Heisley Family Foundation Win!



Leading Groom Awarded to Ishmael Fuentes.



About the Heisley Family Foundation

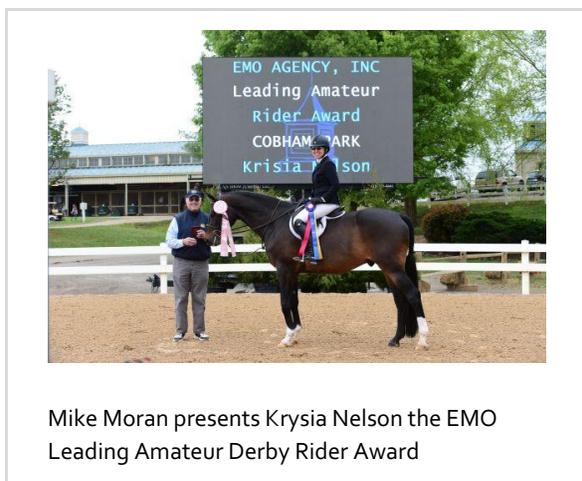
The Heisley Family Foundation was created as a legacy to the Heisley family and is deeply rooted in Virginia equestrian tradition and sport.

Mr. Heisley's deep and enduring love of Virginia and his family is why the The Heisley Family Foundation supports the Virginia Horse Center and The Festival of Champions.

The Heisley Family Foundation is committed to the promotion of the care and wellbeing of our equine partners and the history of the equestrian sport tradition.



EMO Leading Amateur and Leading Junior Rider Awards



Mike Moran presents Krysia Nelson the EMO Leading Amateur Derby Rider Award



Mike Moran presents Sydney Callagy the EMO Leading Junior Derby Rider Award

About the EMO Agency

The [EMO Agency](#) is the sponsor of the Leading Amateur Rider and Leading Junior Rider Awards in the \$5,000 [USHJA](#) National Hunter Derbies, presented by the Heisley Family Foundation.

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About the Virginia Festival of Champions

The 2022 Virginia Festival of Champions is underway. The Lexington Spring Premiere wraps up on Sunday, May 2nd and is immediately followed by The Lexington Spring Encore, the second installment of the Virginia Festival of Champions, May 4-8th. Entries are still being accepted and you can enter online.

The Lexington Spring Premiere and the Lexington Spring Encore are events owned by the Virginia Horse Center Foundation and are benefit events for the Foundation. The Lexington National Horse Show concludes the 2022 Festival of Champions August 10th-14th.



If you would like to [donate](#) to the Virginia Horse Center, please [click here](#).

For those of you planning on competing at these world-class events:

The [prize list](#) is online. Enter [online](#), and [reserve your stalls!](#).

Show highlights include:

- [USEF](#) Premiere AA Hunter Competition
- [WCHR](#) Recognized Event
- \$5000 [USHJA](#) Hunter Derby presented by The Heisley Family Foundation Week 1 & 2
- \$10,000 [Nutrena](#) Open Welcome Class each week
- \$25,000 Grand Prix each week
- [USHJA](#) Green Incentives
- Jumper 4 Star

Weekly schedules can viewed here for [Week I](#) and [Week II](#).

The third installment of the Virginia Festival of Champions takes place August 10-14. If you would like to sign up for the emailed version of the August prize list, [let us know!](#)

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

Photo Credit: Theresa Ramsay

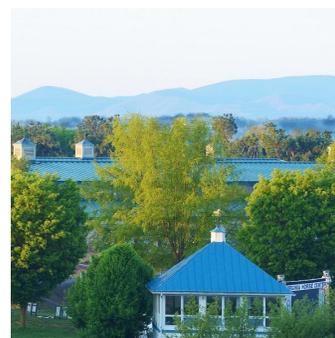
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[Become a sponsor of the Virginia Horse Center!](#) Support the sport and the magnificent facility.

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For those interested in the Banner Sponsorship Program, please email judy@dcbishops.com.

Interested in sponsoring the Virginia Festival of Champions series? Email Lisa at festivalofchamps@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.

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Thank you!



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FARM CREDIT



March 7, 2022

