

The 125th National Horse Show
AT THE
SYRACUSE INVITATIONAL

TODAY

Presented by NEW YORK AGRIDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Only McCrea Passed the Test

Smolders Rocks the House in the TK 99 Speed Derby

For the first time in Syracuse Sporthorse Tournament's six-year history, there was no jump off needed to secure the win in the \$100,000 Budweiser FEI World Cup Qualifier of Syracuse. Riding Vegas, Christine McCrea was the sole rider to successfully clear the entire World Cup class within the tight time allowed of 72 seconds.

Second-place finisher, Todd Minikus was one of two riders who kept the rails in the cups but sadly incurred time faults. Minikus piloted Pavarotti brilliantly but passed through the timers just .2 of a second over the time allowed, coming home in 72.23. Rider after rider tried valiantly to conquer Leopoldo Palacios' formidable course, only to be denied. Ben Maher had a fantastic round with Robin Hood W jumping incredibly high over every fence. The crowd cheered when the pair cleared the final fence, but Maher earned one time fault, stopping the clock at 75.35. Ian Millar secured 4th place with the lone four-fault round within the time limit. The bogey fence for many was the tricky, triple combination along the rail. The fence that brought the worst heartbreak of the night was the final fence on the course. With its natural colored rails and position just past



*Christine McCrea and Vegas proved to have power and speed as they cleared the tough course fault free. As the lone rider to master the course, Christine won without having to face a jumpoff.
Photo by Reflections Photography*

the ingate, it was the nemesis of several riders, just as predicted by commentator Melanie Taylor-Smith.

Harry Smolders of the Netherlands is the prince of speed in Syracuse. For the second consecutive year he out-raced competitors, winning the 6th annual \$15,000 TK 99 Speed Derby.

Smolders galloped his mount, Riovanna, through the timers in 55.40 seconds, edging out Callan Solem on Mianta by just .2 seconds. When asked if he came to the class confident of a victory, the young Dutchman replied, "You never know, there are so many good competitors at the Syracuse horse show."

His win secured a place in the Final 7 in today's Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup.

Third place Henk Van De Pol on Tennessee W had the fastest time of the evening - 52.61 seconds - but a rail down added four seconds, leaving him with a total of 56.61. Hillary Dobbs and Marengo were 4th with a time of 56.94.

Today's Events

- 7:30am \$5,000 Low Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper
- \$10,000 Medium Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper
- \$40,000 High Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper

2pm Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup



Special Events

- 10-11am Live! with George Morris - Bring your own jumping photograph and have a chance for a photo critique from George Morris, just as he does in the pages of Practical Horseman Magazine.
- 11am-11:30am How do Horses Fly? Amy DeVisser and Diane Brandow from John Madden Sales explain how horses fly through the friendly skies. Experience the equine in-flight travel accommodations.
- 12noon - 1pm How to be the Voice of Animals: Recognizing and Reporting Cruelty and Neglect
- 1:15pm Cazenovia College Miniature Horse Drill Team





BEACON HILL \$40,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Grand Prix

SHOW STABLES, INC.

The Beacon Hill Junior/Amateur-Owner Grand Prix gives non-professional riders the opportunity to jump for big prize money. The high junior/amateur-owner jumper division at the Syracuse Invitational is run in World Cup format. Three classes comprise a series with penalties from each class counting toward a final score. The first phase, a speed class with fence heights of 1.30m (4'3"), was held on Thursday. The second phase, a jump-off class with fence heights of 1.37m (4'6"), was held on Friday. Today's final phase is a two-round class with fence heights of up to 1.45m (4'9"). Penalties from each round are added to the penalties carried forward from the previous days to give each rider a total. The rider with the lowest total number of penalty points is the winner.

Number	Horse	Rider	Carry Forward Penalties	Round 1	Round 2	Total
1	165 Felix Des Noues	Alexandra Biederman	29.5			
2	170 Palona	Alexandra Arute	24.5			
3	276 Jolie	Lia Chafee	20.5			
4	185 Okido	Cody Auer	19			
5	355 Realist	Linda Radigan	18.5			
6	244 Quintos II	Catherine Pasmore	18			
7	122 Marga	Sophie Benjamin	17.5			
8	291 Cardano Al Campo	Sara Green	15.5			
9	234 Flight	Reed Kessler	15.5			
10	222 Canaille	Taylor Land	12.5			
11	240 Jeremy	Victoria Birdsall	11.5			
12	483 Perfekt	Chase Boggio	11			
13	201 Naleida	Catie Boone	11			
14	134 Blast Off	Carolyn Curcio	10.5			
15	253 Paddinton	Saer Coulter	10			
16	607 Santika	Samantha Harrison	8			
17	127 Vornado Van Den Hoendrik	Jessica Springsteen	7			
18	263 R Marble K2	Michelle Spadone	4.5			
19	239 Rodenburghs	California Natalie Johnson	3.5			
20	119 Lorena 90	Chelsea Moss	3			
21	341 Rastella	Clementine Goutal	.5			
22	148 Subliem	Whitney Weeks	0			



ANIMAL PLANET
SPORTHORSE
CUP

In order to become one of the final seven riders competing in the Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup riders must show in six identified events at the Syracuse Invitational. Ribbons in each class translate into points, and riders with the six highest point totals, along with the winner of Saturday's Budweiser World Cup Qualifier of Syracuse, comprise the list. Because the Sporthorse Cup requires a lot of horse power (riders are required to use at least two horses in Sunday's competition) there are occasions when riders will opt out of the event, even after qualifying. This year three riders feel they didn't have the necessary horse power and chose to withdraw. When that happens the next rider on the qualifying list is invited to compete. The result this year is the list you see below.

To understand why riders need more than one horse for the event it is necessary to understand the event itself. The Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup is a unique three-phase competition. Like a gymnast who may compete in balance beam, floor work and uneven bars, the Sporthorse Cup tests various jumping and speed skills. Riders must use two horses in the event, which gives them the opportunity to choose a horse built for each phase. The first phase is a speed class with fences set at 1.40m. A speed class requires a fast, agile horse who jumps careful and clean, while maintaining speed.

Watch as the riders begin making their turns in the air so that by the time the horse lands they are heading in the direction of the next jump. Between fences the riders will gallop long lines

and will often hold back just before takeoff in order to keep the horse's hind end in a position to power up over the jump.

The middle phase tests the scope and power of the horse and the rider's ability to negotiate over jumps as they increase in height. There will be four obstacles arranged in a combination that must be negotiated without any knockdowns or refusals. Whoever jumps the four fences without fault will jump the course again with the fences raised. Afterward, if a tie for first remains, the fault-free riders will continue on to another round with the fences raised higher yet.

The fences will continue to be raised until there is a fault-free winner or up to a maximum of four rounds. For this phase, riders will use an animal who is careful and strong. The jumping will be controlled and cautious. Riders will be looking for the ideal jumping distance for their horse. Watch as they place their horse close to the base of the jump, allowing the strength of the hind legs to create a high arc.

The final phase of the Sporthorse Cup is a one-round competition with approximately 14 obstacles set at 1.50m. It too is a speed class and will require a careful, but quick ride. The time in phase three could be critical for some riders because in the event of any ties in point totals from phases 1, 2, and 3, the time from phase three will be the tie breaker. The winner of the \$50,000 Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup will be the rider with the lowest cumulative score.

	Pts Phase 1	Pts Phase 2	Pts Phase 3	Total Points	Placing
Callan Solem (USA)					
Harry Smolders (NED)					
Henk Van De Pol (NED)					
Ben Maher (GBR)					
Brianne Goutal (USA)					
Beezie Madden (USA)					
Cara Raether (USA)					

National Horse Show Memory

"The first time I was at the National Horse Show it was as a child in 1960. My brother showed and won one of the big classes.

I was thirteen years old. I rode in the children's division at that time in Venezuela. My brother, he showed in Harrisburg, Washington, New York and Toronto that year. My best memory is of my brother winning at that show. We bring the horses by boat from Venezuela. My brother came in the boat with the horses. It took four or five days. I was supposed to come in with my brother on the boat but at the last minute I come with my father on a plane."

- course designer, Leopoldo Palacios

NEW YORK AGRIDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Agriculture creates more than \$20 billion in the New York economy, making it one of the most important economic sectors in the state. And, just over the stretch of the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament, the equine industry does its part by bringing \$8 million in activity to Syracuse and Onondaga County. More than 400 horses have come

from states like California, Florida, Maryland and more—plus six countries—to compete in this top ranked event featuring the 125th National Horse Show. By this last day of the event, about 18,000 people have come through the OnCenter and War Memorial to see the 2008 United States Gold Medal Olympic Team, watch clinics, and, of course, enjoy to the competition. Because so many of those attendees rarely have an opportunity to learn about agriculture in all of its forms, the New York AgriDevelopment Corporation is honored to support the tournament by sponsoring the Syracuse Invitational Today and writing this column. By participating, we have joined other event sponsors and the event staff to bring knowledge of the equine and agriculture industry to a wider audience. These are the members that support New York AgriDevelopment Corporation:

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We thank those members, and we also thank Assemblyman Bill Magee for his tireless support of agriculture and the equine industry. Thank you all for attending the Syracuse Sporthorse Invitational Tournament and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

For more information about NYADC, go to www.nyadc.com. To see back issues of the Syracuse Invitational Today, go to www.syracuseinvitational.com and click on “the press” tab.



Photo by Reflections Photography

Jessica Springsteen Wins ASPCA Maclay

The first of 150 riders stepped on course at 6:30am in the ASPCA Maclay Championships to tackle a tough course designed by judges Leo Conroy and Jimmy Torano. But it was Jessica Springsteen of Colts Neck, NJ, who lead the field and went home with the blue.

Following the first round and a flat phase, 25 riders were asked to return for a second jumping round. The course was technical, testing shortening and lengthening of stride complete with tight turns and roll backs.

Because Jessica led going into the second round she was the last to go of 25 riders. After the completion of the second round, four riders were invited back into the ring for further testing. Those riders included Jessica, Victoria Birdsall, Zazou Hoffman, and Christy DiStefano. The test asked the riders to canter a fence, counter canter a second fence, canter two more jumps, hand gallop another, halt and sit the trot back into line. Torano was impressed with Jessica's test saying, "It was amazing. When she jumped the first fence, landed on the right lead and held the counter canter, I think everybody in the place knew it was over. She held the counter canter, and when she came out of the turn and hunted the last jump, we wanted to stand up and whoop. It was amazing."

Jessica's father, Bruce Springsteen, commented on his daughter's discipline and how much he has learned from this sport over the years. "After you have been to so many shows year after year, you realize how difficult it is and what an achievement it is. You also realize how good the others riders are and how much work has gone into it," said Springsteen. "You see a culmination of thirteen years of riding come down to one minute and thirty seconds. That is a tough lesson in life. Musicians always get to sing it again; riders get one shot."

Many thanks to the following volunteers who came to help out at the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament.

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