



DAILY UPDATE

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MacPherson Rides to Victory

North American Junior Flat Equitation Championship Offers Unique Challenge

The North American Junior Flat Equitation Championship is a fun and competitive class only found at Capital Challenge. Megan MacPherson of Boulder, CO, was able to outlast the field to return into the lineup in first place on her horse, Great Expectations. The reserve champion ribbon went to 14-year-old Hannah von Heidegger.

McPherson has had her horse for a year and a half and said "he's perfect in all ways." The pair made the callback rounds last year in the Pessoa/USEF Medal Finals and this winter in the George H. Morris Excellence in Equitation class. She noted, "I think that we click. He's always there and so easy and there's really nothing that I can say is wrong with him."

McPherson finished second in the 15 Year Old Equitation flat class, which qualified her for the Championship class. The judges, Rob Bielefeld and Cynthia Hankins, had the top 10 riders test for almost all of the class without stirrups, and included many



Megan MacPherson
photo by Jennifer Wood Media, Inc.

tests like counter cantering, extensions, and flying lead changes.

She said of the special format, "I love it. It's a really cool, unique class and good to have fun opportunity like that. I just went in saying whatever happens, happens. No pressure. He flats beautifully and does all of the flat tests perfectly. I felt like I tried to hold on a little bit!"

The 17 Year Old Equitation championship, sponsored by Old Salem Farm and Frank Madden Show Stables, went to Kilian McGrath of Thousand Oaks, CA, on Clarequest Chippy Cruise, a horse she rode for the first time this weekend. The pair got into a groove early in their relationship. "This is the best Capital Challenge yet!" McGrath smiled. "I haven't gotten a blue ribbon until this year. I'm really happy about that, especially since I was on a horse that I just rode for the first time this

weekend." McGrath feels like "Chippy" is meant to be her mount for this year's Indoor equitation finals.

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McPherson continued on page 3....

The Capital Challenge Equitation Weekend, presented by BigEq.com



Today's Events

Sunday

INDOOR RING 8:00am

North American Junior
Equitation Championships

THIS Taylor Harris Insurance Services
National Children's Medal Finals

North American Adult
Equitation Championships