

by Elaine Wessel

Show Report: Temecula Valley National Horse Show II & III

New hunter/jumper show finishes second season on a high note.

Following the second week of the Temecula Valley National Horse Show in mid-June, two more weeks of riding returned to Galway Downs from May 22-26 and May 29-June 2. The highlight event of the third week was the \$40,000 MediVet Equine National Grand Prix held on Saturday, May 25, which ended with John Pearce adding yet another victory to his trophy case in Temecula, as he and Finstone S overcame the field as the swiftest double-clear pair to secure the greatest stake of the prize money. As the best-performing rider under the age of 25, Alex Volpi navigated Foster 39 to first prize in the \$1,000 U25 Jumper Classic.

Earlier in the week, a talent-heavy field of horse-and-rider partnerships came out to compete in the \$20,000 Dalcourt Ranch 1.40m-1.45m Speed Derby, during which Will Simpson piloted Chicharita to the top of the scoreboard. In the \$7,500 Interactive Mortgage 10 and Under Futurity Classic, Michelle Parker navigated Chipotle to the top podium spot as the fastest and only double-clear pair.

In the equitation ring, the inventive \$5,000 Open Equitation Championship allowed for professionals, juniors and amateurs to compete head-to-head. Demonstrating superior form and precision over fences, junior rider Emma Reichaw earned the victory thanks to her exemplary skills aboard Breckenridge over two rounds of competition. Professional rider Mandy Porter earned second position after her rides in the irons on Dio Mio, and Temecula-based pro Nick Haness and Cortese rounded out the top three.

Saturday brought the hunters to the AGN Grand Hunter Arena, where juniors and amateurs each got their turns in the grass field to compete for their respective tricolor ribbons. First up was the Junior 3'6" Hunters, where Grace Gallagher walked away as the champion with her mount, Zion. In the Amateur-Owner 3'6" Hunter division, Abigail Murphy and Dutch Brother found themselves in the winner's circle.

To cap the final day of hunter competition during the third week of the competition, the \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby featured a



Mandy Porter & Cortese. Photo: JIMMY WELLS / PHOTOQUEST



John Pearce & Finstone S. Photo: JIMMY WELLS / PHOTOQUEST



Nick Haness & Revere. Photo: JIMMY WELLS / PHOTOQUEST

strong field of exhibitors, with professional rider-trainer Nick Haness once again reigning supreme as he took top honors with Revere's. Now having won all three editions of the \$5,000 USHJA National Derby offered throughout the Temecula Valley National Horse Show Series with Revere's, Haness has solidified the 6-year-old's reputation as an up-and-coming derby horse.

Sunday's jumper competition offered a series of prize money offerings that kept horse-and-rider pairs in the ring one final time. Leading the class from start to finish, Ashley Friedland and Dynamic set a pace that could not be beaten in the \$2,500 EquiFit Junior/Amateur-Owner 1.25m Jumper Classic, riding away with the victory virtually uncontested. Bailey Fuller and Belladonna captured the top spot on the leaderboard in the \$2,500 Kenilworth Stables 1.20m Jumper Classic to finish as one of the day's big winners.

After a short two-day break, the Temecula Valley National Horse Show resumed Wednesday, May 26 for its final week. In the \$5,000 CWD 1.35m Welcome Stake, Mandy Porter and Centstar led the victory gallop after retaining the quickest double clear time for almost the entirety of the class, adding to Porter's long list of victories in Temecula. Taking top call in the 1.40m Jumpers, Harley Brown and Cubiki led from start to finish to run away with the winning honors to kick off the week on a high note.

The Young Hunter 7 and Under division wrapped up with Kaitlin Campbell and Playmaker taking the tricolor after adding three more top results to their list, and in the Performance 3'6" Hunters it was Wednesday's top team Tammy Chipko and Santanita LS who walked away the ultimate champions. Campbell and Playmaker went on later that week to add another victory to their collection, topping the \$10,000 Brookway Stables USHJA National Hunter Derby after two skilled exhibitors, finishing on a cumulative score of 176 points.

Hitting its halfway point for the week, the fourth installment of the horse show finished with a number of new winners Friday at Galway Downs, led by Mark Waring and Gavanta as the paramount victors for the day in the \$10,000 Cypress Point Stables 1.40m Jumpers. In the MediVet Equine 1.30m Jumpers, it was Georgie Murray and Snowball who emerged as the day's leaders, while Susan Artes and Quentin WA were crowned the

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Mark Watling & Geneva, PHOTO BY NINA HAYDEN/PHOTO SPORTS



Enzo Reizew & Debonnie, PHOTO BY NINA HAYDEN/PHOTO SPORTS

overall champions of the division after three days of competition.

The \$40,000 Snapback National Grand Prix, the final one of the circuit, attracted 48 entries to the Audi Grand Prix Arena on Saturday, June 1 for a shot at the purse. The diverse field was comprised of horses and riders ranging from young rookies to Olympic veterans, with Fenne Courcheire and Derousa S leading the lap of honor as the fastest double clear partnership of the class by mere milliseconds. Topping the \$1,000 U25 Junior Classic was 18-year-old Hayden Zadel, who piloted Triskel De Kerlives to the best overall performance by a young rider during the grand prix class.

In the Junior 3'6" Hunter division, Olivia Tamburo and Quin Cardo rode to success, while Gabrielle Sokolow and Iconic were the highest-scoring pair in the \$1,000 Junior 3'6" Hunter Classic. The tricolor went to the skilled pair of Maia Aemi and Magic Blue in the Amateur-Owner 3'3"/3'6" Hunters thanks to five top-scoring performances, and Kristina Novak and Imagine That emerged victorious in the division's \$1,000 Amateur-Owner 3'3"/3'6" Hunter Classic.

The final competition day of the four-week TVNHS series took place Sunday, June 2, at Galway Downs, with hunter exhibitors and their horses putting on the tack one last time for a chance at

the top prize. In the Adult Amateur 3' Hunters and its respective Classic, Amy Brabaker was a triple winner, claiming the championship and reserve tricolors in the division aboard Frascati and Cohen, respectively, and earning the highest score in the \$500 Adult Amateur 3' Hunter Classic. The Children's 3' Hunters also concluded Sunday, with Lilah Nakatani aboard Cowboy and Mia Dimson with Lincoln taking top call in their respective age groups.

Article provided by the Tomecula Valley National Horse Show.