



THE CHRONICLE of the Horse

DAILY UPDATE

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Molly Tops THIS

Sara Green moves up to win the
North American Adult Equitation Championships

Molly Peddicord made the long trip from Malibu, CA, worthwhile as she moved up from second to take the blue in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal Finals on Sunday afternoon at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

Thirty-eight riders qualified to compete in the THIS Children's Medal Finals and the top twenty were invited back by the panel of five judges to jump a second course. After a first round score of 87.90 Peddicord sat in second behind Samantha Gumbin. The second round shook up the standings as Maggie Savoie, who sat in fourth, rode Danico to a second round score of 84.5, a finish good enough for second. Gumbin was a little rough through two roll-back turns and her 80.50 dropped her into third. Peddicord executed a smooth second round, making accurate turns, and her second round score of 85.15 propelled her into the lead.

Peddicord rode her 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding Loupino in the Finals. The young rider describes the ex-jumper as very honest and really forgiving. She said, "He always forgives me no matter what I do. From the jumpers, he jumps clean. He's really fun to ride."

Peddicord, 14, traveled out east with her grandmother and mother as well as her trainers and two friends. It was her first time showing on the east coast, and she was thrilled. She said, "I love it. It's a big change, the weather change, but I loved it. It's really fun."



Molly and Loupino stand after their win in the THIS National Children's Medal Finals. Photo by Jennifer Wood Media, Inc.

The final class on Sunday was the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championships. Sara Green of Sherborn, MA, was second in the first round and moved up to first with a great second round score of 91. Adrienne Dixon and Vincenzo were just behind by 1.6 points, so the judges brought her and Green back for a work-off. *continued on pg two...*

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Today's Events

INDOOR RING 7:30am

Green Conformation Model
 First Year Green Working Hunter
 Green Conformation Hunter
 Second Year Green Working Hunter
 Regular Working Hunter
 Second Year Green Hunter UIS
 Regular Working Hunter UIS
 Future Hunter Colts & Geldings UIS
 Future Hunter 6 & Over UIS

OUTDOOR RING 8:00am

Future Hunter Mares
 Future Hunter 5 and Under
 Future Hunter Colts & Geldings
 Future Hunter 6 & Over
 Future Hunter 3'3"



Sara and Why Not Jack. Photo by Jennifer Wood Media, Inc.

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Dixon and Vincenzo were smooth and efficient, completing the trot jump, counter canter, and excellent halt after the last jump. They scored an 88.20 for a three round total of 264.40.

Green and her horse, Why Not Jack, were just that much better in the test, with a good trot jump and a well-executed simple

change to go to the counter canter. They scored 89.60 to bring their total to 267.40 for the win.

Waiting for her turn in the jump-off, Green said, "I thought it was like Medal Finals all over again. It was fun though. I was trying to just play safe. I held the counter canter, and I'm glad I remember how to test from when I was a junior! The trot normally gets me every time but it was good this time. Adrienne did (the simple change) too so I didn't need to do anything more than what she did." *****

Birdsall Holds Her Lead

Victoria Birdsall tops three rounds to win the North American Junior Equitation Championships

Victoria Birdsall of Topsfield, MA, bested a field of 80 riders to lead the victory gallop in the North American Junior Equitation Championships held in the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD. Birdsall, 16, dominated the two-round class with scores of 88.95 and 91.80 and was asked to return for additional testing along with Hayley Barnhill, Abby O'Mara and Amber Henter.

Testing in reverse order, Birdsall was the final rider to face a test designed by the panel of five judges [Jeff Ayers; Rob Bielefeld; Bob Crandall; Randy Mullins; Steve Wall]. The course included a series of six jumps, a trot test and a counter canter at the end of the ring.

Although the first three riders chose to execute a flying change to the counter canter on the turn to the final fence, Birdsall opted for the more conservative option of bringing Baheera back to the walk before picking up the counter canter.

She explained why she made that choice saying, "It was on kind of a rounded turn and I know he would have probably done the lead change, but I didn't want to risk it being on top by two points. I just wanted to play it safe and not risk throwing it all away for a stupid mistake like trying to show off when it wasn't as necessary."

Scoring an 88 in the final round Birdsall held her lead and earned the blue.

Birdsall trains with Frank Madden and is looking forward to the rest of the indoor season. She said, "I've been showing Romeo and we've never been quite in the top with him. It's been up and



Victoria enjoys her victory gallop after winning the championship. Victoria also won the Best Equitation Rider Award sponsored by Karen Healey Stables and her trainer, Frank Madden, won the Leading Equitation Trainer Award sponsored by Leslie Steele and Acres West. Photo by Jennifer Wood Media, Inc.

down; it's just never been constantly solid. It's all come together and we're going to the finals and couldn't be better." *****

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