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Emma Kurtz Wins Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships

Upper Marlboro, MD – The Capital Challenge Horse Show's Equitation Weekend, presented by Bigeq.com, concluded on Sunday, October 1, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, with the naming of two new major equitation championship winners. Capital Challenge Horse Show continues with more top hunter, jumper, and equitation competition through Sunday, October 8.

Emma Kurtz of Hudson, OH, won the Palm Beach International Academy (PBIA) North American Junior Equitation Championships riding Carl.

Palm Beach International Academy
North American Junior Equitation Championships

1 EMMA KURTZ	87.25	88.75	90.00	88.66
	91.00	89.50	93.00	91.16
	82.00	86.00	87.00	85.00
2 MAVERICK HELMER	87.65	89.75	88.50	88.63
	86.50	93.00	89.50	89.66
	78.00	83.00	82.00	81.00
3 EMMA WUJEK	87.50	89.25	89.00	88.58
	88.50	91.00	88.50	89.33
	72.00	55.00	65.00	64.00
4 ELLI YEAGER	89.00	93.00	91.00	91.00
	84.00	87.25	85.50	85.58
5 ALEXANDRA WORTHINGTON	83.50	89.50	87.50	86.83
	89.00	87.00	92.00	89.33
6 COOPER DEAN	87.75	91.00	86.35	88.36
	88.00	87.50	86.75	87.41
7 MADISON GOETZMANN	86.75	88.85	85.75	87.11
	90.00	89.00	86.50	88.50
8 COCO FATH	87.00	85.00	84.00	85.33
	92.00	90.00	86.00	89.33
9 HALEY REDIFER	85.50	88.25	84.75	86.16
	87.00	88.00	89.00	88.00
10 ADAM EDGAR	86.00	87.00	88.00	87.00
	85.00	86.50	88.00	86.50



The win in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships went to Emma Kurtz, 16, of Hudson, OH.
Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

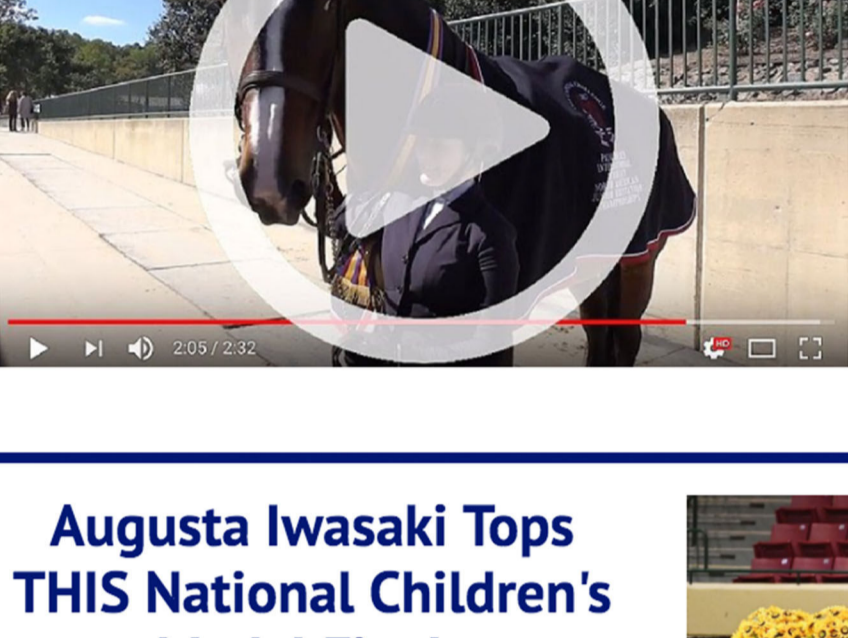
"This is my first major finals win, and it feels amazing. I've worked so hard to get here, and my whole team has worked so hard to get me here. It's amazing to not let them down." - Emma Kurtz

Kurtz was one of 110 talented junior riders from throughout the U.S. who contested the PBIA North American Junior Equitation Championships first round course set by Kenneth Krome.

Following the conclusion of the first round of competition, the field was narrowed to the top 20 riders, as determined by the six-person judging panel that included Linda Andrisani, Chance Arkelian, Brian Lenehan, Bobbie Reber, Danny Robertshaw, and Steve Wall.

Heading into the second round, Elli Yeager of Westlake Village, CA, held the lead with a score of 91, while Kurtz sat in second place with a score of 88.66. Saturday night's winner of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals – East, Maverick Helmer, sat in third on a score of 88.63, and Emma Wujek of Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, rounded out the top four on an 88.58 score.

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WORDS FROM THE WINNER

[Hear from Emma Kurtz's following her Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships victory!](#)

Augusta Iwasaki Tops THIS National Children's Medal Finals

The win in Sunday's THIS National Children's Medal Finals was presented to Augusta Iwasaki of Calabasas, CA, riding Vanderpump, owned by Ashland Farms.

From a starting field of 40 entries, Iwasaki finished the first round in third place on a score of 88.41, just behind Kate Abajian with a score of 88.83 and Dominika Silvestri with a score of 88.58.

The top ten riders were then called back for a second round of jumping, and with a second-round score of 88.50 for a cumulative 176.91 total, Iwasaki moved in the ranks to second place, while Breanna Bunevacz took over lead with a second round average of 89.83 and overall score of 177.16.

With Bunevacz and Iwasaki separated by less than a point, the judges invited both riders back to the ring for a third and final round of testing, before ultimately awarding Iwasaki the championship honor.

Iwasaki, 13, is in her very first year competing in the equitation division, but the young rider has already earned major victories, including the USHJA Hunterdon Cup Equitation Classic – West.

"I was just really excited to be able to compete in such an amazing class. I think everyone works all year to compete here, and it's very competitive." - Augusta Iwasaki

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Augusta Iwasaki of Calabasas, CA won the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals on Sunday, October 1.
Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

Taylor Harris Insurance Services
National Children's Medal Finals

1 AUGUSTA IWASAKI	90.00	87.75	87.50	88.41
	91.00	87.50	87.00	88.50
	84.00	89.00	87.00	86.66
2 BREANNA BUNEVACZ	88.00	86.00	88.00	87.33
	87.50	89.00	93.00	89.83
	82.00	87.00	78.00	82.33
3 DOMINIKA SILVESTRI	89.00	91.00	85.75	88.58
	88.00	85.00	84.00	85.66
4 SYDNEY DEGRAZIA	86.00	87.00	87.00	86.66
	89.00	88.00	85.00	87.33
5 TESSA BROWN	85.50	84.75	85.00	85.08
	87.00	87.00	86.00	86.66
6 ANNIKA SINGH	87.00	89.00	84.50	86.83
	84.00	86.00	84.00	83.33
7 KATE ABAJIAN	86.50	90.00	90.00	88.83
	76.00	83.00	79.00	79.33
8 ISABELA DE SOUSA	82.50	88.50	86.25	85.75
	80.00	73.00	75.00	76.00
9 JAMES FALONI	87.50	89.50	85.65	87.55
	75.00	70.00	73.00	72.66
10 AVERY GLYNN	85.00	87.50	83.00	85.16
	72.00	67.00	68.00	69.00

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



From Capital Challenge official artist Sharon Lynn Campbell, [@sharonlynncampbell_artists](#): "Boss approving his portrait."

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THE DAILY UPDATE



Get more news in the Capital Challenge on-site, daily newsletter, The Daily Update!

PHOTO OF THE DAY

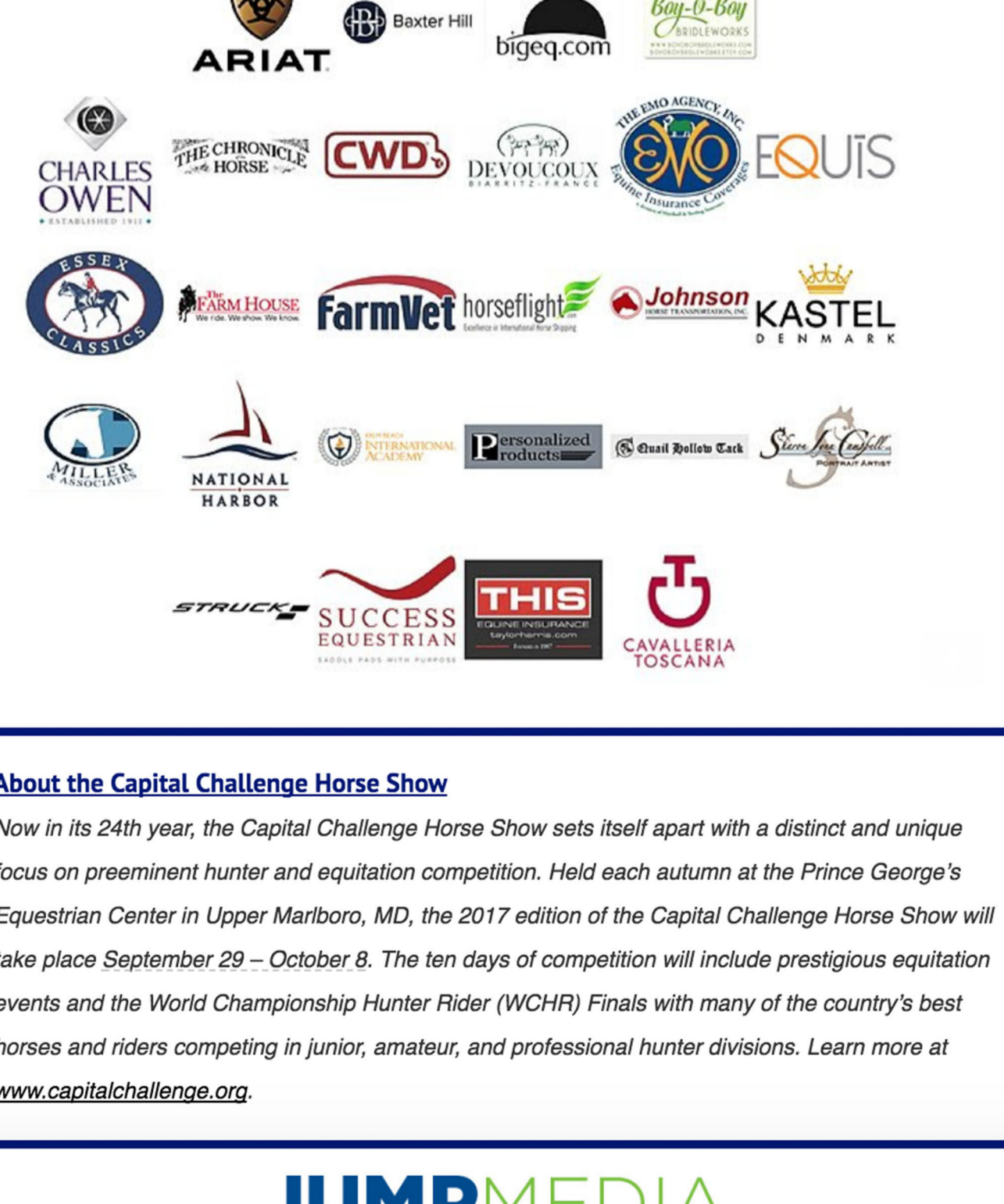


Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships winner Emma Kurtz - captured with the Capital Challenge Horse Show Snapchat geofilter. Follow [@CapChallenge](#) on Snapchat for updates throughout the show, and if you're on-site, be sure to take advantage of the new filter!

Find us and follow the action!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



About the Capital Challenge Horse Show
Now in its 24th year, the Capital Challenge Horse Show sets itself apart with a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. Held each autumn at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, the 2017 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place September 29 – October 8. The ten days of competition will include prestigious equitation events and the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional hunter divisions. Learn more at [www.capitalchallenge.org](#).



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