



CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 7, 2018 UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

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Emma Kurtz and A Million Reasons Are Grand

Upper Marlboro, MD – The 25th anniversary Capital Challenge Horse Show concluded on Sunday, October 7, with the awarding of the final Junior and Children's Hunter championships at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

The Overall Grand Junior Hunter Championship was presented to Emma Kurtz of Hudson, OH, riding A Million Reasons, owned by Dr. Betsee Parker.

Kurtz, 17, and the 13-year-old Holsteiner mare (by Coriano) swept every class of the

Small Junior 16-17 Hunter division on Saturday, making them the far and away frontrunners for the Grand Junior Hunter Championship title, sponsored by Shadow Ridge and presented on Sunday.



Emma Kurtz rode A Million Reasons to the Grand Junior Hunter Championship on Sunday to conclude the 2018 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"It's always good to do well here because you then kind of know how they're going to be going in to the rest of indoors. It's such a great horse show, so it feels amazing." - Emma Kurtz

For her rides on A Million Reasons, Kurtz was also presented with the Best Junior Rider Award, sponsored by Karen Healey, and the pair received the Best EMO Junior Trip of the Show, sponsored by the EMO Agency, with a score of 89.50.

In addition to the Overall Grand Junior Hunter Championship, four Junior Hunter division championships were presented on Sunday, with a Grand Junior 3'3" Hunter Champion and a Grand Junior 15 & Under Hunter Champion also named.

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Jordan Allen and Small Statement Make Big Statement in Junior 3'3" Hunters

The Grand Junior 3'3" Hunter Championship went to Jordan Allen of West Bloomfield, MI, riding Small Statement, owned by Iwasaki & Reilly. The pair claimed two seconds and a third over fences and a win in the under saddle to first take the Junior 3'3" 15-17 Hunter division championship.

"I've never been champion or even reserve at an indoor, so it's so exciting; it's a great way to start indoors," said Allen, who is currently a working student for Ken and Emily Smith at Ashland Farms. "Ken and Emily and Leylan [Gleeson] and Chrissy [Kear] could not have helped my riding more. I love being a working student there more than anything. They always have horses for me to ride. They've taught me a lot – great lessons in and out of the saddle."



Jordan Allen and Small Statement. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

In her role with Ashland, Allen has frequent experience catch riding horses, so riding her winning mount, Small Statement, for the first time only two days ago did not prove too difficult for the 17-year-old.

"I owe it to Liz [Reilly]," said Allen, referring to Small Statement's owner. "She's done so much in the last year to help me – to help my riding. She always has horses for me to ride, and she's really great."

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Maddie Tosh and Gotham Capture Grand Children's Hunter Championship

In her first year competing on horses, 12-year-old Maddie Tosh took home her biggest win to date with Dr. Betsee Parker's Gotham. The pair won the Children's Hunter 14 & Under division championship, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Duffy and Little Brook Farm; the Grand Children's Hunter Champion award, sponsored by Mary Jane King and for which they were presented the Laura Pickett Memorial Trophy; Best Children's Hunter Trip, sponsored by Carlye Byron-Nelson & the Nelson children; and the Best EMO Children's Hunter Trip of the Show, sponsored by Sue Bopp and EMO Agency, which they won with a score of 88.5.

"This was amazing. I've never had a show like this before. I'm very excited and very proud of him." - Maddie Tosh

Tosh found the perfect horse in her father Hunt Tosh's former mount. "My dad showed him for a long time as a green [horse] and in the First and Second Years, and then I started show to show him," she explained.



Maddie Tosh and Gotham. Photo by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)

"Dr. Betsee Parker owns him, and I'm very grateful to be able to ride him for her. He's so fun and perfect. He's super easy. He has a great rhythm, which is my favorite part about him. He just stays on one gallop and stays on it throughout the whole course."

Based in Alpharetta, GA, Tosh rides out of her parents' farm, where they also keep Gotham. At home, the 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding has "such a big personality," said Tosh. "He's so sweet, and he takes care of me every time. He always wants to play with you and cuddle and always wants food."

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WCHR CHALLENGE WINNERS

\$5,000 WCHR Junior 3'6" Hunter Challenge

Sponsored by [Nicole Lyvere](#)

SOFIA ROBERTS AND DOUBLE OAKED



\$2,500 WCHR Junior 3'3" Hunter Challenge

Sponsored by [Micaela Kennedy](#)

CLAIRE CAMPBELL AND CAPTIVATE



\$1,500 WCHR Children's Hunter Challenge

Sponsored by [Stephanie Bulger & MeadowView](#)

KIERSTIN ANTONIADIS AND PARAGON



Junior 3'3" 14 & Under Hunters

Champion: Rockette, ridden by Gabrielle Sokolow and owned by Sokolow On Farm

Reserve: Oxford, ridden by Lauren Reid and owned by Capstone Farm, LLC



Junior 3'3" 15-17 Hunters

Champion: Small Statement, ridden by Jordan Allen and owned by Iwasaki & Reilly

Reserve: Valentine, ridden by Ainslee Gregg and owned by Bottom Line Equestrian, LLC

GALLERY OF CHAMPIONS

All photos by [Shawn McMillen Photography](#)



Small Junior 15 & Under Hunters

Sponsored by [New England Farm](#)

Champion: O'Ryan, ridden and owned by Maggie Hill

Reserve: Akinda, ridden by Brooke Morin and owned by Hillside Farm, LLC



Large Junior 15 & Under Hunters

Champion: Small Affair, ridden by Augusta Iwasaki and owned by Lyn Pedersen

Reserve: Park Place, ridden by Isha Swani and owned by Shadowfax Equestrian, LLC

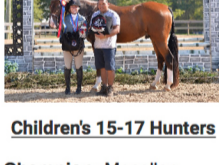


Children's 14 & Under Hunters

Sponsored by [Mr. & Mrs. Gary Duffy and Little Brook Farms, Inc.](#)

Champion: Gotham, ridden by Maddie Tosh and owned by Dr. Betsee Parker

Reserve: Best Of, ridden by Emily Giorgio and owned by Gabriella Conte



Children's 15-17 Hunters

Champion: Macallan, ridden by Abby Parker and owned by Amber Ayyad

Reserve: Pura Vida ridden and owned by Lily Pollin

BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEOS



Hear from the 2018 \$10,000 WCHR Pro Finals winner, Liza Boyd!

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DAILY UPDATE



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PHOTO OF THE DAY



Isha Swani and Park Place. Photo by [Jump Media](#)

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