



Claire Campbell and Captivate made their indoor debut by taking the win in the WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

## Campbell Cruises To Capital Challenge Win

*The young rider moves up to bigger mounts and bigger titles in the WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge.*

BY KIERAN PAULSEN AND TORI REPOLE  
PHOTOS BY SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Claire Campbell first sat on a horse when she was 2 and a family friend gave her a ride around their yard on a mare named Maggie. Campbell was hooked and soon became a regular in the pony divisions, earning a few trips to USEF Pony Finals (Kentucky). But the Capital Challenge Horse Show, held Sept. 28-Oct. 7 at the Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, marked a new milestone:

Campbell's first time showing outside of the pony classes on the fall indoor circuit. She piloted the Maher Family LLC's Captivate to a win in the \$2,500 WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge.

"It was a really nice round. My horse has a huge stride, so the lines are easy for us," said Campbell, 15. "All the jumps came up easily, and it was a very simple course. All around it was a smooth ride."

Campbell had only been to a few

shows with the 9-year-old Westphalian gelding (Captain Fire—Lubina) prior to Capital Challenge. He stands at 16.3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hands, which is a significant difference from the medium ponies Campbell is accustomed to riding, but she convinced trainers Stacey Weiss and Samantha Schaefer of Shadow Ridge Farm (Maryland) to let her try him.

"I saw video of him and just fell in love, and it was a perfect match," Campbell said. "He's very easy to get

along with, and his size when you're riding him doesn't seem so big. He's sweet, calm and a little lazy, but he's very adjustable. Winning at such a competitive level was really special, especially since it's my first indoor show on a horse."

Her mother, Tracey Campbell, added that Claire seems more relaxed in the horse divisions, though she still has a foot in both worlds right now. The Campbell family didn't know anything about riding before Claire showed an interest in horses.

"We're first generation," Tracey joked. "I had a close friend whose son and Claire started preschool together, and this friend had a horse. The horse's name was Maggie. We'd go over and have playdates with them and put Claire up on Maggie to get led around the yard. Claire thought this was the best thing. Then, for Claire's third birthday my friend trailered Maggie to my house—which is in a little cul-de-sac—and gave all the kids pony rides. I joke with that friend that I should send her my bills because this is all her fault."

Claire begged her parents for proper lessons until she was 6 and started weekly lessons alongside her younger sister, Rose. Two years later, Tracey's mother, Donnah Maher, bought her granddaughters their first pony for Christmas.

"Our barn manager trailered this 11-hand gray gelding named Rolly to my house on Christmas morning," Tracey said. "We have a walk-out basement where we kept the tree and everything. We opened the doors, and Rolly actually walked into my house and stood in front of the tree. That was pretty much the end. How do you top that?"

A few years later, in 2012, they made the journey from their home in Cochranville, Pennsylvania, to Wellington, Florida, on a pony buying trip. Claire came away from that trip with a new pony and a new desire to show at the next level. Claire and Rose started training at Shadow Ridge Farm, even though it's a four-hour round trip between home and the barn.

To help control her nerves, Claire said she pretends every show is just

a small, schooling venture to help stay calm, especially at venues with big atmospheres. After indoors, she's looking forward to getting acquainted with the jumper and equitation rings, and her family will be behind her the entire way.

"It's a huge commitment that everyone in our family has made," Tracey said. "But it's given her so many things that I don't think other sports can give. It's not a team sport, but your animal is your teammate. They learn so much about responsibility, about how to take care of something other than yourself, and about how to handle yourself with adults, judges, the media. Sometimes I say to her, 'Can we just take one weekend off and be normal?' And she won't have any of it."


### Hard Work Pays Off

Kierstin Antoniadis wasn't expecting to make it to the \$1,500 WCHR Children's Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, much less win it. But that's exactly what happened for the

16-year-old rider and Sand Dollar Farm LLC's Paragon.

"We did the children's hunter division, and he was really good," Antoniadis, Middletown, New York, said. "But we got a little long to one in our first class and had a rail in the second one, so we really didn't think we were going to make it into the Challenge. When we did we warmed up really quick and just sent him in. He was a little tired. He'd been out there a while, but he was a really good boy."

Antoniadis has only had the ride on Paragon, a chestnut warmblood of unrecorded breeding, for a few months, but she's had the advantage of knowing his owner for years.

"Paragon is my friend Catherine Smith's horse," Antoniadis said. "She went to college in Florida and wasn't looking to do the children's hunters with him anymore, so he came to Heritage Farm a few months ago. This was only his second show with me. He's a really smart horse. He's really cool and brave and just fun to ride." 



Kierstin Antoniadis and Paragon dominated the \$1,500 WCHR Children's Challenge at the Capital Challenge.

Antoniadis trotted into the arena with more confidence than she'd ever had, mostly thanks to the three months she's spent training at Andre Dignelli's Heritage Farm in Katonah, New York, where she's a working student.

"I've learned a lot about the care of horses, how to keep them happy and healthy and how to schedule them," Antoniadis said. "And I've learned how to make everything seem so easy—adjusting the horse while you're riding and having it look effortless. That's so important, especially for the equitation."

Antoniadis has been riding since she was 6. Her mother Denise Antoniadis rode as a child but initially steered Kierstin and her older sister, Alliyah Antoniadis, toward other sports like dance and soccer. Neither child showed an affinity for any of the activities they tried, so Denise signed them up for a summer riding camp, and they took to it immediately. Kierstin has been competing in equitation for the past two years.

"I was on a good horse [before], but we were starting to get more competi-

tive, and it was just kind of me and my mom winging it," she said. "We didn't know much about equitation. I was riding my friend's horse. I only had real training at the shows, so we looked into Heritage when I wanted to get more serious about it. I went and had a lesson, and everyone was super nice. It's a really great program, and I'm really happy."

Alliyah, 18, works for Stefanie Mazer at Forget Me Not Farm in Wellington, Florida, and Kierstin has thought about following her sister's lead into the professional horse world, but first she wants to go to college. She won the National Collegiate Equitation Association Finals East, which is attended by scouts from NCEA Equestrian schools.

"I definitely want to ride in college and be on a team. My top picks would be Auburn University [Alabama], the University of Georgia, Texas A&M and the University of South Carolina," she said.

In the meantime, Kierstin aims to compete in the equitation finals at the National Horse Show (Kentucky), the

Pennsylvania National Horse Show and the Washington International Horse Show (District of Columbia). Thanks to the past few months of progress, she feels she'll be ready.

"I'm going to just stick with the program," Kierstin said. "I think in the years to follow I'll just keep growing. My riding ability has changed [since starting at Heritage Farm], and so has my personality. I think I'm more outgoing, and I've learned some more professionalism. I definitely have more confidence."

### Horse Shows And Homework

Capital Challenge is only a short drive away from Washington, D.C., but 12-year-old Avery Glynn of Petaluma, California, didn't have much time for exploring museums or monuments.

"I've been at the horse show the whole time, and I've been doing homework other than that," said Glynn. "I did go to the National Harbor [Maryland] and walked around there; it was really pretty."

Glynn's arrival in Maryland on Sept. 27 marked the beginning of a busy weekend. That Friday she rode in the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Flat 7 and Medal Gymnastics, where she placed sixth aboard the 9-year-old Oldenburg mare Cocon 4 (Cero—L'Harmoni, Landcapitol).

"When [Cocon 4] goes around the ring she's probably more of a hotter equitation horse," said Glynn. "She was a jumper, and she kind of never runs out of energy, which helps at these shows when you have to do a lot of classes."

The following day the pair finished second in the equitation over fences, 12 & under, and they closed out the weekend as champion in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals on Sunday.

Capital Challenge was "Callie's" first time competing in an indoor setting.

"When I first started riding her, she was a lot hotter because we would always school her to be a jumper," said Glynn. "For some of the big jumpers

**Avery Glynn partnered with Cocon 4 to win the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals.**



to be amazingly big jumpers, they have to be a little bit spooky, and she just wasn't spooky enough. She would jump around at 1.40-meter, but she was quieter than most of the jumpers. Sometimes she would have a rail when the other jumpers would not, so she just worked so perfectly for the equitation."

Glynn primarily trains under parents Hope and Ned Glynn, who have a knack for finding her opportunities to catch ride.

"I really like catch riding because you get to ride all these different horses," said Avery. "I guess you could get a bad horse that could be dangerous, but my mom and dad and everyone who finds me catch-rides are always very careful and make sure I'm safe when I ride these horses."

Avery will bring "Callie" to the Dover Saddlery/USEF Hunter Seat Medal Final at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and to the ASPCA Maclay Final at the National Horse Show.

"I'm not going there looking to win or anything. I'm just going to have a solid round hopefully and do whatever I can to have a good time at those [shows]," said Avery. "There is so much pressure at those medal finals because you only have one round to get it right. Whenever I feel like I'm nervous I start freaking out before big classes, but as soon as I go in the ring I just forget about all of that and just ride." 🍎

**TAYLOR HARRIS  
INSURANCE SERVICES  
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S  
MEDAL FINALS  
Upper Marlboro, Md.—  
Sept. 30**

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Avery Glynn	Petaluma, Calif.
2. Amber Ayyad	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
3. Grace Debney	Hampden, Mass.
4. Dominic Gibbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
5. Maggie Hill	Jackson, Wyo.
6. Dylan Bentley	Far Hills, N.J.
7. Gabrielle Sokolow	Westlake Village, Calif.
8. Stella Wasserman	Beverly Hills, Calif.
9. Belle Zachary	Birmingham, Mich.
10. Katalina Rickard	Sherman Oaks, Calif.

40 riders competed.

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## ▶ YOUNG ENTRY



Sofia Roberts won the WCHR Junior 3'6" Challenge aboard Double Oaked at the Capital Challenge.



Grady Lyman topped the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championship at the Capital Challenge aboard Efendi.

## ▶ Tidbits

▶ **JESSICA STONE'S** win in the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final—East served as a confidence boost as she started the fall indoor season. The 18-year-old from West Bloomfield, Michigan, rode the 7-year-old gelding Odyssey (Quaprice—Subliem Van Sint-Maarten).

"The flat is first, and I was pretty confident about that," said Stone. "After that we were in 15th place, so I knew that I had to get a pretty good score for the gymnastics phase to move up. I really trust [Odyssey], and he's really good with that kind of stuff, so I knew that we had a really good chance."

After the first two phases, Stone and Odyssey had moved into third place leading up to Saturday's final round, sitting on an accumulated 216.80 points, and their performance in the final jumping phase secured their place at the top.

Stone is a freshman business major at the University of Georgia and rides on their National Collegiate Equestrian Association fifth-ranked equestrian team. "It's really different from growing up because you have your barn, but you're basically competing individually," said Stone.

"On a team everyone is really supportive of each other, and everyone is super nice. They always cheer you on, so it's always fun to be on a team."

▶ **GABRIELLE SOKOLOW** isn't one to let the competition get the best of her. "A lot of people get competitive with their friends," said the 13-year-old from West Lake Village, California, "but I honestly just think about having fun. I'm happy for them when they win, and I really want them to do well."

It was Sokolow's time to shine in the WCHR Pony Challenge with the "very sweet" 10-year-old warmblood gelding Benetton (Top Mosaik— Top Malta). Since 2015, she's been competing at Capital Challenge with her barn Makoto Farms, and it's a favorite on her calendar every year.

After the Washington International Horse Show, Benetton is going back to his owners at Pretty Penny Farm.

"He's so smooth; he's so much fun," said Sokolow. "His jump is amazing. He has a big stride, and he's really pretty. I'm going to be really sad when he leaves. I just hope he goes to a girl that loves him."



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► **Capital Challenge Junior**

**Upper Marlboro, MD—Sept. 28-Oct. 7.**

**SMALL JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** O'Ryan, Maggie Hill.

**RES:** Akinda, Hillside Farm LLC.

**SMALL JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.

**RES:** Castle, Eaton Place LLC.

**LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** Small Affair, Lyn Pedersen.

**RES:** Park Place, Shadowfax Equestrian LLC.

**LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Dedication, Betsee Parker.

**RES:** Tztargazer, Steve Schaefer.

**LOW JR. HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Rockette, Ramble On Farm.

**RES:** Oxford, Capstone Farm LLC.

**LOW JR. HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Small Statement, Iwasaki & Reilly.

**RES:** Valentine, Bottom Line Equestrian LLC.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Gotham, Betsee Parker.

**RES:** Best Of, Gabriella Conte.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Macallan, Amber

**PALM BEACH  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
NORTH AMERICAN  
JUNIOR EQUITATION  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Upper Marlboro, Md.—  
Sept. 30**

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Grady Lyman	San Diego, Calif.
2. Madison Goetzmann	Skaneateles, N.Y.
3. Kaitlyn Lovingfoss	Santa Clarita, Calif.
4. Coco Fath	Fairfield, Conn.
5. Paige Matthies	Lake Leelanau, Mich.
6. Maverick Helmer	Roanoke, Va.
7. Jennifer Staniloff	Port Jefferson, N.Y.
8. Caroline Bald	Gilford, N.H.
9. Mimi Gochman	Palm Beach, Fla.
10. Rachel McMullen	Chagrin Falls, Ohio

127 riders competed.

**USHJA 3'3" JUMPING  
SEAT MEDAL FINAL—  
EAST**

**Upper Marlboro, Md.—  
Sept. 29**

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Jessica Stone	West Bloomfield, Mich.
2. Breanna Bunevacz	Calabasas, Calif.
3. Caroline Bald	Gilford, N.H.
4. Emma Pacyna	Simi Valley, Calif.
5. Elizabeth Nevins	Sammamish, Wash.
6. Kyla Sullivan	Wallingford, Conn.
7. Emily Williams	Newhall, Calif.
8. James Faloni	Essex Fells, N.J.
9. Avery Glynn	Petaluma, Calif.
10. Kathryn Hall	Versailles, Ky.

121 riders competed.

Ayyad.

**RES:** Pura Vida, Lily Pollin.

**CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH:** Handsome Honey Do, Xia Tabanou.

**RES:** Jamrock, Willson Sport Horses LLC.

**SMALL PONY HUNTER CH:** Rollingwoods Knee Deep, The Lignelli Family.

**RES:** Bit Of Love, Betsee Parker.

**MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH:** Famley Corsair, Leigh Kettaneh.

**RES:** Anisette, Tessa Downey.

**LARGE PONY HUNTER CH:** Benetton, Pretty Penny Farm.

**RES:** D'Artagnan, Simply Ponies LLC.

**MEDIUM JR./AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH:** Jet Set DB, Callie Seaman.

**RES:** For Serrano SR, Anna Athey.

**LOW JR./AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH:** Adoctro, Madeline Schaefer.

**RES:** Darthus, North Star.

**EQUITATION, 12 & UNDER CH:** Avery Glynn.

**RES:** Vincent Desiderio.

**EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. A CH:** Hannah Hoch.

**RES:** Samantha Meyer.

**EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. B CH:** Natalie Jayne.

**RES:** Dominic Gibbs.

**EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Maggie Hill.

**RES:** Alexandra Sinclair.

**EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** Sophee Steckbeck.

**RES:** Taylor Griffiths.

**EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Mia Mannis.

**RES:** Madeline Schaefer.

**EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** Kaitlyn Lovingfoss.

**RES:** Sophie Transou.

**EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH:** Kate Abajian.

**RES:** Alice Kass.

**EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH:** Rachel McMullen.

**RES:** Grady Lyman.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. HUNTER:** A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, LOW JR. HUNTER:** Captivate, Maher Family LLC.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, PONY HUNTER:** Anisette, Tessa Downey.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, CHILDREN'S HUNTER:** Gotham, Betsee Parker.

**EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. EQUITATION:** Lily Walton.

**GRAND JR. HUNTER CH:** A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.

**HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER:** O'Ryan, Maggie Hill.

**HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 16-17:** A Million Reasons, Betsee Parker.

**BEST JR. RIDER:** Emma Kurtz.

**GRAND LOW JR. HUNTER CH:** Bocelli, Laura Wasserman.

**BEST LOW JR. HUNTER RIDER:** Emily Williams.

**STEWART-WARNER JR. CUP CH:** Grace Debney.

**GRAND CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH:** Gotham, Betsee Parker.

**BEST CHILDREN'S HUNTER RIDER:** Maddie Tosh.

**STEWART-WARNER CHILDREN'S CUP CH:** Maddie Tosh.

**GRAND PONY HUNTER CH:** Benetton, Pretty Penny Farm.

**BEST PONY RIDER:** Gabrielle Sokolow.

**STEWART-WARNER PONY CUP CH:** Allison Coleman.

**BEST MEDIUM JR. JUMPER RIDER CH:** Anna Athey.

**BEST LOW JR. JUMPER RIDER:** Madeline Schaefer.

**WCHR JR. HUNTER CHALLENGE CH:** Double Oaked, Roberts Stables LLC.

**RES:** Akinda, Hillside Farm LLC.

**WCHR LOW JR. HUNTER CHALLENGE CH:** Captivate, Maher Family LLC.

**RES:** Meridian, Lissa Bachner.

**WCHR PONY HUNTER CHALLENGE CH:** Benetton, Pretty Penny Farm.

**RES:** Leon, Maher Family LLC.

**WCHR CHILDREN'S HUNTER CHALLENGE CH:** Paragon, Sand Dollar Farm LLC.

**RES:** By Proxy, Tess Gilmartin.

**GEORGE MORRIS EQUITATION CH:** Grady Lyman.

**BEST EQUITATION RIDER:** Grady Lyman.