



[LEFT] The Junior Show Jumping Individual Championship saw Elli Yeager and Waliba VDL take silver. [RIGHT] Melanie Doughty rode Fascinata as part of Region 3's Junior Dressage Team Championship winning team.

# FEI North American Youth Championships

*Conclude with Numerous Countries on Top*

PHOTOS BY TERISÉ COLE

THE DRESSAGE AND SHOW JUMPING portions of the Adequan/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), presented by Gotham North, wrapped up after debuting at Old Salem Farm in North Salem, NY, with five days of competition from August 1-5.

## Young Rider Dressage

The Quebec/Alberta dressage team swept into the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) North American Young Rider Dressage Team Championship gold medal position as the three-rider team claimed the top prize with a combined score of 210.145, ahead of the Region 4/7 combined team and the Region 1 team.

"It's very special for us," said Camille Carier Bergeron, who, as the final rider to go for the team, clinched the gold with her score of 70.35% riding Baldacci. "We've been on the same team many times and we have a fantastic relationship." Her teammates Rakeya Moussa, who rode Davidoff v.h. Trichelhof to a score of 71.32%, and Beatrice Boucher, who rode Delfiano to a score of 68.47%, joined Bergeron on the podium to collect their gold medals.

The silver medal went to the Region 4/7 combined team with a final score of

202.64, with Tillie Jones riding Apachi, Jenna Upchurch riding Westerstorm, Annika Tedlund on Vade Mecum Interagro, and Christian Simonson on FRH Rassolini. The Region 1 team of Amanda Perkowski on Quando Boy, Kristin Counterman riding Three Times, Anna Weniger on Don Derrick, and Kayla Kadlubek on Perfect Step claimed bronze with a team total of 202.08.

After having the best overall score in the Team Championship, Callie Jones and Don Philippo turned around to win the USDF North American Young Rider Individual Championship. Jones and Don Philippo performed a stunning test to earn a score of 72.20%, besting a field of 28 entries. Canada's Boucher and Delfiano earned silver with a score of 71.02% while Region 1's Kadlubek and Perfect Step won bronze with a score of 70.76%.

Jones, of Region 2, and Don Philippo had been fine-tuning their weaker movements over the past year, and they hit a high at the NAYC. "Our canter work was our strong point [today]. He has struggled with the canter pirouette in the past, so I was a little worried about those. But in the last few months I have really figured him out, so I was really happy with those. Everything else just flowed very nicely

throughout the entire test," added Jones.

Weniger of Region 1, added her second medal at the NAYC, winning gold in the USDF North American Young Rider Dressage Freestyle Championship. Canada's Boucher and Delfiano earned freestyle silver with a score of 72.80% followed by the Region 2's Jones and Don Philippo with a score of 72.77%.

Weniger and Don Derrick had only performed their Freestyle three times before NAYC, but the routine came together at the right time. "I've been dreaming of winning a medal at this show for almost 10 years. I have been fortunate enough to ride on some young rider teams the last few years, but winning an individual medal is way more than I ever imagined," said an elated Weniger.

## Junior Dressage

The Region 3 dressage team used consistency and concentration to secure gold in the USDF North American Junior Dressage Team Championship. All four riders on the Region 3 team claimed the top spot with a combined score of 202.78. The Region 4 team claimed silver with 199.36, just fractions of a point ahead of the Canada Central team that took bronze with 199.15.

Competition was tight down to the last riders in the order, and Caroline Garren kept her cool to ride Bell Angelo to the high score for her team, a 68.60%, to clinch the gold. Juliette Cain helped boost the team to gold with her 67.87% score riding Mariska in her first NAYC appearance, and Melanie Doughty rode Fascinata to a

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score of 66.30%.

The Region 4 team rode into silver with Sammie Fritz riding Ferra, Katarina Tedlund riding Eclipse BR, Marie Elise Matern riding Don Akzentus, and Bianca Schmidt on Lou Heart for a total of 199.36. Canada Central claimed bronze with Jade Buchanan riding Qaro GS, Kiara Williams-Brown riding Ladybug, Anna Swackhammer on Wrazzmatazz, and Brooke Mancusi on Wellknown, which gave them a total of 199.15.

Garren picked up her second gold medal when she added the win in the USDF North American Junior Individual Championship to her record with a score of 70.14%. Schmidt, from Region 4, claimed the silver medal, while Chase Robertson of Canada took the bronze. Schmidt and Robertson earned identical scores of 70.02%, and the collective marks were also tied, so the tie was broken by the collective mark of the judge at C.

"The feeling is so amazing, especially since this is the first horse I've ever owned myself," said Garren of her win aboard Bell Angelo. "It's been a really wonderful experience growing and learning with him, so to see all those years of work pay off is really exciting."

All three medalists from the Junior Individual Championship returned to the podium as USDF North American Junior Dressage Freestyle medalists. Canada's Robertson exceeded her expectations by winning the gold medal, Region 4's Schmidt and Lou Heart earned silver with a score of 71.90%, and Region 3's Garren and Bell Angelo took the bronze medal with a score of 71.49%.

"I was blown away with how it went. We've had a little trouble with some of the movements, so for him to step up to the plate and perform the way he did, I could not be more proud. He's the best partner a girl could ask for," said a shocked Robertson.

### Young Rider Show Jumping

Wins don't get much more convincing than Zone 2's gold medal in the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) North American Young Rider Show Jumping Team Championship. The Zone 2 team of Katherine Strauss on All In, Madison Goetzmann aboard Prestigious, Samantha Cohen with Carmen, and Ailish Cunniffe on Baloucento finished on a score of 9.80, more than 20 points ahead

of the silver-medal Zone 10 team and the Mexican team that took bronze.

"I'm so excited to help add a gold medal to Zone 2's long list of medals," said Strauss. "We're all extremely grateful and proud to represent a team that's historically been so successful. There are so many riders who rode for Zone 2 who we all look up to today, like McLain Ward, Georgina Bloomberg, Reed Kessler, and the list goes on."

The Zone 10 team of Hayden Zadel riding Triskel der Kerliven, Hannah Loly on Ayma de la Demi Lune, Ransome Rombauer riding Emorkus Re, and Natalie Dean on Chacco's Goldy took the silver medal. The Mexican team won their first Young Rider medal in 10 years at NAYC. Jumping for Mexico was Carlos Hank Guerreiro on Market Irminka, Jose Madariaga Gonzalez Ulloa on Davidoff, Alfonso Gutierrez Diaz on Quick Ardent, and Juan Pablo Gaspar Albarez riding River Dance Semilly.

Daisy Farish of Zone 5 didn't have much room for error when she cantered back into the ring for the final round of the USHJA North American Young Rider Show Jumping Individual Championship. One rail, and she'd drop out of the medals, but Farish rose to the occasion, piloting Great White to their second faultless round of the day to claim individual gold. Zone 2's Cohen on Carmen and Zone 1's Mckayla Langmeier riding Durosa W put the pressure on Farish with clear rounds of their own, but when she answered the call, they had to settle for silver and bronze.

"He's a super brave horse—the more I challenge him, the better he jumps," Farish said of Great White. "If I just canter around softly, he's more likely to have one down than if I really ride him up to the jumps and challenge him. I think that's good for me, because going into the last round today, I knew I could be conservative and have a time fault, but then I thought, 'He's going to jump better if I ride it like a real round,' and he did."

### Junior Show Jumping

There was simply no catching the Zone 5 team in the USHJA North American Junior Rider Show Jumping Team Championship as they finished more than 10 points ahead of the Canadian team that took silver and the Mexico West team that took bronze. Alexandra Pielet on Helene VE joined forces with Charlise Casas on Rembrandt Blue, Paige Matthies on Dirkie Z, and Emma Kurtz on Pippi for the gold with just

17.88 penalties after the first day's speed round and the two rounds of the Team Final.

"I've known all these girls for years, and they're my good friends, so be able to win a gold medal with them is really special," said Casas.

Claiming the silver with a total score of 28.73 was the Mexico West team with Martina Franco Stephan riding Puertas So What, Claudette Villa Issa Campos riding La Jovena Cassandra, Mateo De la Mora Ramiro riding Qat Kid, and Maya Ines Denis Chambon on Carlos V LS la Silla. The Canadian team took bronze with Anya Bereznicki riding Diazella, Madison Hildermann on Charly, Austin Krawitt riding High Jack, and Sam Walker riding Coralissa, with a total score of 34.54.

Pielet was the only rider able to keep all the rails up on the final day to take the gold medal of the USHJA North American Junior Show Jumping Individual Championship riding Helene VE. Elli Yeager from Zone 4 came into the Individual Final in the lead aboard Waliba VDL, but had two rails in the final round to end up with the silver medal. Puerto Rican rider Claudia Villamil moved up from sixth place to claim the bronze in the Individual Final with Quite Close vd Smis.

"To be here and to get two golds is something I can't quite believe has happened," said Pielet. "It seems like it's a dream. I wanted to just come and do my best and put in clean rounds, especially for my team. I didn't want to let any of my team members down. Luckily, I didn't and I was able to keep jumping clear and it means a lot to win a championship. All the work I did all year paid off."

### Children Show Jumping

Team Canada finished the two rounds of the USHJA North American Children's Rider Show Jumping Team Championship with a clean slate to take the gold. The Zone 3/4/5/7 team claimed silver with 12 faults and team Mexico took home the bronze with a 20-fault total.

"Winning a gold medal for Canada is an amazing feeling," said Charlotte McLaughlin, who rode Bronan. "I feel so proud of myself, my horse and my teammates as well. It's a huge opportunity, especially since we're all so young." Joining McLaughlin on the podium were Stella Chernoff on Filia van den Bisschop; Eric Krawitt on Wellington; and Olivia Stephenson on Chaccana.

The combined zone team of Zone 3/4/5/7 took the silver with Madley

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Cardelli riding Chasinta, Addison Reed riding Cassandro Z, Genevieve Munson riding Stillwater, and Mia Abelo on Cassandra Dreams. Mexico's bronze-medal team included Julia Gaspar Albanez on Sueco de la Nutria, Camila Saad Vega on Doncella Granith Chief, Ana Leggoreta Hernandez on Santa

Rosa G Camille, and Santiago Menduet Davila on Santa Rosa Yakarta.

The gold medal came down to a three-way jump-off in the USHJA North American Children's Show Jumping Individual Championship, with Canada's Olivia Stephenson and Charlotte McLaughlin racing against one of the first riders from Guatemala to have jumped in the NAYC, Valentina Arenas Saravia. All three had jumped faultlessly over the five preceding rounds.

Stephenson ended up with the fastest clean jump-off round to earn gold aboard Chaccana, while McLaughlin was just a second slower for silver with Bronan and Arenas Saravia had eight faults for the bronze on Belina.

Stephenson said of Chaccana, "She's a very sweet mare. Everyone says chestnut mares are hot and spicy and maybe opinionated, but that's not her at all. I know she's always got my back and she's lovely to be around." 🐾

**[BELOW]** Daisy Farish and Great White topped the Young Rider Show Jumping Individual Championship. **[RIGHT]** Anna Weniger and Don Derrick won gold in the Young Rider Dressage Freestyle Championship.



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