

THE CHRONICLE *of the* HORSE

INTERCOLLEGIATE
ISSUE

24 THE DONATION
DILEMMA

40 COLLEGE RIDING
DURING COVID

68 GET TO KNOW
MAX AMAYA



ISHA SWANI & BOND

WCHR Junior
Challenge Champions
At Capital Challenge

p. 52



Madison Rauschenbach proved to herself that she has what it takes for equitation finals, taking the top ribbon in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships at Capital Challenge.

Rauschenbach Finds Affirmation At Capital Challenge

She never believed she could do the equitation, but an opportunity with Don Stewart and a special horse change that.

By **Laura Lemon** and **Mollie Bailey**
Photos by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

Of the many classes listed in the Garden State Horse Show (New Jersey) prize list, one fit the bill: meeper jumper at 2'3" to 2'6". Madison Rauschenbach was only 10, but she longed to compete for speed, and finally she got her opportunity aboard her mother Monica Rauschenbach's old amateur-owner hunter Vixen.

After an injury, the mare had two foals, and when she came back to work, Madison started showing her. "I was so little, and she just went so fast," she said. "I'd wanted to do the jumpers forever, and she was so fast in the hunters my mom told my trainer—she was like, 'Please let her do the jumpers? Please just once.' Once I did it on that mare, I never wanted to go back."

She still competed in the pony divisions, but her

devotion to the striped rails grew.

"I'll catch ride a junior hunter here and there, but that was [it]. I kind of devoted my riding career to jumpers," said the 17-year-old from Newburgh, New York. "I've never wanted to do the equitation. There's never been a day that I wanted to do it. I've never

It was a feeling I can't even explain landing off the jump and everyone whooping for you and whistling."

—Madison Rauschenbach

been like, 'Wow I want to do the equitation finals.' I just always wanted to do the jumpers, and I always wanted to do grand prix and all that."

As the years went on, she also worried she wasn't good enough for the equitation. But when resale horse Iwan showed an affinity for a slow pace instead of the junior jumpers, Madison entered a few more equitation classes. When Don Stewart inquired about the 7-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Quasimodo VD Molendreef—Katarma), he likewise inquired about Madison riding for him.

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY NORTH AMERICAN JUNIOR EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS Wilmington, Ohio—Sept. 27

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Madison Rauschenbach	Newburgh, N.Y.
2. Taylor Griffiths-Madden	Wellington, Fla.
3. Augusta Iwasaki	Calabasas, Calif.
4. Hensley Humphries	Austin, Texas
5. Texie Loyd	Windermere, Fla.
6. Maggie Hill	Jackson, Wyo.
7. Jennifer Staniloff	Setauket, N.Y.
8. Kennedy McCaulley	Wellington, Fla.
9. Maeve O'Donovan	Pittsford, N.Y.
10. Rylee Shufelt	Albuquerque, N.M.

➤95 riders competed.



Isha Swani and Bond jumped to the win in the \$5,000 WCHR Junior Hunter Challenge at Capital Challenge.

“He had asked me to come to Tryon [North Carolina] to show and start doing the eq,” said Madison. “And I was like, ‘Eh I don’t know—I don’t think I’m good enough to do the eq. I don’t know; I do the jumpers.’ Then I started doing it with him in June.”

With Stewart’s guidance, she competed in her first final at Capital Challenge in Wilmington, Ohio, on Sept. 27 in the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships. Out of 95 competitors, she topped the first round with an average score of 89.33 and maintained her lead with a second-round score of 91.33 to win her equitation final debut.

“It was a feeling I can’t even explain landing off the jump and everyone whooping for you and whistling,” she said. “I’m hard on myself in a way. ‘I’m not good enough.’ I never did it, so I thought I couldn’t do it. So I think this was good. I was like, ‘OK now I can go; I can do it.’ I didn’t have expectations obviously to win—I had no idea I could ever win in a million years. I just wanted to put in consistent good rounds. Iwan was just amazing. He was right there every step.”

Madison’s new focus has also paid off in other ways beyond accolades.

“My equitation has helped me so much in the jumper ring because it’s so important to stick to a plan,” said Madison. “I’m like, ‘OK, now I want to do [equitation].’ Thank God my mom and Don were like, ‘You need to do it. It’s important.’ I’m like, ‘Wow I kind of like this. This is fun.’ I couldn’t ask for a better horse. I know him like the back of my hand.”



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH LUKE RINEHART

Early this year, Luke Rinehart made the ENAL Children’s Hunter Final a goal. And while 2020 morphed into something never seen before—with championships canceling left and right—he held onto the hope that his goal could be realized. Though the final moved from the Pennsylvania National Horse Show to Capital Challenge, which moved from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to Wilmington, Ohio, the 13-year-old from Westfield, Indiana, made it with a trusted mount in Taylor Johnson’s Cavalli.



Following her barnmate Madeline Schaefer's WCHR titles, Rose Campbell kept up the momentum for Shadow Ridge Farm, capturing the WCHR Children's Challenge aboard Tallyman at Capital Challenge.

"He's a wonderful horse, and it's really fun to be able to have him for so long and know him so well," said Rinehart's mother, Catherine Rinehart. "He's actually been in our program since he was 5. His owner started him in the 11 and under and went all the way through the amateur-owner hunters. She works for us now—she rides professionally. It just worked out that Luke was able to have the opportunity to lease Cavalli."

And with the 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding of unrecorded breeding, Luke led the way children's final out of 29 competitors.

"It feels fantastic," said Luke. "I did not think coming in that I would be first, but I thought I'd get more like top 12, maybe sixth or seventh, so I was very excited how it turned out."

1. What's the best advice you've ever received?

"Don't take everything for granted" is probably a big one. One day you could have something you really enjoy like

your horses, and then the next day they could go away or something could happen. I think it's important to treasure what you have.

2. What random hobbies do you have?

Following the stock market.

3. Who would you like to have dinner with?

Harry DeLeyer and Kent Farrington

4. Where did the fist pump tradition start?

"His friend Izzy Beisel is pretty into the fist pump," said Catherine. "After they gave his score when he was coming out of the ring, he did a fist pump in the air and maybe also in the victory gallop when he passed those kids—his friends in the stands. That's kind of their thing."

5. What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be like my parents when I grow up. I want to follow in their footsteps and be a trainer and rider.



Leigh Nanda and El Casper topped the NAL Children's Jumper rankings before claiming the NAL Children's Jumper Final at Capital Challenge.



From the first moment Sterling Malnik saw Coronation, she knew he was special, and he proved her right, capturing the WCHR 3'3" Junior Challenge title at Capital Challenge.

FINISHING THE SEASON STRONG

Heading into the \$5,000 WCHR Junior Hunter Challenge, Isha Swani had an enviable decision to make: Which of her four junior hunters should she choose for the big class? In the end she selected Bond, whom she'd ridden to the small junior hunter, 16-17, reserve championship, and who had partnered with one of her trainers, Geoffrey Hesslink, to finish second in the \$10,000 WCHR Professional Final.

It was a wise decision as Swani and Bond took the top check home to Ponte Verde Beach, Florida.

"He definitely likes a very forward ride," said Swani, of the 8-year-old warmblood by Clarimo. "You have to get out of the saddle and keep your leg on but don't touch his mouth. I try to keep a nice, flowing pace around the course, keep my leg on and keep him straight. He has such a massive stride for how small he is, so we work on making adjustments and pace."

Swani, 17, paired up with Bond a year ago, shortly before moving to trainers Hesslink and Brendan Williams.

"It's been one of the best riding years of my life," she said. "Starting in Wellington [Florida] it was hugely successful the whole circuit. Even with COVID they put together such a great plan for the summer, making sure we had points to qualify for the National Horse Show [Kentucky] and were prepared going into Capital Challenge. I look forward to every horse show with them and all the new things we'll learn."

Swani and her sister, fellow junior rider Raina Swani, live 3 ½ hours from Wellington, where her trainers are based in the winter. During quarantine they drove down twice a month to train. The rest of the time they keep their legs strong with lessons on practice horses with trainer Bethany Lee, who's also part of the Hesslink Williams LLC team.

"Their teaching style really suits me," said Isha. "They ride similarly to how I do. They're always telling me not to overthink the course. They say just enough so that I understand, then they tell me to trust my eye, and I'll be fine."

A late birthday means Isha will have another year in the junior divisions, though she's finishing high school this year. She's hoping to take a gap year next year to focus on riding before heading to college. 🐾

LAST-MINUTE FALLS, HOCKEY STICKS AND SHUTTER SPEED: GET TO KNOW CAMPBELL HUDKINS

Miley Cyrus may have sung about it, but Campbell Hudkins lived it: the climb, that is. Sitting in 75th place in the EMO Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final—East after the flat phase, the 13-year-old's 89.5 score in the gymnastics round moved her up 67 spots. And Hudkins lived up to horse show folklore, that a bad school means a good round, aboard Maverick Helmer's Canterbury.

"Funny part is, I actually fell off before my gymnastic phase on Friday," said Hudkins, Farmington, Connecticut. "And then I went in and did well, so I think that was honestly a good little wake-up call."

Prior to the final phase, Hudkins removed herself from the horse show—focusing on herself and her mental game for several hours. Her score of 89.50 in the third round propelled her to the top honors. Without further ado, get to know the girl behind the climb:

Horses Run In The Family—Sort Of

Though her dad never interacted with a horse—besides one carnival incident—and her mother stopped riding at a very young age, Hudkins had two family cheerleaders pushing her toward equines: her aunt and uncle—and grand prix riders—Christine and Jonathan McCrea.

"They introduced me to the horse world when I was young, and I started growing up with it," she said. "I'm very grateful to all the people who helped me when I was really young. I rode at a local barn when I was around 3, 4 and 5 called Folly Farm. And I'm grateful for them because they gave me a little bit more of a push to keep going in the sport."

Conquering The Nerves

For five hours at Capital Challenge, Hudkins waited to show. In order to keep her nerves in check, she didn't pay attention to what was happening in the ring and instead focused on schoolwork. What advice does she give to others battling the nail-biting lull between the course walk and entering the ring?

"If you're in a big class like I was—there are 120 people, and you're going 114—you need to separate yourself because watching 110 rounds is not good for you I think," said Hudkins. "You should get away and do something and maybe go sit by yourself somewhere else and listen to music. I sometimes sketch when I'm nervous. I sometimes call my dad or my friends. I text with my friends and ask them how their days are. I communicate with other people, which I think helps a lot because other people can calm your nerves. It's your round, and it's what you make of it, so if you want to have a good round, I think you need to focus on yourself."

Marrying Horses With Another Hobby

In her second year on the yearbook staff at Renbrook School (Connecticut), the eighth-grader has discovered another passion that can tie in with horses: photography.

"Photography is actually something that keeps me calm because I've been working on timing, and I've been taking pictures of horses and my friends competing," said Hudkins. "I got my own camera for Christmas, and I started using it and seeing what I could do and experimenting



with it. I've been shooting pictures at the beach, taking portraits of people, trying to get some competition photos. I didn't bring my camera to Capital Challenge; I brought my phone, which isn't as great quality. But it was still fun to just experiment with different things."

Making The Most Of School

Hudkins' school requires students to play on a sports team, and Hudkins likes taking advantage of this normal school experience and connecting with non-horsey friends.

"I think that being a multi-talented athlete is fun and different because most riders just focus on riding," said Hudkins. "I was on my varsity basketball and lacrosse team last year. And then I have played field hockey for the past five years. I really enjoy playing different sports because I can have more interactions with my friends at school because none of them ride, so it's more time to spend with them."

EMO INSURANCE USHJA 3'3" JUMPING SEAT MEDAL FINAL Wilmington, Ohio—Sept. 25-26

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Campbell Hudkins	Farmington, Conn.
2. Rylee Shufelt	Albuquerque, N.M.
3. Kyla Sullivan	Wallingford, Conn.
4. Isabella David	Holmdel, N.J.
5. Reese Merna	Mendham, N.J.
6. Camille Borres	Lambertville, N.J.
7. Bella Clemente	Wellington, Fla.
8. Saylor Shea	Granger, Ind.
9. Samantha Takacs	Oldwick, N.J.
10. Schuyler Dayner	Odessa, Fla.

>122 riders competed.

TIDBITS

• In their final appearance together, **Dominic Gibbs** and **Douwe** went out on top, taking the NAL Low Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Jumper Final at Capital Challenge.

“My sister is actually going to start riding him this fall. This was my last show with him, so it was a great note to end on,” said the 17-year-old from Colorado Springs, Colorado. “He’s really one of the most incredible horses I’ve ever gotten to know. He’s so fast, and he’s really come a long way. He used to be a little timid and would jump way too high over the fences if I even got a touch long, but our relationship has grown so much he’s been able to be much more confident, and now we’re able to fly around the jump-offs with no problem at all.”

• **Schuyler Dayner** had twice competed at Capital Challenge, but looking back, those years were just practice for 2020. In

her first appearance in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children’s Medal Finals, she scored an 88.33 in the first round and an 87.83 in the second on **Gambino** to take the top spot out of 44 riders.

“The past two years I just came and

did the age group and the Jumping Seat Finals, and I just kind of did it for experience,” said the 13-year-old from Tampa, Florida. “I felt more comfortable this year after doing it a couple times. The first few years I was a little nervous, so this year I was much more confident.”

• Indoors can be a scary place—especially at the first indoor show of the year. But **Eva Mackenzie’s** homework with **Farmore State Of The Art** made the experience a little less daunting as they entered the WCHR Pony Challenge.

“We were just practicing big courses—in bigger rings, in bigger indoor rings—like the open spaces and shadows and stuff,” said the 10-year-old from Darien, Connecticut, who won with a score of 88.66. “‘State’ is amazing to ride. He’s perfect, and I love him. My favorite part of my course was the bending line. I wasn’t sure what to expect. I rode up to it, and it just felt smooth.”

TAYLOR HARRIS INSURANCE SERVICES NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MEDAL FINALS Wilmington, Ohio—Sept. 27

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Schuyler Dayner	Odessa, Fla.
2. Sterling Malnik	Ocean Ridge, Fla.
3. Reese Merna	Mendham, N.J.
4. Maryhunter Millet	Hillsborough, N.C.
5. Paige Walkenbach	Paradise Valley, Ariz.
6. Kalli Meagher	Virginia Beach, Va.
7. Allie Hayes	Fort Gratiot, Mich.
8. Claire Campbell	Cochranville, Pa.
9. Avery DeYoung	Richmond, Texas
10. Jordan Gibson	Colorado Springs, Colo.

➤44 riders competed.



Garrison Forest School Equestrian Institute

For more than 100 years, Garrison Forest School riders have been learning self-confidence, improving their skills, having fun and making friends through our nationally recognized equestrian programs.

VISIT US AT: gfs.org/riding

Garrison Forest School.
You Can. You Will.

GIRLS' DAY, K-12 / COED PRESCHOOL
GIRLS' NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL BOARDING, GRADES 8-12
300 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

CAPITAL CHALLENGE
Wilmington, Ohio—Sept. 25-Oct. 4

SMALL JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: Miller's Cove, Balmoral.
RES: Reston, Susan Moriconi.

SMALL JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: No Introduction, Fox Meadow Farm.
RES: Bond, Shadowfax Equestrian LLC.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: High Society, The Lignelli Family.
RES: Lion, Davlyn Farms.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: Chevito, Sophia Mitchell
RES: Mercy Me, Donald Stewart.

3'3" JR. HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH: Coronation, Sterling Malnik.
RES: Category, Camille Leblond.

3'3" JR. HUNTER, 15-17 CH: Kingston Lane, Roberts Stables LLC.
RES: Cornucopia, Isabella David.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH: Skorekeeper, Ava Berman.
RES: Caso 2, Elizabeth Simpson

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH: Bozeman, Nicodemus Farms.
RES: Expecto Patronum, Ashland Farms.

CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH: See More Blue, Basset Equine LLC.
RES: Highvalley, Ponies & Palms Show Stables LLC.

SMALL PONY HUNTER CH: Armani, Madeline Schaefer.
RES: So Enchanted, Sprucedale Inc.

MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH: Goldhills As You Like It, Vivian Golden.
RES: Enough Said, Basset Equine LLC.

LARGE PONY HUNTER CH: Chicobello, Agatha Lignelli.
RES: California Dreamin', Millennium Farm Inc.

EQUITATION, 12 & UNDER CH: Allie Hayes.
RES: Paige Walkenbach.

EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. A CH: Eleanor Rudnicki.

RES: Isabella Holway.

EQUITATION, 13-14, SEC. B CH: Vanessa McCaughley.
RES: Reilly Gogul.

EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH: Annalise Manoog.
RES: Bella Clemente.

EQUITATION, 15-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH: Grace Debney.
RES: Augusta Iwasaki.

EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH: Lilly Anthes.
RES Tie: Ava Strohmeier & Cara McFadden.

EQUITATION, 16-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH: Dominic Gibbs.
RES: Austin Krawitt.

EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. A CH: Texie Loyd.
RES: Vivian Wiggins.

EQUITATION, 17-YR.-OLD, SEC. B CH: Ellie Ferrigno.
RES: Skyler Fields.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. HUNTER CH: High Society, The Lignelli Family.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, 3'3" JR. HUNTER: Category, Camille Leblond.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, PONY HUNTER Tie: Chicobello, Agatha Lignelli & Armani, Madeline Schaefer.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, CHILDREN'S HUNTER: Skorekeeper, Ava Berman.

EMO TRIP OF THE SHOW, JR. EQUITATION: Dominic Gibbs.

GRAND JR. HUNTER CH: Chevito, Sophia Mitchell.

HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: High Society, The Lignelli Family.

HIGH-POINT JR. HUNTER, 16-17: Chevito, Sophia Mitchell.

BEST JR. RIDER: Sophia Mitchell.

GRAND 3'3" JR. HUNTER CH: Coronation, Sterling Malnik.

BEST 3'3" JR. HUNTER RIDER: Sterling Malnik.

STEWART-WARNER JR. CUP CH: Ellie Ferrigno.

GRAND CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH: Bozeman, Nicodemus Farms.

BEST CHILDREN'S HUNTER RIDER: Hollin Sutherland.

BEST CHILDREN'S JUMPER RIDER: Leigh Nanda.

STEWART-WARNER CHILDREN'S CUP CH: Hollin Sutherland.

GRAND PONY HUNTER CH: Goldhills As You Like It, Vivian Golden.

BEST PONY RIDER: Vivian Golden.

STEWART-WARNER PONY CUP CH: Olivia Sweetnam.

BEST MEDIUM JR. JUMPER RIDER: Emma Seving.

BEST LOW JR. JUMPER RIDER: Ellie Bruder.

BEST CHILDREN'S JUMPER RIDER: Leigh Nanda.

WCHR JR. CHALLENGE CH: Bond, Shadowfax Equestrian LLC.
RES: Gone Country, Mae-J Holdings LLC.

WCHR 3'3" JR. CHALLENGE CH: Coronation, Sterling Malnik.
RES: Category, Camille Leblond.

WCHR PONY CHALLENGE CH: Farmore State Of The Art, Eva MacKenzie.
RES: Chicobello, Agatha Lignelli.

WCHR CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE CH: Tallyman, Maher Family LLC.
RES: I.M. Gold, Bailey Benner.

BEST EQUITATION RIDER: Madison Rauschenbach.

LEADING EQUITATION TRAINER: Don Stewart.

NAL CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH: Cavalli, Taylor Johnson.
RES: Expecto Patronum, Ashland Farms.

NAL CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH: El Casper, Leigh Nanda.
RES: Camera Ready, Falcon Ridge Stables.

NAL LOW JR./AMATEUR/AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Douwe, Plain Bay Farm.
RES: Violette De Launay, Ellie Bruder.





LAKE ERIE
COLLEGE

RIDE

Earn a degree doing what you love.

EQUESTRIAN FACILITY MANAGEMENT

EQUINE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

EQUESTRIAN TEACHER-TRAINER

EQUINE THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP

NEW EQUINE MASSAGE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



SECOND INDOOR RIDING RING NOW OPEN!