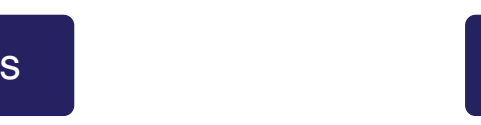


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3



Results & Orders

Live Stream

Abigail Gordon Clinches the Win in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals

Upper Marlboro, MD – Abigail Gordon 14, of Statesville, NC, and Grace Debney, 16, of Hampden, MA, claimed national championship titles on Sunday, October 3, at the Capital Challenge Horse Show at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Gordon earned her victory in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal while Debney topped the Palm Beach International Academy (PBIA) North American Junior Equitation Championship.



Abigail Gordon was presented as the winner of the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal (THIS) by THIS President and Director Michael Taylor and Christina Kelly. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

The Capital Challenge Horse Show continues through October 10, but Sunday's championship finals marked the conclusion of the show's Equitation Weekend, presented by Bigeq.com.

A total of 39 juniors, qualifying from across the country, competed in Sunday's THIS National Children's Medal Final at Capital Challenge. The top 10 from the first round then returned for a second round.

Gordon sat in second place with a score of 87.66 following the first round, and she moved into the lead with a score of 87.41 in the second round for combined first and second-round score of 175.07.



Abigail Gordon and Heartbeat Z. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

After the second round, because Olivia Sweetnam of Wellington, FL, sat within two points of Gordon, and Catherine Kramer of Carmel, IN, was just a fraction of a point behind Sweetnam, the three competitors were brought back for a final test that included a counter canter, trot fence, and hand gallop. In the end, Gordon prevailed with a third-round score of 83.66 putting her at the top with a score of 258.73 overall.

[Read More](#)

Grace Debney Holds the Lead to Win the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships



Grace Debney and Quimby. Photo by **Shawn McMillen Photography**

Following the opening round of the PBIA North American Junior Equitation Championship, a field of 133 junior riders was narrowed to the top 20 competitors, who returned in reverse order of their standings for a second round.

With the first round high score of 92, Debney was the final rider to return for the second course, where she held the lead, earning a score of 94.66 for an overall winning score of 186.66.

Second place with an overall score of 183 went to Riley Hogan of Warrenton, VA, riding Wengen, owned by Don Stewart.

Audrey Schulze of Ridgewood, NJ, rounded out the top three with a score of 178.24 on Castellian W, owned by Riverbrook Sport Horses LLC.

"I definitely felt a lot of pressure going in because Riley [Hogan] laid it down. She had a beautiful round, so I definitely had to go in there and do my best," said Debney of heading into the second round in the top spot. "I have so much confidence in the horse, so I knew after the first jump that I could take a breath."

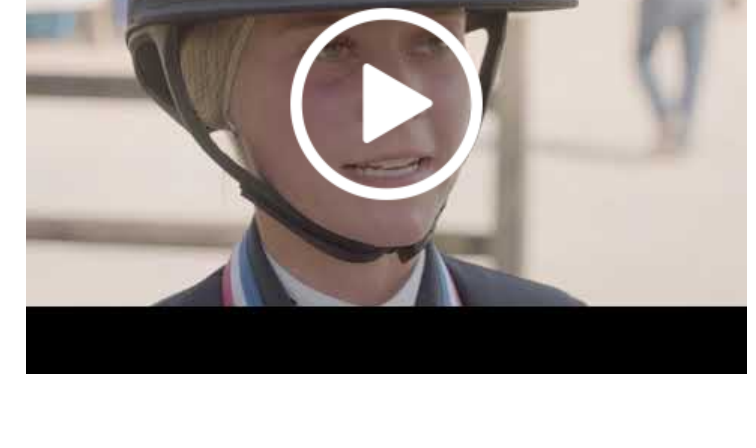
[Read More](#)

Hear From the Champions of Equitation Weekend

Abigail Gordon, winner of the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Children's Medal Finals



Grace Debney, winner of the Palm Beach International Academy North American Junior Equitation Championships



Riley Hogan, winner of the EMO Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final - East



Claire Stevenson, winner of the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championships



MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 EDITION

The Daily Update

Capital Challenge
2021 Show News

EQUITATION WEEKEND PRESENTED BY BIGEQ.COM



02 Winner's Circle

Grace Debney takes the blue in the PBIA Junior Equitation Championships.



03 Designer's Perspective

An inside look at the equitation finals from the course designer's perspective.



Abigail Gordon Wins THIS

Abigail Gordon of Statesville, NC, earned her victory in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Children's Medal. A total of 39 juniors, qualifying from across the country, competed in Sunday's class, with the top 10 returning for a second round.

Gordon, 14, sat in second place following the first round, and after laying down a solid second trip, the

judges awarded her an 87.41 and the young rider moved into the lead. But the competition wasn't over. Olivia Sweetnam of Wellington, FL, sat within two points of Gordon, and Catherine Kramer of Carmel, IN, was just a fraction of a point behind Sweetnam. The three competitors were brought back for a final test that included a counter canter, trot fence, and hand gallop. In the end,

Gordon prevailed with a third-round score of 83.66 putting her at the top. "I got more confidence out of this," Gordon said of her win, "but it's not only about winning; it's about doing my best. I gave it my all and when you do, it pays off. I've worked pretty hard these past couple years since [I started] training with Ashland Farms, and I've been trusting the process ever since. This [medal final] was

continued on page 4

Click above for interactive stories, results, and updates in the Capital Challenge daily newsletter, [The Daily Update!](#)

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