

butterflies every year I come. It's a special feeling to win.

"The Guthrie family has been such a great sponsor of horse sport for so many years," continued Campbell-Cooper. "I'm really excited that Muffie Guthrie and Jeff Brandmaier are involved in the derby series. It's really important for Canada to keep having these classes and showcasing the hunters."

The overall 2022 Canadian Hunter Derby Reserve Champion was Taylor Brooks, of Ashton, ON, and Spectre, a nine-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Taylor Bond. The pair earned fourth place in the \$15,000 Braeburn Farms Hunter Derby on Sunday before winning the \$25,000 Knightwood Hunter Derby on Tuesday. Brooks and her mount earned a high base score of 87 with eight additional handy points and 10 high option bonus points for an impressive total score of 105.



Ben Radvanyi Photography

Taylor Brooks of Ashton, ON, and Spectre won the \$25,000 Knightwood Hunter Derby to claim the Canadian Hunter Derby Reserve Championship title.



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Lauren Esdale and Viandios d'Avril celebrate their U25 National Championship title with a victory lap in the Coca-Cola Coliseum.

## LAUREN ESDALE CLAIMS UNDER 25 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

On the final day of the Royal Horse Show, 21-year-old Lauren Esdale of Seagrave, ON, was crowned the \$12,500 'Alfred Rogers' Under 25 National Champion.

The competition consisted of three phases held over two days and, after exceptional performances throughout, Esdale and Viandios d'Avril, a 13-year-old grey Selle Francais gelding (Diamant de Semilly x Fol Avril) owned by Pauline Esdale, were named Canada's U25 champions for 2022.

A total of 12 athletes under the age of 25 qualified from across Canada and the United States to compete for top honours in the U25 national final. Carrying their scores forward from Thursday's opening speed phase, faults were added from Saturday's two-round jumping phase to determine the overall winner.

In Thursday's opening phase, Esdale took the win with a quick and clear round in 60.40 seconds over Canadian course designer Michel Vaillancourt's 14 jumping efforts. For Phase 2, riders entered the ring in reverse order of merit to contest the challenging 1.45m course in a time allowed of 66 seconds.

The first round proved challenging with only five pairs jumping clean to qualify for the jump-off. Esdale was joined in the jump-off by Rayne Dubois, Ellah Dubeau-Kielty, Jade Lalonde, and Julia Wiggins.

Lalonde came back first riding Kapital Creation Z and jumped clear in 44.28 seconds before Dubois, 22, posted another clean round in a time of 38.49 seconds riding Dublin, a 13-year-old bay Belgian Sport Horse gelding (Ugano Sitte x Acorado I) owned by Millar Brooke Farm. Dubeau-Kielty incurred one rail for four faults followed by Wiggins with two rails in a time of 44.19. Esdale also dropped a rail at the second jump to incur four penalty points in a time of 40.99 seconds.

With a win in the speed phase and a third-place finish on Saturday, Esdale was crowned the 2022 Under 25 National Champion, presented in memory of Alfred Rogers. Helped by Saturday's win after placing ninth in the opening speed phase, Dubois of Ottawa, ON, earned enough points to be named the Under 25 Reserve Champion for 2022.

"I don't think words can describe how much this show means to me," said Esdale of winning at The Royal. "I grew up watching this horse show and kind of dreaming about it, even before I ever started riding. Winning a championship, especially like the U25 my first year doing the big classes, is just a dream come true."

Esdale has been paired with Viamdios d'Avril, better known by the nickname 'Ted,' since January of 2021.

"Ever since I got him, he has been a complete gamechanger for me," said Esdale. "He's given me all the confidence and he's taught me so much in such a short period of time. I couldn't be happier."

Esdale trains with the Ballard family at Looking Back Farm in Tottenham, ON.

"Dave was here with me today and he's really been helping me so much the past year," said Esdale. "And Erynn, she's the best. She's probably the best virtual coach there is. You would swear she's here with you. Before I even get off, I look at my phone, and I already have a whole list of things to work on, things to improve on, and things I did well. It's pretty incredible."



Lauren Esdale, pictured aboard Viamdios d'Avril, received an Antares Sellier saddle and a cooler, presented by the Equestrian Canada (EC) Jumping Committee, in recognition of their U25 National Championship title. Plates for the class winners and prize money were generously donated by the Uplands Charitable Foundation in memory of the late Alfred Rogers.



Ottawa's Rayne Dubois and Dublin, owned by Millar Brooke Farm, earned the U25 Reserve National Championship title.

## CLINICS, CLINICS, CLINICS!

**Who:** Louis Konickx (the Netherlands)

**What:** FEI Jumping Course Designers Maintenance Course

**When:** Monday and Tuesday, January 16 and 17, 2023

**Where:** Lisbon, Portugal

**How:** Open to all FEI Jumping Course Designers

Application deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022

For full information and to register, click [here](#).

**Who:** Maria Hernek (Sweden)

**What:** FEI Jumping Stewards Maintenance Course

**When:** Saturday, March 25, 2023

**Where:** Dublin, Ireland

**How:** Open to all FEI Jumping Stewards on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Application deadline: Monday, February 20, 2023

For full information and to register, click [here](#).