

Shipman and Kotler Ascend to the EMO Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final Titles

They persevere to rise to the top on the East and West coasts, respectively.

Grace Shipman and Anna Kotler each kept their composure through the three phases of the EMO Insurance/3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals, and their perseverance was rewarded with impressive victories.

Shipman, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, defeated a field of 162 East Coast riders to take top honors during the Capital Challenge Horse Show September 28-29 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have won this year," said Shipman, who rode Calamanzo to the victory. "It's such a fun and technical class, and the Capital Challenge is a special horse show, so this win really means a lot to me."

The first test was the flat phase, with judges Mark Jungherr and Virginia Edwards carefully watching riders execute changing stride length and the fluidity of the counter canter. This was followed by the gymnastic and jumping phases designed by Ken Krome.



Grace Shipman defeated 162 others to claim the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final—East riding Calamanzo.

"The courses were great," said Shipman. "They were challenging but incorporated a lot of chances to show off everyone's abilities. I really had a lot of fun in both rounds, especially with the bounce in the gymnastic phase!"

Shipman scored an 86.72 on the flat to sit 37th but made an impressive comeback after moving into second with an 88 after the gymnastics. Continuing to impress the judges, Shipman scored an untouchable 89 in the final jumping phase, which put her at the top of the scoreboard.

"Each round asked a lot of questions, so my trainer, Val Renihan, and I kept watching and going over the plan for the courses," she said. "My horse has a big stride, so I had to focus on putting a curve in most of the bending lines. Phase three started with a forward line, so getting up to pace was important. I definitely felt some pressure

heading into the final phase, but I knew that if I stuck to the plan, we'd have a good round. I'm really happy with how everything went."

Shipman has been partnered with her Holsteiner gelding for more than a year. The pair competed in the class last year, taking second in the gymnastic phase but finishing out of the ribbons overall. They spent the past year figuring out each other's strengths and weaknesses under the guidance of Renihan.

"I'm really proud of the partnership and consistency that we've built," Shipman said of Calamanzo. "He has a great canter that makes it easy to find the jumps, and he really gives it his all in the show ring. He has a big sense of humor, and he likes to test

USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final—East Results

Rider	Horse	Trainer	Owner	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Overall
1. GRACE SHIPMAN	CALAMANZO	VALERIE RENIHAN	GRACE SHIPMAN	86.72	88	89	396.72
2. SALLY IVES	JINTER VAN HET HAGEHOF	DONALD STEWART	SALLY IVES	87.29	85.85	88	392.06
3. LOGAN THOMAS	CHACOM ASK	MICHAEL DOWLING	REVERIE SPORT HORSES LLC	88.58	86.85	85.95	390.75
4. HELENA TIMPANY	FRH REMARKABLE	ABBI SELEY-FERRINGO	FRH GROUP	85.45	86.35	85.75	386.45
5. LILY EPSTEIN	GREYSON PH	ALLISON SWEETNAM	LILY EPSTEIN	84	85.25	86.75	385.37
6. RJ MAYA CANTINERO	PLUS SN	EMILY SMITH	ASHLAND FARMS	88.92	86.45	82.65	383.89
7. ABIGAIL ROBERTS	CHOCOLATE CHIP 12	ABIGAIL BLANKENSHIP	WENDY DIXON	87	80.95	87	382.42
8. MADELINE BROOKS	CLEARVIEW	ANNA SCHIERHOLZ	HANNAH DODD	85.37	84.15	85.25	382.09