THE CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW
EST. 1994
September 23 - October 4, 2026
Prince George's Equestrian Center
Upper Marlboro, MD

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Schuyler Dayner Dominates in North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championships

Upper Marlboro, MD – Riders and horses returned to the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, on Thursday, September 24, 2026, to contend the second day of competition at the 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show (CCHS) Equitation Showcase, presented by BIGEQ.com. All eyes were on the adult equitation riders at the conclusion of the day as Schuyler Dayner of Odessa, FL, led the victory gallop in the North American Adult Amateur Equitation Championships.

Forty duos contested the course designed by Joseph Carnicom before the top 10 pairings advanced to the second round. The top two riders were then asked by the judges to return for a ride-off test. Dayner bested her first round score of 86 with an impressive second-round performance of 90 and found herself heading under the CCHS arch one final time alongside Xavier Gomez to vie for the winning spot.

Schuyler Dayner used her experience to guide her new partner, Bozzic, to the win. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

No stranger to an equitation win, Dayner navigated one final successful test for the win aboard Bozzic, Wood View LLC's 10-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding.

"He marched right around and jumped like he had done this his whole life even though, to my knowledge, this is his first equitation final," she remarked.

Dayner, who is a D1 athlete on the equestrian team at Southern Methodist University (SMU), has already crafted a successful career in the equitation, often while catch riding.

Schuyler Dayner celebrates a victorious performance with her team. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

"I showed him for the first time today and only rode him for the first time yesterday," commented Dayner. "I got to know him a little bit in the Adult Equitation division earlier today where we were champions, so I felt very confident going into the first round.

"Augusta [Iwasaki] and I went to school together at SMU, and she offered that I could come compete this week if I wanted," she continued of the new partnership. "She arranged this with his owner Chrissy Kear, which I am very grateful for. This is my first equitation final as an adult, so I was very excited about that."

Xavier Gomez moved up from his 2025 placing and accepted the second-place award with Fortis Equine's Pynnock van Horst. Lanie Walkenbach rounded out the top three with Walkenbach Equestrian LLC's Let's Go.

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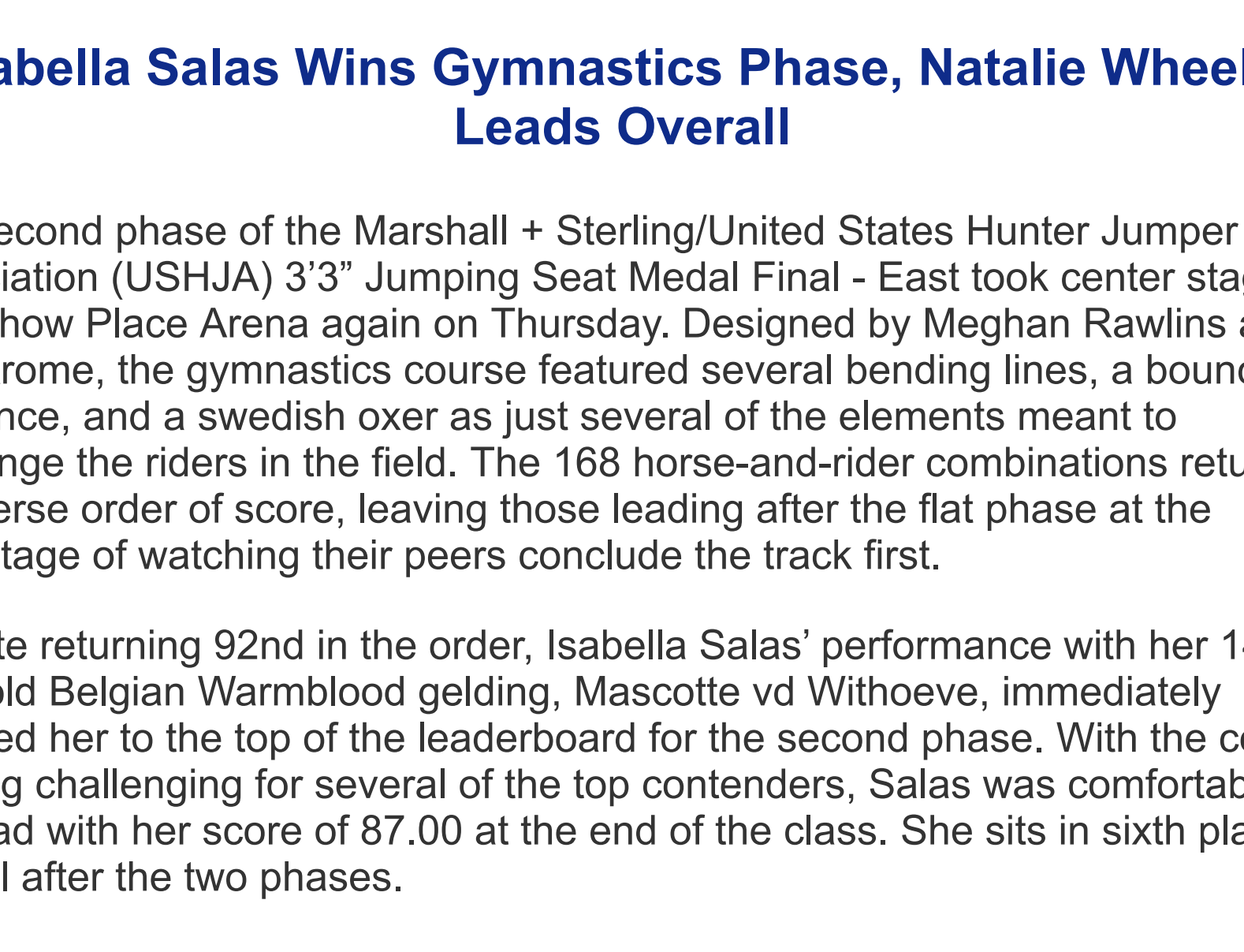
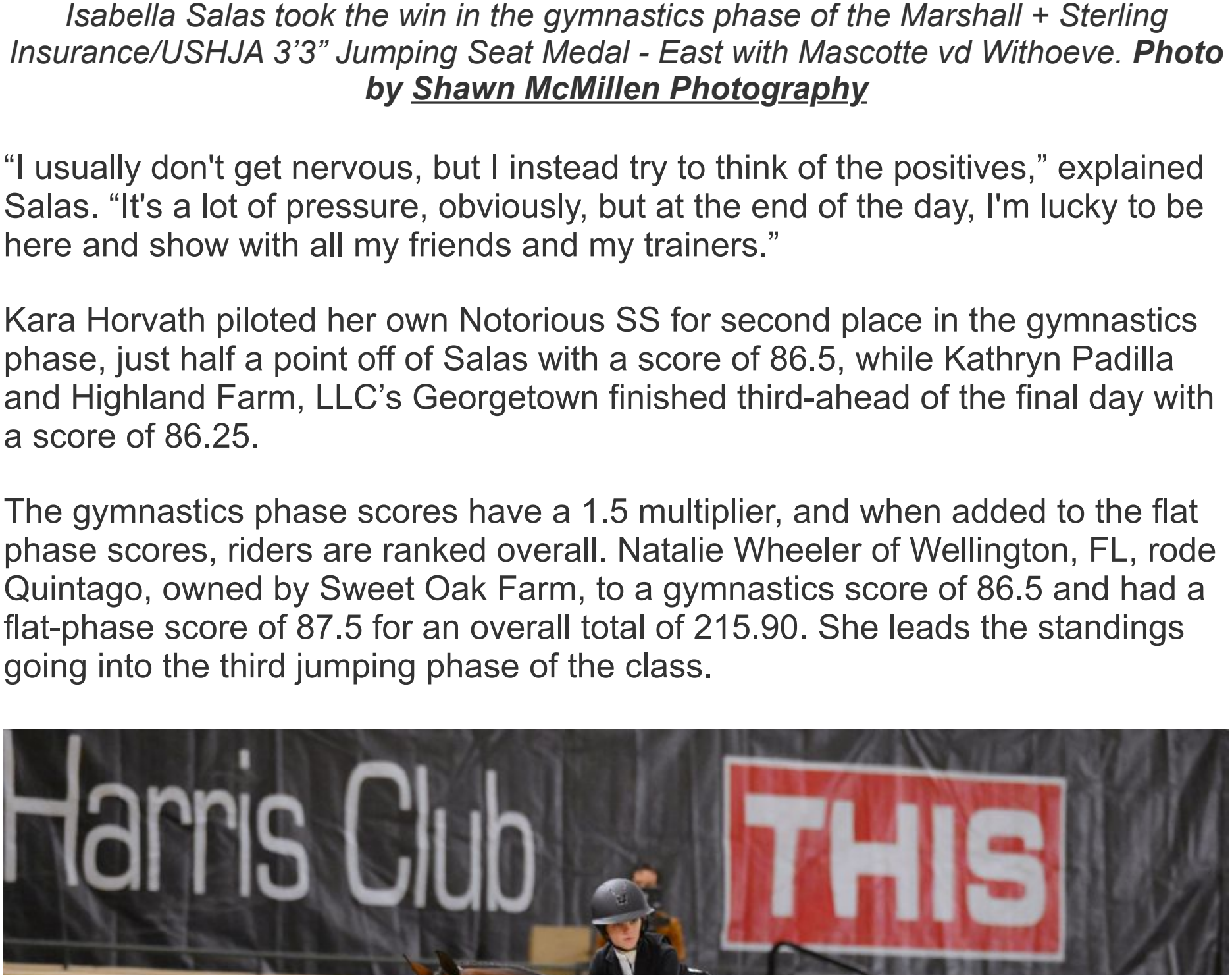


Hear from winner Schuyler Dayner about her experience winning at Capital Challenge Horse Show.

Isabella Salas Wins Gymnastics Phase, Natalie Wheeler Leads Overall

The second phase of the Marshall + Sterling/United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final - East took center stage in The Show Place Arena again on Thursday. Designed by Meghan Rawlins and Ken Krome, the gymnastics course featured several bending lines, a bounce, trot fence, and a swedish oxer as just several of the elements meant to challenge the riders in the field. The 168 horse-and-rider combinations returned in reverse order of score, leaving those leading after the flat phase at the advantage of watching their peers conclude the track first.

Despite returning 92nd in the order, Isabella Salas' performance with her 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding, Mascotte vd Withoeve, immediately bumped her to the top of the leaderboard for the second phase. With the course proving challenging for several of the top contenders, Salas was comfortably in the lead with her score of 87.00 at the end of the class. She sits in sixth place overall after the two phases.

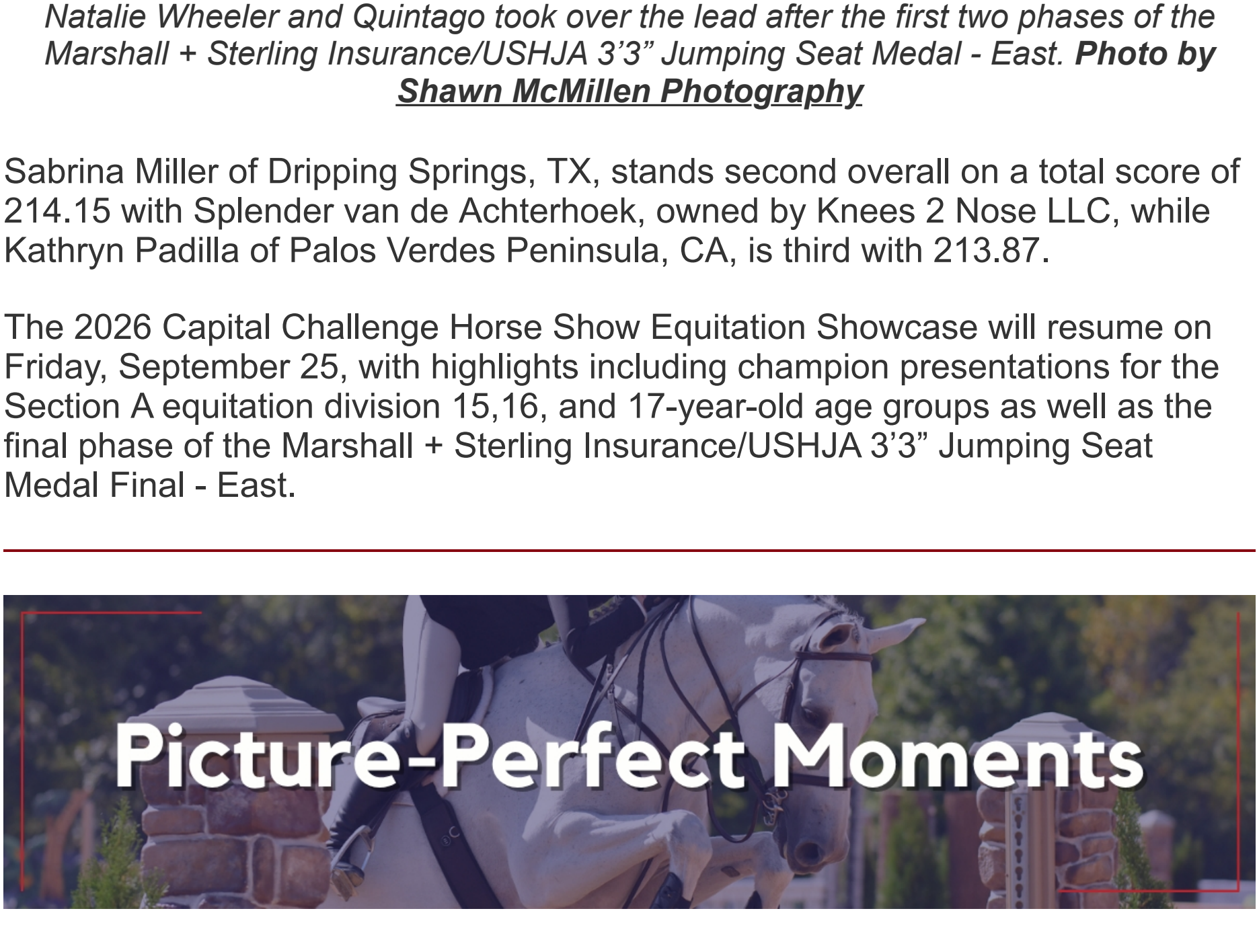


Isabella Salas took the win in the gymnastics phase of the Marshall + Sterling Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal - East with Mascotte vd Withoeve. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

"I usually don't get nervous, but I instead try to think of the positives," explained Salas. "It's a lot of pressure, obviously, but at the end of the day, I'm lucky to be here and show with all my friends and my trainers."

Kara Horvath piloted her own Notorious SS for second place in the gymnastics phase, just half a point off of Salas with a score of 86.5, while Kathryn Padilla and Highland Farm, LLC's Georgetown finished third-ahead of the final day with a score of 86.25.

The gymnastics phase scores have a 1.5 multiplier, and when added to the flat phase scores, riders are ranked overall. Natalie Wheeler of Wellington, FL, rode Quintago, owned by Sweet Oak Farm, to a gymnastics score of 86.5 and had a flat-phase score of 87.5 for an overall total of 215.90. She leads the standings going into the third jumping phase of the class.

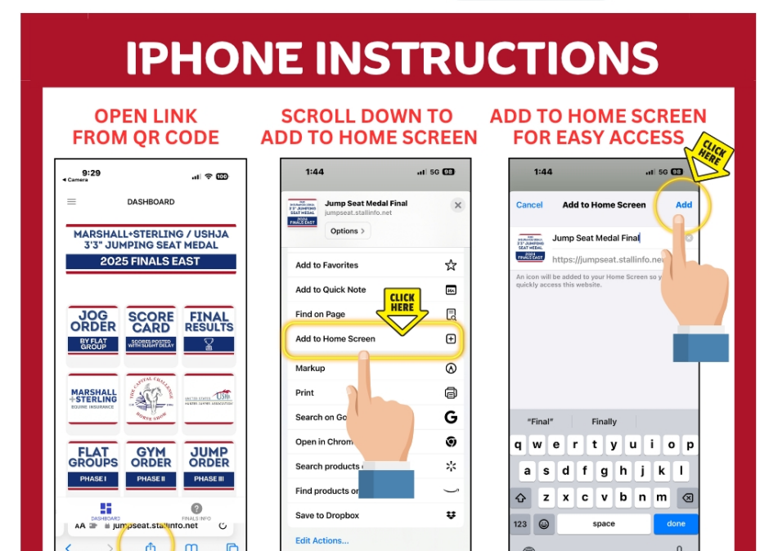


Natalie Wheeler and Quintago took over the lead after the first two phases of the Marshall + Sterling Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal - East. **Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography**

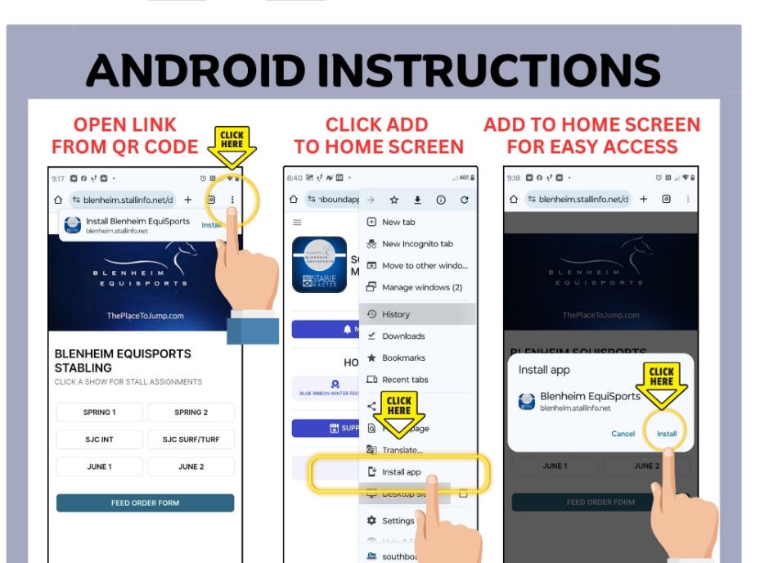
Sabrina Miller of Dripping Springs, TX, stands second overall on a total score of 214.15 with Splender van de Achterhoek, owned by Knees 2 Nose LLC, while Kathryn Padilla of Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA, is third with 213.87.

The 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show Equitation Showcase will resume on Friday, September 25, with highlights including champion presentations for the Section A equitation division 15,16, and 17-year-old age groups as well as the final phase of the Marshall + Sterling Insurance/USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final - East.

Picture-Perfect Moments



Schuyler Dayner realizes she just won her first final as an adult rider.



Schuyler Dayner thanks Bozzic for a job well done.

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography

3'3" JUMP SEAT MEDAL APP

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For more information on the 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show, please visit www.CapitalChallenge.org. Additional information, photos, and coverage can be found on Facebook or Instagram. For winning rounds and rider interviews, check out the Capital Challenge Horse Show YouTube channel.

About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2026 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 23-October 4. The 12 days of competition include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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