

THE CHRONICLE *of the* HORSE

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► KENZO & MOLLY ASHE-CAWLEY, WEF HUNTER DERBY CHAMPIONS p. 36

Inside:

Kim Lynch's Accident That Changed It All p. 64

Flexible Fights Another Fluke Injury p. 72

Wizard's Best Win Yet p. 78

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It took three rounds, but Kennzo and Molly Ashe-Cawley soared to the top of the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO

Kennzo Jumps Off To Win \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby

It takes three rounds, but Molly Ashe-Cawley tops the biggest derby so far this year during the final week of the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival.

BY MOLLIE BAILEY AND TAYLOR JOYCE

Show jumpers weren't the only ones breaking ties with a jump-off on the last day of the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Fla.

Friday Night and Kennzo finished the handy round of the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby tied on an overall mark of 371. According to the rules, a tie for first after the handy prompts a jump-off, a situation so rare

it's happened just once before. The jump-off isn't timed, despite its name, but is an additional round: The score given for it is the tie-breaker.

Management scrambled to triple-check scores and the derby rules, and course designer Ken Krome got to work pulling together a track, asking riders to jump the first eight fences of the 12-fence handy round.

Friday Night and junior rider Kate

Ross went first, but that horse ticked the rail out of the cups on the in of an in-and-out. That inspired Molly Ashe-Cawley to take a conservative track with Kennzo, electing wide turns and just one of the high options on her way to blue in the biggest class of Week 12 of the FTI WEF, March 26-30.

The handy round was originally slated to be held across the street on the grass field of the Palm Beach Equestrian

\$50,000
USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY
Wellington, Fla.—Mar. 29-30

Judges: Panel 1: Betsy Perry, Scott Williamson; Panel 2: Danny Robertshaw, Chance Arakelian

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL	JUMP-OFF*		TOTAL
	PANEL 1 SCORE/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 2 SCORE/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 1 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 2 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION		PANEL 1 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION	PANEL 2 SCORE/BONUS/ HEIGHT OPTION	
1. Kennzo/Molly Ashe-Cawley	83.5/4	86.5/4	89.5/8/3	84.5/5/3	371	84/2/0	75/1/0	533
2. Friday Night/Kate Ross	88/0	84/0	90/9/1	90/8/1	371	45/7/1	45/8/1	478
3. Walk This Way/Christopher Payne	81/4	85/4	88/7/3	87/7/3	369			
4. Generous/David Oliynyk	87/0	86.75/0	82/7/1	84/4/1	352.75			
5. Scripted/Kelley Farmer	82.75/4	71/4	89/2/4	86/4/4	350.75			
6. Come Monday/Tara Metzner	89/2	89/2	77/4/2	73.5/6/2	346.5			
7. Edeling Van De Kroon/Sarah Scheiring	68/4	77/4	85/6/4	82/9/4	343			
8. Poker Face/Jennifer Bliss	82/0	87/0	80/4/0	81/6/0	340			
9. At Last/Tara Metzner	79.5/1	74.5/1	78/6/2	83/9/2	336			
10. Loxley/Amanda Steege	76.25/3	73.25/3	76/8/4	80/7/4	334.5			
11. On Top/Shawn Casady	84.5/0	80/0	81/2/0	78/4/0	329.5			
12. Skorekeeper/Callie Seaman	81.75/0	78.25/0	79/7/1	73/8/1	329			
13. Entourage/Ashley Hotz	75/4	82/4	73/3/4	67/4/4	320			
14. Shockwave/Vivan Yowan	77.5/2	73/2	74/6/0	75/7/0	316.5			
15. Clear Cove/Keri Kampsen	77.75/0	78.5/0	70/5/1	74/8/1	315.25			
16. Point Being/Kelley Farmer	80/4	68/4	72/3/4	68/8/4	315			
17. Verona/Patricia Griffith	80.75/4	78/4	63/8/2	69/3/2	313.75			
18. Unspoken/Kelley Farmer	90/4	81/4	55/4/4	55/5/4	306			
19. Taken/Kate Conover	86/0	80.5/0	64/3/0	65/7/0	305.5			
20. Classic Contender/Keri Kampsen	78/0	75/0	65/7/1	70/8/1	305			
21. As Always/Jennifer Hannan	85/3	74/3	66/2/3	61/3/3	303			
22. Calentino/David Beisel	79/4	84/4	60/4/4	50/3/4	296			
23. Sancho/Kate Ross	80.5/0	75.5/0	59/8/1	60/6/1	291			
24. Mayfair/Sandra Ferrell	83/4	86/4	45/1/4	45/1/4	276			

51 horses competed.

*When there's a tie for first place after the second round, tied horses jump off to determine a winner.

Center's Stadium, where the handy course designer, Bobby Murphy, had been threatening to use the Devil's Dyke and other natural obstacles. When a brief, but violent, thunderstorm rolled through Wellington the night before and more foul weather threatened on the radar, organizers opted to keep the second round in the Eugene Mische Grand Hunter Arena, where the classic round was held.

A Change In Venue

Ashe-Cawley was disappointed at the change. This class has earned a reputation as one of the most prestigious stops

**“The
 derbies have
 made me
 want to do
 the hunters
 again”**

—MOLLY ASHE-CAWLEY

on the derby tour, and it has an unusual two-day format in which the top 25, rather than 12, qualify for Round 2.

“I don't understand why we can't do two rounds out on the derby field and give hunters their moment to shine,” said Ashe-Cawley. “Some of them get it one night [in the \$100,000 WCHR Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular], and 25 horses were going to get their moment [during the handy].”

Hunter riders have a reputation for being particular about footing and rarely compete on grass. Previous ribbon winners Scott Stewart and Tori Colvin opted out of the class

▶ HORSE SHOWS

this year as Stewart, who trains Colvin, didn't think they had horses that would shine on the field. Stewart hopes to campaign this year's high performance hunter circuit champion Golden Rule in that venue in the future, but it would've marked his first derby. They considered entering Colvin on Dedication, but that horse ran into trouble on the field in the 2011 and 2012 editions. Stewart pointed out it takes a special horse to fit in with

Junior Kate Ross piloted Friday Night to second in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby.

MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO



▶ Double The Fun

Heather Caristo-Williams got used to getting double-takes from friends and spectators as she led one of her rides out of the show ring, only to lead his full brother—and near exact match—back later on in a different division. “They would say, ‘I thought you weren’t showing him today?’” she recalled.

It was that much more impressive when both brothers won circuit championships, with Sunset Hill winning in the 3- and 4-year-old pre-green ring, and Signal Hill picking up the baby green series title. Diana Dodge bred both American Warmbloods (Nob Hill—Acclaim).

Angel Lopez, a professional out of Duhallow Farm in Millbrook, N.Y., for the past 24 years, purchased and

broke them as a yearling and 2-year-old based on their appearance in the paddock as well as a longstanding trust in Dodge's breeding program.

“They had unbelievably great manners on the ground,” said Lopez, who originally intended only to buy Sunset Hill, 5, but was convinced by Dodge to take Signal Hill, 6, along during the same visit. “As young horses, they were going cross-country all the time. They were well balanced, so they didn't need much work in the ring. I would mix it up a lot.”

Jacqueline Stahl primarily foxhunts with Millbrook Hunt, but she jumped at the opportunity to purchase a prospective show hunter for herself when she saw Sunset Hill in training with Lopez last May. Daphne

Richards, who'd purchased Signal Hill from Lopez, and Stahl sent the brothers to Caristo-Williams and the Glenview Farm gang in Saugerties, N.Y., around the same time.

“A month turned into two months, and I had no intention of sending him south,” said Stahl. “But toward the end of the summer, he was beginning to get lead changes, beginning to be straight down the lines, and I didn't want him to go backward.”

Stahl was able to visit Wellington occasionally during the circuit, but admits to stalking his results via the *showgroundslive.com* website and anxiously awaiting texts reporting his back-to-back wins. “I was so surprised,” said Stahl. “The consistency was overwhelming.”

“Angel did such a phenomenal job with both of them that they were almost ring-ready,” said Caristo-Williams, who also credits her success to the team at Glenview, including her father, Ralph Caristo, and her husband of just more than a year, Jesse Williams. “They hold their rhythms so beautifully that it makes my riding job so easy. It's really such a shock to me that horses so young can just know that stride and be able to keep that rhythm the entire way around. I attribute that to them learning how to canter and just gallop out in the fields. They have such good brains. I give them a very soft ride. My whole theory is less is more, so the less I have to do with them, the happier they are, and the happier I am.”



Heather Caristo-Williams held Signal Hill (left) alongside Jacqueline Stahl and Sunset Hill to celebrate the full brothers' circuit championships at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival.

MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO

the unique format of the class.

"It would maybe be a little easier if both rounds were on the grass, so they'd be able to get out there more than once," he said.

Ashe-Cawley, primarily a jumper rider who has represented the United States in Nations Cup competition, wasn't concerned about the effects of the previous evening's showers on the field, which is a carefully maintained surface that hosts jumper competition several times during the season. She dismissed concerns that the field would have been too soft to compete on safely.

"I think the footing would have been fine," she said. "If it was terrible, obviously, no, I wouldn't have gone."

"The derbies have made me want to do the hunters again," she continued. "I haven't done the hunters in years. [The derbies] are meant to revive everything. It doesn't feel special to do it this way. I'm very happy that I won, but it could use a little more bang."

Chance Arakelian, who officiated alongside Danny Robertshaw, Scott Williamson and Betsy Perry, was also disappointed not to see the hunters go on grass.

"I thought they did an excellent job making a new course and making the adjustment," said Arakelian. "Who knows what the outcome would have been with natural obstacles—you never know how it would have changed things. Here the jumps came up really fast for all the riders, and some of the horses are geared toward that and had an advantage over the horses more used to classic hunter courses."

"I think the preliminary strategy was perfect," he continued. "The first round was inviting, so you don't let the course decide who your top 25 were, then take them across the street to the field and let them jump the natural derby obstacles to separate the men from the boys. The rain was unfortunate, and it happens."

Given the change of venue, the track was less open and galloping than in previous years. That's not to say the handy track was easy, and Ashe-Cawley, Newtown, Conn., joked that she and the other riders were quaking in their boots during the course walk. Krome included a bounce—which caused a bit of concern before the class but no problems during

it—as well as two opportunities for tough inside turns to options of upright verticals. Like in the classic round, several of the verticals had minimal fill in front of them.

A few early riders who attempted the high options, both set at 4'4", off tight turns lost their horses' form to the fences, so later riders mostly chose either tough turns or all the high options. Only eight of the 25 riders who

returned attempted all four high option fences, and of those, only three earned more than 5 handy points from either panel of judges.

"The rules this year are a little different," explained Krome, Westminster, Md. "They say the high options should be the easiest approach, and I don't know that I'm fully loving that. Some of the inside options with the higher jumps would have



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▶ Tidbits

▶ Once again this year, **TORI COLVIN** dominated all three rings at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. She rode **DEDICATION** to the large junior hunter, 16-17, division circuit title for Betsee Parker, topped the high junior jumper division on **DON**



Ringmaster Gustavo Murcia presented Betsee Parker and Kirklen Petersen with For The Best's FTI Winter Equestrian Festival circuit award in the large green pony hunters. *MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO*

JUAN for Brigid Colvin and Karen Long Dwight, and, for the second year in a row, earned the Christy Conrad Perpetual Trophy as the most consistent performer in the ASPCA Maclay, Pessoa/USEF Medal and Washington International Horse Show classes.

She also won plenty of major classes all circuit, including the George Morris Excellence In Equitation Class and the \$100,000 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular on Ovation.

▶ Tori Colvin bought **FOR THE BEST** as a young pony from breeder (and her former trainer) Sharon Coles as a project. But when Tori stopped showing in the pony ring sooner than expected to focus on horses, that pony waited for his green pony debut.

This year he and **KIRKLEN PETERSEN** dominated the large green pony division, winning the circuit award for Betsee Parker, who leases the Welsh cross from Colvin.

For The Best is a full brother to two other highly successful ponies: Best Case Scenario and All The Best. All three are by Jupiter, whom Scott Stewart used to campaign in the

hunter ring, and out of Highfield's Best Stuff (by Welsh Hills).

"He's just like his father," said Stewart. "He's really brave, and a really good jumper and mover. Kirklen did a really nice job with him as well."

Petersen also rode All My Love to the top of the large pony division for Parker.

▶ The Gochman family spent their season earning armloads of tricolors. **BECKY GOCHMAN** rode **SAMBALINO** to the amateur-owner, 36 and over, circuit award. Daughter **MIMI GOCHMAN** rode **RAFAEL** to the small pony hunter series title, and other daughter **SOPHIE GOCHMAN** rode **PRIDE** to the children's large pony hunter title and **WITHOUT QUESTION** to the low children's hunter title.

▶ **LARRY GLEFKE** and **KENSEL LLC** earned overall hunter owner honors for the circuit, thanks largely to great rides by **KELLEY FARMER** in the open divisions. Their **QUOTABLE** earned the regular conformation title, his second consecutive circuit award, and Farmer earned the overall hunter rider title.

been ugly. What you're trying to do is be safe and show off the horse and show off the handiness."

There were no disasters in the handy. The leaders after the classic round, Tara Metzner and Come Monday, fell to sixth without any dramatic mistakes. Walk This Way, in just the second derby of his career, laid down a great round to move from fifth up to third with Chris Payne.

Third from the end, Ashe-Cawley chose three of the high options.

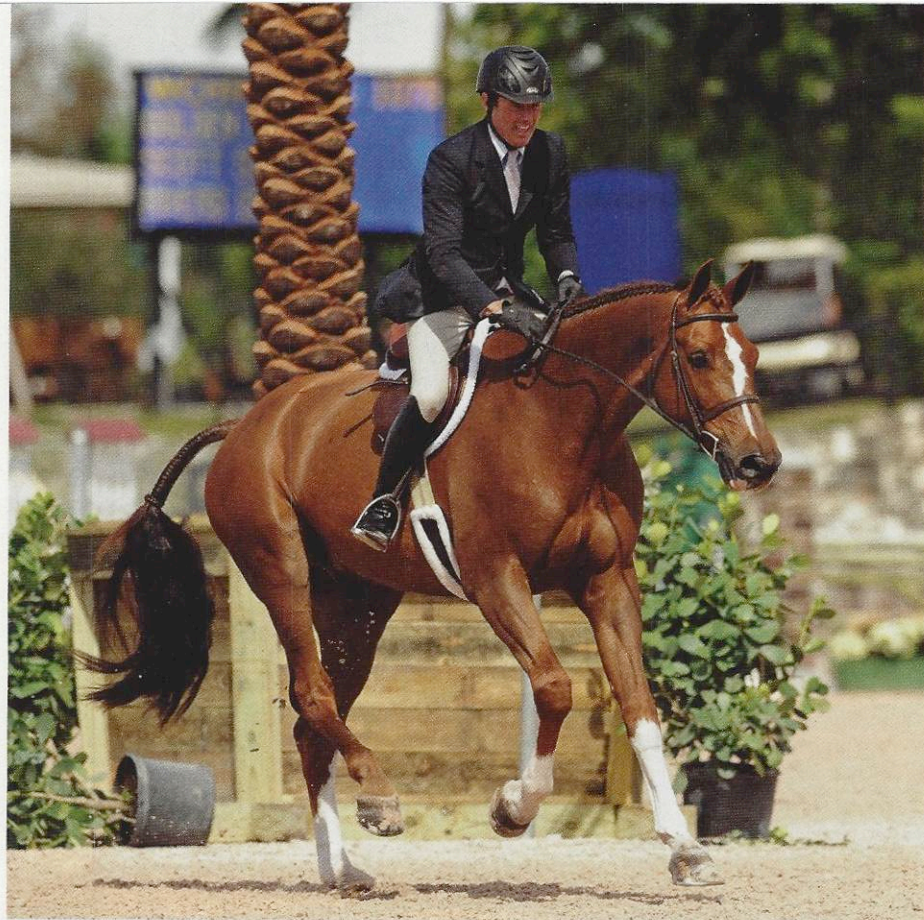
"The high options are his thing, his way to shine," said Ashe-Cawley of Kristen Abbatiello-Neff's 12-year-old Finnish Warmblood (Coriano—Anita,

“Everyone says that he’s not my type of horse because he’s big and tall, and he wasn’t the prettiest when he came here.”

—SCOTT STEWART

Octao F). "I think the different variations of the course that people chose were interesting, but it was a bit hard to figure out what they wanted from the way the scores were going as far as handiness. It felt like a guessing game a little bit."

Kenzo swapped from jumper to hunter tack back in 2011, and since then he and Ashe-Cawley have won derbies at the Hampton Classic (N.Y.), Horse Shows by the Bay (Mich.) and Holiday and Horses (Fla.). He showed sparingly this circuit, finishing sixth in the



Golden Rule got off the plane from Europe and immediately started winning in the hunters, partnering with Scott Stewart to take the high performance hunter circuit championship during the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. *MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO*

Spectacular during Week 6.

Friday Night, a 10-year-old Holsteiner by Cornet Obolensky, stood sixth heading into the handy when 17-year-old owner and rider Ross laid down the trip of her life to earn a pair of 90s, with handy scores of 9 and 8.

"I was ready to be done when they announced a jump-off," said Ross. "I was so happy and relieved after the handy; it caught me a little bit off guard that I'd have to go again."

An Immediate Winner

If Scott Stewart didn't have an occasional bout of insomnia, he wouldn't have won this year's high performance hunter circuit title.

One night when he couldn't sleep, he decided to distract himself by looking for hunter prospects online. When he saw Golden Rule, he knew he'd found his next big winner.

"Kama Godek had him, and I wasn't sure if he was here or in Germany, and as it turns out he was actually on a plane coming here," recalled Stewart. "He was flying to New York City, and I had him sent directly here as soon as he landed. I

gave him two days off, tried him, and we bought him the next day."

Golden Rule, a 10-year-old of unrecorded breeding, showed just four times this circuit and earned a tricolor each time out.

"Everyone says that he's not my type of horse because he's big and tall, and he wasn't the prettiest when he came here," said Stewart, Flemington, N.J. "But his expression is so great. He's always interested and looking through the bridle beautifully. He's the most fun horse to ride ever. He just sticks his head out there and goes right around."

Even though Golden Rule's new to the hunters, it didn't take much to get him comfortable. World Champion Hunter Rider week, when the hunters take over the intimidating International Ring and the start lists swell, marked Golden Rule's second U.S. horse show, but he didn't bat an eye, cantering to the reserve title that week.

"Sometimes he gets startled," said Stewart. "But WCHR week he was amazing. I wasn't expecting him to be that perfect. The first class he went in and got an 88."

Results You Can See...

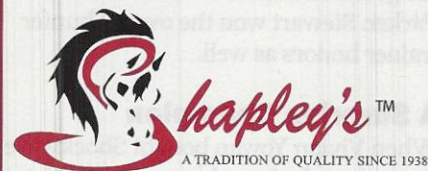


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From a Name You Can Trust!

Vivian Yowan bought Shockwave thinking he'd be her next junior jumper, but he found his niche in the hunters, winning the small junior hunter, 16-17, FTI Winter Equestrian Festival circuit award.
MOLLIE BAILEY PHOTO



Midway through the circuit, Stewart's customer Stephanie Danhagl purchased Golden Rule, and they were champion together in the amateur-owner, 18-35, division their first time out.

This year marked another fantastic circuit for Stewart, who piloted four of the seven circuit champions in A-rated open divisions. He rode Quest to the first year green title for Danhagl, Loyalty to the top of the second year green division for Fashion Farm, and Lucador to the green conformation title for Betsee Parker. Stewart won the overall hunter trainer honors as well.

A Surprise Champion

When Vivian Yowan bought Shockwave a year ago, she hoped for a circuit title. But she didn't imagine it would be on the hunter side of the showgrounds.

Yowan purchased Shockwave from Michael Hughes thinking he'd be her next junior jumper, and that's where they started, competing in low junior classes at WEF last year. But when the circuit ended, she'd sold one of her junior hunters and wanted a horse to campaign in that division, so she decided to give Shockwave a chance.

"The first week he was a little

jumpery, and in the doubles he'd be a little quick," said Yowan, 16. "Sometimes he'd think that the handies were jump-offs. But he figured it out really quickly. He was champion the first time, and he's just gotten better since then."

This year they earned five tricolors on their way to the small junior hunter, 16-17, series title, and Yowan picked up the reserve title on Ransom, as well. Shockwave's proven himself in derby competition, as well, and they advanced to Round 2 of the USHJA International Hunter Derby during the last week.

"He's so experienced because he'd been doing the jumpers so long," said Yowan of the 13-year-old warmblood gelding (Sarento 2—Jonie, Bentley). "He's got a really big stride, which is deceiving because he's small. He does all the high options very easily, which makes him a fun derby horse. He seems like he really likes his job."

This year Yowan's stepped up her game across the showgrounds. She's been buckling down in the equitation ring, as well as the hunters, and moved up to the high junior jumper division, with her eyes set on qualifying for Devon (Pa.) and the Adequan FEI North American Junior and Young Rider

Championships (Ky.).

To facilitate her dedication to the sport, Yowan has essentially moved from her parents' home in Darien, Conn., to live with her trainers, Tim and Kelly Gougen, in Lexington Ky.

"With them, every detail is so important," said Yowan. "They're great about giving everyone lots of attention and help. I couldn't ask for a better situation."

Letting The Chips Fall

Mary Jane King is glad she stuck around Wellington all winter. Never before had the 16-year WEF veteran been in contention for a circuit championship award, as she's always taken an intermission to compete at HITS Ocala (Fla.) for the month of February in the past.

But this time around, her longtime mount Reveille sported the adult amateur hunter, 51 and over, section B circuit championship, and her newer mount, Ebony, followed in reserve.

"It never crossed my mind until someone said that I was leading for circuit champion," said King. "So I said, 'We'll see how the chips fall,' and it just so happened that I was able to hold onto the lead."

She found Reveille, now 17, as a

13-year-old. He was competitive in the junior and regular working hunter divisions. "It was a good time in his career to do the 3', and at that point, that's all I wanted to do," said King, who then put him into training with Rick Fancher, a tried-and-true program that she's been a part of for 18 years.

She attributes her success to the two weeks on, two weeks off nature of Fancher's program, allowing her horses plenty of turnout and rest between classes. "We don't jump the horses a lot in between," said King. "I think they're just very happy."

Based in a barn Fancher leases in Loxahatchee, Fla., for the winter months, Reveille (Rubin Star N—Donata) and Ebony, a 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood of unrecording breeding, spend the off-season at Fancher's home base in Louisville, Ky., while King works at a foundation established by her grandfather in St. Louis.

"It's a charitable foundation that gives money to not-for-profit agencies in the St. Louis area," said King, who works remotely while she's traveling. "I do agency visits and read grant requests, and we try to make the best decisions that we can with regard to the agencies. We focus on education and scholarships for inner city kids to get a quality education."

King savors her months in Florida since it's the only time she's able to

“The horses are a kind of therapy; they give you an awful lot back.”

—MARY JANE KING

concentrate on riding full time and escape the harsh northern winters.

"I always feel like I'm on the downhill swing," she said. "But then having a good circuit and getting a second horse that I really enjoy has kind of rejuvenated me. The horses are a kind of therapy; they give you an awful lot back. Having the right horse and the right match is important because I've had lots of good horses in the past, and these two are pretty special."

Although she's still getting to know him, Ebony impressed King so much—especially when he won the grand adult amateur hunter title during WCHR week—that she purchased him mid-circuit following a year-long lease. 🐾



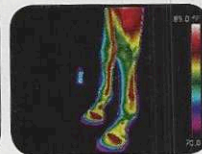
This year marks the first that Mary Jane King spent the full season at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival, and she claimed the adult amateur hunter, 51 and over, section B division, winning the series title on Reveille. SPORTFOT PHOTO

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