



Person of the Year Recognition Award winner Sean Rogers.

MHC Days of Champions

FEATURES FIRST-CLASS COMPETITION

BY MELODY TAYLOR-SCOTT

The 29th anniversary of the Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Days of Champions Junior Championship and 18th Adult Amateur and Mini Medal Finals was held on October 1-3, 2010 at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton, Mass. Over 330 horses and riders competed at this well-respected three-day equitation only show with a three-judge panel of Carol Coleman, Paddy Downing-Nyegard, and Scott Alder. Show manager Deborah Tate and



Adult Amateur 18-30 Champions Devon Poeta and Losar.



Adult Amateur Over 30 Champions Spencer Saltonstall and Amazing Grace.

Chairman Felicia Knowles kept the show running smoothly and Equestrian Management Solutions jump crew set the courses quickly and kept the rails up.

This year's Special Award for Sportsmanship went to Haleigh Landrigan. My Hero was inducted into the Pony Hall of Fame, Sean Rogers was named the recipient of the Appreciation Award, and April Renzella was named the winner of the Vacation Trip Raffle.

A total of 62 adults ranging from ages 18-30 and 48 adults aged 30 and older competed at this year's event, negotiating a

challenging course designed by Scott Alder that included a bounce combination in the Open and the Medal classes.

Besting the field of 32 in the Open Adult 18-30 Equitation A section was Emily Howe of Newport, Vt., riding With Mister Darcey. Second place went to Megan Piermarini of Sterling, Mass., riding Paradox.

The win in Section B Open out of 30 entries went to Jessica Carr of Acton, Mass., riding Classico. Robert Lee of Old Saybrook, Conn., came in second riding Circus Boy.

In the Adult Amateur 18-30 Medal Championship, 20% of the 62 competitors returned for the second round over the course that offered one option fence of either vertical set at slightly differing distances to test the rider's eye and multiple roll back turns.

The judges called back four to test over a shortened course with a trot fence and then to individually ride to the judges' stand and answer a horsemanship question.

The 2010 MHC Adult 18-30 Medal was awarded to Devon Poeta of Old Lyme, Conn., riding Losar with reserve honors going to Lauren Horth of Dalton, Mass., riding Cotillio Z.

Repeating the effort over the same courses, 48 riders competed for the Amateur Adult Over 30 Medal. In Open Eq. Section A, Karen Salon of Hingham, Mass., was named the winner riding Ludo. Second place went to Melissa Hamlet of Whitman, Mass., riding Bronson. In Open Eq. Section B, the winner was Mindy Whitman of Alpharetta, Ga., riding Writtle. Gina Virga of Shrewsbury, Mass., earned second place riding Kiss N' Tell.

Besting the field of 48 riders in the 2010 MHC Adult Amateur Over 30 Medal Championship was Spencer Saltonstall of Cohasset, Mass., riding Amazing Grace. Reserve honors went to Nicole Nichelmann of Byfield, Mass., riding Avenue Q.

Saturday, October 2 brought perfect weather with sunny skies for the 147 Junior Medal competitors. The challenging courses included the bounce, option fences, and roll back turns. In Open Eq. 14 & Under, the winner was Adeline Audette of Fall River, Mass., riding Barnabee. Second place went to Michael Janson of Berkley, Mass., aboard Fortune Cookie. In Open Eq. Sec. B, Abby Bertelson of Weston, Mass., took the win on Eclypso, with second place going to Delaney Hamill of Buffalo, N.Y.

The Open Eq. 15-17 division was split into three sections of approximately 37 entries in each group. Winning Section A was Danielle Reny of Boston, Mass., riding Scholar. Sydney Smith of Rockport, Mass., was awarded second place riding Calimero. In Section B, the winner was Hannah Piersiak of Needham, Mass., riding Bell Captain. Alexa Bayko of Salisbury, Mass., took second on Crespo. In Section C, the win went to Zoe Mcgee of Charlestown, Mass., riding Major.

Lexie Lohrer of Carlisle, Mass., finished in second place aboard Upstart.

One hundred-forty-seven juniors competed for the 2010 MHC Junior Medal Championship with 44 returning for the second round. The Junior Medal Test brought back six riders that were required to canter fences 7 and 5, halt, counter canter fence 9, canter fences 10 and 11, and answer a horsemanship question asked at the judges' stand.

Returning for the test were Katie Tyler, Madeline Stover, Lexie Lohrer, Danielle Reny, Rebecca Clawson, and Abby Bertelson, respectively.

The 2010 Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Days of Champions Junior Medal Championship was awarded to Danielle Reny of Boston, Mass., riding Scholar, with Lexie Lohrer of Carlisle, Mass., coming in reserve on Upstart. Third place went to Katie Tyler of Lyme, Conn., riding Cassani, and fourth place went to Rebecca Clawson of Plympton, Mass., aboard Kennebec.

Sunday, October 3 again brought fair weather for the 90 competitors in the MHC Mini Medal Championship over a course requiring single approach fences and multiple rollback turns that tested a rider's ability to ride their horses to fences with optional approaches.

In Open Equitation 11 & Under Section A Elizabeth Ekberg of Westford, Mass., took first place riding Sports Page. Katie Eppinger of

Grafton, Mass., finished in second riding Best Kept Secret. In Open Equitation 11 & Under Section B, the winner was Kendra Gierkink of Lexington, Mass., riding Limerick with Emma Crate of Beverly, Mass., finishing in second on D. Donut.

Katherine Johnson of Holliston, Mass., was named winner of Open Equitation 12-14 Section A riding Comedy Hour with Margaret Magee of East Greenwich, Conn., following in second on Just Calvin.

In Open Equitation 12-14 Section B, Samantha Valone of Wayland, Mass., took the win riding Opening Day. Alexandra Hilton of Tiverton, R.I., placed second aboard Remy Martin.

Completing the 2010 Days of Champions, the 90 Mini Medal competitors returned to ride the Medal course with 30 returning for the second round and four called back to test.

Katherine Johnson of Holliston, Mass., was named the champion riding Comedy Hour, with Hannah Janson of Berkley, Mass., following in reserve on Caprichoso Z.

For more information on the MHC Days of Champions, please visit www.mahorsecouncil.com.



PHOTOS CATHERIN GAMMETT

Mini Medal Champions Katherine Johnson and Comedy Hour.



Junior Medal Champions Danielle Reny and Scholar.

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Happy Holidays to All!

Congratulations to all of our riders on a Great Finals Season & looking forward to seeing everyone in Ocala this year.

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