

Tina Di Landry Wins the CPHA Junior Medal Finals; Nicole Haseltine Takes the CPHA Amateur Title

Tina Di Landri continued her winning ways by triumphing over 55 of California's best junior riders in the CPHA Junior Finals. Nicole Haseltine capped off her first year as an amateur by winning the CPHA Amateur Finals just three days before beginning her freshman year at college.

The CPHA Finals, held at the Oaks in San Juan Capistrano August 15-16 is among the most grueling of medal finals. Riders compete in front of three judges in two rounds over two days. The top ten in each age group returned for a third round in the evening of the second day.

Tina Di Landri, who rides with Karen Healey, started out strong and just got better. She led through all three rounds, ending the Finals with a mind-blowing total score of 790.5, more than 20 points ahead of second place finisher Mallory Olsen who had an impressive total score of her own with 768.

The course from designer Scott Starnes was extremely technical and demanding. The third round, in particular, was not for the faint of heart.

Di Landri agreed, "The courses were great, and the last one was the best. It was all about no guts, no glory."

The CPHA Amateur Finals was a nail-biter all the way through to the work-off. Round one went to Amy Brubaker, but a stellar second round brought Lauren Hester to the top of group. Nicole Haseltine had beautiful third round, which moved her into second place overall, just one point behind class leader Hester. Under the CPHA Finals rules a work-off is called if the top two riders are within three points. Both Hester and Haseltine turned in lovely trips, but the judges liked Haseltine's go just a bit better.

Haseltine, who rides with Archie Cox, gave all the props to her horse, Magic Act. "He was amazing. I couldn't have asked for more. We've been together now for five years. It was a difficult course for him—he hates bending to the right, and there were all those bending lines to the left."

As always, the CPHA rewards its winning riders well. All top ten finalists received ribbons and sashes for their horses as well as a medal, an Ariat backpack and flowers. Their trainers walked away with CPHA jackets, hats and bags. The top three riders in each division received medals, ribbons, sashes, flowers, coolers, CPHA jackets, hats, and belt buckles as well as leather halter courtesy of Valencia Sport Saddlery and an Ariat backpack. The overall winners also took home a CPHA stall plaque, a goodie bag from Estee Lauder and an Antares saddle. The Perpetual Trophy for Juniors was presented by Far West Farms; the Amateur Trophy was courtesy of DiAnn Langer.

The CPHA Junior-Amateur Medal Finals is one of the year's major fundraisers for the CPHA's Foundation, which benefits professional horsemen and their families. The Foundation depends upon the incredible generosity of its donors at this banquet. Those included the staff of the Oaks Blenheim, Estee Lauder, Ariat International, Archie Cox, Antares Saddlery and the entire board of the CPHA.

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CPHA Medal Finals- Overall Winners

Amateurs

1. Nicole Heseltine
2. Lauren Hester
3. Laura Fairbanks
4. Amy Brubaker
5. Julie Manakas
6. Elizabeth Dickinson
7. Kelly Lafond
8. Gina Groth
9. Mackenzie Mills
10. Erica Schmandt

Juniors

1. Tina Di Landri
2. Mallory Olsen
3. Olivia Esse
4. Cayla Richards
5. Theodore Boris
6. Hannah Goodson-Cutt
7. Holly Dickinson
8. Taylor Harris
9. Kyla West
10. Jenna Huang