

September 2015 - Show Report: CPHA Medal Finals

Written by CRM

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Grady Lyman and Sinatra's Ruhm win Juniors; Jayme Ormand and Zilveren Top the Adult division.

Medal Finals season kicked off during the Blenheim Summer Classic, Aug. 13-16, with the California Professional Horsemen's Association (CPHA) Junior and Amateur Hunt Seat Medal Finals. Judged by John Roper, Tony Sgarlata, and Scott Hofstetter, the three round competition ended with flair in the indoor ring adjacent to the Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park at San Juan Capistrano.



After two rounds, one on Friday and the second on Saturday afternoon, the top ten-scoring Juniors and Amateurs returned to compete for the top prize on Saturday evening. Jayme Ormand of Sacramento aboard Pumpkin Ridge Equestrian Center's Zilveren earned the top call in the Amateur Division and Grady Lyman of Rancho Santa Fe, riding Christy Clarkson's Sinatra's Ruhm, brought home the blue in the Juniors.

Beginning with an entry list of 50, the competitive Junior Division included a strong group of California's best. Joe Lombardo designed a first round track that tested accuracy and adjustability with broken lines, rollback turns and distance challenges. Riding early in the order, Lyman scored a 253 and took the lead. Almost 30 rounds later, Kayla Lott on Elvenstar's Vancouver narrowly bested that score, earning a 253.25. Towards the end of the first round, Nina Vogel and Aquino 9 earned a 251.75 for third.

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Notably, there was less than four points separating the top five, with Kelsey Fenger sitting fourth at 250.5 and Morgan Dickerson picking up fifth with 250, while less than 10 points separated the top 10.

Lyman, Lott and Vogel earned top five scores in Saturday afternoon's second round, while Eve Jobs aboard Curtis received the top Round Two score of 262.5. Just 1.5 points lower, Lyman was second with 261, Lott was third with 249, Emma Marlowe riding Pam Stewart's Citadel was fourth with a score of 247, and Vogel received a score of 243 for fifth. With that second place finish on day two, Lyman moved into the top ten round with the highest combined score of 514.

The Final Round proved to be a worthy test with a 12 obstacle track of twisty turns and challenging distances. Stops, trot steps and missed distances caused lower scores for over half of the returning riders. Marlowe, Vogel, Lott and Lyman rose to the challenge, ultimately earning the top four spots. However with scores of 86, 84, and 87, Lyman achieved a final score of 771 for a landslide victory.

Press release provided by Blenheim Equisports.