



Highlights abound from a season that's in full swing.

by Patti Schooley

The Willowbrook Saddle Series held Dec. 3, 2017 marked the start of the 2018 IEHJA horse show calendar. Held at the Willowbrook Equestrian Center in Desert Hot Springs, this was the third of an eight-show series that takes advantage of the beautiful weather during the winter, spring and fall months. In addition to the December date, shows were held on Jan. 7, Feb. 11 and Mar. 3. Future spring dates include May 20. Fall dates are set for Sept. 30 and an October date to be determined. The Saddle series is in its 26th year and is sanctioned by IEHJA, GSDHJA, OCHSA and USHJA Outreach. Class results and division champions can be found on www.horseshowtime.com but the following is a sampling of winners from each of the shows:

December 3: low children's/AA jumpers 2'6"; CH Grace Sobrero riding Southern Charm and RES Olivia Halton on Mighty Ruckus, both horses owned by their riders; cross rails and schooling cross rails, CH Juliete l'Anson riding Little Blackie and RES Isabella Aldas on To the Max both horses owned by Lorilea Franklin; green rider, CH Carolyn Wickstand riding To the Max and RES Sam Tate on his own Summer Vacation.

January 7: low schooling jumpers 2'3", Gabby Franklin riding Brinley Wherli's Zippy Ziggy and RES Kaitlin Lee on Devynn Sibley's Rebel Without a Cause; low hunter, CH Jasmine Wheatley riding Art Nisson's Forever Young and RES Hunter Franklin on Lorilea Franklin's Rafael; and cross rails, CH Katelin Grossman on To the Max and RES Charlotte Parker riding Little Blackie, both rides owned by Lorilea Franklin.

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February 4: walk trot, CH Brenda Heinrichs riding her horse Tor and RES Kacy Hamilton Lorilea Franklin's My Serena; green rider, CH Sam Tate on his own Summer Vacation and RES Forrest Franklin riding the Franklin families' Axel Rose; 2'3" Medal CH Sam Tate and Summer Vacation and RES Brinley Wehrli on her own Zippy Ziggy.

March 4: schooling jumpers 2'6" Caroling Ong riding Patrice Schooley's Beckett and RES Armor Sidney on Linda Valkenburg's Stirling Credit; combined stirrups, CH Sam Tate on Summer Vacation and RES Eliza Ottman on Mountain View Farms' Everything's Coming Up Daisies; baby green hunter, CH Gabby Franklin on Little Blackie, RES Jasmine Wheatley riding her own Above All Else.

Galway Downs, in Temecula, also got an early start on its County Series horse shows. The January and February dates drew competitors from across the region. The January show marked the first of the eight IEHJA sanctioned shows to be held at Galway Downs for the 2018 show calendar year. Except for July and August, Galway hosts a two-day County Series show once a month (see www.iehja.com/show dates for a complete listing of Galway and other IEHJA sanctioned shows). Unfortunately, rain canceled the March 10-11 show, but the January and February shows were highly successful. Again, the complete listing of class results and division champions can be found on www.horseshowtime.com, but the following is a partial listing of winning horses and riders:

January 13-14: cross-rail hunters 2x around, CH Pocket Full of Kash owned and ridden by Safa Elzein and RES Skylar Hayford riding her own Bonita; 2'6" schooling hunters, a tie for CH with Christina Brady's Blackjack N Beers ridden by Jessica Abbott and Susan Wedertz's CHIPs of Brass with Regan Gabler in the saddle and RES Judy D'apra's Berlin ridden by Alexis Willson; .8m low children's/AA jumpers, CH Briannah Mcgee on Shannon Pagliuso's Patch of Mischief and RES Top Gun owned by Jen Willson and ridden by Bailey Dempster.

February 10-11: low children's/AA hunters, CH Rodin ridden and owned by Noah Kai Nelson and RES Forrest Franklin riding Axel Rose owned by Lorilea Franklin; .8m Thoroughbred jumpers, CH John Lipari's Unusual Alex ridden by Carly Ramsey and a tie for RES with Avery Griesemer riding Silver Fox owned by Paige Griesemer and Buttons owned and ridden by Analise O'Brien; .85 open jumpers CH AS Good As It Gets ridden and owned by Jessica Abbott and RES Fenja Mcclean riding Beau, owned by Saskia Mcclean; 1m modified Jr-Am jumpers, CH Gabby Franklin riding Lorilea Franklin's Raphael and RES Ciao Bella owned and ridden by Michelle Churchill; Thoroughbred hunter CH Noah Kai Nelson riding Idyllic owned by Claudia

Berglund and RES Christina Brady's Blackjack N Beers ridden by Jessica Abbott.

The first of the Showcase Horse Show Series kicked off on March 18th at Showcase Training Stables in Redlands. The rain that Southern California experienced in early March did not affect the footing in the show arena nor dampen the riders' enthusiasm. The Showcase Horse Show Series consists of four dates held March 18th, May 12th (a one-time Saturday only date), July 15th and September 9th. All shows in the series are IEHJA sanctioned, USHJA affiliated, GSDHJA and TIP approved. Special events include the "Bill Strum Memorial \$300 Cross-Rail Classic" and "The Southern California Thoroughbred Rescues Hunter High Point" competition.

Show highlights are as follows:

March 18: walk-trot lead line, CH Levi Cetina riding Diane Johnston's Theopolis and RES Ava Williams on Gretchen Clark's Just Crusin; Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue Hunter Division, CH Jessica Abbott riding Blackjack N Beers, owned by Christina Brady and RES Jessica Abbott riding Anne Lorkowski's Kindred Spirit; schooling cross-rails, Kate Hallett on her own King Louie and RES Nicole Sannes on her own All That Jazz; green rider (Jr./Am) fences 2'3" CH Emma Bryson riding her own horse Chicago and RES Ashley Park on her own Like Clockwork, baby green hunter fences 2'3" CH Jen Hallett riding her own Portofino and RES Jessica Abbott on As Good As It Gets. Please view a complete list of champions and class results online at www.horseshowtime.com.

Riders not currently a member of IEHJA can join at any sanctioned show or online at iehja.com to accrue points towards the year-end horse show and annual awards banquet. The "Fall Festival" Year End Horse Show is scheduled for November 16-18, at the Expo Center in the City of Industry and the Annual Awards Banquet will again be held in February at the Santa Anita Race Track. Mark your calendars now!

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