



Zone 10 brings team bronze and individual gold home from the Prix des States back East.

With wide eyed thirst for a chance at a win, the four riders from USHJA Zone 10 traveled all the way across the United States to compete, leaving from California and arriving in North Carolina. The goal, to ride well and leave the jumps up for a chance at a Team or Individual Medal standing when all is said and done.

The team, Delaney Batter/Evolinus, Trent McGee/Boucheron, Elisa Broz/Volstrups Cody and Violet Lindemann Barnett/Picobello Choppin PC headed east to a competition none of the riders had been to before.

The Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships and Prix des States provides an opportunity for United States Junior riders to compete against their peers over multiple days of competition each fall. The coveted Championship features both the Prix des States Team Competition, with Teams fielded by Zone, and an Individual Competition. Fence heights are a maximum of 1.45m.

The 2020 Championships were held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center, Mill Spring, North Carolina, Oct. 8 - 10, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania National Horse Show. Riders 17 years of age and under went head to head over three days as the competition narrowed each class leading to the Team and Individual winners. The coveted results of Prix de States

Team and the Individual competition were on the line. Zone 10 ended up in the Medals for both!! Zone 10 Team was bronze and Zone 10 Individual was gold!



Team is Full & Fierce

For the second time in many years, Zone 10 fielded a full team for the Championships and that pressure certainly played a part as the days went by. The team riders were all inexperienced at this level and this was their first shot at this level of medal competition.

The best part, according to Cassie Belmont, the Zone 10 trainer for Elisa Broz, "We loved getting to work as part of a team and having an opportunity to understand how important each team member is. Being there and watching other Junior riders from across the country was eye opening and helped our rider to step up their game. It was an incredible experience, and we are so grateful to Zone 10."

Cassio Rivetti handled the trainer role for the other three riders, two of his own students and one for trainer Archie Cox who was in California showing with his other riders. "These riders were well prepared to get here and ride ready to win," said Cassio. "It is always a pleasure to work with juniors who know their horses and go in to do their best."

Michael Endicott was the Zone 10 Chef de Equipe and worked tirelessly with the riders and the team. His main job, which always carries a bit of pressure to make the right call, was strategy in selecting which Zone 10 rider for the jump-off when it came down to two teams being tied for Bronze. "Trent's horse, Boucheron, is a scrappy little chestnut mare, and when I watched her in the last of the team rounds she still had plenty of 'go' about her so I threw the task to Trent. The horse is careful and can be fast and turn quick, that is what we needed at that point. I just told Trent to 'go get it' and he did. Never stepped off the pedal, made incredible turns and was careful to the last jump to have the quickest jump-off time and a clear ride...we were bronze!"

Written by CRM

Friday, 30 October 2020 01:10



Michael continues regarding the Individual Medal competition, “As we came into the Individual day, Violet was sitting second so the Gold was truly within her reach. She had an immense determination but a calmness about her for the final round. The horse, ‘Chop’ as he is known, is smart and quick and I knew they would give the rider coming back in first place a challenge. She needed to be clear, and she was.”

“For Zone 10 to field a complete team for the first time in years is pretty exciting, and they were all incredibly focused all week,” said Michael. “We are building a fantastic group of riders in this Zone, our Juniors and Young Riders can hold their own pretty much anywhere. I am excited to be the Zone Chef de Equipe and have a ground floor perspective as we look ahead.”

Cassio Rivetti, the consummate professional, actually got a bit excited as the days came to an end. “Was a good pleasure to help the California team and be a part of the improvement of the kids. I’m very happy with my two students, Delaney and Violet, for the Bronze Team win and Violet for the Individual Gold. Also, I really enjoyed assisting Trent to be the determining ride in the jump-off for the Team. It was a fantastic week that we will never forget!”



Zone Co-Chairs Kathy Hobstetter and Ned Glynn make time to meet with riders, trainers and the parents all year as the qualifying points begin to accumulate. Fresh off the Tryon win, Kathy Hobstetter explained a bit of the process. “Always being aware of how the Zone Juniors are doing throughout the year is part of what we on the Committee do. I watch the standings and watch the riders as the year goes on, want to be sure to get to actually see them compete and in the ring. I meet with them whenever they request time and want to ask questions. Meeting

November 2020 - Way To Go!!

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with Cassie Belmont and the Broz family this year at Sacramento was a delight. They are committed to the sport and interested in supporting Elisa in her quest for the top. Sending a note of appreciation for the Zone was well appreciated. 'Thank you for preparing us for this incredible experience and advising us of options. We are inspired and grateful, what a great opportunity for Zone young riders.'

"The Zone recognizes the importance of supporting the riders and these amazing programs throughout the year." Kathy continued, "This year was extremely difficult for everyone, but it is important to sustain these programs to our best ability in the sport. We were honored to send these riders off on a quest for Medals, and it worked."

Article provided by Zone 10. For more information, visit <https://www.usjja.org/zones-affiliates/zone-10>.

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