

2023 USEF PONY FINALS

PONY POWER

Daily News



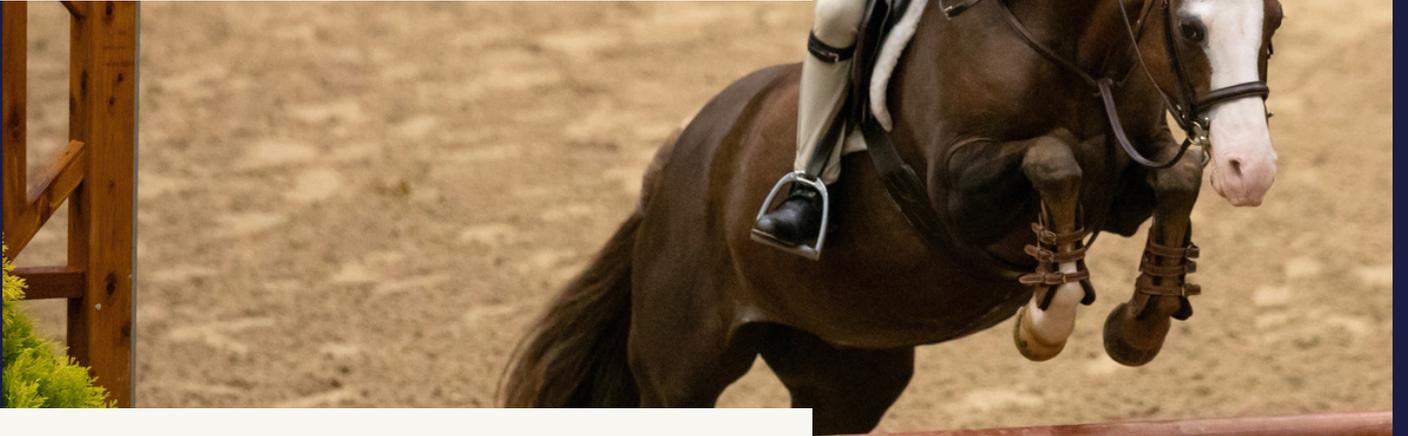
VOLUME VI - AUGUST 13, 2023

USEF PONY FINALS -AUGUST 13, 2023
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Phelps SYDNEY JONES



2023

**2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS
CHAMPION**

Samantha Smith

& Sports Illustrated

**2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS
RESERVE CHAMPION**

Kaitlyn Linck

& Beaverwoods Hydrangia

2023 USEF Pony Medal Finals

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS CHAMPION



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2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS CHAMPION SAMANTHA SMITH & SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



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2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS
CHAMPION

SAMANTHA
SMITH
&
SPORTS
ILLUSTRATED



A CINDERELLA STORY

Tonight's winner and crowned Champion of the 2023 USEF Pony Medal Finals, Samantha Smith, and her team at Saddle River Equestrian, truly define the meaning of "It takes a village," and the importance of a close knit family like support system on these biggest of days such as today.

"My sister, Shelby Cashman, and I have been teaching Sam since before she turned 3!," Trainer Randi Cashman shared, "Along with her mom, Jess Smith, and the rest of our amazing team back home at Saddle River we have all had a hand in Sam's success. We are lucky at our barn to have a group of trainers from all different backgrounds and history in the horse industry to round out Sam's riding. Sam's mom, Jess, had approached me about opening a business together back in the summer of 2015 and we never looked back. We started with literally nothing and worked our way up to where we are today with 65 horses and ponies mostly owned by our amazing clients plus a few sale ponies.

The partnership between Smith and Sports Illustrated, on the other hand, is not quite as lengthy - the two only met yesterday. Elaborating on how a last minute catch ride turned into a partnership resulting in Pony Medal Finals victory out of 173 kids, Cashman said, "Our very good friends Luke Olsen and Emil Spadone have been beyond generous this summer giving Sam catch rides at Lake Placid and HITS Saugerties and Sam has had a lot of success on their horses. Luke texted me Saturday morning and said I THINK I got a pony for Sam to do the medal on. We met Jimmy Torano and Sports Illustrated (otherwise known as Fernando) on Saturday at Pony Finals and the rest is history!"

Smith and Fernando had known each other all of two days, and equally as impressive, Smith has only been to Pony Finals twice as well, the first time being in 2019 in Small Greens - on a pony Smith found in a field and produced to qualify for Pony Finals nonetheless! Not to mention, this was Smith's very first time showing in the USEF Pony Medal Finals. (Continued on next page)

A CINDERELLA STORY...CONTINUED

To step into the Alltech Indoor at the Kentucky Horse Park on a pony that Smith barely knew, in a venue and class equally as unfamiliar, and come out on top out of nearly 200 kids, is one incredibly impressive feat. Smith embodies the notion of what it is to persevere and succeed in the face of unlikely circumstances.

Smith shared the most important lesson ponies, horses, and riding have taught her is that, "I have learned it's the most humbling sport so you just have to keep a positive attitude no matter what is happening that day whether it be in the saddle or in school!" This philosophy was apparent in Smith's performance this evening. Under the guidance of trainers Randi and Shelby Cashman, Smith said, when asked what the most valuable lesson the Cashmans had taught her, "That you shouldn't eat candy before you show (I'm kidding but Randi and Shelby yell at me for my candy habits all of the time and say if you have candy you can't show). But actually they've taught me so much more than being just a good rider. They teach me life skills that will make me a successful professional one day."

On the class itself, and the plan going into the first round and the test, "Since it was my first medal final here, I really just went in hoping to have a smooth round with no major mistakes and hopefully get into the second round," Smith said, "When I made the second round and I was sitting in second I was freaking out...and when we walked the course we talked about doing the inside turn to the double, but Randi, Shelby, Luke and Jimmy all agreed that this was not the time to be a hero and just go in and have the best round I can have. Thankfully it all worked out!! When we went back for the flat test with no stirrups I was really happy that we do so much no stirrup work at home to prep me for this!"

Smith shared her favorite part of the day was, "Getting to ride Sports Illustrated "Fernando". He is one of the nicest ponies I've ever been able to ride. We really just clicked and I feel so excited and honored that everyone involved let me have the ride on him!" On the flip side, the most challenging part for Smith was, "The nerves! The other riders who were competing today are some of the biggest names in the pony world so competing against them is always nerve wracking! I was so nervous, Randi and Shelby have never not been at a show with me since my very first show and they both said they've never seen me so nervous at the ingate! Thankfully today the nerves worked in my favor!"

In response to what it felt like to win today, Smith gleamed, "I don't think it's hit me yet honestly! But I am just so happy and so grateful for the team at Saddle River Equestrian, Luke Olsen, Jimmy Torano and Emil Spadone who got me a pony to ride and the ability to even show this week!" For those standing at the gate, "For anyone that knows my sister and I we are NOT emotional people," Randi Cashman relayed, "But when they called Kaitlyn Linck as second, Shelby and I both started crying! It was the most surreal moment as it was all of our first big finals win!"

The glass slipper fit - for Samatha Smith and her village at Saddle River (Randi & Shelby Cashman, and mom, Jess Smith), and beyond (Luke Olsen, Jimmy Torano (JET Show Stables), and Emil Spadone(Redfield Farm) it was truly a fairytale ending to the story of 2023 USEF Pony Medal Finals. Congratulations to all!



2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS RESERVE CHAMPION



Phelps JILLIAN EBERLEIN

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS RESERVE CHAMPION KAITLYN LINCK & BEAVERWOODS HYDRANGIA



Phelps SYDNEY JONES

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS
RESERVE CHAMPION

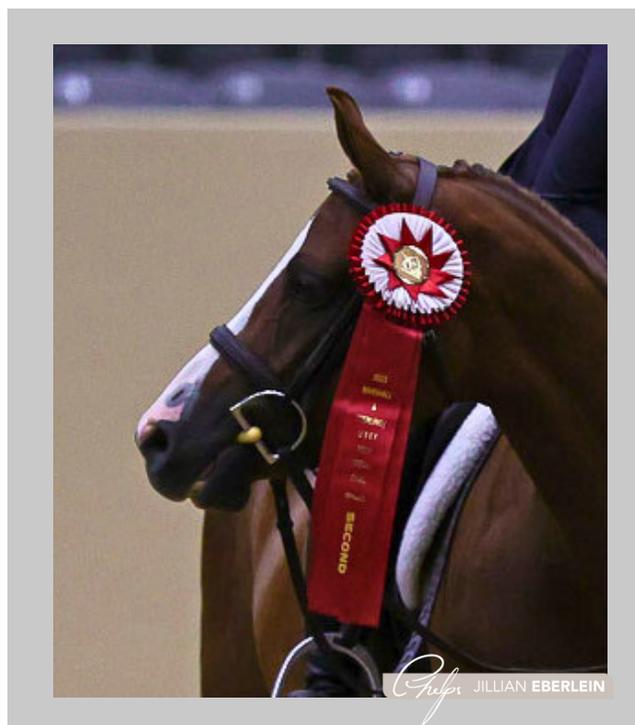
KAITLYN LINCK

&

BEAVERWOODS

HYDRANGIA

BIG DREAMS & BIG EQ



Reserve Championship honors in the 2023 USEF Pony Medal Finals went to 13-year-old Kaitlyn Linck of Clinton Corners, NY, and Beaverwoods Hydrandia, owned by Kirsten Brunner. Linck, who started riding at the age of two, said her favorite thing about riding is “I love being around the horses and ponies. We live on our farm in New York and Florida and it makes it so nice. I think my favorite thing about being around them is that I have the ability to be with them whenever. I can go to the barn at night or early in the morning.” Regarding the most important life lesson getting to be around ponies all the time has taught her, Linck shared, “When you are going into the show ring with a horse/pony you just have to be confident with what you have. You know sometimes the horse or pony you’re riding is green, or new to this, a little scared, but you just have to be confident with them and give them a good and strong ride.”

This is Linck’s third Pony Medal Finals appearance, and with Big Eq Finals aspirations for the future, Linck spoke into how much she enjoys the equitation saying, “The Equitation to me is super interesting and challenging. It challenges me. The hunter courses are always pretty much the same and it can get boring after awhile. The courses today in the Medal were amazing, I think the course designer did an incredible job. The course rode a little bit like a big eq course. The class was competitive and there were some really good kids in the class.”

When asked what her favorite part of today was, Linck responded, “I have to say, I owe so much credit to all the people who cheered me on today and came to the ring to help me. It was extremely special to me.” Regarding the most challenging aspect, “I think the most challenging part coming into today was that it was the last day of the show and you are so tired after every single day of getting up so early and going to bed so late. I was able to overcome that by just putting it in the back of my mind, and concentrating on my rounds and to just go out there and ride.” (Continued on next page)

KAITLYN LINCK
& BEAVERWOODS HYDRANGIA

BIG DREAMS & BIG EQ...CONTINUED

Linck's plan going into the first round was, "I just wanted to have a smooth round and make the callback," she shared, "The second round was where I wanted to go all out, hand gallops are always my biggest strong suit. Going into the test I knew that my pony was not as "equitation" looking as the others, but I just wanted to have a smooth flat test without stirrups."

Linck has been riding Beaverwoods Hydrangia, "Heidi," for almost a year with great success throughout - "Every show we did with her she was champion at and then top five in every class at Kentucky Summer Classic Week 1 and Week 2, and then we finished up 9th Over Fences and 15th Overall in the Large Pony Hunters at Pony Finals! Heidi is so easy to ride, she kind of likes to be left alone which isn't necessarily my type of ride, but I have definitely learned how to still have a little control but yet still let her do her thing. Her personality in the barn is SO sweet. She knows how to smile on command. She loves to go on trail rides, and definitely loves her turn out."

When asked if there was anything else she would like to share, Linck's gratitude for the opportunity to compete and have such an amazing team around her showed, "I would like to add my Thank You's to everyone who has helped me this whole week and who gave me the rides on their amazing ponies and the people who have always supported me for so long which are my parents, as well as Heather Gnewuch and Cooper Dean, who all came and supported me throughout this whole week."

Congratulations Kaitlyn & Team on a great 2023 USEF Pony Finals!





Phelps JILLIAN EBERLEIN

2023

OVERALL GRAND PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL GRAND GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE

OVERALL SMALL PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL LARGE PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE

OVERALL SMALL GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL MEDIUM GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL LARGE GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION & RESERVE

OVERALL PONY JUMPER TEAMS CHAMPION & RESERVE
OVERALL PONY JUMPER INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION & RESERVE

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS CHAMPION & RESERVE

TROPHIES & AWARDS

Overall Championships, Awards, & Trophies

2023 USEF PONY FINALS

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS CHAMPION

SAMANTHA SMITH
& SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS RESERVE CHAMPION

KAITLYN LINCK
& BEAVERWOODS HYDRANGIA

TOP 15

2023 USEF PONY MEDAL FINALS

CHAMPION - SAMANTHA SMITH

RESERVE - KAITLYN LINCK

3RD - EMI RICHARD

4TH - HADLEY WAGTER

5TH - KENDALL DEY

6TH - JOLE KOSLOSKE

7TH - CHARLOTTE MORASSUTTI

8TH - MIMI MADDOCK

9TH - ELLA TARUMIANZ

10TH - MARYANN TEUSCHLER

11TH - INDIA KULKIN

12TH - CARSON PHILLIPS

13TH - LACEY POWERS

14TH - SCARLETT SAMUEALS

15TH - LOGAN BARAS

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2023 USEF PONY FINALS

OVERALL GRAND PONY HUNTER CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL GRAND PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

CELEBRATION

RIDER - KATHRYN PADILLA
OWNER - HIGHLAND FARM, LLC
TRAINER - CHRISTA ENDICOTT

OVERALL GRAND PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

PARIS CHARM

RIDER - CURRIE COOPER
OWNER - JJ TORANO
TRAINER - RICHARD CUNKLE

OVERALL GRAND GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL GRAND GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

ON TOUR

RIDER - MCKAYLA BROMBACH
OWNER - CHARLOTTE KELLY
TRAINER - KRISTINA MUSE

OVERALL GRAND GREEN PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

OTTERIDGE SHAMELESS

RIDER - ADDISON LITMAN
OWNER - FANCY PANTS EQUESTRIAN LLC
TRAINER - JENNIFER BOWERY

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2023 USEF PONY FINALS

OVERALL PONY HUNTER CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL SMALL PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

CELEBRATION

RIDER - KATHRYN PADILLA
OWNER - HIGHLAND FARM, LLC
TRAINER - CHRISTA ENDICOTT

OVERALL SMALL PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

DREAM BIG

RIDER - LOGAN BARAS
OWNER - REAGAN JARRETT
TRAINER - MICHAEL DELFIANDRA

OVERALL MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

PARIS CHARM

RIDER - CURRIE COOPER
OWNER: JJ TORANO
TRAINER - RICHARD CUNKLE

OVERALL MEDIUM PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

PLAY DATE

RIDER - EMI RICHARD
OWNER - EL MANTO, LLC
TRAINER - MARY RIVAS

OVERALL LARGE PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

GOLDMARK

RIDER - LILY EPSTEIN
OWNER - TAKE 3, LLC
TRAINER - ALLISON SWEETNAM

OVERALL LARGE PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

M'PIRE

RIDER - AEDAN MOONEY
OWNER - DEER CREEK FARM, LLC
TRAINERS - STACEY WEISS & SAMANTHA SCHAEFER

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2023 USEF PONY FINALS

OVERALL GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL SMALL GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

OTTERIDGE SHAMELESS

RIDER - ADDISON LITMAN

OWNER - FANCY PANTS EQUESTRIAN, LLC

TRAINER - JENNIFER BOWERY

OVERALL SMALL GREEN PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

FIRST DIBS

RIDER - LILY HERZOG

OWNER - CORNERSTONE EQUESTRIAN, LLC

TRAINER - AMANDA LYERLY

OVERALL MEDIUM GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

QUALEN'S CHARISMAGIC

RIDER - EMI RICHARD

OWNER - CAROLEX STABLES, LLC

TRAINER - ELIZABETH REDDING

OVERALL MEDIUM GREEN PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

LADY DESMOND

RIDER - VIVIAN GOLDEN

OWNER - DR. BETSEE PARKER

TRAINER - KEN BERKLEY

OVERALL LARGE GREEN PONY HUNTER CHAMPION

ON TOUR

RIDER - MCKAYLA BROMBACH

OWNER - CHARLOTTE KELLY

TRAINER - KRISTINA MUSE

OVERALL LARGE GREEN PONY HUNTER RESERVE CHAMPION

A NEVER-ENDING STORY

RIDER - LEILA HINSHAW

OWNER - LEILA HINSHAW

TRAINER - MICHAEL NEWMAN

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2023 USEF PONY FINALS

OVERALL PONY JUMPER TEAMS CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL PONY JUMPER TEAMS CHAMPIONS

VALOR

MADELINE KOTTMAN

CAPPUCINO

SIENNA SMITH

AIR FORCE ONE

REAGAN VOXMAN

STAR WISH

ZAHARA HENDERSON

OVERALL PONY JUMPER TEAMS RESERVE CHAMPIONS

ANGEL

ZOE DUVALL

VALCO PRINSEVELD

LINEN OWENS

CILLBHRID PIPPA

OLIVER ROLFE

SIR WALLACE

WILLIAM SLATER

OVERALL PONY JUMPER INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS & RESERVES

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL PONY JUMPER CHAMPIONS (TIE)

REAGAN VOXMAN & AIR FORCE ONE

CAMERON CUDDY & TEMPER OF TONY

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL PONY JUMPER RESERVE CHAMPION

MADELINE KOTTMAN & VALOR

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2023 USEF PONY FINALS



TROPHIES & AWARDS

**EMERSON BURR HORSEMANSHIP TEST
PRESENTED BY ROOD & RIDDLE EQUINE HOSPITAL**

8 & UNDER – AUDRINA MCCALL

9-11 – EVELYN SIGLER BENSON

12-14 – CARMEN SENSENIG

15-17 – LINEN OWENS

BUTTONS N' BOWS SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

AMELIA SMITH

EDNA LYTLE PERPETUAL TROPHY

BIBBY FARMER HILL

OUTSTANDING PARENT AWARD

ALEXANDRA KETNER

BETSY FISHBACK MEMORIAL TROPHY

CISY ZHOU

MINDY DARST PERPETUAL TROPHY

MCKAYLA BROMBACH

EMERSON BURR PERPETUAL TROPHY

CHRISTA ENDICOTT

BARONESS OF LOCHEIL PERPETUAL TROPHY

PARIS CHARM

VIRGINIA PONY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION GRAND CHAMPION

SIENNA ROSSANO AND DF CRUSH

VIRGINIA PONY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS

LARGE REGULAR PONY

CHARLI PRAGER AND COVENANT TOP SECRET

MEDIUM REGULAR PONY

KENZIE SMITH AND ISLAND GRACE

SMALL REGULAR PONY

SIENNA ROSSANO AND DF CRUSH

LARGE GREEN PONY

REBEKAH FERTEL AND WOODLANDS HOPE

MEDIUM GREEN PONY

SIENNA SMITH AND COVENANT BEAU'S SECRET

SMALL GREEN PONY

ADDISON LITMAN AND OTTERIDGE SHAMELESS

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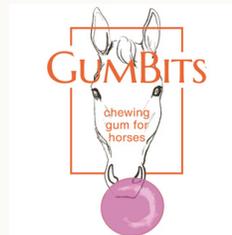
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