

Seven National Championships

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2—Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey — The victors in 1997. The young riders compete for individual titles on Thursday and Friday, October 8 and 9.

The Junior Jumper championship precedes by one day the American Horse Shows Association/Eisers and Pessoa National Hunt Seat Equitation Medal Championship, which will celebrate its golden anniversary in 1998. More than two hundred of the country's top young riders under age 18 endure a grueling day of competition and advanced tests over fences as they are judged on their horsemanship and control. The field is slowly narrowed until a handful of finalists are given a final test, which may be as difficult as jumping a challenging course without coaching

and on a horse they've never before ridden.

The prize is the medal that recognizes the best young rider in the country. The list of riders who have won over the past 50 years reads like a who's who of American equestrian sports, many of whom have gone on to represent the US internationally in Olympic and World Cup competition.

Pennsylvania is home to more foxhunting clubs than any state except Virginia, so it's only fitting that the North American Foxhunting Horn Blowing Championship be held at the Pennsylvania National. Created by the Master of Foxhounds Association in 1995, the championship will be held during Hunt Night, sponsored by Mellon

Bank, on Monday, October 12. The championship tests the ability of hunt staff to execute the four traditional melodies that communicate to hunters spread over a wide area the movement of the hounds in the hunt field.

A new national title for professional jumper riders will be held for the first time on Friday evening, October 16. The North American League Open Jumper Speed Series \$25,000 Championship, presented by Baron Farms, showcases top professional riders on the true speedsters of the open jumper ranks—those who jump high and go fast. Riders have qualified for the finals by competing successfully throughout 1998 over fences 4'9" high at shows from Florida to Ontario and in

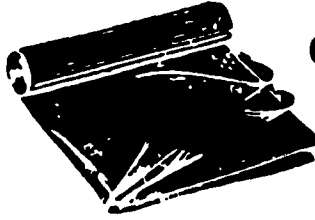
the midwest.

Other national titles decided at the show are the North American League Children's Jumper Finals, Wednesday, October 14, the North American League Adult Jumper Finals, Saturday, October 17, the North American League Children's Hunter Finals, Tuesday, October 13, and the North American League Adult Hunter Finals, Friday, October 16. These championships are for amateur adults and children, competing over fences no higher than 3'6". Qualifying points are earned by horses and riders as a team—a rider at the top of the standings must compete in the championship on the horse on which he or she earned points. About four hundred qualifying classes are held throughout 1998 at the shows in the east, midwest, California and Colorado.

Other world class championships are held at the PNHS, among them the \$50,000 Budweiser Grand Prix de Penn National, part of the Budweiser/American Grand Prix Series of Showjumping, held Saturday night, October 17, and the \$25,000 Pennsylvania Big Jump, Thursday, October 15. Both are used by the US Equestrian Team to pick the horses and riders who will compete internationally under the American flag.

The Pennsylvania National Horse show, America's largest multi-bred indoor horse show features competition for one thousand horses from across the US: hunters, jumpers, draft, saddlebred, western pleasure and roadster horses and Hackney ponies. For a free brochure or to order tickets, phone (717) 975-3677.

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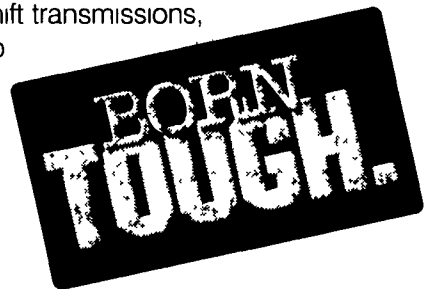
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