

## The Capital Challenge Horse Show

For Immediate Release

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### **Stateline Tack & Ariat Adult Medal Classes Draw The Nation's Best**

*Shelby Wakeman and Olivia Martin Earn Medals in Year-end Finals*

*Upper Marlboro, MD – (October 4, 2002) –* Shelby Wakeman, 11, of Westlake Village, Ca., rode to the top of two rounds to win the Stateline Tack Children's Medal Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Scoring an 88 and an 88.6 riding Carlo Cartani, Wakeman finished with a seven-point margin of victory. The smooth ride Wakeman executed over the Michael Rheinheimer-designed course left the 5-judge panel no choice but to pin her on top. The first course, a combination of roll-backs, broken lines and a single combination narrowed the field of 30 competitors. The top ten riders were asked to come back in reverse order to ride over a shortened course. The test - a trot jump at fence four – proved to be a good divider of ability. Wakeman's second trip was not only accurate, but showcased her equitation skills aboard Carlo Cartani.

Wakeman admitted she has spent some time practicing her trot jump and it clearly paid off.

The young rider trains with Jim Hagman and Dan Silverstone of Elvenstar Farm in Moorpark, Ca., She has been with Hagman since was six and he is thrilled to see his rider reach this milestone in her riding career. Hagman also recently trained another of his students, Katie Gardner, to the win at the Region 7 ASPCA Maclay regional finals. He feels that seeing these riders work their way up the ladder is extremely rewarding.

"I really love raising them," said Hagman. "They came out of our riding school so this is very emotional for me."

In the Ariat Adult National Medal Finals Oliva Martin of Farmington, Ct, topped a field of 30 competitors to win the prestigious class.

Martin rode Remington, a mount loaned to her by Missy Clark of North Run, and posted scores of 88.2 and 87 in the two-round class.

Earlier in the day adult amateur rider Dina Mazzola of Middletown, Ct., rode a borrowed horse named Leonardo and topped the World Champion Hunter Rider Adult Amateur Finals. This was only Mazzola's second horse show with the chestnut gelding. The pair qualified for the finals class by earning the adult amateur 18-35 championship the prior day.

Originally Mazzola was hoping to qualify for the Ariat Medal finals but was unable to do so because she couldn't consistently borrow horses. The 34-year-old rider is an adult working student at Heritage

Acres in Katonah, NY, and mainly trains with Patricia Griffith. She started with Heritage a year and a half ago after moving into the area from Canada.

Mazzola was very thankful to have the ride on Leonardo, and took the time out to thank not only her trainer, but also thanked owner Katie Pollack who gave her the ride and Jennifer Jones who loaned her a shadbelly to wear in the special class.

The Capital Challenge Horse Show runs through Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Saturday's action culminates with the \$30,000 Ariat Congressional Cup Grand Prix, presented by Stillwell Hansen. The jumper action will take place immediately following the leadline classes, which open the evening session at 7:30pm. The Ariat Congressional Cup Grand Prix will feature 36 of the nation's top riders including United States Equestrian Team veterans such as McLain Ward, Margie Engle, Leslie Howard, Alison Firestone and Joe Fargis. Admission is free every day. For more information please contact the show office at 301-952-7944/7945 or look for scheduling, results, photos and more on the official website – [www.capitalchallengehorseshow.com](http://www.capitalchallengehorseshow.com).

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