

Kelley Farmer had a great day of competition when she brought home multiple tricolor ribbons. Her first championship came in the Regular Conformation Hunters with Second City, owned by Jane Gaston. They won the model class, were fifth in the under saddle, won the stake, and finished with another second and two firsts over fences. The reserve champion was Declaration, owned by Fashion Farm and ridden by Glen Senk. Farmer and Red Sky at Night, owned by CH Farm LLC, were champions in the Green Conformation Hunters, with Stewart and Declaration picking up another reserve championship.



Kelley Farmer and Red Sky at Night

Farmer, of Keswick, VA, has ridden Second City, an eight-year-old mare, since last summer. Although Second City shows in the Regular Conformation division, she is just a First Year horse. Farmer and Second City were champions last week as well, and her owner Gaston shows her in the Amateur-Owner Hunters.

"She's just a good horse. She walks in the ring and tries hard every time," Farmer said. "She jumps four feet easy. She's not one that has to do a professional division to be ready for the amateurs. But you know, a good mare is a good mare, (and) there's nothing complicated about her. When stuff's not going well, you can call on her to be the one that goes well."

Farmer joked, "We call her the big fat mama! She goes in a rubber snaffle, no martingale, really quiet, really smooth, big stride, a ton of jump. She's big, but she's light on her feet. She's beautiful to ride."



Kelley Farmer and Second City

Farmer is looking forward to defending her title in the AHJF Hunter Spectacular of Palm Beach, which she won last year on Early Applause. "I'd love a repeat performance! It's always fun to ride out in this field. It's gorgeous out there. The fences are inviting, (and) you can gallop to the jumps. It's so special because we get an audience for the hunters," she remarked.

The First Year Green Hunters were split into two sections this week, and the champion of the first section was Blessed, ridden and owned by Scott Stewart of Flemington, NJ. They placed second, second, and third yesterday. The reserve championship went to Showman, ridden by Sandy Ferrell and owned by Alexa and Krista Weisman.

Today in the International Arena, Stewart and Blessed won the stake class with a score of 90. "She was better than I was in the big ring," he laughed. "I was expecting her to be green and she wasn't, so I didn't really ride her the best in the first class."



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Scott Stewart and Blessed

Stewart purchased Blessed, a six-year-old Holsteiner mare, three weeks ago from Derek Braun, and this was only her third show. "She was great this week. I was a little nervous because I just don't know her very well. I was maybe going to reinstate her for Pre-Green after showing three times, but she's fine. The first show that I did, she really wasn't ready and she jumped really high, so I didn't show her for two weeks after that. I did last week and this week to gauge it. Considering the cold, she was very good," he stated.

In the second section, Becky Gochman's Vibe and Peter Pletcher of Flower Mound, TX, took home the championship. They won a class yesterday as well as the under saddle and finished second and fourth over fences today. The reserve champion was Madison, ridden by Patricia Griffith for Chansonette Farm LLC.

Gochman purchased Vibe from Scott Stewart at the Devon Horse Show last May. Pletcher showed him lightly in the Pre-Green division and was champion in the Young Hunters at the Capital Challenge Horse Show. "I waited for him to show here. He was reserve champion one week and pretty much peaked at the best time," Pletcher pointed out. "This is what I was shooting for. I really like to try and have a good champion horse for this horse show."



Peter Pletcher and Vibe

Vibe is also six years old, so Pletcher is debating whether or not to show him on Saturday night. "I wasn't going to because he's young, but he walked in this ring and was so brave," he said. "He felt really good. I know it's a lot different at night under the lights, but he's an amazing horse. I think if his head is right, he could show really well."

Pletcher also believes that Vibe is special despite his small stature. "He's about 15.2 hands, so he's probably one of the smallest horses I've ever ridden, but he goes like the biggest horse I've ever ridden," he described. "He can canter around the course so unbelievably slow and walk the lines. It's very mesmerizing to watch that horse."

In the Second Year Green Hunters, Kid Rock and Louise Serio continued their dominance by picking up another championship ribbon. They were first and third yesterday and third under saddle. Today they finished first and second over fences. The reserve championship went to Travino, ridden by Samantha Schaefer for Heritage Farm.



Louise Serio and Kid Rock

Hunter action continues tomorrow with championships for the Small and Large Junior 16-17 Hunters as well as both age divisions of the Amateur-Owner Hunters.

For more full results and more information, please visit www.shownet.biz or www.equestriansport.com.

The 2010 FTI Winter Equestrian Festival has 12 weeks of top competition running from January 13 through April 4. WEF is run by Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC, and Wellington Equestrian Partners and held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. All 12 shows are "AA" rated and Jumper Rated 6, and more than \$5.5 million in prize money will be awarded.