



## Shine Still Sparkles At Great Southwest Winter Series II

*Liza Richardson pilots the chestnut stallion to a win over 21 challengers in the hunter derby.*

Anne Lang

PROVING TO ANY potential skeptics that age is simply a number, the 19-year-old Rhinelander stallion Shine made a bold statement on Feb. 10 in Katy, Texas. He swept both rounds to earn the overall crown in the \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at the Great Southwest Show Series II.

Trainer Liza Richardson, who has enjoyed a seven-year history with the horse and his owner, Vicki Hunton, helped guide Shine to the win, which occurred just one week after the pair's win in the USHJA National Hunter Derby during Week 1 of the show series, the only outings he's had so far in 2012.

"We gave him the month off in December," Hunton said, "and after two weeks, he became very unhappy. He didn't understand why he was getting time off. We thought it was a reward, but he thought it was punishment!"

Shine topped the field with a cumulative score of 353. Thirteen points behind was runner-up Sophia DePumpo's Mouse, with Colleen Acosta aboard. Third place (with 332) went to Amadeo, ridden by Bob Brawley for owner Diane Dematteo. Richardson also took fifth place on Kaitlin Hopmann's Delorean.

Richardson appreciated the courses

designed by Patrick Rodes, despite some initial worries.

"I was a little concerned about having two in-and-outs in the classic," Richardson said, "because horses don't gain more step as they get older. Also, there were some very airy jumps on the course, and I thought the hay bale in-and-out might be a little scary. But all of my horses [Rio's Fiorella was her third mount] jumped around great. The courses were so inviting that my horses didn't look twice at anything."

The handy round called for a series of tight rollbacks between fences 3 and 5, but Richardson was prepared. "I wanted



Shine proved he is 19 years young as he and Liza Richardson won both rounds and the overall \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Great Southwest Show Series II.





# HORSE SHOWS

\$15,000

## USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

Katy, Texas—Feb. 10

Judges: Panel 1: Frank Willard, Teri Beck; Panel 2: Gary Young, Robert Allison

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL
	Score/ Height Option	Score/ Height Option	Score/Bonus/ Height Option	Score/Bonus/ Height Option	
1. Shine/Liza Richardson	87/0	87/0	87/3/0	86/3/0	353
2. Mouse/Colleen Acosta	83/0	84/0	85/2/0	84/2/0	340
3. Amadeo/Bob Brawley	81/0	82/0	81/3/2	78/3/2	332
4. Burberry/Whitney Owens	80/0	79/0	79/2/0	79/2/0	321
5. Delorean/Liza Richardson	76/0	79/0	82/0/0	81/1/0	319
6. Now How Z/Kelly Joyner	70/0	72/0	80/2/0	82/2/0	308
7. Christabel/Rebecca Odom	72/1	70/1	79/0/2	78/0/2	305
8. Mamba/Britt McCormick	69/1	67/1	77/3/3	72/2/3	298
9. Promise Me/Christian Rogge	67/2	67/2	65/2/4	68/3/4	284
10. Ondrus/Natalee Dunn	73.5/0	75/0	64/0/0	65/1/0	278.5
11. Pimm's Cup/Ashley Hixon	75/0	79/0	55/1/0	63/1/0	274
12. Catwalk/Lindsey Roberts	74/0	72/0	-	-	146

22 horses competed.

to be careful not to spin him around any of the turns," she said, "which might cause him to lose his footing. So I rode very straight in the handy and tried to stay on a forward step."

Richardson also stuck to the lower jumps when options were offered. "I made a deal with Shine that at his age, he doesn't have to do any high options," she explained. "So I didn't try to take any chances or jump the higher fences. Instead, I concentrated on trying to put in beautiful, flowing trips and allowing my horses to jump well."

### ► A Special Bond

That plan has served Richardson well since the beginning of 2010, when she and Hunton decided to focus on derbies

with Shine. (Previously, Shine had taken Hunton through a four-year phase in the adult amateurs, during which they earned numerous championships at the zone and state levels.)

In 2010, Richardson and Shine won the Estes Park Hunter Derby (Colo.) and had two top-six finishes in USHJA International Hunter Derbies. In 2011, the duo placed in the top 12 in five USHJA International Hunter Derbies and competed at the \$100,000 Finals in Lexington, Ky.

Winning at Katy, Richardson said, was partly due to the close kinship between horse and trainer. "I know Shine so well," Richardson stated. "And he's wonderfully consistent. He has the best brain of any stallion that I know. He wants to please, and he wants to show

off. I'm the luckiest girl in the world to be able to ride him, and I say that every day."

Richardson's ties to Shine date back about seven years. The 16.1-hand stallion (Akzent II—St Pr St Larissa) was imported to Texas from Germany in 2001 following a dressage career. Soon afterward, he was sold to an owner in California, where he stayed for two years, winning national, regional and state championships in the green hunters and green conformation hunters.

Sold once again, this time to Sue Overholt and Kim Hopkins in Virginia, Shine competed in the amateur-owner hunter division—and simultaneously continued his stud career. His show record, exceptional good looks and way of going had already caught the attention of Richardson and Hunton, both of whom breed sport horses, so they each bred a mare to Shine.

In 2006, when Shine again came up for sale, "We loved him so much that Vicki bought him," Richardson said. While continuing to campaign in the hunters, Shine has sired a foal crop every year since being acquired by Hunton—and several of his offspring have gone on to success in the hunter realm.

"He's the most magnificent amateur horse," Richardson said, "with an amateur brain, and he throws that brain to his offspring. His babies are very trainable. When you combine that brain with his beauty, movement and jumping ability, he's the whole package."

His ground manners are also un-stallion-like. "He's a puppy dog," Richardson declared. "There's not a mean bone in his body. He's incredibly sweet and gentle, and he'll eat any kind of treat. He loves candy, cookies, you name it."

### ► Organic Training

Richardson's path to a career in the horse business began in Texas with her first riding lesson, at age 7. She kept riding after her family moved to Minnesota, then, following high school, she worked for a succession of show barns in the Chicago area. Richardson returned to Texas and took a break from horses while she studied for a degree in mathematics from the University of Houston.

In the late 1980s, Richardson, now 43, began working for trainer Orly

## TIDBIT



- Kurstin Grady, 13, of The Woodlands, Texas, and her 13-year-old medium Welsh pony, Little Wonder, were champions in the pony hunter division and winners of the pony classic.

"'Star,' is one of those ponies that I never want to let go; I want to keep her for my own 7-month-old child to ride someday! She has the best heart and always tries her hardest," said Grady's trainer Erin Jarvis.

"Kurstin has won everything she can on her," Jarvis added, "and she's getting to the point where she's outgrown her a little bit. They're just such a good pair. They know each other so well, and they each work very hard."

Riders from Jarvis' barn in Cypress, Texas, came home with four championships and two reserves.





(David Mullinix Photography Photo)

Hallie Smith guided Zen to the adult amateur, 18-49, hunter title at the Great Southwest Show Series II.

the title in the adult amateur, 18-49, division aboard her 8-year-old Dutch Warmblood Zen, who also was champion in the 3' pre-green division with professional Sandy Strack.

"Zen is just a fabulous horse," said Cheney, of Step Aside Farm in Elgin, Texas. "He has such a great rhythm. He's beautiful, and he just goes out there and does his job every day. There's nothing high-tech about him.

"Less is more on Zen," Cheney continued. "The less you try to ride him, the better he is, which isn't typical of most horses. If you can just sit still and let him canter around the course, you're going to be a hero on him. Hallie's very good about just following Zen's canter, which makes him great."

Mary Jones of Austin and her 8-year-old Selle Français-Thoroughbred cross Hall Of Fame claimed the adult amateur, 50 and over, division. Jones bred "Lucky," by Jones Hall and out of a dam, Elegante du Pave, who Jones showed in the adult amateurs about 12 years ago.

"Mary won a lot on that mare," said Cheney, "then we retired the horse as a broodmare. On Lucky, Mary does a very good job of keeping him straight and his canter even. She's a very organized rider."

Cora McGowan of San Angelo, Texas, finished as the reserve champion to Jones aboard Custom Classic, a 15-year-old Quarter Horse that McGowan is leasing.

"Cora owned a smaller Quarter Horse who had an unfortunate injury last year," Cheney explained, "so we decided to lease another Quarter Horse while she looks for something to buy. 'Custom' is teaching her so much about how to ride a larger horse, because he's 16.1 and has a huge stride. She's looking for a 3'6" horse, so Custom is bridging the gap between the horse she had and the horse she's looking for."

Rounding out the Step Aside riders who earned tricolors: Nancy Lewis of Elgin was reserve champion on Banderas in the 3'3" amateur-owner hunters; Nancy Littlejohn of Houston was champion on Aspen in the long stirrup

DeHoyas "because I missed the horses," she said. In 1993, Richardson launched her own training enterprise. She owns and operates the 10-acre Hunter's Run Farms, based in Simonton (near Houston), where she offers boarding, lessons and sales horses, most of which were bred by Richardson or one of her clients and are shown in the hunter breeding divisions.

"I now have a business partner in Europe," Richardson added, "so I've started importing a select few horses from there, as well."

At Hunter's Run, riders train in a large grass field instead of a ring.

"There are times when it would be nice to have a perfectly groomed arena," Richardson admitted, "particularly when we're experiencing poor weather. But I love riding on natural footing in an open field. The horses are happier, and they don't hunt the corners or anticipate lead changes.

"In the field," Richardson added, "you can turn right or left on approaches or after landings at every jump. My horses have to be alert and watch their footing, so their muscles are always working to keep them balanced. This makes them very fit, and so does the fact that they're working on somewhat uneven, sloping ground."

The dynamic seems to work well for Shine. "Every other day, he forward-trots three miles in the field to keep him fit,"

Richardson said. "He never jumps between shows."

Because he's still competing, Shine lives at Hunter's Run, although Hunton runs her own hunter breeding business at Olde Oaks Farm in nearby Thompsons, Texas, where she currently houses four broodmares, three 3-year-olds, two 2-year-olds and two yearlings.

**"He's not ready to retire yet. I think it's all in his attitude—he doesn't seem to think he's old."**

—Vicki Hunton

"He's just getting better as he gets older," Hunton remarked. "And his babies are following in his footsteps [with championships on the line, as well as tricolors at the zone and state level]. He's not ready to retire yet. Liza's got him so fit, and he's just so happy. I think it's all in his attitude—he doesn't seem to think he's old."

## ► A Near Sweep

Trainer Donna Cheney's riders collected four championships and four reserve championships in Katy. In the two adult amateur divisions, Cheney's students claimed three of the four tricolors.

Hallie Smith of Austin, Texas, earned





# HORSE SHOWS

Mary Jones won the Great Southwest Show Series II's adult amateur, 50 and over, championship on her homebred Hall Of Fame.

hunters, and her 11-year-old daughter, Isabella, was reserve champion in the pony hunters on Rosmel's Uncontested.

"This show was just really great for our barn," Cheney said. "Everybody rode very well."

KATY, TX—FEB. 8-12.

**GREEN HUNTER CH:** Now How Z, Kelly Joyner.

**RES:** Pimm's Cup, Whitney Miller.

**3'6" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH:** Alistair, Stacey Woods.

**RES:** Vesuvius, Madeline Odom.

**3'3" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH:** Dubari, Gayle Cox.

**RES:** Wildcatter, Tara-Leigh Davis.

**LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH:** All In, Carly Lazzari.

**RES:** Banderas, Nancy Lewis.

**AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH:** Dubari, Gayle Cox.

**RES:** Pimm's Cup, Whitney Miller.

**LARGE JR. HUNTER CH:** MTM Braggin Rights, Taylor Sutton.

**RES:** Vesuvius, Madeline Odom.

**SMALL JR. HUNTER CH:** Now How Z, Kelly Joyner.

**RES:** Midnight Hour, Audrey Trimble.

**MODIFIED JR./AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH:** Coraggio PF, Carley Barnett.

**RES:** Maximus, Peyton Peltier.

**PONY HUNTER CH:** Little Wonder, Kurstin Grady.

**RES:** Rosmel's Uncontested, Isabella Littlejohn.

**GREEN PONY HUNTER CH:** GF Forget Me Not, Jennifer Wheeler-Winborne.

**RES:** All Things Chrome, Abby Horswell.

**SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER CH:** Peterpotamus, Emily Weeks.

**RES:** All Smiles, Cameron Pfeiffer.

**LONG STIRRUP HUNTER CH:** Aspen, Nancy Littlejohn.

**RES:** Regalo, Jana Arnoldy.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Castano, Maddie Chenoweth.

**RES:** San Miguel, Caroline Ellis.

**CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Simpatico, Britt McCormick.

**RES:** Ring Raider, Gabrielle McGarry.

**CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH:** Brownland's Jessie James, Claire Levinson.

**RES:** Peter, Sedona Chamblee.

**ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-49 CH:** Zen, Hallie Smith.

**RES:** Sundance, Caitlin Sewell.

**ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 50 & OVER CH:** Hall Of Fame, Mary Jones.

**RES:** Custom Classic, Cora McGowan.

**PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH:** Zen, Hallie Smith.

**RES:** Slick, Alta Basaldua.

**3'3" PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH:** Coraggio PF, Carley Barnett.

**RES:** On-Board Z, Kai Devoglaer.

**MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH:** Primetime, Shadyside Farm.

**RES:** Calistoga, Sarah Brooks.

**MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH:** MTM In Like Flint, PLC Farm.

**RES:** Montebello, Michael DeMatteo.

**LIMIT RIDER HUNTER CH:** Repertoire, Kaitlin Hopmann.

**RES:** JI Carlos, Anastasia Stewart.

**BABY GREEN HUNTER CH:** Fleetwood's Derby, Felicia Carroll.

**RES:** Caradise, Natalie Dunn.

**HOPEFUL HUNTER CH:** Regalo, Jana Arnoldy.

**RES:** Aspen, Nancy Littlejohn.

**OPPORTUNITY WALK-TROT-CANTER EQUITATION CH:** Alaina Wright.

**RES:** Khaki McCool.

**LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH:** Betty Davis, Alexiene Degueure.

**RES:** Fahrenheit, Emily Sinacola.



(David Mullinix Photography Photo)

**HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH:** Absolute Envy, TNT Equine Partners LLC.

**RES:** Ferracci, Caitlyn Epperson.

**HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH:** Zidane, Eduardo Leon.

**RES:** Wild Card, Elizabeth Vest.

**LOW JR./AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH:** Macondo, Abby Evans.

**RES:** Indian Creek's Mighty Magic, Kelsey Van Ackeren.

**LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH:** Powder Run, Heinz Hermann.

**RES:** Levi 7, Heather Harris.

**BEST YOUNG HORSE CH:** Vuitton, Felicia Carroll.

**RES:** California Time, Caren Luckie.

**▲ Grn. Htr. - 1.** Echape, B. Roberts; 2. Now How Z; 3. MTM In Like Flint, PLC Farm. **▲ Grn. Handy Htr. - 1.**

Pimm's Cup; 2. DSH This Time Around, DS Holdings LLC; 3. MTM In Like Flint. **▲ Grn. Htr. - 1.** Four Leaf Clover, R.

Wilson; 2. Now How Z; 3. Echape. **▲ Grn. Htr. Stakes - 1.**

Now How Z; 2. Off The Chart, PLC Farm; 3. Pimm's Cup. **▲ Grn. Htr. U/S - 1.** Metternich, K. King; 2. DSH This Time

Around; 3. Pimm's Cup. **▲ 3'6"-3'9" Perf. Htr. - 1.** Alistair; 2. Amadeo, D. Dematteo; 3. Vesuvius. **▲ 3'6"-**

**3'9" Perf. Handy Htr. - 1.** Alistair; 2. Vesuvius; 3. Mamba, A. Kartsotis. **▲ 3'6"-3'9" Perf. Handy Htr. - 1.** Alistair; 2.

Tatabra Oprah, E. Carter; 3. Vesuvius. **▲ 3'6"-3'9" Perf. Htr. - 1.** Alistair; 2. Vesuvius; 3. Tatabra Oprah. **▲ 3'6"-**

**3'9" Perf. Htr. U/S - 1.** Mamba; 2. Alistair; 3. Vesuvius. **▲ 3'3" Perf. Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Wildcatter; 3. North

Shore, A. Kartsotis. **▲ 3'3" Perf. Handy Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Wildcatter; 3. Ondrus, N. Dunn. **▲ 3'3" Perf. Htr. - 1.**

Dubari; 2. All In; 3. MTM Braggin Rights. **▲ 3'3" Perf. Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. All In; 3. Ondrus. **▲ 3'3" Perf. Htr. U/S -**

**1.** Wildcatter; 2. MTM Braggin Rights; 3. North Shore. **▲ Low A/O Htr. - 1.** All In; 2. Banderas; 3. Manhattan, T.

Miller. **▲ Low A/O Handy Htr. - 1.** Crem De La Crem, L. Kruger; 2. Chicago, T. Miller; 3. Banderas. **▲ Low A/O**

**Htr. - 1.** All In; 2. Banderas; 3. Chicago. **▲ Low A/O Htr. Stakes - 1.** Banderas; 2. Onslow, C. Coulter; 3. All In.

**▲ Low A/O Htr. U/S - 1.** Chicago; 2. All In; 3. Banderas. **▲ A/O Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Catwalk, L. Roberts; 3.

Santiago, Shadyside Farm. **▲ A/O Handy Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Pimm's Cup; 3. Icing, L. Roberts. **▲ A/O Htr. -**

**1.** Icing; 2. Pimm's Cup; 3. Burberry, S. Hellman. **▲ A/O Htr. Stakes - 1.** Icing; 2. Pimm's Cup; 3. Dubari. **▲ A/O**

**Htr. U/S - 1.** Dubari; 2. Catwalk; 3. Santiago. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr. - 1.** Vesuvius; 2. Rio's Fiorella, C. Alexander; 3.

Mamba. **▲ Lg. Jr. Handy Htr. - 1.** MTM Braggin Rights; 2.

Rio's Fiorella; 3. Mouse, S. Depumpo. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr. - 1.**

Flower, K. Donovan; 2. MTM Braggin Rights; 3. Carlaro, A. Ramirez. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr. Stake - 1.** Vesuvius; 2. MTM

Braggin Rights; 3. Cavalier, G. Rubin. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr. U/S - 1.** Mamba; 2. MTM Braggin Rights; 3. Flower. **▲ Sm. Jr.**

**Htr. - 1.** Now How Z; 2. Copperfield, A. Ramirez; 3. Gabriel HFH, A. Lundin. **▲ Sm. Jr. Handy Htr. - 1.** Now

How Z; 2. Christabel, R. Odom; 3. Usher, M. Ward. **▲ Sm. Jr. Htr. - 1.** Midnight Hour; 2. Usher; 3. Copperfield.

**▲ Sm. Jr. Htr. Stakes - 1.** Midnight Hour; 2. Usher; 3. Gabriel HFH. **▲ Sm. Jr. Htr. U/S - 1.** Christabel; 2. Four

Leaf Clover; 3. Gabriel HFH. **▲ Mod. Jr./A/O Htr. - 1.** Coraggio PF; 2. Maximus; 3. Stargates Bella, P. Peltier.

**▲ Mod. Jr./A/O Handy Htr. - 1.** Coraggio PF; 2. Harmonized, J. Zienkiewicz; 3. Stargates Bella. **▲ Mod.**

**Jr./A/O Htr. - 1.** Maximus; 2. Obora's Groks, M. Bolin; 3. Stargates Bella. **▲ Mod. Jr./A/O Htr. - 1.** Bocelli, K.

McFadden; 2. Coraggio PF; 3. Obora's Groks. **▲ Mod. Jr./A/O Htr. U/S - 1.** Sagaro, M. Hildebrand; 2. Coraggio

PF; 3. Bocelli. **▲ Conf. Pony Htr. - 1.** RosMel's Uncontested; 2. Bianca, M. Binder; 3. Jamestown, Smith

Hallie Fei. **▲ Pony Htr. - 1.** RosMel's Uncontested; 2. Little Wonder; 3. Crystal Acres Chocolatier, S. Chamblee.

**▲ Pony Handy Htr. - 1.** Little Wonder; 2. Crystal Acres Chocolatier; 3. Jamestown. **▲ Pony Htr. Stakes - 1.**

Little Wonder; 2. Jamestown; 3. Wellen Goldsmith, A. Albrecht. **▲ Pony Htr. U/S - 1.** Crystal Acres Chocolatier;

2. Jamestown; 3. Little Wonder. **▲ Grn. Conf. Pony Htr. - 1.** All Things Chrome; 2. GF Forget Me Not; 3. Cool By

The Pool, J. Wheeler-Winborne. **▲ Grn. Pony Htr. - 1.** Cool By The Pool; 2. All Things Chrome; 3. GF Forget Me

Not. **▲ Grn. Pony Htr. - 1.** GF Forget Me Not; 2. All Things Chrome; 3. Cool By The Pool. **▲ Grn. Pony Htr. -**

**1.** GF Forget Me Not; 2. All Things Chrome; 3. Cool By The Pool. **▲ Grn. Pony Htr. U/S - 1.** GF Forget Me Not;

2. All Things Chrome; 3. Cool By The Pool. **▲ S/S Htr. - 1.** Peterpotamus; 2. DeLavan, Baskin Farm Inc.; 3. All

Smiles. **▲ S/S Htr. - 1.** All Smiles; 2. Fendi, Lochmoor Stables; 3. DeLavan. **▲ S/S Htr. - 1.** Happy Feet, S.

Hopson; 2. DeLavan; 3. All Smiles. **▲ S/S Htr. - 1.** Happy Feet; 2. All Smiles; 3. DeLavan. **▲ S/S Htr. U/S - 1.**

Peterpotamus; 2. Game On, M. Holstead; 3. Simply Penelope, E. Geno. **▲ L/S Htr. - 1.** Aspen; 2. Regalo; 3.

Bilieux, J. Izzo. **▲ L/S Htr. - 1.** Aspen; 2. Bilieux; 3. Regalo. **▲ L/S Htr. - 1.** Aspen; 2. Regalo; 3. Bilieux. **▲ L/S Htr. -**

**1.** Regalo; 2. Aspen; 3. Bilieux. **▲ L/S Htr. U/S - 1.** Regalo; 2. Aspen; 3. Bilieux. **▲ Child. Htr., 14 & Under -**

**1.** Castano; 2. Worthy Z, H. Smith; 3. San Miguel. **▲ Child. Htr., 14 & Under - 1.** Off The Chart, PLC Farm; 2. San