



Barnhill Takes Texas By Storm

The junior rider tops a 37-horse field in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering.

Anne Lang

LIVING UP TO HER reputation as a rider with nerves of steel (not to mention innate talent), 17-year-old Hayley Barnhill nabbed the most lucrative prize at the Spring Gathering Horse Show, April 9 in Katy, Texas. Best known for her wins last fall in the Pessoa/USEF Medal and the ASPCA Maclay finals, this time Barnhill took home the trophy in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby aboard Alliy Moyer's 9-year-old warmblood gelding, Safari.

The high school senior from Collierville, Tenn., started off by winning the classic round over Jennifer Alfano (who was runner-up in that first round aboard

SBS Farm's Jersey Boy and third on Helen Lenahan's Miss Lucy). Miss Lucy took the blue in the handy round (just ahead of Safari), placing second overall by 3 points. Tracy Fenney of Flower Mound, Texas, finished third overall on Alexandra Zell's Exposure.

"I liked the courses," said Barnhill. "The first round was nice; you could judge more on the horse's style. It was very inviting, nothing too trappy. I loved the long gallop to the big single oxer. Safari has such great range; you can pick up a gallop from miles away, and he gets there and goes sky high. We knew the four-foot options were no problem for him."

Richard Jeffery designed the indoor derby courses, and Barnhill admitted that the handy round "was a lot tougher. It was a lot trickier than it looked on paper. The tight inside turns to and after the extremely long one-stride proved to be harder than we all thought. There were a lot of options for tight turns that didn't end up being very smooth. [But] it was a good test that gave you lots of options."

Barnhill said riding last in the handy round helped her. She got a little bit of breathing room when Jersey Boy, who'd been on their heels in the classic round and was fresh off a big win at the



(Shawn McMillen Photography Photo)

Hayley Barnhill rode to first place aboard Alliy Moyer's Safari in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering.



Jennifer Alfano guided Miss Lucy to second place in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering for owner Helen Lenehan.

\$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby in Wellington, Fla., pulled a rail at the last oxer. He finished eighth overall.

"After all the mistakes [made by some other horses and riders], I knew I didn't need to do anything crazy, but I couldn't play it too safe with Jen having big scores [on Miss Lucy]," Barnhill said. "We decided to go right around to the one-stride but stay handy everywhere else. Safari went around so smoothly, I never had to touch the reins and he jumped great.

"Safari is everyone's type," Barnhill added. "He's the same every time; he rises to the occasion of a big class and goes even better. He could do it on his own. You just tell him where to go, and he has the rest covered."

Barnhill caught the ride on Safari (and on Moyer's other horse, Libretto) when the Spring Gathering dates conflicted with Moyer's SAT testing. Barnhill had ridden Safari during Week 7 of the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. Moyer, a 16-year-old from Carmel, Ind., acquired Safari as a junior hunter right before the Pennsylvania National Horse Show last fall and the pair has racked up tricolors ever since.

Tricolors came Barnhill's way at Spring Gathering as well. She and Safari were champions in the small junior hunters, and she rode Libretto to the top of the large junior, 16-17, division. Barnhill also won the junior hunter classic aboard Libretto and finished third on Safari.



(Shawn McMillen Photography Photo)

four of which earned championships. She was inspired to make the trip after talking with Spring Gathering manager and friend Peter Pletcher. "We're very happy that we did, and we'll probably come for two weeks next year. We really, really enjoyed the horse show: good footing, great jumps, everything. So far, it's been one of my favorites."

Barnhill agreed: "Peter does a great job with the show. It's run very well, they give great prizes, and they work to keep the classes special."

While in Texas, Barnhill was far from her usual team of trainers: Kelly and

Tim Goguen, Missy Clark, Michael Delfiandra, John Brennan and Tom Wright. She began riding with David Pellegrini when she was 8, and while she doesn't ride much with him anymore, "He is still very influential to my riding. We haven't been at many of the same shows in the last two years, but we talk on the phone every week. He's still a big part of my life."

Barnhill, who takes correspondence high school classes, was grateful for the opportunity to ride in Texas. "I really appreciate the Moyers and Tammy letting me do these classes on such nice

► The Whole Package

Tammy Provost of Meadowview Farm in Sheridan, Ind., trains Moyer and was pleased that Barnhill could fill in for her absent student.

"I can't say enough about Hayley," Provost declared. "She's a junior, yet she rides better than most professionals. She's just so soft, and the horses love her. She rides well under pressure, as she showed at the equitation finals last fall. We needed someone to travel to Texas to ride Alli's horses, and I couldn't imagine anyone else I'd rather have."

Provost brought nine horses to Katy,

\$50,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

Katy, Texas—Apr. 9

Judges: Panel 1: William Sparks, Bill Ellis; Panel 2: Bobbi Reber, Danny Robertshaw

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL
	PANEL 1 Score/ Height Option	PANEL 2 Score/ Height Option	PANEL 1 Score/Bonus/ Height Option	PANEL 2 Score/Bonus/ Height Option	
1. Safari/Hayley Barnhill	92/4	90/4	88/5/4	88/4/4	383
2. Miss Lucy/Jennifer Alfano	89/4	89/4	90/6/4	85/5/4	380
3. Exposure/Tracy Fenney	88.25/2	85.5/2	84/5/2	82/5/2	357.5
4. INXS/Tracy Fenney	86/2	86/2	77/8/4	69/8/4	346
5. Valiant/Tamara Provost	84.5/4	83/4	70/6/4	73/6/4	338.5
6. To The Nines/Tracy Fenney	88.5/1	87.5/1	68/7/3	70/5/3	334
7. Choco Mousse/Erynn Ballard	83.5/2	84/2	65/6/1	70/7/1	321.5
8. Jersey Boy/Jennifer Alfano	89.5/4	92/4	45/4/4	40/5/4	291.5
9. Primero/Peter Pletcher	88/4	80/4	50/8/4	49/3/4	288
10. Argentum/Peter Pletcher	85.5/2	86.25/2	45/4/4	45/7/4	284.75
11. Tell All/Peter Pletcher	87/2	83.5/2	43/5/2	45/3/2	274.5
12. Libretto/Hayley Barnhill	84.75/2	84.5/2	0/0/0	0/0/0	173.25

37 horses competed.



HORSE SHOWS

Alexandra Zell's Exposure claimed third place in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering with Tracy Fenney aboard.

horses," Barnhill stated. "Tammy does such a great job with the horses. It was a really good experience."

► New Opportunities

Pletcher of Magnolia, Texas, dominated in the \$25,000 pre-green hunter classic, walking away with the top three spots on Nanette Hebert's Bleu, Lori Motlagh's Jimmy and Mary Stone's Enrico. He also won (on Enrico) and finished second (on Lynn Walsh's Outta The Park) in the \$20,000 USHJA National Hunter Classic.

"I think it's amazing," Pletcher said of the USHJA National Hunter Classics, with fences set at 3'-3'3", a series which debuted last spring. "It's such a great stepping stone to provide for pre-green horses and younger ones that are just starting out. A perfect example: We did one of my first-year horses in the first week [Pin Oak I], and then I bumped him up to the derby at Pin Oak II."

The Spring Gathering show partnered with the Pin Oak Charity I and II shows (an annual back-to-back series of three) to create the Texas High Performance Series, which this year offered more than a half-million dollars in prize money. Spring Gathering supported the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, while the Pin Oak shows traditionally support the Ronald McDonald House of Houston and Texas Children's Hospital. "It's just amazing how generous people are when it comes to donating money for children's charities," Pletcher said. "We have a lot of people from different places all over the country who have donated money. But no state is more generous than Texas."

KATY, TX—APR. 6-10.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Jersey Boy, SBS Farm.
RES: CR Carolato II, Buddrus Equine LLC.

1ST YR. GREEN HUNTER CH: Adonis, Wendy Hofmeister.
RES: Exposure, Alexandra Zell.

2ND YR. GREEN HUNTER CH: Miss Lucy, Helen Lenahan.
RES: Choco Mousse, Claire Thomas.

CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Timber Ridge, Shane George.
RES: Manhattan, Teriann Miller.

3'6"-3'9" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Primero, Sleepy P Ranch LLC.
RES: Argentum, Alta Basaldua.

3'3" PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH: Aura, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Caristo.
RES: Must Be Magic, Shelby Albrecht.



(Shawn McMillen Photography Photo)

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Fun One, Emily Woodall.
RES: Scoop, Cammy Turgon.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Bluegrass, Ruth Hawk.
RES: Gatsby, Kyle Owens.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH: Dubari, Gayle Cox.
RES: Tell All, Susan Baker.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: MTM Braggins Rights, Taylor Sutton.
RES: Most Wanted, Bethany Bolen.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: Libretto, Alliy Moyer.
RES: Caden, Shadyside Farm.

SMALL JR. HUNTER CH: Safari, Alliy Moyer.
RES: Holiday, Shadyside Farm.

LARGE PONY HUNTER CH: Siddhartha, Maggie Di Vecchia.
RES: Blue Me Away, KAC Horses LLC.

MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH: Honorable, Claire McKean.
RES: Keep A Secret, Isabel Coleman.

SMALL PONY HUNTER CH: Pashmina, Jordan Coyle.
RES: GF Reign And Shine, Amanda Roche.

GREEN PONY HUNTER CH: Aerosmith, Peter Pletcher.
RES: Divide's Freedom Spirit, Caleigh Fults.

PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: CR Esquire, Tassie Munroe & Jimmy, Lori Motlagh.
RES: Celebrate, Denise Clolery & Bleu, Nanette Hebert.

3'3" PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: Wayfarer, Jill Donaldson.
RES: Luck, Johnnie Martin-Carey.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH: Midnight Hour, Audrey Trimble.
RES: Double Down, Caroline Adelson.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH: Four Leaf Clover, Rebekah Wilson.
RES: Right On, Megan Clark.

CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH: Black Onyx, KAC Horses LLC.
RES: Little Big Man, Josie Van Hooser.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Persistence, KAC Horses LLC.
RES: Premiere, KAC Horses LLC.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-49 CH: Sidekick, Jamie Jarvis.
RES: Undeniable, Meredith Mulliken.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 50 & OVER CH: Rasputin, Merrilee Braley.
RES: Capistrano, Mimi Herbert.

MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH: CR Lagato, Teresa Gonzalez & Icebreaker, Melanie Frey.
RES: Gabriella, Rio Vista Farm & In A Nutshell, Grace Crawford.

MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: JL Blu-Ray, Jennifer Blumenthal.
RES: Hall Of Fame, Mary Jones.

NON-PRO HUNTER CH: Remy Martin, Morgan Tullos.
RES: Beyond Belief, Rachel Porter.

SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER CH: All Things Chrome, Abby Horswell.
RES: In A Nutshell, Grace Crawford.

LONG STIRRUP HUNTER CH: Sweet Emotion, Stephanie Greiwe.
RES: Willy Behave, Elizabeth Nellis.

HOPEFUL HUNTER CH: CR Lagato, Teresa Gonzalez.
RES: Isabelle, Wendy Thompson.

MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: Jimmy, Lori Motlagh.
RES: Adagio, Kendall Clark.

LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH: Cause Im Better, Suzanne Gossett.
RES: Turn Key, Morgan Toal.

HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH: Granada, Emily Dewing.
RES: Chaplin, Jessica Dicampli.

LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH: My Fly, Hi Hollow Farm.
RES: Prince Charming, Lisa Tanche-Larsen.

HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH: Absolute Envy, TNT Equine Partners LLC.
RES: Skylark, Johannis De Leyer.

1.35M JUMPER CH: Rival Du Point Du Jour, Castle Point Farm LLC.
RES: Jolly Mon, Wilhelm Genn.

1.40M JUMPER CH: L'Etoile, The L'Etoile Group LLC.
RES: Winchester, Bridlebourne Stables LLC.

LOW JR. JUMPER CH: Patita A, Alison Lindsay.
RES: Coraldo, Matt Cyphert.

HIGH JR. JUMPER CH: Cantera, Wolf Trot Farms.
RES: Vantos V, Margaux Wheeler.

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Al Cantaro, Jazz Hawk.
RES: Electric Avenue, Jennifer Scholl.

HIGH AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Rafa 10, Maggie Hines.
RES Tie: Jolly Mon, Wilhelm Genn & For Farina, Wilhelm Genn.

BEST YOUNG HORSE: Fleetwood's Derby, Felicia Carroll.
RES: LF Envision, Kimberly Morgan.

▲ **HP Htr.** - 1. Jersey Boy; 2. CR Carolato II; 3. Rex The Wonder Horse, M. Masuoka. ▲ **1st Yr. Grn. Htr.** - 1. Adonis; 2. Refined, SHF Enterprises Inc.; 3. Cherry Stone, F. Bock. ▲ **1st Yr. Grn. Htr.** - 1. Valobra, E. Bisso; 2. Exposure; 3. Refined. ▲ **1st Yr. Grn. Htr.** - 1. Adonis; 2. Exposure; 3. Libretto. ▲ **1st Yr. Grn. Handy Htr. Stakes**

Fenney Scores Big Again

Tracy Fenney and MTM Centano repeated their win from the previous week in the \$30,000 Pin Oak II Grand Prix with a victory in the \$25,000 Spring Gathering Grand Prix. They led a jump-off of 11 entries from an initial 21-horse field, over a course designed by Richard Jeffery.

Of those 11, nine went double clear, but Fenney and her 11-year-old Holsteiner "Sly" clocked the fastest time of 36.71 seconds over Chris Nelson on GPS Inside Out (39.06), owned by Lazy Creek Ranch Holdings LLC. Katie Cox finished third on her own Sacramento N (40.46).

"It was a great jump-off," Fenney said. "The last horse of Wilhelm [Genn's] was pretty green, so I figured he wouldn't go super fast—but Chris's horse was, so I went as fast as I could. Most people did 10 or 11 strides to the last fence, but I did it in nine."

Why did half the field advance to the jump-off? "I don't know," Fenney said. "I never think it looks easy, so I was surprised that so many went clean."

\$25,000 SPRING GATHERING GRAND PRIX

Katy, Texas—Apr. 10

HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. MTM Centano/ Tracy Fenney	0-0	36.71	\$7,500
2. GPS Inside Out/ Chris Nelson	0-0	39.06	5,500
3. Sacramento N/Katie Cox	0-0	40.46	3,250
4. Happy Z/Wilhelm Genn	0-0	40.79	2,000
5. Peggi Sue/ Frankie Owens III	0-0	41.87	1,500
6. South Bound/ Martien Van Der Hoeven	0-0	42.03	1,250
7. MTM Remington/ Mike McCormick	0-0	42.62	1,000
8. L'Etoile/Theo Genn	0-0	43.37	750
9. Winchester/Wilhelm Genn	0-0	44.66	750
10. Paradox/Theo Genn	0-4	40.55	500
11. Copyright 3/Wilhelm Genn	0-4	42.37	500

21 horses competed.



(Shawn McMillen Photography Photo)

Tracy Fenney and MTM Centano jumped to victory in the \$25,000 Spring Gathering Grand Prix.