



(Shown McMillen Photo)

Roberts Reprises A Hunter Derby Win At Spring Gathering

Dubari also brings home two division championships.

Anne Lang

WITH HER DECISIVE triumph in the \$15,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby on April 2 in Katy, Texas, Dubari proved she was the dominant horse at the Spring Gathering Horse Show.

In addition to claiming two division championships, the elegant Westphalian mare stamped an exclamation point on the derby by winning both the classic and the handy rounds. Will Roberts was thrilled to win this particular class on her for the second consecutive year.

"That was a huge reward," Roberts said. "I never thought it could happen twice. But she was just really, really on her game."

Roberts and Gayle Cox' 12-year-old mare edged out 33 challengers in the derby, ending up 17 points ahead of Peter Pletcher and Argentum, owned by Alta Basaldua. Courtney Calcagnini and

Taylor Reid's Day Dream finished 10 points behind Pletcher in third.

The attractive derby course of natural obstacles designed by Patrick Rodes and J.P. Godard gave Dubari an opportunity to shine.

"Walking the course, I thought it was a bit more equitation-like than most other derbies and a bit more of a riding competition," said Roberts, Kingwood, Texas. "In the past there have been a lot of long, galloping, straight lines where you could show off your horse, and you didn't have to be quite so on top of it at all times. But you couldn't be asleep at any point on this course; you had to be on your game every second."

Except for one set of fences in the classic, the option jumps weren't side-by-side. Instead, there were two separate paths for the 3'6" jumps and the four-foot jumps. The last three fences in each

Will Roberts rode Dubari to the top of the \$15,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering for the second year in a row.

round were what Roberts called "the blood and guts of the course."

"It was two curving, bending lines, but the lines weren't typical for a hunter course," he explained. "If you got off the path, it wouldn't work well—you could end up adding or deleting a stride. From 2 to 3 [a bending, long six strides], if you were off the mark, it worked against you. You definitely had to be pretty direct and very positive right off the bat."

In the handy round, horses were required to canter through an open gate as though they were entering a pasture, then negotiate a trot fence.

Bucking the trend of many riders seeking bonus points, Roberts didn't choose any four-foot options in either class.

"Obviously, if your horse jumped better at 4', that was a viable option," Roberts said. "But the way the paths were drawn with no real direct, straight



\$15,000

THE CHRONICLE OF THE HORSE/ USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

Katy, Texas—Apr. 2

Judges: Otis Brown, Linda Andrisani, Liza Dennehy, Carl Hansen

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL
	PANEL 1 Score/Bonus	PANEL 2 Score/Bonus	PANEL 1 Score/Bonus	PANEL 2 Score/Bonus	
1. Dubari/Will Roberts	87/8	89/8	90/4	88/5	379
2. Argentum/Peter Pletcher	84/8	85/5	87/3	87/3	362
3. Day Dream/Courtney Calcagnini	81/5	79/2	89/4	87/5	352
4. Daily Devotion/Colleen Acosta	85/6	83/5	80/2	80/1	342
5. Enlighten/Kayla Briel	82/5	82/5	82/0	82/0	338
6. Tell All/Peter Pletcher	72/5	72/2	83/8	83/8	333
7. Caden/Carson Gibson	79/5	80/4	79/0	83/2	332
8. CR Haribo/Colleen Acosta	82/2	70/1	78/6	76/5	320
9. CR Cascano/Courtney Calcagnini	77/3	81/2	70/1	65/1	300
10. Westview/Peter Pletcher	74/4	75/5	69/1	70/1	299
11. Camira/Peter Pletcher	73/1	74/2	65/8	68/5	296
12. Hamilton/Carson Gibson	70/5	71/5	0/0	0/0	151

34 horses competed.

lines for jumping 4', it was a little iffy to make that choice. For me, it made a lot more sense to play it safe and just jump 3'6" well."

"For me, it made a lot more sense to play it safe and just jump 3'6" well."

—Will Roberts

In addition to winning at Spring Gathering in 2009, "Dubi" took derby runner-up honors at the Gulf Coast Magnolia Classic (Miss.) and the Great Southwest Winter Series II (Texas) this spring.

"She's just a great show horse," Roberts said of Dubi, who was imported from Ireland in 2006 by Shane George and purchased by Cox later that year. "She loves being onstage, and you can really call on her to come through. This week, she was 'on' the whole time."

► It Should Be Fun

Cox was elated with her horse's performance, which included the combined regular/second year green working hunter championship with Roberts and her own tricolor in the 3'6" amateur-owner hunters. In the regular working hunters the mare scored a 91 and a 92, and in the amateur-owners she earned a

Peter Pletcher piloted Argentum to second-placed honors in the \$15,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby at Spring Gathering.

90 with Cox on the same day as the derby. Dubi collected 12 blue ribbons out of her 14 classes.

Both Cox and Roberts acknowledged that not every horse would be capable of transitioning as seamlessly as Dubi does between divisions, classes and riders.

"I think Will and I are in sync in our riding styles," Cox said. "Will tends to

put Dubi more in a frame, and I tend to just let the reins go a bit when I'm going around, but our styles are similar enough that somehow it all works. And I think the best thing about Will is that he doesn't try to change things to be his way or dictate to me how to ride her."

Cox keeps Dubi on her family's 10-acre farm near San Antonio, Texas, which she thinks gives her an advantage.

"I know every little detail about her," Cox said. "I can sense when things are right and when they're not right, and when I should pay attention to any changes. I think it's important for owners to really know their horses."

At home, Cox hacks Dubi in the surrounding fields, jumping ditches, banks and water, and she peppers her rides with gymnastics to keep the mare from getting bored.

As a full-time CPA with a husband and 4-year-old son in the mix, Cox has become a master at time management.

"Horse showing is definitely my escape!" she said. "But I bring my work on the road a lot, too [where she buckles down in the quiet living quarters of her



(Shawn McMillen Photo)



horse trailer]. Sometimes it's really hard to stay focused when I'd rather be outside enjoying the show."

Cox' life will become even busier in August, when she expects to deliver her second child—another boy. Spring Gathering was her final-show until then, and it marked her 21st week of pregnancy, which Cox confessed has added a new challenge to her riding.

"Will told me, 'If that kid never rides a day in his life, he'll still be able to say he had some of the best hunter trips anyone could ask for.'"

—Gayle Cox

"I didn't notice much of a difference until just the past few weeks, when my center of balance started shifting," she said. "I really had to make myself look way up over the jumps, because my tendency was to tip forward. But obviously, this was the perfect weekend to end on! Will told me, 'If that kid never rides a day in his life, he'll still be able to say he had some of the best hunter trips anyone could ask for.'"

"We've both gotten to a point with Dubi where it's fun to ride," Cox added. "The greatest reward was when Will came out of the ring after last week's derby and said, 'Man, that was fun!' I said, 'That's how it should be!' When you've put in all the hours and the work to bring a horse from nothing to this level, it should be fun, in the end."

KATY, TX—MAR. 30-APR. 4.

1ST YR. GREEN HUNTER CH: Vibe, Becky Gochman.
RES: To The Nines, Didi MacKenzie.

2ND YR. GREEN/REGULAR WORKING HUNTER CH: Dubari, Gayle Cox.

RES: Daily Devotion, Valinda Moore.

GREEN CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Lacoste, Felicia Carroll.

RES: MTM First Class Ticket, Mary Pierce.

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Fun One, Emily Woodall.

RES: Holiday, Laura Beckworth.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Lovin' Life, Jessica Zienkiewicz.

RES: Tabloid, Lindsey Roberts.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH: Dubari, Gayle Cox.

RES: Ocean Park, Lynn Walsh.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: Caden, Shadyside Farm.

RES: Castello, Colleen McKenzie.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: Primetime, Shadyside Farm.

RES: San Miguel, Caroline Ellis.

SMALL JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: Hamilton, Shadyside Farm.

RES: Day Dream, Taylor Reid.

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Genn Captures The Texas Triple Crown

With his victory aboard Happy Z in the \$30,000 Spring Gathering Grand Prix, Wilhelm Genn pulled off a rare coup: Winning all three of the back-to-back grand prix classes (Pin Oak I on March 20, Pin Oak II on March 27 and Spring Gathering on April 3) that comprise the "Texas Triple Crown."

"Great! That's the simplest way to describe my feelings: It feels great," said Genn, Lebanon, Ohio. "And what makes it more special is that it wasn't the same horse every time, and that I bought both of those horses as 4- or 5-year-olds and developed them myself."

"Happy," a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood owned by Genn, won the first and third grand prix classes, while Chantal, owned by Laura Ryan-Barnaclo, won the second one and finished a hairsbreadth behind Happy in the third.

A field of 21 started over the course designed by Olaf Petersen, J.P. Godard and Patrick Rodes. Of those, seven went clean to advance to the jump-off.

Both the first and second course presented several opportunities to flatten out and gallop, instead of requiring a series of tight turns. This, Genn said, "made for a great jump-off," in which Happy finished in 41.55 seconds, Chantal in 41.62, and River Of Dreams, ridden by Christian Heineking for Kai Handt, in 41.94.

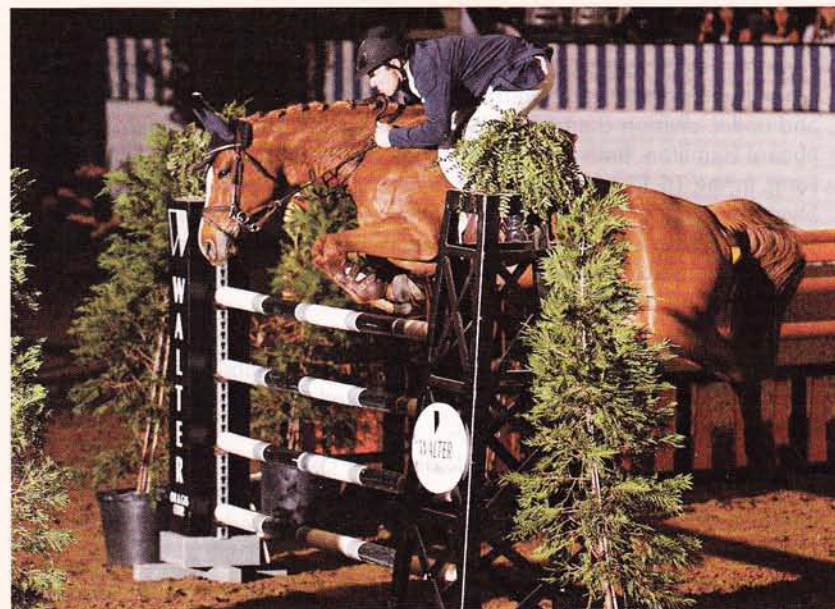
"The approach to the last oxer measured a nice nine strides," Genn explained. "However, we did it in eight, with only four strides left before you hit the corner. It may not seem that big of a deal, but when you run toward a 1.50-meter square oxer and you only have four strides afterward before you have to turn a corner, it makes the horses want to slow down. So to make it in eight is not that easy."

Happy, whose signature trait is a tendency to wildly buck and cavort when she's excited, was in typical form as she entered the ring for the jump-off, fueled by loud cheering from the large, enthusiastic crowd.

"Happy gets really pumped up by applause," Genn said. "She was on fire."

Happy's actually a lamb on the farm (to the extent of amiably walking beside Genn without a halter), but she's a tiger in the show ring. Genn said her "victory-dance" bucking has nearly unseated him on several occasions, so he tries to anticipate her exuberant antics.

"She was rearing and bucking like a race horse before a race," Genn said after his Spring Gathering victory. "But she's really smart. She has incredible reflexes and instincts, and she tries really hard for me."



(Shawn McMillen Photo)

Wilhelm Genn clinched the Texas Triple Crown with his victory in the \$30,000 Spring Gathering Grand Prix aboard Happy Z.



HORSE SHOWS

Continued from page 15

SMALL JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: Holiday, Laura Beckworth.
RES: Enlighten, Kayla Briel.
LARGE PONY HUNTER CH: All That, KAC Horses LLC.
RES: Ziggy Stardust, Natalie Dunn.
MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH: Woodland's Blue Haze, Jackson Brittan.
RES: Song Of Sixpence, Briana Graves.
SMALL PONY HUNTER CH: Patchwork Strawberry, Sarah Buchholz.
RES: Britannia's Little Prince, Pauline Cook.
LARGE GREEN PONY HUNTER CH: Tambourine Man, Asha Jain.
RES: Jerry Jeff Walker, Kelly Ronden.
SMALL/MEDIUM GREEN PONY HUNTER CH: Honorable, Claire McKean.
RES: Crystal Acres Chocolatier, Silver Oak Farms LLC.
PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: Final Applause, Shannon Reid & Time Away, Dr. & Mrs. John Baker.
RES: Sam Sloun, Colleen McQuay & Aspen, SHF Enterprises Inc.
LOW PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: West Point, Allison West.
RES: Crem De La Crem, Laura Kruger.
CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH: Starry Night, Kristen Blomstrom.
RES: Bare Necessity, Kai Devoglaer.
CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH: NLF Casabella, Lene Bruheim.
RES: Just Right, Kelsey Van Ackeren.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH: Sahalee, Erin Walker.
RES: Stargates Bella, Samantha Stephens.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-49 CH: Sidekick, Jamie Jarvis.
RES: Crem De La Crem, Laura Kruger.
ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 50 & OVER CH: Bliss, Laura Beckworth.
RES: Banderas, Nancy Lewis.
MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH: Wollie, KAC Horses LLC.
RES: CR Carolato II, Maggie Hines.
MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: Nicole, Melissa Ott.
RES: Jimmy, Lori Motlagh.
CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH: Black Onyx, KAC Horses LLC.
RES: Princess, Sleepy P Ranch.

BABY GREEN HUNTER CH: Deniro, Katja Kallenberger.
RES: Maivaluke, Nancy-Sue Ryan.
HOPEFUL HUNTER CH: Zuko, Hannah Margolis.
RES: Deniro, Katja Kallenberger.
SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER CH: Kodak Moment, Livi Bachman.
RES: Sheza Windy Feature, Shannon Klein.
SCHOOLING HUNTER CH: Pashmina, Jordan Coyle.
RES: Delorean, Kaitlin Hopmann.
LONG STIRRUP HUNTER CH: Waterford, Rita Pickar.
RES: A Touch Of Velvet, Hollee Clawwater.
LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH: Powder Run, Heinz Hermann.
RES: Portafina, Andrew Viens.
HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER CH: Oh So Fine, Step By Step Farm LLC.
RES: CR Prada, CD Show Horses LLC.
LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH: Harvest Wine, Andre De Leyer.
RES: High Voltage, Gabrielle Plath.
HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER CH: Skylark, Johannis De Leyer.
RES: Loki, Hannah Power.
1.25M JUMPER CH Tie: CR Mystery, Barbara Delozier, Oraska D'Eau Grenou Of Leboag, The Stables At Le Bocage & Audi Quattro, Miguel Torres Corzo.
1.35M JUMPER CH: CR Fantasia, Greg Billings.
RES: Sangria, Jessica Law.
1.40M JUMPER CH: Copyright 3, Wilhelm Genn.
RES Tie: Cohiba, Seale Horses LLC & Poco 3, Wilhelm Genn.
LOW JR. JUMPER CH: Nikita, Shannon Garding.
RES Tie: Al Cantaro, Jazz Hawk & Mirage, Shadyside Farm.
HIGH JR. JUMPER CH: Poco 3, Wilhelm Genn.
RES: NLF Trans Atlantic, Eirin Bruheim.
LOW AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Accra, Five-H Partners.
RES: Valentina, Miguel Torres Corzo.
HIGH AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Chirac, Miguel Torres Corzo.
RES: Kleiner Ottifant, Miguel Torres Corzo.
BEST YOUNG HORSE: Charlotte CWF, Mary Godfrey.
RES: Same As Always, Kimberly Morgan.
JR. SHOWMANSHIP CH: Spencer Brittan.
CIRCUIT HIGH-POINT GRAND PRIX RIDER CH: Wilhelm Genn.

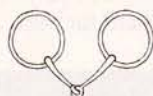
\$30,000 SPRING CHARITY GRAND PRIX Katy, Texas—Apr. 3

HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Happy Z/Wilhelm Genn	0-0	41.55	\$9,000
2. Chantal/Wilhelm Genn	0-0	41.62	6,600
3. River Of Dreams/ Christian Heineking	0-0	41.94	3,900
4. MTM Timon/Tracy Fenney	0-0	43.60	2,400
5. Twister La Cantera/ John Perez	0-0	46.31	1,800
6. Carmen/Tony Font	0-0	47.48	1,500
7. MTM Centano/ Tracy Fenney	0-8	47.26	1,200

21 horses competed.

CIRCUIT GREEN HUNTER CH: Vibe, Becky Gochman.
CIRCUIT REGULAR WORKING HUNTER CH: Apparition, Jordan Siegel.
CIRCUIT CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: MTM First Class Ticket, Mary Pierce.
CIRCUIT AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Holiday, Laura Beckworth.
CIRCUIT ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH: Isabelle, Shadyside Farm.
CIRCUIT JR. HUNTER CH: Holiday, Laura Beckworth.
CIRCUIT CHILDREN'S HUNTER CH: Just Right, Kelsey Van Ackeren.
CIRCUIT PONY HUNTER CH: Song Of Sixpence, Briana Graves.
CIRCUIT PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: Final Applause, Shannon Reid.
CIRCUIT EQUITATION CH: Emma Roberts.
▲ 1st Yr. Grn. Htr. - 1. To The Nines; 2. The Situation, B. Bolen; 3. HH London, Double H Farm. **▲ 1st Yr. Grn. Htr. - 1.** Vibe; 2. The Situation; 3. Katcha' Reminiscing, C. Auclair. **▲ 1st Yr. Grn. Htr. - 1.** Katcha' Reminiscing; 2. Vibe; 3. HH London. **▲ 1st Yr. Grn. Handy Htr. - 1.** To The Nines; 2. Katcha' Reminiscing; 3. MTM First Class Ticket. **▲ 1st Yr. Grn. Htr. U/S - 1.** Vibe; 2. MTM Braggins Rights, MTM Farm; 3. Captain Kirk, A. Albritton. **▲ 2nd Yr. Grn./Reg. Wkg. Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Daily Devotion; 3. Ascot, M. Algarra. **▲ 2nd Yr. Grn./Reg. Wkg. Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. San Miguel; 3. Apparition, J. Siegel. **▲ 2nd Yr. Grn./Reg. Wkg. Htr. - 1.** Ascot; 2. Dubari; 3. Daily Devotion. **▲ 2nd Yr. Grn./Reg. Wkg. Handy Htr. - 1.** Dubari; 2. Daily Devotion; 3. Apparition. **▲ 2nd Yr. Grn./Reg. Wkg. Htr. U/S - 1.** Dubari; 2. Daily Devotion; 3. San Miguel. **▲ Grn. Conf. Htr. Model - 1.** Lacoste; 2. Greater Than Gold, H. Conquest; 3. MTM First Class Ticket. **▲ Grn. Conf. Htr. - 1.** MTM First Class Ticket; 2. Choco Mousse, C. Thomas; 3. Lacoste. **▲ Grn. Conf. Htr. - 1.** MTM First Class Ticket; 2. Choco Mousse; 3. Lacoste. **▲ Grn. Conf. Htr. - 1.** Lacoste; 2. MTM First Class Ticket; 3. Choco Mousse. **▲ Grn. Conf. Handy Htr. - 1.** Lacoste; 2. MTM First Class Ticket; 3. Choco Mousse. **▲ Grn. Conf. Htr. U/S - 1.** Lacoste; 2. Choco Mousse; 3. MTM First Class Ticket. **▲ Low A/O Htr. - 1.** Fun One; 2. Holiday; 3. Pimm's Cup, W. Miller. **▲ Low A/O Htr. - 1.** Holiday; 2. Fun One; 3. Pimm's Cup. **▲ Low A/O Htr. - 1.** All In, C. Lazzari; 2. Holiday; 3. Fun One. **▲ Low A/O Handy Htr. - 1.** Fun One; 2. Capistrano, M. Herbert; 3. Holiday. **▲ Low A/O Htr. U/S - 1.** All In; 2. Pimm's Cup; 3. Wedding Party, A. Simmons. **▲ A/O Htr., 18-35 - 1.** Fun & Games, L. Roberts; 2. Blahnik, L. Black; 3. Tabloid. **▲ A/O Htr., 18-35 - 1.** Lovin' Life; 2. Tabloid; 3. Fun & Games. **▲ A/O Htr., 18-35 - 1.** Tabloid; 2. Fun & Games; 3. Lovin' Life. **▲ A/O Handy Htr., 18-35 - 1.** Blahnik; 2. Lovin' Life; 3. Tabloid. **▲ A/O Htr. U/S, 18-35 - 1.** Lovin' Life; 2. Blahnik; 3. Fun & Games. **▲ A/O Htr., 36 & Over - 1.** Dubari; 2. Ocean Park; 3. To The Nines. **▲ A/O Htr., 36 & Over - 1.** Ocean Park; 2. Tell All, Dr. & Mrs. J. Baker; 3. MTM Off The Cuff, T. Peck. **▲ A/O Htr., 36 & Over - 1.** Dubari; 2. To The Nines; 3. Ocean Park. **▲ A/O Handy Htr., 36 & Over - 1.** Dubari; 2. Ocean Park; 3. Mac Arthur Park, L. Walsh. **▲ A/O Htr. U/S, 36 & Over - 1.** Dubari; 2. To The Nines; 3. Ocean Park. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr., 15 & Under - 1.** Caden; 2. Chilly, C. Brady; 3. Castello. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr., 15 & Under - 1.** Castello; 2. Chilly; 3. Caden. **▲ Lg. Jr. Htr., 15 & Under - 1.** Caden; 2. MTM Won On One, S. Ryder; 3. Lavasco, P. Brodbeck. **▲ Lg. Jr. Handy Htr., 15 & Under - 1.** Caden; 2. Castello; 3. Lavasco.

TIDBITS



- Houston, Texas, sisters Carson and Caroline Gibson took the Spring Gathering junior hunter divisions by storm. Carson scored the large junior hunter, 15 and under, division championship on Caden, while she took the small title aboard Hamilton. Both horses are owned by the Gibson family's Shadyside Farm. In the 16-17 age group, Caroline earned the large championship with Shadyside's Primetime and the small title with Laura Beckworth's Holiday. Beckworth, the Gibsons' aunt, also rode Holiday to the reserve championship in the low amateur-owner hunter division, and she was champion in the adult amateurs aboard her horse Bliss.
- Lene Bruheim, of Houston, Texas, won all five classes in the children's hunter, 15-17, division to clinch the championship on NLF Casabella, owned by her family's Nordic Lights Farm. The pair also bested 26 competitors to take the blue in the children's hunter classic.
- As she had done the previous week at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, Emma Roberts swept the major equitation sections, winning the Pessoa/USEF Medal, the WIEC Overall and the open equitation with Page Tredennick's Just For Kicks.
- Amy Cortez scored double tricolors with two ponies owned by KAC Horses of Tulsa, Okla. All That topped the large pony hunter division, while Black Onyx came out on top in the children's pony hunters.