

2012 IFSHA World and National Grand Championship, Del Mar, California.

This year the Finals for the Friesian Breed took place in beautiful Del Mar on the Southern California Coast near San Diego. Wednesday October 10 was the start day of competition with Dressage in the main arena expertly judged by Donna Richardson of San Marcos, California. Friesians and Part Bred Friesians showed all day from Intro through Grand Prix. A high light of the day was the winning ride by Monte and Sandra Williams for Joan Fernandez in the Musical Freestyle. Their high score not only won the class but assured them the coveted "James Mosebrook" Trophy sponsored by FPZV USA. Western Dressage followed and was extremely well received followed by Trail in Hand and under saddle.

Thursday Morning began with the Open in Hand and Baroque Halter classes. Horses participated from all over the USA in all age groups and competition was both deep and spectacular.

The San Diego Marine Marching Band honored IFSHA by opening the Thursday evening performance with talent and precision equaled only by Monte and Sandra Williams carrying the Stars and Stripes. This was an especially moving performance as this years show is to benefit the Warrior Foundation and the Fenway Foundation. The World Championship Friesian Armored Class started the nights competition with Cassandra Adams winning the Friesian Quest Perpetual Trophy with Keimpe for Koreen Greenberg. Another star performance was newcomer Dick Martin at the Whip with Otto for Lance Bennet winning the Fine Harness National Title.

Friday Morning brought all the horses to the triangle for Sport Horse Competition sponsored in it's entirety by Dover Saddlery who generously donated Championship coolers for this division. Senior Geldings in this division went to Pendragon FQ with Bruce Griffin for Joe Arambula. Senior Stallions went to Hans with Bruce Griffin again for Ray and Pippa Ariss. Bruce Griffin then swept the Purebred Senior Sporthorses by winning Senior Mares with Sietske fan e' Seadwei for Seelchen Feibush. (Sietske and Seelchen also won the Joyce V Rohloff Memorial trophy later in the show for Amateur Show Hack)

Friday Afternoon began with the colorful Part Bred Friesian Costume ultimately won by Beau and Lehua Custer for Carol Carafagno but hotly contested by Dr Todd Browning and Bijou coming in Reserve Champion. Later that evening USEF National Champion Horse of the Year made his National debut in Carriage Driving with Bob Wise for Three Day Ranch to win the Turn Out and the Richard Snavely Memorial Trophy and later in the show, the Anita Mellott High point Trophy for Driving and the Heirloom High Point Halter award.

Friday Evenings Performance started out beautifully with Period Costume and the five entries were spectacular. The class however belonged to Debie Stuart and her "Callay" that evening as they were awarded World Champion. One of the many USEF Open classes in the show, English Pleasure Saddle Seat was won by the Multi Champion

Andalusian Orguloso XLIX later in the night. American Saddlebreds, Friesians and Andalusians competed in all the USEF Open Pleasure classes throughout the five days of competition and we thank them all for their support.

Saturday Morning brought IFSHA's talented Youth to the Main Arena as seven of our best competed for the Showmanship World Title. One of the prettiest and well turned out classes it was eventually won by newcomer McKenna Harchol at her first World Show! Anaiah Richter came in a close Reserve Champion. Liberty classes were again a crowd favorite and the Part Bred Division was no exception: TDR Rockin Sjoerd's Swag won the Stallions class and his brother TDR's Sjoerds Wicked Cool, a very rare classic champagne came in Reserve for Xena Vimercati.

Saturday Evening began with a Special Presentation of Awards to Friends of IFSHA. The IFSHA's Presidents Award was awarded to Rahn Greimann and his Horse Digests Publication for going above and beyond in their support of IFSHA and the membership. The Founders Award went to long time Sponsor and "Believe in Magic" creator and Producer, Annette Coester. This was the second time Annette has received this Honor! A very Special thank You went to "Valitar" and owners Tatiana and Mark for their incredible support and sponsorship of the World Show. Valitar is Equestrian theatre at its best and will open in November in Del Mar. Several classes followed with the World Championship in Saddle Seat English Pleasure going to Koreen Greenberg's Harem expertly piloted by Rob Wallen of Wallen West to win the Robin ut de Warren Perpetual Trophy and the largest class of the show going to ITSE and Holly Schoenman as they were crowned World Champion Fantasy Costume. Rachel Stokes won another World Championship Title on Gary and Marilyn Lane's Mariken. Cassandra Sapia and Walt Van Esfane won the World Championship and Pamela Jackson Trophy for Saddle Seat Junior Horse in a beautiful ride that comes to be expected of "Friesian Thunder" entries. Lance Bennett and Snoopje won the Friesian Focus World Championship Park class emphasizing his barns dominating presence this year in the Saddle Seat Division. The evening classes were followed by the ticketed performance of the Equestrian Theatre Production of "Believe in Magic". This Annette Coeaster production was very well attended and helped IFSHA raise funds for the Warrior Foundation and Fenway Foundation.

Sunday Morning's final session had a sprinkling of Pure and Part bred World Championship classes to end the week of competition in what seemed a very quiet and elegant way. Show nerves had dissolved and rivalries morphed into friendship and mutual support. Baskera Knight Won the World Championship in Western Pleasure Partbred and was awarded the Jeff Wonnell Buckle for Versatility and the Leoness Sporthorse High Point Part Bred Friesian Trophy with Darcy Edwards. Debi Stuarts' "Callay" won the Jeff wonnell Purebred Versatility Buckle and the Shakespeare Farm Purebred Friesian High Point.

With the close of the show old friends and new said their goodbyes and plans are under way for next years Show in Lexington, Virginia the first week of October!