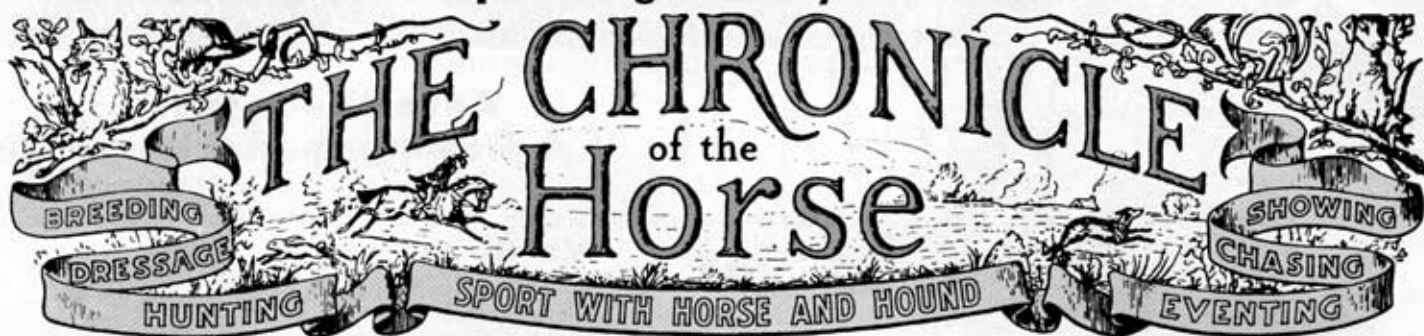


**The Art Of Radnor Hunt; AHJF Hunter Classic Spectacular;
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► **Coming Full Circle**

Jamie Plank Martin, champion and reserve in the amateur-owner, 36 and over division, just started showing again in the last two years, following a 24-year break. That time away from horses—during which she went to law school, married, had three children and practiced law for 18 years—has only made her victories that much sweeter.

"I always wanted to ride again," she said. "I think God has blessed me incredibly to have this opportunity to do this again."

Over the last year and a half, Martin has bought 10 horses for her Providence Hill Farm in Jackson, Miss. Patty Stovel and Haley Velemirovich show the young horses, planned to eventually become mounts for Martin and her 9-year-old daughter, Tinsley.

At Ocala, Providence Hill Farm's Shout For Joy also won the conformation hunter championship with Stovel, and Tinsley won the medium pony tricolor on Absolut Snap.

"If we do well this year, it's because we have been patient finding young horses and a really good team," said Martin. "It's been really rewarding to stick to a plan and work hard over two years and see it come together."

Martin bought her amateur champion, Monte Cristo, from Don Stewart last year. Formerly campaigned by Stewart's daughter Erin, the Dutch Warmblood quickly went on to win with Plank. The pair won at the Legacy Cup (Ky.) in May, shortly after she bought him, and they qualified for all the fall indoor shows.

Unfortunately, Monte Cristo injured a hoof before the Capital Challenge (Md.) in October and missed the indoor season. Ocala was his first show since the injury.

Fargo, the first horse Martin bought, took the reserve championship, and Cayman finished third in the division.

As a junior, Martin trained with Otis Brown, and she sought him out again when she returned to the sport. Still, it wasn't an easy transition when she moved up to the amateur division from the adults.

"Trying to start the amateur division took everything I had to walk into the ring," she said. "I am still very nervous. As an amateur, I don't get to ride much, only on weekends, but I'm trying to hold it together. It's hard to get physically strong enough. I know what I'm supposed to do because I used to do it—it's getting my body parts to cooperate."

So Martin works out with weights at 5:30 a.m. three times a week, and she runs. "I wouldn't have said I was out of shape before this, but it's a different set of muscles," she said. "I need the time in the saddle to build up my strength and timing."

Martin isn't in any hurry to push herself, though. "My motto is: 'It's not my last junior year.' If the footing or something is not right, it can wait," she said.

And she has her own cheering section when Tinsley is on the show grounds. "I'm more nervous when she goes in the ring than when I do," said Martin with a laugh. "[When I'm riding], she stands at the ring and says, 'Go, Mom, go' and 'That's my Mom!'"

Since Martin started riding with Brown when she was 10, and her daughter now rides with him as a 9-year-old, Martin feels that things have come full circle. Of course, things have also gotten a little better.

"I never in my wildest dreams would have thought I would have horses this nice," said Martin. "I was a working student as a junior rider. Horses are such a gift, and after having been away so long and come back, it's amazing how much more I appreciate them. This time I have time to know my horses and appreciate what fine athletes they are and that they really try."