



Longtime Dreams Come True

When Erin Duffy was a junior rider from California, she showed at the Pennsylvania National in the equitation division. "I thought I'd never be able to ride a hunter here. I did all the equitation, but to do the hunters, you had to go to all the horse shows, and I couldn't afford to go to that many horse shows," she said.

Fast forward two decades, and Duffy returned to Pennsylvania from California to ride Cathy Hayes' mare Enchanted to the first year green hunter championship. "Winning here was a big dream, and here it's come true. You never know! It's really exciting because this place means a lot to me. This show has a lot of tradition and history behind it," she said.

Duffy, now a professional rider riding for CeCe Durante Bloum's Newmarket, got the ride on Enchanted, a 6-year-old black mare, a year ago.

"She's a nice horse, but she's young. She was a little bit weedy and thin when we got her. Mark Groff imported her and showed her in the pre-greens and got some weight on her. Then we bought her, and she kept looking better and better," Duffy said.

Hayes also shows "Ella" in the adult amateur division, and they topped the WCHR national adult amateur year-end standings. "At first, she was a little not-so-worldly, and she'd look around at things, but now she's all business," Duffy said. "She's just a horse you can always count on. She will not stop, and she doesn't like to touch the jumps. I always say, 'If you're having a bad day, get on Ella and it'll all be better.'"

Ella stands third in the USEF national first year green standings. But Duffy wasn't positive she'd take the East Coast by storm. "She's so brave and jumps so well that I thought she'd do well. But she was also an unknown a little bit, so I wasn't sure," she said.

Amateur rider Jamie Planck Martin also returned to the Pennsylvania National with a vengeance. As a junior, she was trainer Otis "Brownie" Brown's first student.

"After I finished my junior years, I went to law school and got married. I practiced law for 18 years and had three children, so I just started riding again three years ago, and it's been a ton of fun," said Martin.

With just two years in the amateur-owner division under her belt, Martin rode Cayman to the Pennsylvania National amateur-owner hunter, 36 and over, tricolor in her first appearance there in decades. She also won the stake class on Monte Christo.

"I feel like I have really good horses, and so it's usually up to me to get them to go well. They were both very consistent here, and I was very blessed and thankful to have them go so well," she said.

Martin started her indoor season at the Capital Challenge, but was disappointed with her performances there. "So I went home and rode my jumper for the week in between. I rode without stirrups every day and jumped a million jumps coming out of the turns. I was determined I was going to ride better than I did, and here the jumps seemed to come up easier out of the turns," she said.

Her re-entry into the show ring began when her daughter, Tinsley, now 10, began riding. Martin called Brown in search of a pony, and she brought one home to their farm in Jackson, Miss. "I made it through about two months of sitting there watching her ride before I said, 'If I've got to spend all this time at the barn, I might as well do it too!'" Martin said.

She bought Cayman, a 10-year-old warmblood, in August 2004. The bay gelding had been winning in the second year division with Heidi Austin Fish. "Cayman is big—he's 17.2—but he's very light on his feet. He's good for me because he has so much scope and a very

long stride. He takes care of me a lot," Martin said.

They earned the HITS Ocala (Fla.) circuit championship, and then the Devon reserve championship. Martin reveled in the Penn National tricolor, since it was the conclusion of her season. With two teenage sons, she needs to be at home for football season.



Jamie Planck Martin hadn't shown at the Pennsylvania National in more than 20 years, but she returned to ride Cayman to the amateur-owner hunter, 36 & over tricolor.