

Chesler-Ortiz guides Ontario and Eastern champions

Set in the idyllic rural landscape outside Georgetown lays Halton Place Farm, the location this past weekend for the Canadian Country Classic. Situated on what used to be a hog farm, the squeals of pigs have now been replaced by the sounds of horse nays. Set on two hundred hectares, the showground comes alive every summer for the equine competition season.

During the Canadian Country Classic this past week, 74 of the best young horses in Canada met to contest the Canadian Young Jumper Development Series Finals. Canadian International course designer Danny Foster created a course for the event intended to test their agility, scope, carefulness and style to ultimately place the best of the best at the top of the leader board.

The sun was shining and the temperatures a bit on the cool side which made a perfect setting for the Championships. There were nine entries in the four year olds, 28 in the five year olds, 17 competing as six year olds and 20 in the Seven/Eight year old division.

Each age group had the Ontario, Eastern, and Canadian Championships in their sights and competition was fierce. The field of competitors included Olympians Jay Hayes and Hugh Graham, Canadian team riders Frankie Chesler Ortiz, Yan Candeale and Erynn Ballard. Venezuelan team rider Juan Ortiz, Columbian team rider Roberto Teran, French International rider Johannes Letimonier were also in attendance along with many local favorites.

Warmblood gelding by El Bundy also owned and bred by Mill Creek Stables. Both horses were ridden by Frankie Chesler Ortiz and to say the least this young lady had quite a week. Adding to Stevie Wonder's Ontario win were the honours of the Eastern Canadian Championships, the National Championships as well as the Best Canadian Bred.



EQUUS 3-D FARM in Amaranth played host this last Monday to the Canadian Young Event Horse Finals. This competition is aimed at identifying talented young horses from ages three to five who aim to carry Canadian riders to international teams and events as well as an open division. Entrants to the competition were judged on Dressage, Jumping, Conformation on the line and Suitability. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

IWLCA accolades for Mason

Former ODSS student Paige Mason recently had another honour added to the list of her academic and athletic credentials when she was named to the IWLCA All-Academic Squad along with fellow Roanoke team mate Ella Wade. The IWLCA has 407

student-athletes recognized from 152 institutions on the 2008-09 All-Academic squad. Mason, a midfielder from Orangeville, Ontario, has been named to the ODAC All-Academic team in each of her three seasons at Roanoke. She was

named to the IWLCA Chesapeake Regional All-America Team for the first time last season. As a junior, Mason was a First-Team All-ODAC selection at attack, while earning All-ODAC Tournament honors for the second-straight year. All student-athletes were nominated by their institutions and have attained at least junior standing academically. Nominees considered had a GPA of at least 3.5 or were in the top 10 percent of their squad.

The first day of competition hosted the Ontario Finals. The score was taken by adding together the horses' results from the five best Ontario competitions throughout the year added to the weekend event. The four year old Ontario honours went to Stevie Wonder a Canadian Warmblood bay gelding by Stolzenberg owned and bred by Mill Creek Stables of Cambridge, On.

Chesler-Ortiz went on to pilot Sher-Al Farm's five year old Dutch gelding Masquerade by Calvino Z to the Eastern and National Championship awards. When asked what was next for these young horses Frankie said, "These are all real quality young horses and I am proud of each and every one of them. They will be going to the 2010 Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida the 'World Series of Horse Shows' where I expect these superstars to continue their winning ways".

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Bengals cap season with title

•Continued from pg B1 and had the bases loaded with one out in the bottom of the seventh. Kaitlyn Hauck ripped what looked like a possible game tying hit up the middle but Ancaster made a great play and were able to double up the base runner at second. Labine and Chris Fitzsimmons were solid on the mound but the normally solid Orangeville defence fell apart. Goertzen lead the offence with three runs scored and three hits in a losing cause. Pike, Hickey and Labine

each had two hits. This set up the final game of the season between Orangeville and Ancaster in a winner take all match. It was no contest. With Orangeville playing their third game of the day, tired, disappointed at having blown a five run lead in the previous game, and with right fielder Kyle Holmes out with an injured hamstring it did not look good. Starting pitcher Mitchell Pike with a sore arm gutted out four and one half innings of stellar pitching before departing with a 9 - 4 lead.

The ball was given to Chris Fitzsimmons who had been waiting anxiously on the bench to get into the game. Visibly nervous on the mound, it didn't matter, Fitzsimmons pitched his best game of the year to shut the door on any Ancaster idea in this game of a comeback. With two out in the bottom of the seventh and the Orangeville side awaiting the final out the Ancaster batter lofted a high fly ball into the infield sky. Pike who had been pacing back and forth nervously at short stop like a cat called for the

ball and made the catch bring the Orangeville Bengals out of the dugout and onto the mound mobbing Fitzsimmons with a 12 - 4 Championship victory. The offence was keyed by David Humphrey with three hits and two runs scored and Huot with two hits and two runs scored. Hauck crushed a double over the left fielders head. Huot was awarded offensive player of the game while Hauck won defensive player of the game. The coaching staff of Don Goertzen, Ken Huot, and Tony Pike are extremely proud of all the players. They also thank Rod Humphrey, Jeff Hauck and Dan Labine for helping out at practices. The team was garnered support from Kevin Butler who came out to help the pitchers and Colin McKeen who helped teach the players how to play infield. Also thank you to our manager Tracy Hauck who made life very easy this year. The team would like to acknowledge local resident Doug McKeen who for two years has spent countless hours both on the field and in his basement teaching the team the finer points of hitting. Without his efforts none of this would have been possible and to a player, appreciate his passion for the game. And a special thanks to Gilbert Thompson and ACTS who have trained the team indoors for two years now to get them physically ready for the season.

David Price coupled with the defensive efforts of Joey Martins, Andy Linder, Neil Russell, Mark Little, Jon Volpe and Matt Paine, and quarterbacked by experienced central defensive players Peter Kirchberger and Craig Howie, the Athletic were able to keep the scoring attempts to a minimum constantly shutting down the opposition rushes throughout the season. The midfield line-up included the experienced central mid players Tyler Robbins and Gavin Hill, and wingers James Cuthbertson and Mich Panet-Raymond, joined with Dave Fuller, Curtis Scobie, and Bryan (BJ) Shipway, constantly kept the movement of the ball in a balanced framework. Topping off the formation were the experienced strikers Giulio Baldassarra and Chris Vandenhoeft complemented by the efforts of newcomer Bryan Brown. Overall, results for 2009 exceeded expectations of the coach Dave Lewars and manager Keith Robbins, both of whom were in a re-vamping mode. One factor attributed to the success of the team during the season were the practice sessions led by international coach and trainer, Steve Payne. Looking forward to 2010, the Athletic will be going indoor for the off-season, with as many players as available and continuing to hone skills and ball-work throughout the year.

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* These events are for **Dufferin County residents only** in the Towns of Mono, Orangeville and Shelburne, and the Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther Grand Valley, Melancthon and Mulmur.

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