

## Today's Hunter Coverage

Droves of spectators infiltrated the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center this afternoon as the professional hunter divisions were awarded several championships.

Besting a field of 25 First Year Green Hunter entries this week was Elizabeth Towell Boyd of Camden, SC, and Caroline Willard's mount, Renowned. Boyd and Renowned placed first over fences yesterday, as well as sixth and first over fences today to garner the championship tricolor. The reserve championship was awarded to That's Classic, owned by Samantha Leder, and ridden by Vinissa Blann.

The seven-year-old chestnut gelding, by Roc USA and a thoroughbred mare, was bred by Nancy Whitehead, and took a lot of patience to get to the show ring because he was an orphan baby. "He was a little bit late maturing because of that. We didn't bring him to Florida as a six-year-old because he wasn't quite ready," Boyd acknowledged. Boyd is impressed by how much Renowned has improved, and noted, "He's a little bit nippy like an orphan, but he goes in the ring and he is all business."

Boyd is happy to be back showing at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. "We've been showing in smaller rings this winter, so it's nice to be able to gallop and go forward," she commented. Boyd is thrilled with the new improvements in the hunter rings. She acknowledged, "It's amazing to be on footing like this. They feel like they're jumping on clouds! They jump so crisp and high. It's a real treat."

Boyd looks forward to competing in the hunter derbies with Renowned because she thinks he will be a natural in those classes since he has been so brave in the handy hunter rounds so far. She went on to rave about her mount, "He is just the sweetest, kindest horse, and gives you a great feeling in the air. He's a real trier and has so much scope."

While Boyd is one of the most well-known hunter riders in the sport, she recently added a new job description to her repertoire- motherhood. Boyd gave birth to her daughter, Ellen, just three months ago, and could not wait to get back in the saddle after a six-month hiatus. "It is so exciting to get back in here. The first thing I did when I started back was trot around once, canter around once, and then I cantered right to a jump," Boyd laughed.



Liza Towell Boyd and Renowned