



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Amanda Currie Jones with questions

acjones@horsecenter.org, 540-464-2968

### **March 2012 Thoroughbred Celebration Results**

The 2012 Thoroughbred Celebration Horse Shows' (TCHS) series is off and running as former racehorses, and those bred to race, were again welcomed to the Virginia Horse Center. On March 16-18, 2012, Thoroughbreds competed for the highest purse money offered to date in hunter, jumper, and pleasure classes sponsored by Fasig-Tipton, Friends of After the Finish Line, and The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.).

A significant number of new competitors were welcomed, such as Precious Ten who with owner/rider Elizabeth Kidd of Virginia, dominated the jumper ring. This pair took home top honors in the \$1,500 Fasig-Tipton Jumper Stake as well as Championship honors for the Belmont Jumper Division and Reserve Championship honors for the Saratoga Jumper Division. Precious Ten, a 2002 son of Roanoke, out of Chalsant, broke his maiden at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course. Precious Ten is a great example of how Thoroughbred ex-racehorses can excel in secondary careers as he qualified for the 2011 American Eventing Championships and currently events at Training Level.

No stranger to the series, Ash Hill, whose Jockey Club Registered name is My Regal Smile, an unraced daughter by Ops Smile, out of Regal Nigel, won the \$1,500 After the Finish Line Hunter Stake. Ash Hill is now a two time winner of the ATFL Hunter Stake for owner Babbie Wanamaker and rider/trainer Susan Sisco of Pennsylvania. The blue ribbon in The Jockey Club T.I.P. Handy Hunter class was also won by Ash Hill. Spectators had the distinct pleasure of watching Ash Hill ridden sidesaddle by Ms. Sisco in The Jockey Club T.I.P. English Pleasure Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter, where they placed second and fifth, respectively.

The Jockey Club T.I.P. English Pleasure Championship went to Four On The Floor, formerly known as Western Call, a son of Phone Trick, out of Western Moment, who last raced in December of 2008 at Aqueduct. He was ridden to blue ribbons in both the Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter by owner/rider Tara Smith of Virginia. Smith is a college student who saw Four on the Floor compete at one of our previous shows and bought him soon thereafter.

Two special guests from the world of racing joined us at the March show – a great mark of traction and impact in the industry. On Friday evening, Donna Barton Brothers, a former jockey who won over 1,100 horse races and serves as a horse-back riding reporter and analyst for NBC Sports Triple Crown coverage and a reporter and analyst for TVG Network, spoke about her career and racing culture. On Saturday, she joined us railside to admire Thoroughbreds competing in the show ring and graciously presented ribbons to the Suffolk Hunter competitors. Also in attendance was Georganne Hale, Director of Racing for the Maryland Jockey Club. Hale and the Maryland Jockey Club have been sponsors of our show series since its inception in 2009. The Maryland Jockey Club is hosting the Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show on July 14, 2012, held in the infield at Pimlico. We were delighted to have Ms. Hale in attendance and honored that she also presented ribbons to competitors.

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation is determined to make a difference for Off the Track Thoroughbreds across the United States. In addition to having our most well attended spring show, the silent auction was a great success - raising more than \$1,600 to benefit After the Finish Line, a 501 (c) 3 funding non-profit for Thoroughbred rescue and rehabilitation. The silent auction and our 'Soar to New Heights by Adopting a Thoroughbred' program are staples at each of our horse shows.



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The next TCHS show is June 8-10 and the final 2012 show is scheduled for November 2-4. To explore the series or view a prize list, visit [www.horsecenter.org](http://www.horsecenter.org) or check out the Thoroughbred Celebration Horse Shows page on Facebook.



-Top Left: Precious Ten, Top Right: Ash Hill, Bottom Left: Four On The Floor, Bottom Right: Donna Barton Brothers presenting a ribbon to rider Danielle Slaggert. - Pictures courtesy of Danny Young/Action Shots Photography.

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The Virginia Horse Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which owns and operates the Virginia Horse Center. The Foundation is proud to be a part of the Rockbridge community, an asset to the state's equine economy, and a resource to the East Atlantic competition circuit.

Committed to serving the needs, well-being, and safety of both rider and horse, the VHCF supports a 600-acre competition facility that serves over 400,000 people and 100,000 animals of all breeds and disciplines. The VHCF manages 115 events annually, most free and open to the public. Host to the Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center, the Foundation's mission is to enrich lives with programs focused on recreation, education, and preservation.

487 Maury River Road · Lexington, Virginia 24450 · (P)540-464-2950 · (F)540-464-2999 · [www.horsecenter.org](http://www.horsecenter.org)