



From Barrel Racing To The Grand-Prix Ring

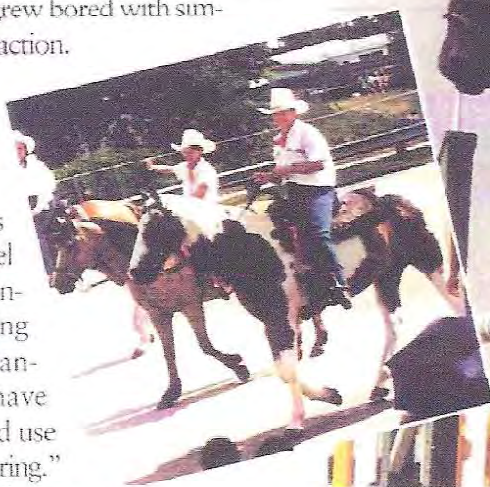
*American Cowgirl Frankie Chesler
Wins Canada's Rising Star of Show Jumping Title*

By Hallie McEvoy

Frankie Chesler, 16, of Wellington, Florida, and Orangeville, Ontario, didn't plan on a career in show jumping. Although she showed pony hunters as a child, by the time she was a teenager she had switched to barrel racing and team penning. Frankie attended jumper shows with her father, Alan, an amateur rider, but she soon grew bored with simply watching the action.

"I wanted to jump again and go fast," explains Frankie. "A lot of the skills I developed barrel racing, such as running fast, turning sharply, and planning ahead, have been put to good use in the grand-prix ring."

Just one year after returning to the show-jumper world, Frankie is on her way to the top. In the United States, she won the Cosequin Winter Equestrian Festival's High Junior Jumper Championship and, despite spending just half the year in the United States, placed first in AHSA Zone 4 and second nationally in the High Junior Jumper Division on her American Quarter Horse, Braveheart. In Canada, Frankie was the champion of the Rising Star Jumper Series and reserve champion in the open jumper division at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, despite being the youngest



"A lot of the skills I developed barrel racing, such as running fast, have been put to good use in the grand-prix ring."—Frankie Chesler, shown above and farthest right in inset.

rider in the division. The high point of her year was winning individual and team silver medals at the North American Young Riders' Championships in Wadsworth, Illinois.

Born in Miami Beach, Florida, Frankie splits her year between Florida and Ontario. She arrived back in the United States in December to begin the 1998 Florida show season. "I'm excited to get back to Florida and see all my friends," Frankie exclaims. "I love the Florida weather and show circuit!"

Already Frankie has bested such notable

equestrians as Mark Leone, Nona Garson, Laura Chapot, Ian Millar, and Mario Deslauriers. "It's been thrilling to show against some of the top riders in the world," says Frankie. "I really enjoy watching them ride and learning from them. Every rider has something to teach me."

"I love this sport and feel privileged to be able to compete internationally against some of the best riders in the world," Frankie says. "I hope that I have represented myself and the sport of show jumping well."