

ORANGEVILLE TEENAGER CHALLENGES TOP CANADIAN RIDERS

Junior show jumper Frankie Chester, 16, of Orangeville, Ontario, proved her talent at the Classic at Palgrave Horse Show with aggressive and stylish riding. She won a large Intermediate Jumper Class on her horse Zeth, besting some of the top riders in the world including Ian Millar, Jay Hayes, Eric Lamaze, Beth Underhill, and Mac Conc, the core of the Canadian Equestrian Team. Jay Hayes has recently helped train Frankie, and this win over her teacher shows her determination to excel at the sport she loves.

Frankie, a 10th grader, dominated the competition at Palgrave in her own age group as well. In the High Junior Jumper Stake, she placed second on Braveheart and third on Donneybrook. Donneybrook went on to capture the Junior Jumper Reserve Championship. Braveheart, a Quarter Horse, was a dominant force in the Futurity class, finishing sixth in a very competitive Futurity class.

Braveheart and Frankie took the horse show world by storm this past season at the Cosequin Winter Equestrian Festival in Florida. They won both Junior Jumper (High) Classics during the festival's run at the Palm Beach Polo Equestrian Club in Wellington. Their consistent placings put them in the starting field for the \$15,000 Trelawny Farm Junior American Invitational at Hohlman's (Lampa) Stadium where they place eighth.

"Riding in the Stadium where they hold the American Invitational was a real thrill," Frankie stated. "It was a great experience." Frankie was later honoured in a special ceremony as the Junior Jumper (High) Circuit Champion and as the leading overall Junior Jumper of the Cosequin Winter Equestrian Festival.

"I never really expected to lead the winter circuit," she said. "This was my first time riding high juniors and although I did think I'd get some ribbons, I never thought I'd do this well." While Chester may not have expected her 1997 accomplishments, success is not new to her. At age nine, she won the Pony Classic at the Winter Equestrian Festival riding Buttons 'N' Bows, as Small Pony. She was also second in the United States in the Children's Jumper Division riding Missile Control.

Frankie's parents are Sherry and Alan Chester of Sher-Al Farm. Both are popular personalities on the horse show circuit in Canada and the United States. Frankie has been coached through the years by her parents, who started her in leadline classes when she was four years old. Well-known trainer Rodney Bross has also coached her.

to continue her winning ways. Given her recent results, it looks like a bright show ring future for this talented and intelligent young lady.

