

High-Flying Frankie

Meet Frankie Chesler, a Young Showjumping Star

Can you imagine being a rider and competing for your country when you are only 17 years old? Frankie Chesler can! In 1998, she was the youngest member of the Canadian Equestrian Team's showjumping squad, competing for Canada in the prestigious Nation's Cup at the National Horse Show in New York. The Canadian team finished in second place. Pretty amazing!

Frankie has competed in lots of big showjumping classes in the past two years. She finished second to superstar Leslie Howard in the World Cup class at the Capital Classic Horse Show in Ontario, and in April, Frankie and Lugano galloped to victory in the \$10,000 Challenge Stake Derby in Tampa, FL.

But Frankie hasn't always been mad about showjumping; this versatile young rider spent several years competing in western pleasure and barrel racing competitions! But as she got older, she decided showjumping was what she wanted to do, and she's set some big goals for herself. She wants to compete for Canada at the World Equestrian Games, the Pan American Games, the Masters at Spruce Meadows and, of course, the Olympics!

Frankie lives with her family in Orangeville, Canada, on Sher-Al Farm. The whole family mucks in and helps around the farm. Frankie's dad, Alan, coaches her, mom Sherry videos her jumping rounds so Frankie can study them later and 3-year-old Mikala is Frankie's very first riding pupil. Frankie practices her teaching skills on her tiny sister.

We asked Frankie what it was like being a top showjumper at such a young age, and here's what she had to say:



Frankie and Ravenna Z pop over a fence with room to spare. Photo by Cealy Tetley