

Aiken Standard

Frankie Chesler and Hanastacia Win \$25,000 Aiken Spring Classic

By Brigitte O'Neill

Frankie Chesler of Orangeville, Ontario riding Hanastacia defeated twenty-six entries to jump into the winners' circle with her 13 year old Dutch Warmblood Hanastacia owned by Canterbury Farm. Chesler qualified three horses for the thirteen-horse jump off, and was in first place with the fastest time aboard Sher-Al Farm's Sylver 2 until she re-entered the ring with Hanastacia to beat her own winning time to capture both first and second place. Fellow Canadian Beth Underhill captured fourth and fifth place riding Cuervo Nero and Magealine both owned by Darryl Williams.

"Bakin in Aiken" was the theme for the day as temperatures reached 92 degrees, however southern hospitality and charm, despite the heat, persuaded the twenty-six horse and rider combinations to compete at the Ford Conger Racetrack in Aiken South Carolina. Course designer Blake Alder of Germantown, Tennessee built a demanding course that was set on the newly expanded solid natural sand and grass "in and out" and verticals going downhill and towards home catching many riders by surprise.

Chesler and Hanastacia were like "Grease Lightning," burning up the jump off with extremely tight hairpin turns and leaving out strides everywhere. "Hanastacia is a great horse and this was without doubt her day to shine," Chesler remarked while grinning from ear to ear. "Today's jump off gave riders many different opportunities to make up time. I found them with Sylver 2 and then perfected them with Hanastacia. I am so proud of them both!"

Aiken is truly a horse haven that boasts a Thoroughbred Hall of Fame as well as polo, racing, driving, hunter, jumpers, eventing and the famous Hitchcock Woods ideal for hunting and trail riding. The Aiken Spring Classic, managed by Rick and Kathy Cram was a complete success again this year selling out the VIP tent and filling the stands with eager equestrian enthusiasts.

Chesler has been horse showing in the United States since December 2001 with this show being the conclusion of a wonderful winter series. Chesler will now return home to prepare for the summer show season and compete for a spot on the World Equestrian Games or Spruce Meadows Canadian Equestrian Team.

1st Frankie Chesler, Hanastacia, 25.806
2nd Frankie Chesler, Sylver 2, 27.476
3rd Daniel Geitner, Chamoro, 28.820



Show draws crowds

By LOREN SCHNEIDER
Staff writer

Four hundred horses and even more riders and spectators have descended on Aiken for the Aiken Spring Classic Horse Show, which started last Thursday and will resume this Thursday.

At the Aiken Horse Park at Ford Conger Field Sunday, competitors from across the United States and Canada competed in show jumping and hunter divisions. One

Canadian spectator, who was watching her daughter Frankie compete, was Sherry Chesler. They were from Orangeville, Ontario, which is about an hour north of Toronto, and were on their way home after spending the winter in Florida with other Canadian riders.

"Last year, a large group of Canadians made it an annual destination because this is a fabulous show and a fabulous place," Chesler said. "The footing is good,

the conditions are very natural, it's a big ring that has grass footing and the jumps are beautiful and well maintained. This entire area is horse friendly and is wonderful to come to."

While the horses and riders competed in the different rings, many spectators were sitting under a big white tent where brunch was being served. The brunch, catered by Up Your Alley,

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Frankie Chesler of Orangeville, Ontario, riding Hanastacia defeated 26 entries at the Aiken Spring Classic with her 13-year-old Dutch warmblood Hanastacia owned by Canterbury Farm. Chesler qualified with three horses for the 13-horse jump off, and was in first place with the fastest time aboard Sher-Al Farm's Sylver 2 until she re-entered the ring with Hanastacia to beat her own winning time, capturing both first and second place.