

Chesler first in Ottawa

By BRIGITTE O'NEILL

For The Banner

Frankie Chesler of Orangeville grabbed first spot in the Modified Grand Prix aboard seven-year-old Dutch Warmblood VDL Nuit de Pomme, son of Olympic Gold medalist Jus de Pomme.

With many horses resting from Saturday's barrage of classes and the Big Ben Grand Prix later on in the same day, only nine horse and rider combinations competed for the win. Erin Ballard, Sulu Rose and Jay Hays were among the nine riders competing, however, only United States Grand Prix rider Laura Bowery with Aiglafen and Frankie Chesler aboard VDL Nuit de Pomme went clear.

The course, designed by Robert Jolicoeur of Quebec, was built big with many technical areas. The early combination and the final line of the course posed problematic to some of the riders, as did the very careful oxer with a liver pool

under it. The liver pool was pulled back giving horses a false ground line to judge their distance by. The triple combination was a difficult oxer vertical that needed to be ridden into perfectly so that no faults would occur.

Earlier in the week Chesler was second in the Modified class with 12-year-old holsteiner Sylver 2 and double clear and fast all week with 10-year old holsteiner Lu La Belle. Chesler's newest horse VDL Oscar competed in the High Preliminary, also having a great week. The feather in Chesler's cap was capturing the Modified



Frankie Chesler

Jumper Championship with her seven-year-old bay gelding VDL Nuit de Pomme. Chesler is presently sixth in the team trials for both the World Equestrian Game or Spruce Meadows team.

Canada will be sending five horse/rider combinations to the WEG's in Jerez, Spain this September and will be sending four different horse/rider combinations to Spruce Meadows, also in September. Chesler

remarked, "I am excited about the trial classes. My horse Ravenna Z and I are prepared to face the challenge and do the best we can."

Chesler fourth in World Cup

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Bromont, Quebec the quaint and charming town in the shadow of Mount Brome is site to this years \$60,000 National Bank World Cup Qualifier, presented by Jaguar. Top riders from as far away as Columbia converged to compete for the win as well as most of the Canadian short listed riders.

Frankie Chesler of Orangeville, Ontario put up a good fight riding against some of the top Canadian and International riders to place fourth out of 27 riders. With only five going clear in the first round to advance into the jump

off, both time and a fault free ride was the rider's plan of attack. Chesler aboard Ravenna Z, one of the five clear, tried to chase the winning time, however eagerness for speed incurred her eight faults and placed her in the fourth position.

Mario Deslauriers, fresh off his win in Saturdays Bromont Derby, was once again victorious, capturing the win-



Frankie Chesler

ning ribbon with the only double clear of the day.

"I was so excited to be one of the five clear riders," said Chesler. "The course was definitely something you would see in Europe and I am glad that Ravenna Z and I could rise to the occasion."

Over 15,000 spectators watched the

class on a typically hot and humid horse

Ian Millar proved himself the veteran strategic master on Sunday by winning the big bucks in the \$50,000 CIBC Grand Prix presented by Jaguar.

However, it was Ainsley Vince who rode into Sunday's competition with the most points in the Jaguar Triple Crown series and drove out of the competition ring with a Jaguar X-Type as the winner.

The feature event of The Collingwood Festival played host to 21 horses and riders in round one and 10 horses and riders returned to the big ring for the jump-off.

Millar set the pace in round two of the jump-off with a clean performance in a time of 51.505 aboard Jasmine. Yann Candelle was last to go with Marco Taire and his time of 52.513 seconds would have put him in top spot, but one fallen rail dropped him into second spot.

Frankie Chesler of Orangeville had the best time of the jump-off with 48.494 but one rail put her and her super mare Ravenna Z into fourth position.

show day, and were treated to a special "Ride and Drive" fundraiser class that featured many of the Grand Prix riders. Organized by Alan Chesler and Roger Deslauriers, the class raised \$10,000 for the Jump Canada fund that will be helping our Canadian Equestrians get to the World Equestrian Games in September.

There are six Canadian World Cup Qualifier classes in total, and with four more to go in Quebec City, Blainville, Caledon and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, the top three coveted rider positions could go to anyone. The World Cup Finals will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada April 16-20.

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