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Amanda Flint and Texas Hold Em Squeak By in HITS Ocala Friday Prix

Aaron Vale and Texola follow for second, while Sarah Johnstone and Leonidas placed third

Alyson Sanderford for PhelpsSports.com

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Amanda Flint and Texas Hold 'Em, winners of today's Friday Prix

Ocala, FL – February 25, 2011 – It was a warm breezy day for exhibitors at the HITS Ocala Post Time Farm for this morning's \$10,000 Friday Prix. Thirty-three exhibitors showcased their mounts over the 12 fences designed by Jose Gammora, who tested riders with combinations and tight roll back options. Only five riders of those 33 starters were able to leave all of the jumps -up and advance to the jump-off, where Amanda Flint and Texas Hold 'Em were victorious with the only four fault effort over the short course. Aaron Vale and Texola followed for the second place honors, while Sarah Johnstone and Leonidas earned the third place award.

The course featured a two stride followed by a long riding diagonal line up the hill. Another tricky spot was the downhill ride from the in -and -out to a tall vertical that was ridden at an angle. If this section did not come down for riders in the first course, it played a factor in their immediate short track effort.

No double clear efforts came up today, as even the five in the jump -off all had knockdowns. Four of those five had two rails each during the short course, giving them an 8 fault total. Amanda Flint and Texas Hold Em, however, were the only combination to have one rail in the jump off to secure today's win.

Executive Privilege 3E and Roberto Teran went seventh in the initial order, and were the first to make it through the opening round without any faults. Staying in the ring, as all the riders did today following the Table II b format, Teran had rails at the first jump, and at fence four which was the downhill vertical after the combination. He would finish in 35.772 seconds, and would settle for fourth place today.



Executive Privilege 3E and Roberto Teran

The next clear effort came from today's winner, just seven rounds after Teran. Flint and Texas Hold 'Em had an unfortunate start to their second effort, having a rail at the first fence. However, Flint finished the rest of the course in style, leaving the rails in their respective cups to finish in 33.76 seconds.

Aaron Vale and Texola were the next combination to make it clear around the first course today, but with two rails falling – one at the in to the two stride and the coming at the front oxer of the final line, Vale would finish with eight faults in 32.09 seconds which would be good enough for second place today.



Texola and Aaron Vale



Texola and Aaron Vale

Leonidas and Sarah Johnstone followed immediately behind Vale and were the fourth combination to qualify for the jump off round. Leonidas jumped beautifully around the first track, jumping high and clearing the jumps effortlessly. However, in the short course, he looked a bit tired with the heat as rails at the in to the two-stride along with fence 4 would give them an eight fault score in a time of 33.421 seconds. They would finish in third place.



Leonidas and Sarah Johnstone

Six rounds later, Scott Keach and Peur Agape Flight completed a clear effort in the first round as Peur Agape Flight put in what looked to be a slow and consistent round. The pair had rails in the same places as Johnstone at the in to the two-stride and fence four to finish with eight faults. They had the slowest jump off time, leaving them in fifth place in a time of 37.856 seconds.



Scott Keach and Peur Agape Flight

"I thought it was technical course," noted today's winner Amanda Flint. "I thought the many options up

the middle made it hard for some. I think the rest of the errors many people had were just rider issues, and the rest of the course was a great test for many."

Flint continued, "I've been riding Texas for three years now and and started doing Grand Prix classes with him when he was at 10. He's 12 now and was a stallion until recently. I think gelding him has really helped him focus and now he feels more like he has his head in the game. He had some time off in the fall and is just starting to feel like he's getting back to being fit again. I'm excited for the Grand Prix with him this weekend and felt like today was a great warm up for us."

Stayed tuned for more from the HITS Ocala Post Time Farm from PhelpsSports.com

Photo Gallery:



Scott Keach and Peur Agape Flight



Feature Attraction 3E and Roberto Teran



Arwen and Chris Delia



Alley Opp and Brandie Halloway



Gangsta and Alex Granato

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