



Courtney Calcagnini guided Shannon Reid's *Curtain Call* to first place in the \$10,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby at the Dallas Harvest Horse Show.

(Shannon McMillen Photo)

Calcagnini Tops A Field Of Veterans At Dallas Harvest

The young North Texas trainer glides to a hunter derby victory aboard Curtain Call.

Anne Lang

COURTNEY CALCAGNINI was sitting in first place going into the handy round of the \$10,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby at the Dallas Harvest Horse Show on Oct. 30. But the 26-year-old was worried—and not because she was leading by a mere 3.5 points.

Last among the riders to go into the ring, Calcagnini fretted that encroaching twilight in the unlit arena at Texas Rose Park in Tyler could prevent her horse, *Curtain Call*, from seeing the first obstacle.

"There were two options for that jump," Calcagnini recalled, "and both of them were very natural in color. I was afraid the darkness would make them hard to see."

Calcagnini's fears were put to rest, however, when "*Lorenzo*" confidently galloped across the ring and sailed right over the higher option. At that point, Calcagnini

knew the rest of the course would probably ride just fine. She was right.

Lorenzo and Calcagnini swept both rounds (the classic and the handy) for their first derby win, racking up 390 points and besting 36 competitors, including several professionals who were competing before Calcagnini was born.

Tracy Fenney finished second on *Clooney* (371.5), ahead of third-placed *Peter Pletcher* on *Westview*.

Prior to the Dallas Harvest, Calcagnini and *Lorenzo* had never placed higher than third in a derby, although they finished a respectable 11th at the \$100,000 ASG Software Solutions/USHJA International Hunter Derby Finals in Kentucky in August.

Shannon and Hershel Reid of Pilot Point, Texas, own *Lorenzo*, a 10-year-old *Selle Français*. The Reids and their 14-

year-old daughter, Taylor, live on a farm just down the road from the 12-acre farm owned by Calcagnini and her husband, Stephano, a reining horse trainer.

Calcagnini and the Reids met in the summer of 2008, when Hershel showed up at Calcagnini's barn. "He asked if I taught lessons," Calcagnini said, "because he'd seen my jumps from the road."

Hershel's inquiry was on behalf of Taylor, who had just started riding English. (The youngster already knew how to ride western, influenced by her mother Shannon's elite-level involvement in National Reined Cow Horse Association competitions.)

So Calcagnini took on Taylor as a student and began teaching Shannon to ride English as well. The family acquired a few hunters and started going to shows with Calcagnini. Last February, while Taylor was



showing in the Gulf Coast Winter Series (Miss.), Calcagnini was actively seeking a suitable mount for Shannon.

"My goal was to locate the best adult amateur hunter I could find," Calcagnini stated. "We had been looking for three weeks but hadn't found anything."

But during the final day of the final weekend, a trainer advised Calcagnini to look at Lorenzo, who had won champion and reserve in regular working division on two consecutive weekends at Gulfport.

Canadian show jumping Olympic gold medalist Eric Lamaze had imported the horse as a jumper prospect for a client—but it turned out Lorenzo didn't have the necessary speed.

Calcagnini and Taylor tried Lorenzo, and Calcagnini quickly realized that the 16.1-hand chestnut had all the traits she was looking for in a horse for Shannon. A pre-purchase exam was quickly arranged, and Lorenzo hopped aboard the Reid's van the next day for the trip back to Texas.

► Jack Of All Trades

It didn't take long for Calcagnini and the Reids to realize what a prize they had in Lorenzo. The gelding is still intended to be an adult hunters for Shannon (and a junior hunter for Taylor), but first, Taylor rode Lorenzo in the children's hunter at several shows—and Calcagnini began campaigning the versatile horse in the regular working division.



Photo: Courtney Calcagnini

\$10,000 THE CHRONICLE OF THE HORSE/ USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY Tyler, Texas—Oct. 30

HORSE/RIDER	1ST ROUND		2ND ROUND		TOTAL
	PANEL 1 Score/Bonus	PANEL 2 Score/Bonus	PANEL 1 Score/Bonus	PANEL 2 Score/Bonus	
1. Curtain Call/Courtney Calcagnini	89/10	87/7	90/9	90/8	390
2. Clooney/Tracy Fenney	88/9	84.5/8	83/9	82/8	371.5
3. Westview/Peter Pletcher	83.5/4	80/6	87/7	84/3	354.5
4. Posse/Colleen Acosta	83/8	75/5	84/6	85/8	354
5. Dominic/Peter Pletcher	84/7	85/7	81/6	79/3	352
6. Topsider/Caroline Weeden	86/6	84/4	82/4	81/3	350
7. Condanas/Rush Weeden	81/5	82/7	80/5	80/4	344
8. Dubari/Gayle Cox	80.25/7	86/9	78/3	74/5	342.5
9. Dolce/Sue Takata	80.5/7	81/8	76/2	75/5	334.5
10. Primetime/Caroline Gibson	79.5/9	80.5/9	71/0	70/0	319
11. Celano/Martien Van Der Hoeven	80.75/5	85.5/6	65/3	68/5	318.25
12. Rio's Echo/Peter Pletcher	85/8	86.5/9	45/6	45/9	293.5

37 horses competed.

In that division on the national scene, Calcagnini and Lorenzo are making their mark: As of press time, Lorenzo was in second place in U.S. Equestrian Federation national standings, having earned an impressive 12 tricolors to date at shows in Texas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Oklahoma. (Two of those tricolors were won earlier this season while the horse was still owned by Shale Harper.)

"He has the best mind in the whole world," Calcagnini said of Lorenzo, "a great canter and a great jump. He will jump anything from anywhere. He's a saint. He's really smart, and he's so sweet."

"When we did the derby finals," Calcagnini continued, "I had no idea how

he'd be because I started him in the regular working at Pin Oak and Spring Gathering [two Texas shows that are held each March], after just having him for a couple of weeks. But he's been just awesome all year long."

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—Courtney Calcagnini

Calcagnini thought Patrick Rodes' course at Dallas Harvest was straightforward, without any traps.

"And Tyler's such a great facility. It had rained really hard the night before, but by the time we did the derby on Friday afternoon, the footing was perfect," she said.

Calcagnini chose all the four-foot options. "They're so easy for Lorenzo," she said. "The first round was plenty difficult enough, but it didn't overface any of the horses or riders."

A loose cluster of four skinny, free standing artificial trees, about 10 feet tall, caused a few spooks. The trees, made of wooden lattice interwoven with cedar brush, were positioned such that riders couldn't avoid cantering through them twice in each round, unless they wanted to risk taking an awkward detour.

"Lorenzo was fine with those," Calcagnini said. "But fence 4 to fence 5 down the diagonal was a rather long five strides, and a lot of horses spooked a bit there."

Clooney finished second in the \$10,000 *The Chronicle of the Horse*/USHJA International Hunter Derby with Tracy Fenney aboard.



HORSE SHOWS

Riders tackled the long bending line up the middle from fence 6 to fence 7 in distances ranging from nine to 11 strides.

"That line posed a problem for some horses," Calcagnini observed, "but Lorenzo did it in a nice 10."

After option fence 8, horses were routed through the trees again, followed by a left curve to another option fence.

"That was really hard," Calcagnini admitted, "because you went through the trees, and the horses didn't see the oxer until it was right in front of them. If you had a horse that stuttered or looked a little bit, that made it difficult."

Calcagnini said her horse's consistency

helped her win the first round. "He never changed his canter, never went too fast or too slow," she said. "That's how I like to do the derbies, because you can start off with a good solid score."

► Smooth And Steady

As usual, the handy round brought back the top 12 horse-and-rider combinations and upped the ante on the degree of difficulty. The tree maze was still there, as were two unrelated trot fences and a large log to walk over.

"Both of the trot fences [7 and 9] were difficult," Calcagnini noted. "The first trot

fence came right after an oxer option, fence [6], and after the trot fence you had to gallop through the trees again, then jump another option fence [8]. That was a spot where some horses got lost a little bit. The second trot fence was a tall, kind of spooky wall.

"I've finished in derbies behind Peter [Pletcher] three times, so [placing ahead of him] was amazing for me."

—Courtney Calcagnini

"In the handy round," Calcagnini continued, "a lot of people like to gallop fast. I like to have a nice forward gallop, too, but I also like to be smooth and efficient and make good turns. Lorenzo galloped over the jumps, but he never changed his stride in the handy, either. His trot transitions were really smooth—he never shook his head or opened his mouth. He went right from the canter to the trot and right from the trot to the walk. He's so well-broke!"

Calcagnini keeps Lorenzo at her farm, along with 15 horses belonging to clients and 35 reining horses under her husband's care. "He's a funny horse," she said, "because he's very particular about people. He likes the people who are closest to him, but he's not friendly with just anyone. I taught him how to roll up his lip if he wants a treat. He's the coolest horse! His stall is right in the front of our barn, and he talks to everybody. He also demands to be the first one turned out."

Fenney and her husband Mike McCormick trained Calcagnini when she was junior, after which Calcagnini did a stint as a working student for Texas trainer Colleen McQuay.

Calcagnini confessed it was a "great feeling" to edge out Fenney in the derby but added: "Both Mike and Tracy are so supportive. They were super happy for me. And I've finished in derbies behind Peter [Pletcher] three times, so [placing ahead of him] was amazing for me too. He's an awesome rider with amazing horses."

Said Fenney: "Courtney rode well at the derby finals, so it's nice that she came here with that same horse and won. She has a great clientele right now that's given her the opportunity to go in the ring a lot, and there's no better experience than that."

Fenney's own experience in the ring at Tyler included a win in the \$25,000 Grand Prix of Dallas (see sidebar) as well as the runner-up spot in the hunter derby with Clooney, a notable feat in the 37-horse

Eight Is Enough

Tracy Fenney captured the \$25,000 Grand Prix of Dallas aboard MTM Centano, a 9-year-old Holsteiner she's owned with husband Mike McCormick (their partnership is MTM Farm) since 2006.

Eighteen horses and riders contested the course designed by Conrad Homfeld and Patrick Rodes. Seven pairs advanced to the jump-off, where Fenney and "Sly" clocked the fastest time (37.79) of four double-clear rounds.

Nipping at their heels was Martien Van Der Hoeven on South Bound, who completed the jump-off in 38.57 seconds.

"In the first line of the jump-off," Fenney explained, "everyone else did eight strides. But I did seven, then turned pretty tight to the next jump and galloped to it, quite easily.

"I left one stride out, again, at the in-and-out, where a couple of people had some pretty bad falls," Fenney added. "It was A-B, and those two horses stopped at B. But there weren't really any bogey jumps; it was quite a nice course. Sly is just really brave for being a big horse [17.1 hands], and he pulled himself together quite well."

Dallas Harvest marked the eighth grand prix victory this season for Fenney and Sly, from 23 outings.

Fenney is now looking forward to a long break, for the horses as well as for her and McCormick, until they start showing again at HITS Ocala (Fla.).

MTM Centano and Tracy Fenney scored their eighth grand prix victory of the year in the \$25,000 Grand Prix of Dallas.

\$25,000 GRAND PRIX OF DALLAS

Tyler, Texas—Nov. 1

HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. MTM Centano/Tracy Fenney	0-0	37.79	\$7,500
2. South Bound/Martien Van Der Hoeven	0-0	38.57	5,500
3. 3M Laredo/Samuel Parot	0-0	38.62	3,250
4. Carmen/Tony Font	0-0	42.01	2,000
5. Inside Out/Chris Nelson	0-4	38.33	1,500
6. Solinus/Kari Martin	0-8	40.89	1,250
7. Gardenio/Tony Font	0-E		1,000

18 horses competed.



(Shawn McMillen Photo)



field, considering it was only Fenney's fifth time on the horse's back.

Owner Christian Rogge of Top Line Sporthorse International sent Clooney to Fenney and McCormick earlier this fall. At the Dallas Harvest, Fenney entered the 7-year-old Holsteiner in some warm-up classes "to kind of see what we had" before riding the gelding to a reserve championship in the green working division. Then came the derby.

"When I first got on him," Fenney said, "he was a little bit naughty, but we got that out of the way and he was just perfect in the ring."

TYLER, TX—OCT. 28-NOV. 1.

REGULAR WORKING HUNTER CH: Celano, Cassandra Shipp.
RES: Curtain Call, Shannon Reid.

GREEN HUNTER CH: Dubari, Gayle Cox.

RES: Clooney, Top Line Sporthorse Int'l Inc.

GREEN CONFORMATION HUNTER CH: Castlewellan, Susan Bradley.

RES: Ascot, Monica Algarra.

AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Dress Up, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Rodes.

RES: Dubari, Gayle Cox.

LOW AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER CH: Fun One, Emily Woodall.

RES: Sahalee, Erin Walker.

SMALL JR. HUNTER CH: Holiday, Laura Beckworth.

RES: Day Dream, Taylor Reid.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH: Neander, Jackie Watkins.

RES: Caden, Shadyside Farm.

LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH: Primetime, Shadyside Farm.

RES: Curiosity Shop, Jessica Bass.

SMALL PONY HUNTER CH: Pashmina, Jordan Coyle.

RES: Little Shooting Star, Michael Wallace.

MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH: Woodland's Blue Haze, Jackson Brittan.

RES: Ez-Go, Hallie Fei Smith.

LARGE PONY HUNTER CH: Siddhartha, Maggie Di Vecchia.

RES: Fudgecycle, Camila Trejo.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH: All In, Carly Lazzari.

RES: Willy Behave, Elizabeth Nellis.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-49 CH: After All, Lori Mathews.

RES: Paris, Claire McCrummen.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 50 & OVER CH: Rasputin, Merrilee Braley.

RES: Bremen, Nanette Flaten.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH: Unicon, Jamie Richardson.

RES: Alezzio, Jennifer McNamara.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER, 15-17 CH: Cognac, Blain Lewis.

RES: Adelante, Cambridge Nichols.

CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTER CH: Crystal Acres Chocolatier, Silver Oak Farms LLC.

RES: Best Boy In Town, Sue Takata.

PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: Last Tango, Christina Demetree.

RES: Little Blue Box, Taylor Sutton.

3'3" PRE-GREEN HUNTER CH: MTM Braggin Rights, MTM Farm.

RES: MTM First Class Ticket, Mary Pierce & MTM Farm.

BABY GREEN HUNTER CH: Yukon, Matt Cyphert.

RES: Niles, Merrylegs South.

MODIFIED CHILDREN'S/ADULT HUNTER CH: Picturesque, Belinda Ragonese.

RES: Sleek N Unique, Brenda Berndt.

LIMIT RIDER HUNTER CH: Making Headlines, Erika Craft.

RES: Sleek N Unique, Brenda Berndt.

LOW SPECIAL HUNTER CH: Yukon, Matt Cyphert.

RES: Picturesque, Belinda Ragonese.

HIGH SPECIAL HUNTER CH: Orion, Michelle Caldwell.

RES: Undefinable, Meredith Mulliken.

OPPORTUNITY NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP CH: Devon Thomas.

RES: Cindy McCampbell-Wilkerson.

OPPORTUNITY APPRENTICE HORSEMANSHIP CH: Brenna Page.

RES: Neely Rhea.

OPPORTUNITY ROOKIE HORSEMANSHIP CH: Caroline Sherry.

RES: Neely Rhea.

OPPORTUNITY ROOKIE EQUITATION CH: Caroline Sherry.

RES: Brenna Page.

1.15M JUMPER CH: Edward, Deborah Roy.

RES Tie: Blast, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Rodes & Indian Creek's Coraggio, Jessica Nilsen.

LOW CHILDREN'S/ADULT JUMPER CH: St. Regis, Alexandra Lindley.

RES Tie: Goatzi, Isabella Carroll, La Guna, Lochmoor Stables & Skys The Limit, Kayla Briel.

HIGH CHILDREN'S/ADULT JUMPER CH: Nikita, Shannon Garding.

RES: Ulona, Beth Von Brecht.

LOW JR./AMATEUR-OWNER JUMPER CH: Sweetness, Jan Beavers.

RES: Opportunity Knocks, Nigel Potts.

1.25M JUMPER CH: Thomas 12, Nicole Stufflebeme.

RES: Rosaria, Cassandra Shipp.

1.30M JUMPER CH: CR Fantasia, Greg Billings.

RES Tie: The New Yorker, Christine Biederman, Sangria, Jessica Law & Mr. Nobody, Five-H Partners.

PONY JUMPER CH: Skys The Limit, Kayla Briel.

RES: Partly Cloudy, Kimberly Brunson.

GRAND HUNTER CH: Primetime, Shadyside Farm.

GRAND PONY HUNTER CH: Pashmina, Jordan Coyle.

▲ **Reg. Wkg. Htr.** - 1. Curtain Call; 2. Celano; 3. Lavasco, P. Brodbeck ▲ **Reg. Wkg. Htr.** - 1. Celano; 2. Lord Rasso, K. King; 3. Curtain Call. ▲ **Reg. Wkg. Htr.** - 1. Curtain Call; 2. Celano; 3. Lavasco. ▲ **Reg. Wkg. Htr. U/S** - 1. Celano; 2. Curtain Call; 3. Lavasco. ▲ **Reg. Wkg. Htr. U/S** - 1. Celano; 2. Curtain Call; 3. Lavasco. ▲ **Grn. Htr.** - 1. Dubari; 2. Content, E. Boyd; 3. Condanas, L. Gilbertson. ▲ **Grn. Htr.** - 1. Dubari; 2. Clooney; 3. Condanas. ▲ **Grn. Htr.** - 1. Clooney; 2. Bremen; 3. Content. ▲ **Grn. Handy Htr.** - 1. Clooney; 2. Dubari; 3. Condanas. ▲ **Grn. Htr. U/S** - 1. Dubari; 2. Clooney; 3. Content. ▲ **A/O Htr.** - 1. Dubari; 2. Dolce, S. Takata; 3. Dress Up. ▲ **A/O Htr.** - 1. Dress Up; 2. MTM Off The Cuff, T. Peck; 3. Tabloid, L. Roberts. ▲ **A/O Handy Htr.** - 1. Dress Up; 2. MTM Off The Cuff; 3. Dolce. ▲ **A/O Htr.** - 1. Dubari; 2. Dolce; 3. MTM Off The Cuff. ▲ **A/O Htr. U/S** - 1. Dubari; 2. Dress Up; 3. Dolce. ▲ **Sm. Jr. Htr.** - 1. Tuscan Sun, J. Crawford; 2. Day

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