

Darcy Hayes reclaims crown at Royal Winter Fair



By Brock Weir

Aurora's Darcy Hayes has taken the Hunter Derby Victory for the second year running at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Hayes and her mount Say When, a nine year old gelding, won the \$15,000 Braeburn Farms Hunter Derby on this past Sunday, November 5.

'I had a good feeling today because he warmed up so well for me before the class; he really shined today,' said Hayes of Say When, which is owned by Danielle Trudell-Baran of Toronto. 'I don't do jumpers much because my daughter, Quincy Hayes, does the jumpers, so these derbies are kind of my grand prix each week. Here at The Royal it is just that much more exciting because there's more of a crowd. Friends come that wouldn't necessarily come to a horse show and you get everybody in one place.'

Hayes and Say When finished the course of natural obstacles set up in Ricoh Coliseum with a total score of 110 - a base score of 92, ten high option points and eight handy bonus points - which kept them at the top of the leader board through all 20 of the entries. In second place with 100 points was Erynn Ballard of Tottenham, riding Enchanted, hosted by Christel Weller. Brent Balisky of Langley, BC, finished in third and fourth place riding Class Act and Easystreet respectively.

Hayes' win on Sunday was not only their second victory in the Braeburn Farms Hunter Derby, but their fifth Derby win overall at the Royal Horse Show.

Say When, she says, is 'Actually easier to ride in a derby than he is in a regular hunter course. I think he's really smart, and the derby kind of piques his interest and keeps him interested instead of just being regular jumps. He knows this is special and he knows he is special; his face was on the cover of the Royal Horse Show prize book. He loves himself and we love him.'

Each of the horses in the Sunday's Derby qualified to continue on in the series.

As The Auroran went to press this week, they were due to saddle up for the \$25,000 Knightwood Hunter Derby, vying for the Lorna Jean Guthrie Challenge Trophy.

Overall Scores:

1. Darcy Hayes/Aurora, ON/Say When/110.00
2. Erynn Ballard/Tottenham, ON/Enchanted/100.00
3. Brent Balisky/Langley, BC/Class Act/99.50
4. Brent Balisky/Langley, BC/Easystreet/99.00
5. Muffie Guthrie/Guelph, ON/Damiro Van Ter Notelaere/98.00
6. Scott McKay/Acton, ON/Cut To The Chase/95.00
7. Cassidy Keith/Nanaimo, BC/Miracle/94.00
8. Isabelle Lapierre/Levis, QC/Carrera S/91.50
9. Muffie Guthrie/Guelph, ON/Lucky 2 Knight/86.00
10. Laura Jane Tidball/Langley, BC/Candyland/85.00

11. Quincy Hayes/Aurora, ON/Crush/84.00
12. Courtney Thomas/Bedford, NS/Zazou/77.00