

Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

Late-season wins seal championships for Irv Naylor, Jack Fisher, Paddy Young

The National Steeplechase Association's late-season triple header clinched several 2015 championships, including Irv Naylor as champion owner, Jack Fisher as champion trainer by wins and earnings with his second million-dollar season, and Paddy Young as champion jockey for a fifth time.

Naylor, a York, Pa., sportsman and philanthropist, finished first and second in the Charleston Cup on Nov. 8 with Jamarjo and Jack Frost to seize his fifth leading-owner title in six years. Through the Charleston Cup meet, he had 2015 earnings of \$689,500 to \$277,550 for Gil Johnston.

Naylor, whose three wins at the rich Far Hills meet included the \$300,000 Grand National (Gr. 1) with Dawalan, holds the record for owner earnings, \$719,725 in 2011.

Jack Fisher swept the top three spots in the Steeplechase at Callaway's \$75,000 AFLAC Supreme Hurdle on Nov. 7 to lock down his fourth straight title as champion trainer by wins and his ninth overall. Through Nov. 20, he had 26 wins.

He also earned his fourth title as champion trainer by purse earnings. Through Nov. 20, his purses totaled \$1,014,600. Cyril Murphy, who trained Naylor's three Far Hills winners, was second at \$472,500. Fisher, the NSA's only million-dollar trainer, set the mark in 2008 at \$1,156,907.

Paddy Young, who rode Jamarjo to victory in the Charleston Cup for his wife, trainer Leslie Young, had traveled to the Montpelier Hunt Races on Nov. 7 and came away with two victories, including Ballybristol Farm's Andi'amu in the featured \$40,000 Noel Laing Handicap for Leslie Young, whose 10 wins ranked second in the trainer standings.

Going into the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup meet on Nov. 21, the veteran jockey had 23 victories, 10 more than Sean McDermott, who rode Overwhelming to victory in the AFLAC Supreme Hurdle. Young was champion jockey from 2009



Michael Wharton's *Grinding Speed* and jockey Mark Beecher head for the finish line and a third victory in the International Gold Cup, which clinched the timber title for *Grinding Speed*, who also won the 2015 Virginia Gold Cup and *My Lady's Manor*. TOD MARKS PHOTO

through 2011 and again in 2013 before adding his fifth title this year.

Overwhelming won the top prize in the new Sport of Kings Bonus, which awards points for participation in Sport of Kings maiden hurdles and novice stakes. Overwhelming also won Belmont Park's William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes.

Syros finished second in the Sport of Kings Bonus, and African Oil was third. The Bonus pool, based on owners' 5% contributions from purses in the Sport of Kings maiden races and novice stakes, is approximately \$50,000, and it will be divided 60% to Overwhelming, 30% to Syros, and 10% to African Oil.



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Courtney C. Reid joins NSA as racing operations coordinator

Courtney C. Reid, formerly a Virginia Racing Commission staff member, joined the National Steeplechase Association as racing operations coordinator on Nov. 1.

Working under Executive Secretary Bernard J. Hettel, Ms. Reid fulfilled many functions at the Virginia Racing Commission and was primarily involved with licensing.

“We are pleased to have Courtney Reid joining the NSA staff,” said President Guy J. Torsilieri. “She has developed many skills at the Virginia Racing Commission that will be valuable in her new position.”

Ms. Reid, who first worked at the Virginia Racing Commission as an intern during col-

lege, said she will bring her communication and customer-service skills to the NSA position. “I look forward to new challenges at the National Steeplechase Association,” she said. “At the racing commission, I was part of a team that served a diverse population of racing participants, and I will apply my experience and skills to the NSA’s racing operations.”

A native of Williamsburg, Va., she holds an undergraduate degree from James Madison University and a master’s degree from Liberty University.

She succeeded Mary T. Guessford, who resigned in August to pursue an opportunity in the financial industry.



Courtney C. Reid

Pa. Hunt Cup seals Naylor’s 8th timber owner title

Irv Naylor locked up the National Steeplechase Association’s timber owner title on Nov. 1 when his Almarooq defeated Armata Stables’ Cornhusker by a neck in the \$35,000 Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

With Gerard Galligan riding for Kathy Neilson, Almarooq secured his first in-the-money finish this year from four starts.

The Pennsylvania Hunt Cup was the final timber stakes race of the 2015 season, and Naylor counted timber purse money of \$163,400 through Nov. 20.

On Oct. 17, Naylor took home a sizable piece of the New Jersey Hunt Cup’s \$50,000 purse when Ebanour closed ground to win and Naylor’s Tax Ruling finished second by a half-length at Far Hills, N.J. The 2015 title was Naylor’s eighth championship over timber.

His closest competitor was Michael Wharton, whose one-horse stable, Grinding Speed, clinched the year’s timber championship with his third International Gold Cup win on Oct. 24. Grinding Speed also won the 2015 Virginia Gold Cup and My Lady’s Manor.

Alicia Murphy, who trains Grinding Speed and Cornhusker, shared the champion timber trainer title with Jack Fisher and Billy Meister, while Mark Beecher repeated as champion timber jockey.



Almarooq led Cornhusker after the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup’s last fence and won by a neck.

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National Steeplechase Association

400 Fair Hill Drive
Elkton, Md. 21921

Phone: (410) 392-0700
Fax: (410) 392-0706

Website: www.nationalsteeplechase.com
E-mail: info@nationalsteeplechase.com

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