



PRESS RELEASE
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Carly Anthony wins the R.W. "Ronnie" Mutch Equitation Classic at HITS Thermal

THERMAL, CA (March 16, 2008)—For Carly Anthony, Saturday evening was perfect. Thanks to a wind storm that pushed back the conclusion of the R.W. "Ronnie" Mutch Equitation Classic at HITS Thermal from Saturday night to Sunday morning she enjoyed an entire night without any communication with her mother.

Riders who competed in the class were not allowed to communicate with their trainers once the class was underway. And since Carly Anthony is trained by her mother Cara, who operates Potcreek Meadow Farm, the two could not interact with each other at all on Saturday night and into Sunday morning.

"I am sure it was a great night for her," joked her mom Cara Anthony. "She doesn't like talking to me anyway."

Her mom may have been kidding, but Carly Anthony wasn't joshing around when she made up a one-point deficit after the first round to win the class aboard *Vogue*. Carly Anthony, from Redmond, Washington skipped past Shelby Wakeman and her mount *San Francisco* to win the inaugural R.W. "Ronnie" Mutch Equitation Classic at HITS Thermal.

"They both rode perfectly," said Cara Anthony. "I couldn't see a difference in either of their rounds. It was so close there could have been some additional testing."

"Carly and Shelby were tremendous," said Wakeman's trainer Karen Healey. "There was a one-point difference between them but I think both girls deserved to win and it could have gone either way."

Rounding out the top-three finishers were Hilary Neff and her mount *Mata Hari*. Other awards that were handed out included the Best Equitation Horse and the Best Turned Out Horse, both of which were given to *San Francisco*. The mount is owned by Golden Goose Investors, LLC.

"Luis Cerventes did a great job turning out the horse for the class," said Healey. "He is a wonderful groom."

The two-round classic was held as part of the new Desert Championship week at HITS Thermal. In the first round, riders competed over a course of fences, which included gymnastics, trot fences, oxers, verticals and combinations. The top-12 riders were called back in reverse order of their score to complete the second round.

Throughout the competition, riders were not allowed to communicate with their trainers or any other resources — they had to do it all, from preparation of their horse to course walking, on their own. Scores were given from two sets of judges and there was a judge in the schooling area that provided a score.

Since 1999, the R.W. Mutch Equitation Classic, had been a fixture of the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida until its move to HITS Thermal in 2008. "I started the class 10 years ago when Ronnie died in order to make sure his skill as a horsemen wasn't lost," said Co-Executive Director Sherry Robertson. "It emphasizes what the kids are taught by their trainers. It is the hardest class for them to win."

"What a phenomenal class," said Healey. "I want to thank Carol Coleman and Sherry Robertson for bringing this class to the West Coast. "We have been trying so hard to get an equitation championship class for so long and this one is

the Ace of Spades."

The Classic is held annually in honor of accomplished equestrian, and life-long artist, R.W. Mutch. An early student of Gordon Wright and Al Homewood, Mutch won the AHSA Medal Finals in 1950 at the age of 15. At 18, he was the youngest rider at the time to ride for the USET. It is a highly sought-after honor to be invited to participate in the Classic and, as a result, it has become a major goal of juniors participating in the competitions.

HITS, Inc. is a special events management company primarily focused on producing hunter/jumper horse shows. Based in upstate New York in the village of Saugerties, HITS produced its first horse show circuit in Gainesville, Florida in 1982. Since that time, HITS has grown into a nationwide company with world-class hunter/jumper circuits in California, Florida, Arizona, New York and Virginia.

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Carly Anthony wins R.W. □Ronnie□ Mutch Equitation Classic at HITS Thermal.



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Carly Anthony is congratulated by (left to right) Cara Anthony, HITS' Director of Awards Wendy Metzger, HITS' Vice President of West Coast Operations Fred Bauer and Karen Healey after winning the R.W. □Ronnie□ Mutch Equitation Classic at HITS Thermal.

Place	Rider	Trainer
1	Carly Anthony	Cara Anthony
2	Shelby Wakeman	Karen Healey
3	Hilary Neff	Archie Cox
4	Tina Dilandri	Karen Healey
5	Michelle Morris	Karen Healey
6	Natasha Taurig	Hap Hansen
7	Maggie Earl	Emily Esau
8	Samantha Harrison	Karen Healey
9	Jocelyn Neff	Mark Watring
10	Nicolette Von Heidegger	Joe Thorpe
11	Jessica Arnold	Emily Esau
12	Hannah Selleck	Karen Healey

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