

Patience Pays Off For Sailor At Blenheim Spring Classic III

Lifelong lessons in horsemanship help the California native turn an untrusting horse into a derby champion.

By **Tori Repole**
Photos By **Alden Corrigan Media**



Jamie Sailor earned her first international derby win aboard Hopeful in the \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at the Blenheim Spring Classic III.

Los Angeles is notorious for its car-clogged highways. The traffic influences everything from what hour residents leave for work to—if you ride at the Agoura Hills-based Mike Edrick Stables—how much time you’ll spend with your horse after factoring in the commute.

Edrick’s assistant trainer Jamie Sailor says many of her clients barely have the opportunity to hand walk their horses.

“Being in L.A., there are not a lot of horse facilities that are necessarily close by, so generally with the traffic, it’s so hard to get to the barn,” said Sailor, 27. “By the time [clients arrive] they literally only have the one hour to ride. Then it’s another hour or so for them to get back home. We have full grooming, which is great when you’re in a rush, but I think it’s so important to really get to know your horse from the ground up.”

Sailor counts herself lucky that she enjoyed unlimited barn time as a child thanks to her mother Jody Buciak’s Stoney Point Ranch in Chatsworth, a neighborhood in the northwest corner of Los Angeles. The 140-stall boarding facility gave her a solid foundation in horsemanship.

“It taught me hard work; it taught me discipline,” Sailor said. “It taught me not to give up. We’d get new horses in all the time, and I would just have to hop on and ride the best that I could and try and get to know them within just a few minutes. So, now I have no problem getting on a random horse, and within a few minutes I kind of know what they are and their behavior.”

When Sailor turned 9, her father, Steve Sailor, began trailering her to Edrick’s stables for a weekly lesson. She became a working student for Edrick during her teens and turned professional at 18; she’s remained employed with Edrick ever since. In June 2018, she got the ride on Astrid van Leeuwen’s Dutch Warmblood gelding Hopeful (Action Breaker—Cintana E.B.), a horse who spooked at his own shadow.

\$15,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY San Juan Capistrano, Calif.—April 5

Judges: Panel 1: Don Stewart, Patrick Rodes; Panel 2: Chris Wynne, Joni Osteen

HORSE/RIDER	1st Round		2nd Round		Total
	Panel 1 Score/ Height Option	Panel 2 Score/ Height Option	Panel 1 Score/ Bonus/ Height Option	Panel 2 Score/ Bonus/ Height Option	
1. Hopeful/Jamie Sailor	86/2	84/2	89/8/4	84.5/7/4	370.5
2. Get Rowdy/Karli Postel	83/4	83/4	86/7/4	86/7/4	368
3. Verdict/Nick Haness	88/3	82/3	84/8/3	83.5/7/3	364.5
4. Vanderpump/Augusta Iwasaki	82/3	77/3	83/9/4	83/8/4	356
5. Matador/Jamie Sailor	74/4	78/4	80/9/3	84/8/3	347
6. Quarter Note/Jamie Sailor	73/3	74/3	85/9/3	85/8/3	346
7. L'Con Reyes/Katie Taylor	85/4	81/4	72/7/4	73/6/4	340
8. Icon/Leslie Steele	78/4	73/4	76/7/3	81/7/3	336
9. Castle/Lexi Wedemeyer	84/0	87/0	70/6/0	78/7/0	332
10. Beach Boy/Emily Williams	71/2	75/2	72/8/3	80/7/3	323
11. C'est La Vie/Morgan Garnett	64/4	65/4	63/5/4	71/6/4	290
12. Small Kingdom/Jamie Taylor	84.5/4	84.5/4	45/7/4	43/5/4	285

20 horses competed.

I'm still on Cloud 9 from winning my first international derby.

—Jamie Sailor

“He was a bit nervous and worried when I started with him,” said Jamie. “I tend to really like those horses—when they’re not really sure of themselves, and they get a little worried. I really like giving them confidence. When we first started [with Hopeful] as a 6-year-old I was like, ‘Oh boy, I have my work cut out for me.’ But I really worked on his confidence level and just trusting the rider. He’s really come through with me.”



Nick Gegen and Arc De Triomphe won the \$50,000 Spring Classic III Grand Prix at Blenheim.

Hopeful, now 7, was one of three horses Jamie rode to contest the April 5 \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at Blenheim Spring Classic III in San Juan Capistrano, California. It came as a surprise to Jamie that the youngest and least experienced of her mounts walked away with the win.

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\$50,000 BLEINHEIM SPRING III GRAND PRIX San Juan Capistrano, Calif.—April 6			
HORSE/RIDER	FAULTS	TIME	PURSE
1. Arc De Triomphe/Nick Gegen	0-0	47.56	\$15,000
2. Kaiser Van Het Lambroeck/Cassio Rivetti	0-4	42.58	11,000
3. Dacarlos/Mattias Ekeroth	0-4	42.62	6,500
4. Billy Mexico/Vani Khosla	0-4	43.87	4,000
5. Emilie De Fremis/Cassio Rivetti	0-4	46.16	3,000

►Also competed: 6. Cicomein VDL/S. Casady, 4; 7. Skara Glen's Presence/Z. Hoffman, 4; 8. Dexceminka/G. Pattinson, 4; 9. Escapado S/K. Edwards, 4; 10. Interline H/K. Campbell, 4; 11. Ceasar/T. Yates, 4; 12. Interactive Mortgage 07/T. Yates, 4; 13. Kalina/K. Edwards, 8; 14. NKH Quanto/S. Schroder, 8; 15. Hautesse Van't Zorgvliet/M. Ekeroth, 4; 16. Charly/J. Gatlin, 4; 17. Belize d'Ive Z/K. Campbell, 12; 18. Dragonfly De Longchamps/V. Khosla, 18; 19. McLord's T.K.O./L. Clarke, 25; Duc De Rhoan/M. Kerivan, VW.

"I'm still on Cloud 9 from winning my first international derby; it's been a long time coming," she said. "That was only his second hunter derby, and we were even debating whether to do it, so I'm really happy that we chose to put him in it.

"I really love the USHJA hunter derby program," she added. "It's really good for horses to shine, for the ones that don't necessarily shine in the division classes. I think you need a real jumper for those derbies."

Jamie takes pride in developing and producing horses at Edrick's facility. Her training philosophy, whether it be directed towards her pupils or her mounts, caters to best suiting the individual's needs.

"I do a lot of trail riding, actually," she said. "I do a lot of mental work with the horses just so they stay relaxed. Rather than go right to the ring and right to work, sometimes I'll just take them on a trail ride, and then I'll come in the ring, just so they kind of stay relaxed, calm and confident. I like the nervous horses in a sense where I just give them all my confidence and happiness, and they go, 'Wow! That's all you wanted?' When it's that breakthrough, they tend to really start to believe in you as a rider. So, when I'm really going for that long hunter gallop or something, they're not going, 'Oh, does she really mean that?' They're like, 'All right, I'm on it. I'm with you; I'm on that same page,' and that's what I like to feel." ◀

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