



2017 JUNIOR EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR – THE GILLIAN WILSON TROPHY, PRESENTED BY ASMAR EQUESTRIAN: TOSCA HOLMES-SMITH



Founded in 1993, the Junior Equestrian of the Year Award is given to a junior who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship and dedication to equestrian sport, as well as the vision and mission of Equestrian Canada (EC). The award is given in honour of Gillian Wilson, who served as technical director of the Canadian Equestrian Federation for more than 15 years.

Tosca Holmes-Smith of Chase, BC is the 2017 recipient, adding another accolade to

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the family's collection after her sister, Carmen Holmes-Smith, brought home the 2016 title.

Tosca comes by her passion for eventing honestly, following in the footsteps of her father, two-time Canadian Olympian in eventing, Nick Holmes-Smith.

After first moving up to the FEI level in 2014, Tosca has represented Canada at the FEI North American Junior & Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) for the past three consecutive years, with 2017 proving to be one for the books.

Partnered with Fiat (Cats at Home x With Approval), a 14-year-old Thoroughbred gelding owned by her mother, Ali Holmes-Smith, Tosca claimed the individual gold medal and led the Canadian Junior Team to a bronze medal finish in the CH-J 1* division.

Tosca kicked off NAJYRC 2017 with an eighth place finish in dressage on a score of 47.2 penalties. However, she shot all the way up to third after a double-clear effort on cross-country. Incredibly, Tosca ultimately claimed victory at NAJYRC 2017 on her dressage score after sealing the deal with a foot-perfect show jumping round.

NAJYRC was a crowning achievement among a list of many accolades Tosca earned in 2017. She also finished the season as the Horse Trials British Columbia (HTCB) Intermediate Champion aboard Fiat, plus picked up the Preliminary Young Rider Champion title aboard Tom Riddle, a 12-year-old New Zealand Thoroughbred gelding also owned by Ali.

In addition, Tosca was the recipient of the 2017 HTBC Young Rider of Distinction Perpetual Trophy, dedicated to the memory of Jordan McDonald, and given to an up-and-coming youth who exemplifies sportsmanship, dedication and accomplishment in the sport of eventing within British Columbia.

Known for her kindness, positivity and great sense of humour, Tosca was described by her nominators as having "blossomed into an exceptional elite athlete who is a kind and willing soul, and always willing to pitch in a hand to help her fellow young riders."

Tosca is also well known for always putting her horses first. Whether in the saddle or the stable, the horse's well-being is always the number one priority for Tosca.

EC is honoured to present Tosca with the 2017 Junior Equestrian of the Year Award in



recognition of her incredible accomplishments in competition and her commendable dedication to the values of horsemanship and sportsmanship.