

Erynn Ballard was second ? Daniel Bluman wins \$35,000 International Jumper

Two-time Olympian Daniel Bluman of Israel opened international show jumping competition at the Royal Horse Show recently with a win in the \$35,000 International Jumper Power and Speed at the CSI4*-W Royal Horse Show, held as part of the 95th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

In addition to Bluman, top show jumping athletes representing Belgium, Ireland, New Zealand, the United States, and the home nation of Canada contested the event.

Palgrave area resident Erynn Ballard finished second, riding Thalys Z.

Upon successfully completing the 'power' phase of 2016 Rio Olympic course designer Guilherme Jorge's track, those who were clear from the 23-horse starting field advanced to the 'speed' portion where the fastest time won. Riding Apardi, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion owned by Simhon Schwitzer-Bluman, Bluman posted a time of 26.48 second over the speed course to take the win over Ballard, who stopped the clock in 27.42 seconds aboard Thalys Z, owned by The Thalys Group.

Four-time U.S. Olympic medalist Beezie Madden finished third in 28.11 seconds riding Coach for owner Abigail Wexner, while Belgium's Nicola Philippaerts took fourth on H&M Harley VD Bisschop in 29.74 seconds for owners Ben Beevers and Ludo Philippaerts. First on course, Ireland's Conor Swail rounded out the top five, stopping the clock at 29.99 seconds riding GK Coco Chanel for owner and fellow international show jumping division competitor, Vanessa Mannix of Calgary, who placed eighth in the class with Chemas.

'The Royal is one of my favorite horse shows of the year,' said Bluman, 27. 'The atmosphere is fantastic, and I don't think there is an indoor event like it anywhere else in North America. I came on a late invitation several years ago and I loved everything about it, so I put it on my calendar and try to come every year.'



Erynn Ballard placed second in the \$35,000 International Jumper Power and Speed riding Thalys Z at the CSI4*-W Royal Horse Show. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography