



top two While riding CH-EQ Altar Of The Sun, Brooklyn Gaskill repeated her Junior Equitation World's Champion of Champions victories, winning them in 2022 and 2023. She concluded her 13 and under career as the 2023 UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Champion.

bottom Gaskill is looking forward to returning to the show ring at the Gasparilla Charity aboard Monnington Magna Carta under the direction of Jessica Saft.

RETURNING TO THE RING

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Brooklyn Gaskill is making a resurgence in the show ring. The former world's and national champion equestrian is returning to the sport she loves aboard a new partner this season. After a brief hiatus, she will once again demonstrate her skill set in the Saddlebred industry this year.

Gaskill's first foray in the horse industry came while her family was on the hunt for a new home.

"I was house shopping with my grandparents and they had a horse at one of the houses" she said. "After that I would beg and beg to start taking lessons. After I did I just fell more in love with them."

Since those humble beginnings, Gaskill's career developed rapidly in the equine world. Her resume boasts impressive titles in both the equitation and performance divisions, most recently as the Junior

Equitation World's Champion of Champions- a victory she claimed in both 2022 and 2023, and the victory pass as the 2023 UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Champion. She claimed those honors aboard the highly-touted CH-EQ Altar Of The Sun under the direction of both the Desmar and Altar-Win teams. Gaskill explained that equitation is one of her favored divisions to show in.

"What I love most about equitation is the challenge it gives me," she said. "It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to reach where you want to be. But at the end of a show it makes it so worth it."

Gaskill took a short pause from the show ring last season as her family moved south from their roots in Ohio to their new home state of Florida. She is now set to re-enter the show ring during the 2025 show season under the new direction of Jessica Saft and her Palmetto, Florida based Paragon Stables. Saft said that she feels fortunate to get to work with Gaskill.

"Brooklyn has been so fun to work with," she said. "She's not just a beautiful equitation rider, she is a rider. You can place her on any horse and she will automatically adapt. I really respect her for wanting to go out and find a horse that wasn't proven to do this job. She wanted to be part of making it. Her dedication to this sport is inspiring."

Monnington Magna Carta is the new equine that Saft and Gaskill selected to be Gaskill's next equitation partner. The coming four-year-old will make his equitation debut after a stellar 2024 show season. With former owner Morgan King in the saddle, Magna Carta was crowned both the 2024 ASHBA National Futurity Three-Year-Old Park Pleasure victor at the All American Horse Classic as well as the UPHA Park Pleasure Classic Grand Champion at the UPHA/American Royal. He will now make the exciting transition to the equitation ranks, which Saft explained has been going quite well.

"Honestly this horse has been an absolute blast to have," she said. "He goes out ready and willing to work every day. Our biggest thing is making sure we take our time without heavy drilling, so he stays enjoying his work while incorporating patterns. He truly has the patience and mind to be a great one."

Gaskill agreed and explained that she is enjoying the process of helping to equitate a junior horse.

"Teaming up with Monnington Magna Carta has been so amazing and fun," she said. "It's been all about building trust and understanding each other. What I love most about him so far is how patient and kind he is."

Gaskill and Magna Carta will make their first appearances together as the gate swings open to signal the start of the 2025 show season. With Saft at her side and the support of her grandparents, Richard and Tonya Confer, she is poised and ready to excel once again.

"I am most excited to be able to use the skills I have been learning and to show my growth and progress," Gaskill said. "I just love showing and being able to see all my friends and all the other talented riders and amazing horses at the shows."

Gaskill urges other riders to be patient and stay dedicated to their riding goals even if they take a short break from their equestrian pursuits.

"Lots of practice has helped me out and talking to my instructor about advice and trying to figure out ways to do something better," she said. "Also building a strong bond with your horses makes the biggest difference."

The bond between Gaskill and Magna Carta will be on display as they become equitation contenders this season, looking to add to Gaskill's illustrious show ring career. Saft is eager to continue watching their growth and their bond develop throughout the year, and is looking forward to guiding them during the season. "They are both so talented, eager to please, and deserving of success," she said.