

# RACHAEL WINOGRAD

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
*Junior Exhibitor Of The Year*

BY SARA PIZZUTO

For some exhibitors, it can take years to master the intricacies of equitation in one seat. However for Rachael Winograd, her 2021 show season included world titles and impressive feats in both saddle seat equitation as well as hunt seat equitation. Rachael's final year of junior exhibitor competition was highlighted by a myriad of victory passes on the Morgan breed's biggest stages, making the sting of leaving behind her junior years a little bit more bearable. Her phenomenal achievements have helped her earn your vote as the People's Choice Junior Exhibitor Of The Year.

Rachael Winograd's talents as an equestrian were visible from an early age growing up at her family's Florida based West Coast Morgans. Under the guidance of her parents, Anne and Glenn, Rachael enjoyed time on her Hackney Pony "Spirit," and joked that she was the only rider to never fall off the often unruly pony.

"Although I was very young I always remember the people walking by my side and laughing when I stayed on after 'Spirit' tried to throw me off," she said. "Growing up at my family farm was definitely an adventure. Not only did I get to ride everyday but I learned valuable life skills and learned how to care for an

animal and that a business is not easy to run. I loved being able to go to the barn whenever I wanted and just hop on a horse and have fun and practice my skills for the upcoming show season."

Rachael Winograd honed her skills at West Coast Morgans, resulting in a remarkable junior exhibitor career. Prior to the 2021 show season, Rachael had already amassed an impressive resume of achievements with world championship titles from both the classic equitation and hunt seat equitation divisions. She then chose to make the most out of her final junior exhibitor year, joining the team at Rand and training with both David Rand and Cindy Mugnier. The decision to train at Rand meant frequent trips north, traveling from Florida to Maine. Cindy Mugnier explained that Rachael already possessed exceptional skills as an equestrian when they first began working together.

"She was very talented to start with so what we worked on was putting her technical abilities together with her artistic abilities," Cindy said.

Hylee's Lock N Load was one of two of Rachael's equitation teammates that carried her to victories in 2021. "Buddy" served as Rachael's saddle seat equitation

Rachael Winograd had a strong support system in place that helped her earn multiple world titles and tricolors in 2021. She was joined by Cindy Mugnier, David Rand, her parents Anne and Glenn Winograd and brother Ethan following one of her many tricolor performances at New England Regional.



mount. Rachael said that she improved her upper body strength in order to better ride "Buddy" and worked out more consistently to prepare for the show season. While at Rand, Rachael focused on her pattern work aboard her saddle seat partner.

"'Buddy' had so much power and always liked to jump ahead," she said. "I had to work on slowing down my thought process and taking each part of the pattern one step at a time and not rushing through it."

Rachael Winograd also worked diligently to perfect her hunt seat equitation skills aboard Graycliff Rimfire GCH. The pair already held a world title from the 14-15 division and set their sights on the AMHA medal finals.

"My goals for the 2021 season with 'Jimmy' were to win the AMHA medal and go to as many new shows as possible," Rachael said. "Overall I just wanted to have fun and finish off a great three years with him and do the best I could."

As Rachael prepared to show in two divisions in 2021, her Florida based family was tasked with traveling to the northeast for training and horse shows. Mother Anne Winograd explained that her daughter made the trip to Rand at least once a month, with more frequent trips being made at the height of the show season. Her family had to adjust their schedule, balancing their professional careers, their clients at West Coast Morgans, and the care of Rachael's nine-year-old brother.

"As a parent I encouraged her as often as possible," Anne said. "You accept the responsibility for the upcoming year. You arrange the travel plans, you support that child in every way possible but the primary support would be emotionally. As a trainer, I spoke with my clients and made them aware that this was Rachael's last year and I would have to change my schedule. We also changed places a lot throughout the year so Glenn would attend one show and I would attend another. It worked out as a family that we managed to divide and conquer."

With the support of her parents and trainers, Rachael Winograd set out to once again dominate the saddle seat and hunt seat equitation divisions. Her season in New England included tricolors from UPHA Chapter 14 Spring Premiere, Connecticut Morgan, and Saugerties. She additionally was crowned both the Morgan Saddle Seat Equitation Grand Champion as well as the Hunt Seat Equitation 14-17 Grand Champion from New England Regional. Rachael explained that the most challenging aspect of switching between both saddle seat and hunt seat at each show was not changing her form, but rather adapting to the needs of her horses.

"In some cases I had less than two minutes to switch seats," she said. "This meant I had to take about a five second breath and get my head ready for a new ride. I always had to remember there is a fresh start at the beginning of every ride and to focus on the horse I'm riding now, not what will be happening in the future or what has happened in the past."

Despite the challenges that showing in two vastly different seats presented, Cindy Mugnier was confident in Rachael's abilities.

"She was a dream student," Cindy said. "She was super enthusiastic and talented and she had a great work ethic. She is wonderful."

Rachael showcased her talents and efforts on the breed's biggest stage at the 2021 Morgan Grand National, showing a total of 10 times. Aboard Graycliff Rimfire GCH, she was named the Hunt Seat Equitation 16-17 World Champion,



Rachael Winograd and Graycliff Rimfire GCH closed out her junior exhibitor career together as the AMHA Hunt Seat Gold Medal Finals Champions. This pair also earned the roses as the 2021 Hunt Seat Equitation 16-17 World Champions and the 2019 Hunt Seat Equitation 14-15 World Champions.

after also topping the 17-year-old grand national qualifier. This duo concluded their undefeated week together with the prestigious win in the AMHA Hunt Seat On The Flat Gold Medal Finals. Teamed with Hylee's Lock N Load, this pair started their time in Oklahoma City as the Saddle Seat Equitation 16-17 Grand National Champions. They then were named the UPHA Morgan Senior Challenge Cup Finals Reserve National Champion as well as the Saddle Seat Equitation 14-17 Reserve World Champions.

"The spectacular level of success this year made me beyond proud," Anne said. "I am her biggest fan. I beamed with great joy for her. She earned it. She was part of an incredible team. The horses, the people and the stars aligned last year for her and she has worked for this her entire life. I couldn't be prouder. If you have a good trainer, a good horse, and supportive family members it really can all work and in this case it worked in two divisions."

Rachael explained that in addition to the efforts of her family, she greatly enjoyed the chance to work with David Rand and Cindy Mugnier in her final year as a junior exhibitor.

"I most enjoyed the constant support and dedication they had not only with my success but for me as a person," she said. "They always were ready to help me and give me advice no matter how my ride went and always wanted me to be successful. I also enjoyed competing on another circuit and having new opportunities to show against new people and meet even more people and develop as a rider."

It is the relationships made on the Morgan circuit that Winograd explained are crucial to success in the show ring. She urged younger riders to practice and be confident in the saddle and to have a system of people that will encourage you.

"In order to be successful you also must have a backing of people who will support you but also push you to be the best you can be," she said. "Never give up. It might be hard in the beginning but in the end the result will always be worth it and you will make great memories along the way."

As she looks ahead, Rachael Winograd will now set her sights on the amateur division, all while balancing a strict course load at the University of Florida. She hopes to be able to show her father's horse if given the chance as well as any catch ride that she has the opportunity to present. Regardless of the horse or division, it is evident she will succeed as she can now utilize her strong equitation skills in the performance division. Rachael Winograd's rise to the top of the junior exhibitor ranks has involved a team of many. Her diligence, talents, and innate ability to successfully pilot any horses, coupled with the support of her family and trainers have been the keys that helped her achieve such remarkable feats in 2021 and throughout her juvenile career.

"While I had mixed emotions about it being my last junior exhibitor year I had the most fun and excitement I have had at an Oklahoma," she said. "Being able to celebrate a new chapter and the success I had in OKC with my new barn family was truly one of the best last junior exhibitor memories I could've asked for. I couldn't be more grateful for everyone who has helped me get to where I am and bring me full circle from the beginning. Although I am sad it is over, I couldn't be happier with my success and how far I have come since I started riding and competing."



Hylee's Lock N Load carried Rachael Winograd to a myriad of saddle seat equitation wins throughout the season. They were also crowned the Saddle Seat Equitation 16-17 Grand National Champions, the UPHA Morgan Senior Challenge Cup Finals Reserve National Champions, and the 14-17 Reserve World Champions.