



# Diamante T Shines At Gulf Coast Winter Classics

Caitlin Burns rides the mare she's brought along from a 4-year-old to an amateur-owner hunter circuit title in Mississippi.

By **Kelsey Baker**  
Photo By **Eye Was Here Photography**

**W**hen Caitlin Burns saw Diamante T for the first time—even though it wasn't in person—she just knew. A friend was shopping in Europe and sent Burns a video of the then 4-year-old mare.

"I did what I never thought I would do and bought her from the video," she said. "I had to have her."

But trainer Julie Cleveland Beam was on board to help the two become a team.

"She said to me, 'OK, Caitlin, we'll make it work,'" said Burns.

The two found their footing together, working their way up the hunter divisions over the last four years. Throughout 2020 and 2021 they competed in the 3'3" green and amateur-owner divisions, and they moved up to the 3'6" jumps this season. They finished the six-week Gulf Coast Winter Classics series, held in Gulfport, Mississippi, from Feb. 16-March 27, as circuit champions



Caitlin Burns and Diamante T jumped to the amateur-owner hunter, 36 and over, circuit title at Gulf Coast Winter Classics.

in the amateur-owner hunter, 36 and over, division.

“She’s smart, she’s eager to do the right things, and she’s been really fun to bring along,” said Burns of the 8-year-old Brandenburg mare Diamante T (Diorado—Bretagne). “She’s got a great jump, but she makes it easy on me too. She’s super comfy; she’s like a couch.”

Burns, now 37, moved to Texas in 2015 after years spent in Colorado training with Mark Mead, whom she credits for starting her love of bringing along youngsters like Diamante. Burns attended the University of Colorado Boulder—eventually graduating with a degree in fine arts—and shortly after arriving at college, she purchased a 4-year-old Thoroughbred to train, eventually achieving success in the adult amateur hunters.

“It started this trend where I bought young horses and brought them along,” she said.

Burns later bought a Thoroughbred yearling in Colorado, trained him and sold

him as a hunter.

“I saw him in Gulfport recently doing the children’s hunters. It made me so, so happy. It was really fun to see my old horses succeeding in other places,” Burns said.

After finishing school, Burns started looking for a milder climate. She found her way to Beam, of Hillcrest Farm in Argyle, Texas, based on the recommendation of a friend.

“Caitlin is very intuitive with the horses,” said Beam. “I’ve watched her grow and become even more intuitive—you don’t have to explain the feel of the horse. Caitlin is very patient and very willing to take her time with a young horse. She won’t make a horse do things it’s not ready for.”

Along with Diamante, Burns has hunter Querida, derby horse Fila, jumper Zoolander, and a 14-year-old grand prix horse, Diablo Blue.

“I’m doing things that I never thought I could do with

Julie’s support and guidance,” said Burns, Denton, Texas. “If you’d told little kid-me that I’d be doing grand prix and trying to go to Devon, kid-me wouldn’t have believed you.”

Burns grew up on a working cattle ranch in Northeast Oregon and started riding lessons at a local stable. On a few occasions, she and her young friends even trailered their horses a couple hours to an Oregon beach, where they’d jump beach logs. Now when she returns home, Burns dusts off her western boots for a change of pace in the saddle.

“We cleaned our horses’ stalls at the horse show, put my own screwcaulks in pony hooves, rode around bareback at home,” she said. “I was just dirty all the time and had fun crashing around on my pony.” 🐾

### Gulf Coast Circuit Champions Gulfport, Miss.

- LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER CH:** Master Plan, Jane Fulton.
- LOW CHILDREN’S HUNTER CH:** Gambur, Hayden Moody.
- ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 18-35 CH:** Look Again, Rebecca Baker.
- ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 36-49 CH:** GQ, Elise Rizzuto.
- ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER, 50 & OVER CH:** Beaulieu’s Cool Quote, Mary Antonini.
- 3’3” AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH:** Gabrielli, Cheryl Matranga.
- 3’3” AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH:** Wayfarer, Meredith Mouney.
- AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 18-35 CH:** Chello, Kara Jones.
- AMATEUR-OWNER HUNTER, 36 & OVER CH:** Diamante T, Caitlin Burns.
- CHILDREN’S HUNTER, 14 & UNDER CH:** Granit M, Seaton Edmonds.
- CHILDREN’S HUNTER, 15-17 CH:** Joie De Vivre, Maya Dishmon.
- CHILDREN’S PONY HUNTER CH:** Farnley Hi Tide, B.J. Brown.
- BABY GREEN HUNTER CH:** MPM Catari, Stacia Snow.
- 3’ GREEN HUNTER CH:** CR Simplicity, Lacey Conway.
- 3’3” GREEN HUNTER CH:** Blue December, Marty Sawyer.
- 3’6” GREEN HUNTER CH:** Sincerely, EMO Stables.
- 3’9” GREEN HUNTER CH:** Rochambeau, Kirsten Monmaney.
- SMALL/MEDIUM GREEN PONY HUNTER CH:** Aladdin Sane, Joyce Bartlin.
- LARGE GREEN PONY HUNTER CH:** Legend Has It, Kickapoo Ponies.
- 3’3” SMALL JR. HUNTER CH:** Kirby Lane, Jayne Beth Martin.
- 3’3” LARGE JR. HUNTER CH:** Fate, Calder Trotz.
- LARGE JR. HUNTER, 15 & UNDER CH:** Tinkas Boy, Gabrielle Young.
- SMALL JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Heaven’s Dream, Isabella Griffin.
- LARGE JR. HUNTER, 16-17 CH:** Tropic Star, Stephanie Grace Fernandez.
- 3’3” PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH:** Dior CH, EMO Stables.
- 3’6” PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH:** CR Cresus ES, Meghan Looney.
- HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER CH:** Lacoste, Shanna Beyer.
- SMALL PONY HUNTER CH:** Pick Me, Gracelyn Haydel.
- MEDIUM PONY HUNTER CH:** Kiwi Pirouette, Trisha Reimers.
- LARGE PONY HUNTER CH:** Heaven’s Dance, Luna Valobra.
- SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER CH:** Jersey Boy, Ashley Hayden Morrison.
- LONG STIRRUP HUNTER CH:** SWS Presley, Valerie Thibaut.
- .85M CHILDREN’S/ADULT JUMPER CH:** Temper Mint, Jannina Saastamoinen.
- 1.00M CHILDREN’S/ADULT JUMPER CH:** Lincoln T, Meghan Looney.
- 1.10M CHILDREN’S/ADULT JUMPER CH:** Flamenco, Mackenzie Robards.
- 1.15M CHILDREN’S/ADULT JUMPER CH:** Uriel Du Bosquetiau, Quinn Brown.
- LOW JR./AMATEUR JUMPER CH:** Adinus, ARK Partners LLC.
- MED. JR./AMATEUR JUMPER CH:** No Kidding BC, Lochsa Investments LLC.
- TB JUMPER CH:** Question, Sandron.
- OPPORTUNITY WALK-TROT CH:** Kinley Hoskins.
- OPPORTUNITY WALK-TROT-CANTER CH:** Win Hix.