



(Joshua A. Walker/USEA Photo)

ing him, and he's such a talent that there was no reason to," Fisher said.

Fisher started Clair De Lune over fences last year, and he debuted at the novice level this spring. He moved up to training level after four novice events, and placed in the top four in four out of the five training level events he's done, including placing second in the training horse division at Galway Downs the same weekend as the championships.

Clair De Lune was also undefeated in 5-year-old YEH qualifiers this year, but the final at Galway Downs had an unexpected addition to the challenge.

"The hardest part of the jumping test was that it was almost dark—the sun had actually set behind the hills," Fisher said.

While the sun was still peeking from behind the mountains, Fisher had earned another blue ribbon, topping the 4-year-old division on her own Artesian.

"One thing I'm so happy about is that from his first 4-year-old class in April until now, he's really come into his own, and his jumping technique has completely changed," Fisher said. "He's jumping a lot more square with his knees and round with his back. At the beginning of the year, he was jumping like a baby, whereas now he's jumping like a horse."

Fisher bought Artesian, a Dutch Warmblood, a year ago from Willy Arts of DG Bar Ranch.

"He'd free-jumped once," she said. "I just liked the look of him. When I tried him I picked up the trot, and within 3 sec-

onds, I looked at Willy and said, 'I'll take him.'

"He's a horse who has so much natural movement and balance," Fisher continued. "He was kind of a giant Gumby at first; it almost felt like he didn't have any bones in his body. That was one of the hardest things to overcome, helping him figure out where to put his body—he just has so much suspension."

Artesian (Judgement—Shannondoah, Farmer) has completed four novice events this year, with three wins and a third place, including winning the novice horse division of the Galway Downs Horse Trials the same weekend as the championships.

"Artesian is going to excel in any discipline," Fisher said. "I could take him to dressage shows, and he'd win; he could go to jumper shows and win. I'm trying to

Robyn Fisher rode her own Artesian to the top of the 4-year-old division of the Spalding Labs/USEA Young Event Horse West Coast Championships.

find that balance between training the young horse but not going too fast; I think I've been erring more on the side of caution. He doesn't get worked more than a few times a week. The other days, he goes out on the trails or just gets turned out."

Fisher, Calabasas, Calif., just gave the ride on her advanced horse, Lady Calido, to Amy Tryon, so she's changing gears.

"When I tried him I picked up the trot, and within 3 seconds, I said, 'I'll take him.'"

—Robyn Fisher

"I'm just kind of doing whatever comes my way. Right now, I only have younger horses that I'm bringing along, so that's going to be my focus for now. I'll probably go to some jumper shows next year to mix things up a little bit," she said.

One constant in Fisher's career has been her groom, Cara Julian. Julian has worked for Fisher for two years.

"She's done a phenomenal job taking care of these horses all year," Fisher said. Fisher underwent shoulder surgery in June and has had recurring back problems, so Julian pitched in. "She's really helped me get through this year and make it a successful one. She helps me hack them out, and she's been great on the ground with them. She's becoming a mini-me."

Julian herself rode another SE Farm horse, Piper SE, to fifth in the 5-year-old division of the YEH Championships. 🐾

SPALDING LABS/USEA YOUNG EVENT HORSE WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Temecula, Calif.—Oct. 29–Nov. 1

4-YEAR-OLD DIVISION

HORSE/RIDER	CONFORMATION	DRESSAGE	JUMPING	TOTAL
1. Artesian/Robyn Fisher	11.55	30.45	45.00	87.0
2. Bedazzled/Jennifer Miller	11.25	27.30	41.50	80.1
3. Indy 500/Andrea Baxter	11.10	24.85	40.50	76.5

5-YEAR-OLD DIVISION

HORSE/RIDER	CONFORMATION	DRESSAGE	JUMPING	TOTAL
1. Clair De Lune SE/Robyn Fisher	12.00	27.65	44.25	83.9
2. Project Runway/Maxance McManamy	10.95	28.35	41.70	81.0
3. High Times/Jennifer McFall	11.25	28.70	40.00	80.0
4. Lady Laptop/Erin Spohr	11.10	27.30	36.55	75.0
5. Piper SE/Cara Julian	10.80	24.15	37.50	72.5
6. Athens IV/Andrea Baxter	11.55	25.55	29.50	66.6