

Kathleen Burke and Merlin won the $10,00 Sarartoga Cup at the St. Clement's Saratoga Horse Show. Photo by Karen Preston.

ST. CLEMENT'S ONE AND ONLY

BY KATE O'HARE

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY — A good crowd gathered under cloudy skies at the Oklahoma Training Track on May 5 to watch 27 horse-and-rider teams challenge the grandprix course for the $10,000 Saratoga Cup, the culmination of the St. Clement's Saratoga Horse Show.

When the first round was over, so was the competition. Only one rider went clear, eighteen-year-old Kathleen Burke of Elmira, NY, riding the thirteen-year-old gray Hanoverian Merlin, owned by Burke and trained by Missy Clark. Burke took second place in the 1995 Saratoga Cup.

Last year's winner, two-time defending champion Patricia Garthwaite, riding the 1994 winner On Target, was one of the many who racked up numerous faults on the tough course. Garthwaite was forced to withdraw on her other mount, the gray ridgeling

(Continued on next page)

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AlyAdLibs, a seven-year-old son of champion racehorse Alydar whom she purchased at the 1992 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Horses of Racing Age Sale.

In addition to taking home the $2,500 check for first place, the amateur Burke also earned the second-place prize of $1,800. Riding her sister Sheila's mount, Draven, Burke came one rail short (the heartbreaking final rail) of competing in a jump-off against herself.

Third place went to Holly Brewster aboard The Clown, owned by Kara Tedeschi of Norwell, MA.