

Sixth Annual National IEA Equestrian Finals Produce Scholastic Champions from across the Country



The Lake Erie College Equestrian Center in Concord, Ohio was buzzing with activity April 18-20, 2009. Over 350 riders from 86 middle and secondary school teams competed at the sixth annual Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) National Finals. The IEA is a non-profit organization formed to promote and improve the quality of equestrian competition available to middle and secondary school students. IEA competitions follow a format in which the host school provides horses and tack to riders who are randomly paired with their mounts in a drawing held prior to the classes. Throughout the regular competition season, riders strive to help their teams qualify for the finals and to qualify individually. Riders can compete in both English and Western divisions.

At this year's finals, Becket Run Equestrian Team of Hamilton, Ohio won the hunt seat upper school national championship and Holy Innocents' Episcopal School of Atlanta, Georgia earned the middle school championship title. The Knights Equestrian Team of Hinton, Virginia became the reserve champion team in the hunt seat upper school competition. Garrison Forrest School of Owings Mill, Maryland finished as the reserve champion in the hunt seat

middle school competition.

The Timothy J. Boone Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Roxane Lawrence, Co-founder, President Elect and Treasurer of the IEA. This is the second year in which this award has been given. Roxane is co-founder of the IEA and has been instrumental in its continued success.

Allie Joyce, from the Rising Star Equestrian Team of Medway, Massachusetts, was named the IEA Leading Rider of the Year. She also won the Varsity Open Championship class. Austin Griffith, from the Autumn Rose Equestrian Team of Plain City, Ohio became the Champion Western Rider. Joey Fink, from the Greenway Team of McLean, Virginia, received the Victor Hugo-Vidal Sportsmanship Award.

IEA riders gain valuable experience competing for scholarships in a format similar to that used at the college level. Over \$8,000 in IEA funded scholarships were awarded to class winners at the 2009 National Finals.

Next year's finals will be held in April 2010 at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers, Georgia. For more information about the IEA, please call 877-RIDE-IEA, or check out their website at www.rideiea.com.

SAER COULTER *continued from page 20*

had my book out and was studying for a test in Art History. They both noticed and asked if they could look, and we started going through it. They were interested and asking questions, and were as much into it as if we had been discussing a course. They make me work hard in every aspect of training, and are incredible trainers, but it's also so great to have that other aspect, where they are really capable of talking about my passion for Art History. Being able to talk about something other than horses is something that can get left out, and I'm very lucky to have trainers who are so educated in every aspect.

Sidelines: How have your family dynamics helped your riding career?

SC: Well, my sister rides in the high juniors and eq., and it's great to have her at horse shows. It's just her and me a lot of the time, and we're a little competitive but really supportive of each

other. We're best friends. My mom and dad have been the most supportive people I could possibly ask for. This year I had more time to ride during my spring semester, and I really wanted to try and move up. They fully supported me even though I had to miss a little more school, they got me to shows and it's been amazing. They are great parents because they've always made riding a choice for us. They encourage us to do as much we want. We've never been forced to do it, and that's created a love for the sport.

Sidelines: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

SC: I tend to make decisions that are not what I originally thought I would do. I always thought I'd go to college on the East Coast, and now I'm going to Stanford. I go to a high school that I didn't think I'd go to. I like to look ahead one year at a time; maybe next year I can do the World Cup qualifiers, and after that we'll see. I know that I want to have traveled a ton through Europe, and be involved with galleries and museums someday.