



HOOFBEATS

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March 2010

- ◆ Western Semi-Finals
- ◆ Zones Qualifiers
- ◆ Kriss Ropp- Alumni Updates
- ◆ New School Horse Spotlight
- ◆ Employment Opportunities
- ◆ Hunter/ Jumper Winter Series

IHSA Members Continue on to Zones

Lake Erie College English IHSA qualified a record of 24 members for the regional show. Out of those 24 riders 7 qualified for Zone Finals at Findlay. Those riders are Nicole DiCorti in Open flat/ Open Fences, Nicole Van Dyke in Intermediate Fences, Courtney Newby in Novice flat /Novice fences, Hillary Costa in Intermediate flat, and Chelsey Wolterman in walk/trot/canter. Big congratulations goes out to Senior Nicole DiCorti, she will be representing Lake Erie College at the IHSA National Finals as the Cachionne Cup rider for our region. Past Cachionne Cup riders have included Olympians such as Greg Best and Peter Wylde. DiCorti is also featured in the Santa Cruz Sentinel for her accomplishments.

Kudos to the whole team for putting on a wonderful show and for doing a awesome job. Keep up the hard work and good luck with Zones on April 11th. (Ferguson)

Western Semi-Finals in Pomona, California

On March 27th and 28th Western IHSA Semi-Finalists Robin Kopplin and Chelsey Wolterman traveled with coach Stephanie Steiner to Pomona, California to compete at Cal Poly for a shot at IHSA Nationals. Both of the girls competed on Saturday and rode very well but unfortunately they did not qualify for Nationals. The competition was very intense as riders flew in from across the nation for this IHSA show.

Although they did not get to move onto Nationals Kopplin, Wolterman and Coach Steiner had the opportunity to enjoy a day touring Beverly Hills and Hollywood. The Western IHSA team has finished strong this year and already have big plans for next year.

Calendar of Events: 2010

- ◆ April 9-11, Dressage Prix de Ville
- ◆ April 16-18, Jumper Prix de Ville
- ◆ May 6-10 IHSA Nationals



Pictured from L to R Chelsey Wolterman, Stephanie Steiner and Robin Kopplin.



Alumni Update- Kris Ropp and Freedom Farm

Lake Erie College Alum Kris Ropp is owner and trainer at Free Spirit Farm in Newbury Township. Ropp graduated Lake Erie in 1992 with a BFA in Dance and a BS double major in Equine Facility Management and Teacher/Trainer. She has a variety of experience in the horse world from show groom to instructor and everything in between, her resume is a mosaic of different experiences, all of which have made her approach to business and teaching style unique.

She focuses on teaching the rider proper positioning and alignment and hopes to eventually begin teaching Equilates at her farm in order to promote body awareness and control while in the saddle. One unique aspect of Ropp's teaching style is that she has traditional lessons as well as lessons focusing on completing a task that really pushes riders past their comfort zone.



“ The rider is probably part of the problem,” she says, if a horse drifts to one side or has an uneven tempo. “If the rider is learning good alignment from the start, they actually move along more quickly than riders that are not.”- Kris Ropp

Kris Ropp on Serendipity Skies and her student Courtney Previte with her National Champion Halfinger “Normandy”. Photo courtesy of Katie

Future goals for Ropp include obtaining Dressage Judges Rating, obtaining Pilates Teacher Certification, continuing research on biomechanics and returning to competing successfully in Eventing, Dressage and Show Jumping. With goals like that Ropp will surely be quite busy in the years to come.

Several of Ropp's students have been very successful in the horse show world, including Katie Hannamen a Lake Erie College student who last year, as a freshman, made it all the way to Nationals where she finished 5th. Hannamen also qualified for Regionals again this year but unfortunately did not advance.

Lake Erie College is proud to have entrepreneurs like Ropp who always find new niches in the industry, has the drive to succeed and is willing to learn and adapt every time she walks into an arena. We wish Ropp well with Free Spirit Farm and we have certainly not seen the last of her and her students in the show ring! (Wolterman)

Hunter/ Jumper Winter Series

On March 27th and 28th Lake Erie College had multiple representatives riding in the Hunter/ Jumper Winter Series Show. There were at least ten students on their own private horses and eleven students that competed school owned horses. Competitors ranged from freshmen to seniors, along with two of the colleges instructors, Julie McElhaney and Dariush Elghanayan. Great job to all who competed and we hope to see all of you back again next year! (Sullivan)



New Horse Spotlight



"Indyanna"

Above photo by Meghan Marcinkewicz

Above photo is Indyanna, a registered WPN eight year old chestnut mare. Indyanna came to Lake Erie College very recently not having done too much showing. Students enjoy teaching this green mare what life is like as a school horse. Indyanna is learning Dressage and Hunters currently and we will see what she can do in a couple of years!



Misty is a 1996 VPBA pony mare with the cutest face you have ever seen. She is being ridden by some of the smaller students that just don't quite fit one of our other big warmblood horses. Misty's registered name is Longacre Honey-moon and she comes to Lake Erie College from Fairweather Farm with a background as a Hunter and Dressage Pony. We are excited to have this talented little mare added to our barn and cannot wait to see what she can do!

"Misty" Below photo by Meghan Marcinkewicz

Employment Opportunities

- ◆ Brown Ledge Camp located in Colchester, Vermont is seeking an applicant for their horsemanship department. If you are interested please see Karen Davis for a full application to submit.
- ◆ There are several new employment opportunities opening up at the college including: Adjuncts - Education Department, Assistant Professor Equine Studies, Health & Breeding, Assistant Professor of Accounting, Assistant Professor of Economics & Finance, Chief Financial Officer / Associate Vice President, [Equestrian Farm Maintenance Technician](#), Equine Graduate Assistant and Instructor, Equine Facilities & Activities. More information about these jobs and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.lec.edu/hr/employment>.