

Back to Bank Gold for Area III Two Star Team at NAJYRC!!!

Devon Brown, Libby Head, Sarah Kamensky and **Emily Renfroe** did their jobs for Area III again this year at the North American Junior Young Rider Championships held in Lexington Kentucky in July. Not only did the four Two Star Riders win the Team Gold Medal again this year but Devon Brown led the competition the entire weekend.

Devon and Dynamic Image's 50.5 Dressage score was the low score from start to finish, earning them the Gold Medal in the Team and Individual standings. Sarah Kamensky, riding Urlanmore Beauty, was in third after Dressage with a 58.4 and moved to 9th on Saturday after having a few time penalties on Cross Country. Her clean Show Jumping round put her back in 3rd at the end of the weekend and gave her the Bronze Individual Medal. Libby Head and Sir Rockstar also had a few time penalties on Cross Country but they moved up from 11th after Dressage to 10th after Cross Country and finished in 5th after a clean Show Jumping round. Emily Renfroe and her mare Walk the Line were in 10th after Dressage and were the only pair for the competition who finished Cross Country on the Optimal Time. Emily and Walker pulled two rails in Show jumping, giving them an 11th place finish at the end of the weekend. The Area III Individual Rider in the Two Star competition was **Mary Hollis Baird**, riding Private Banker. Mary Hollis scored a 56.9 in Dressage and was in 8th place on the first day. They had a double clear Cross Country round and moved up to 6th on Saturday but unfortunately had a difficult time in the Show Jumping ring and were eliminated on the final day.

Hannah Begue, the lone One Star rider for Area III, scored a 62.3 in Dressage placing her in 19th in the 28 rider 1* division. Unfortunately, Asterix came up lame after Dressage and she withdrew him on Saturday. Hannah continued to show support for all the Area III riders and was a great help in the cool-out box on Cross Country along with the other Area III Grooms.

The Area III Grooms, led by Head Groom **Dani Dichting**, worked hard to keep the horses in tip top condition, keep the stalls clean and the stabling area organized. Their job was not an easy one since the stabling was in a stone parking area and rain provided mud puddles everywhere on both Tuesday and Saturday. The grooms this year were **Jamie and Nicole Doolittle, Mary Atkins Hunt, Betsy Kaywood, Natalie Scott and Carley Whetstone**.

Of course, none of the many years of successes would be possible without their fearless leader, Area III Coach, **Kyle Carter**. Kyle has served as the Area III Coach for 10 years and during that time period he has led the 2** Teams to Four Gold Medals. There have also been multiple individual and team medals at the both the 1* and 2** Levels under his guidance. Not only does Kyle impart his professional experience to the riders, giving them the specific guidance needed for both the rider and their horse, but he is there to calm the nerves that surface throughout the competition. This year Kyle surprised the Area III Riders and Grooms with an Ice Cream Cake

after their First Place Team Placing on Dressage day. He promised them another cake each day that they maintained their lead. Needless to say, Kyle showed up two more times with Ice Cream cakes for the crowd. Of course, everyone was “forced” to eat the cake quickly to keep it from melting in the Summer heat.

One of the fun activities at NAJYRC is the opening party and Annual Golf Cart Parade. This year, Area III decorated their Golf Cart to look like a bay horse, complete with brown sheets surrounding the body of the cart, a piñata horse head on the front and a crepe paper tail on the back. One groom “led” the Area III “Noble Steed” in the parade while the three occupants, dressed as a Dressage rider, a Cross Country Competitor and a Show Jumper rode inside. The judges loved the creativity of Area III (thanks to the Doolittle’s mom) and awarded the group the winner of Golf Cart Parade competition.

Fun was had by all riders, grooms, parents and the many Area III supporters who drove to Lexington to cheer on our team. We have to thank all the many Area III volunteers who helped coordinate the two weeks that made up the training camp and competition. We would also like to thank the owners of **Longwood Farm** in Ocala for donating the use of their facility for the week-long training clinic that was held before the riders took off for Lexington.

We can only hope that the 2012 NAJYRC Riders are as successful as the past those competing the past two years. Those riders will definitely have a tough act to follow but we have faith that they will do a super job for Area III.

Judy Lewis

Area III Young Rider Coordinator