

Equestrian Talent Search

2008 Season



January 12-13 – Mount Holyoke College, S.Hadley, Massachusetts
July 26-27 – Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA - hunter
September 29-30 – Lake Erie College, Painesville, OH, hunter/dress

Fall 2008, upstate New York, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia,
Massachusetts. Coming soon... New Jersey, New England

EQUESTRIAN TALENT SEARCH wants to do for high school riders what football and basketball coaches camps have done for those sports. "Combines" allow young athletes to be taught, seen, and evaluated by college coaches in intensive weekend instructional / competition clinics. Equestrian Talent Search is the clearing house for young riders and their parents to get information to help them understand exactly what college equestrian is about, how to become involved, and how to find a program that is a good fit.

"We learned far more than we imagined possible! The clinic exceeded our expectations by leaps and bounds, and we look forward to attending others. Carly had a simply spectacular time!" – Vicki and Carly O'Hara, Ohio.

We LOVED the weekend at Lake Erie College. You did a fabulous job - very informative and fun at the same time." – Beth Hagerty, Aspen Colorado

Contact Jim Arrigon at 513/839-5607 or equestriantalentsearch@yahoo.com to get involved!

We help college coaches find riders, and riders find the right colleges.

Background

- Equestrian Talent Search was created because longtime college equestrian coaches recognized the need for education of parents as much as students. When recruiting riders, coaches find that many students don't understand how collegiate riding works, and most parents are confused with the options and choices, and how to become involved.
- ETS is as much about educating and helping parents as it is about the riders.
- We find many riders focusing on colleges that are not right for them. We help students narrow the college search using good information about riding programs, coaches, teams to assist of their college decisions.

Format

- This combine is intended for anyone who is interested in riding seriously for a college equestrian team, whether it is next year or five years from now.
- Riders may NOT bring a horse with them – they will use a school horse from the host, just as they would do in a collegiate equestrian competition.
- All clinics begin with a Friday night 8PM seminar discussion with an overview of college riding, to get everyone on the same page in understanding what college riding is all about.
- Saturday will be filled with mounted clinics with college coaches, finding the specific things that will draw either positive or negative attention to individual riders in a team tryout situation. Much of the day will be free time, so this would be a great time for kids and parents to schedule side tips for local college visits.

- Between clinic rides, kids and parents will be taken on tours of the school's equestrian complex and campus, and have a chance to talk with admissions counselors if they want.
- Saturday night will be a seminar for kids and parents about choosing a college that is suitable for them. We'll also talk some sports psychology about riders as athletes!
- Sunday is a horse show similar in format to collegiate shows. Each rider will compete in equitation on the flat and over fences classes in groups based on age and experience.
- Parents are invited, and most kids have parents with them for all weekend activities.
- Trainers are welcome, but not at all required. Most kids do not have trainers with them.

Riders

- ✓ This combine is intended for hunter seat riders, 6th through 12th grade. In fairness to everyone, riders must be capable of safely jumping at least a 2' course on a strange horse to be accepted to participate.
- ✓ Riders will be divided into groups for clinics and show classes based on age and previous competition experience. We want everyone working and competing at their own levels. Don't worry about being stuck in a group with older whiz kids (unless maybe if you're a whiz kid!)
- ✓ Each rider will have a "Bio Page" in a catalog available to coaches, instantly representing riders' age, show experience, training and background info, photo, and college level rider placement (if you were to enter college today).

Horses

- Students will use horses provided by the host school for clinics and show. In most cases, these are the same horses used in the college program. This is the format of collegiate riding, and the format coaches want to see.

Coaches

- ✓ Clinicians will be college coaches, and we try to have a college coach judge the show as well. In addition, we will make every attempt to have a variety of coaches in attendance to observe the Saturday clinics, the Sunday show, and perhaps even participating in the nightly seminars. However, the focus of the event remains teaching and evaluation by clinicians, and then reporting results on a wider scale to college coaches whether they are in attendance or not. You will get plenty of exposure even with coaches who aren't there.
- ✓ College coaches will do all the teaching in clinics and seminars, and will be available all weekend for any individual questions or discussions with parents.
- ✓ In general, you can expect to meet coaches from schools that are regional to the host of each event. In other words, you will most likely meet mostly New York coaches when in New York, etc.

Clinics / Seminars:

Friday night 8PM orientation seminar:

- Definitely something that parents will want to attend.
- College riding associations explained - IHSA, NCAA, ANRC, IDA, etc
- High school and middle school riding associations and opportunities.
- How to get recruited for college riding.
- How fees and financial aid work, and what can you realistically expect from riding scholarship programs?
- What college coaches REALLY want to see from prospects (and NOT see).
- Q and A session with college coaches.

Saturday mounted clinics with college coaches:

- What college coaches want to see, starting with understanding and correct use of natural aids.
- Problem areas that will red-flag college coaches in a tryout situation.
- Things that will grab the coach's attention in a positive way.

- Specific exercises and drills to improve strength and skills and bring young riders more on the level of a college rider.
- Practice in specific skills for riding strange horses.
- Kids will be divided into appropriate level clinic groups, so they will have plenty of time off between rides.
- Based on expected participation, each student will ride a 90 minute clinic, encompassing both flat and fences, and working with both coaches.
- Riders will receive horse assignments about an hour prior to their clinic, and will be responsible for tacking and untacking their horses (with help from the host students). All together, students can expect to be involved in the barn about 3 hours on Saturday.
- Everyone is welcome to observe all clinics if you like. There will be people watching all day.
- While not riding, students will be invited to attend info sessions and tours conducted by the school's Equine Admissions Office, and there will be other educational activities planned.

Saturday evening is the “college search discussion” seminar with coaches:

- Discussion topics include:
 - Strategies for narrowing your college choices.
 - Equestrian as a college interest, as either a major, minor or extracurricular.
 - Q and A session with college coaches.
 - We will be available to make specific recommendations of college choices that might be a good fit for individual students... in private, after the seminar.
- Sports psychology for equestrians
- Riders will also have a chance to discuss problems areas with clinic coaches prior to the Sunday horse show.

Show:

- ✓ In the Sunday show, each student will ride two rounds of *equitation over fences* class, and an *equitation on the flat* class on horses they drew randomly for each event.
- ✓ Classes will be judged and placed just like a regular show, and riders will receive awards.
- ✓ College coaches will be invited to visit on Sunday and watch the show, and visit with students that are of interest. They will be given a Rider Catalog with all the kids' BIO's.
- ✓ College riding programs and teams will be invited to send promotional information for a mini college fair on Sunday – that info from all around the nation will be available to you during the show on Sunday.
- ✓ **Team Competition:** In addition to individual competition, riders are entered in organized team competitions. This truly provides the “team sport” feeling of our sport, and earn additional prizes for winners.. Using the individual placings in combination with those of their teammates, we will also award Champion Team prizes.
- ✓ Top riders will earn additional prizes as “Champion” riders in each division.

Following the clinic:

- ✓ After the clinic weekend, Equestrian Talent Search will actively promote top riders in each age group directly to college coaches and programs who would be interested! We'll also help individual students determine what programs would be most suitable for them, and help them to make contacts at schools of interest to them.
- ✓ Each rider will receive an evaluation “grade card” of skills sometime following the event

Cost of the weekend is **\$360**, which covers the cost of all individual entry fees, clinic fees, seminar fees, and gets the parents into everything as well. We encourage parents to attend all!

- At least **\$180 DEPOSIT IS DUE WITH THE ENTRY PACKET**, and the rest may be paid at Registration on Friday night of the event. The deposit is non-refundable.

Event Producer and Head Clinician:

Jim Arrigon has been a National Champion College Equestrian Coach for over 20 years, and has served as an officer of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association for nearly that long. Jim was a collegiate rider, graduating from the University of Kentucky, and coached at Murray State University and Miami University of Ohio for two decades. He has coached over two dozen team and individual National Championships, including at least one National Champion rider each of the past five consecutive years. He received the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, the highest coaching honor in the IHSA. He left Miami in spring 2005 after seventeen years there, then coached the Ohio State University to their first National Championship appearance and an individual National Championship in 2006. Jim and Gwen now coach a new team at Xavier University in Cincinnati, and are excited at the quick improvement in that young program. They also coach a nationally competitive high school team that ranked 4th in the nation in 2006, and they coach riders of all ages for hunter/jumper shows.

Business Manager:

Gwen Arrigon is the president of Beckett Run Inc., the management company responsible for "Equestrian Talent Search", "Tournament of Champions" collegiate shows, and many other Ohio Hunter Jumper Association and other shows. Beckett Run is also a very busy teaching, boarding, and show stable in the Cincinnati suburbs of Hamilton, Ohio. Gwen also coaches both Xavier University in the IHSA, and Beckett Run Equestrian in the IEA.

Clinicians and Judges: To be announced at the farm website, but will include Eddie Federwisch of Virginia Intermont College; CJ law of Mount Holyoke, Ginny Smith of University of Georgia, Krista Steinmetz of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Jerry Steinmeetz of Purdue, Janice Callahan of University of Connecticut; Jon Conyers of Sweet Briar College, Naomi Blumenthal of Cazenovia College, etc.



EQUESTRIAN TALENT SEARCH ENTRY / BIO PACKET

ENTRY PROCEDURE

1. **E-mail** the completed entry BIO form to me to reserve your place in the event. Send to JimArrigon@hotmail.com
Note: This form takes some time, so don't wait till the last second!
2. In response to receiving your Entry/BIO form, I will e-mail back to you confirmation, hotel information, entry fee payment information, and a release form for that particular event. Fill out those release forms and send it back to me in the mail with an entry fee check.

Note: Entry fees for each event are \$360. At least half (\$180) is required as a non-refundable deposit to hold your spot in the event. The remainder may be paid at check-in on the first night of the event.
3. You will be officially entered into the event when your Entry Fee deposit check arrives back to me in the US mail. Sorry, we don't currently accept credit cards.
4. Remember that all continuing correspondence occurs by e-mail, so keep checking your e-mail for additional information.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE EQUESTRIAN TALENT SEARCH BIO PAGE

Participants: You are responsible for completing your "Bio Page" for the event catalog exactly as you want it to appear to coaches. The following template is in Microsoft Word format. Some ground rules...

- Use the accompanying form as both a template (just fill in your info in place of the existing info) and an example – print a copy of the form first so you have one in front of you to use as an unchanged example of how it should look when you're finished.
- Must be done in exactly the right font, size, with bolds in the right place, etc. so it is the same as everyone else's in the program.
- To replace the existing information on the form with your personal information, just click into the middle of a line, backspace or delete to get rid of the old text, and add your own new text. If you inadvertently mess up the font or size or bolds, I've noted the parameters.
- BE CAREFUL with the photos – they are tricky. Follow directions below.
- MUST FIT INTO THIS ONE-PAGE SPACE!
- Follow directions carefully. E-mail me at jimarrigon@hotmail.com if you have questions or problems.
- E-MAIL to me the final product, so I can add numbers, etc. DO NOT SEND ME A HARD COPY because I can't add the number, etc.
- Be as accurate as you can be. Your competition record – what kinds of shows or associations, in which class levels, and how many blue ribbons you've won at those specific levels - dictates what class level you must compete in the IHSA. Keep in mind that coaches WANT to find you eligible for lower divisions because it makes you a more competitive entry, so consider carefully and don't overstate your experience!

Following is section by section directions for ETS ENTRY / BIO form:

Name: However you want to be addressed - usually informal, casual name.
Arial, 28 font, bold.

Hometown: Arial 20

XXX – ignore this – I'll add in an exhibitor # and class division later. For my use. Just make sure that it stays in the right place on your form.

Phone Number and e-mail address. Good to use your home phone number - coaches feel uncomfortable calling your cell phone. Arial 12.

Parent contact info: Times New Roman 12 font. Provide parent name, phone, e-mail. Coaches want to copy parents on all e-mail correspondence, so please provide a parent e-mail address that it different from the student's, if possible.

NOTE: be sure to use TWO different and accurate e-mail addresses (student and parent, or two parents, etc) because all correspondence regarding the ETS event will be e-mailed from this point forward. If you give me a bad e-mail address you won't get pertinent info about the clinic. Also, be sure to check your JUNK mail occasionally – because I mail bulk info to lists for these events, I am often sent to the BULK or SPAM boxes.

High School name and town is important in case coaches come across another kid with your same name somewhere else. Times New Roman 12, school name in bold, town name not bold. Your school often indicates a lot about your academic transcript.

Academic scores/standings/nfo indicates to coaches whether you have the grades to be admitted into their particular school. If they can't get you academically admitted it is wasted effort to recruit you. It also suggests to coaches whether you're a candidate for merit or academic awards, which makes you a better recruit because they can potentially offer you more financial aid in the end. All in Times New Roman 12 – note which is bolded and which is not.

Academic notes – Gives you a chance to be descriptive of academic achievements. Times New Roman 12.

Hobbies: Coaches want to hear about your other interests. If you are a varsity athlete in other sports, that is meaningful because it indicates to coaches that you know how to be a team player. Hobbies and activities indicate involvement, discipline, attention to details, etc. You never know what might jump out at a particular coach. List anything that is important to you. Times new Roman 12.

Trainers: Start with listing your current or most consistent trainer. Mention their town or even their stable name – it may spark a connection for some coach. Add additional names if they are meaningful – don't add names just to have more names. Coaches are trying to figure out where you're coming from, and this makes a big difference. Coaches want to feel they know who you've been riding with. Times new Roman 12.

Riding and Show Experience: Times new Roman 12.

Obviously this is an important consideration for coaches, so be complete and accurate, but don't overstate your experience. Coaches need to know:

- How many years have you been riding total
- Have you competed in USEF shows? At what division? Did you win?
- Particularly if you have NOT competed in USEF... What other associations have you competed as a member? They may seem meaningless to you, but could very well be meaningful to the coach, so try to be complete in your list even if you have to use abbreviations to make them fit on the page. Mention your highest division in which you've competed, and the highest division in which you've had substantial wins.

NOTE: From IHSA Rules: A "RECOGNIZED COMPETITION" is any competition that is recognized by USEF(United States Equestrian Federation), the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), the United States Equestrian Team (USET), the United States Eventing Association (USEA), and the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), the United States Pony Club (USPC), their affiliates or any other national or breed association. 4H state and regional competitions will be recognized for Western Horsemanship only. "Recognized shows" do not include any other 4H, or any local, non-registered, or riding club shows.

USA Equestrian Medal "equivalents" would include USEF Medal, USET Medal, Maclay, or other 3'6" equitation medals, etc.

Recognized Competition Winnings: Times new Roman 12.

Specifically mention how many blue ribbons you've won in USEF shows at 3', 3'3", 3'6" (this includes hunters, jumpers, or equitation). Estimate if you need to. How many blues have you won in USEF shows in "equitation on the flat" class (does NOT include hunter under saddle)? If you've not competed in USEF, you should mention similar statistics for the associations in which you've competed.

Have you competed in recognized USEF 3'6" Medal classes? Maclays? Anything similar in your local associations (must be 3'6" to be "similar"). Have you won any?

Pertinent Riding Notes: This is good place to highlight your accomplishments. Have you won year-end championships? Qualified for some big championships? Times new Roman 12.

This is also a good place to mention if you've done recognized competition in other disciplines... have you competed in USDF dressage? USEA Eventing? What levels? Are you a US Pony Club member? Do you have a Pony Club rating?

If you ride on a high school team, you should mention that here. College coaches are finding that the IEA and other high school associations are proving to be pretty good training grounds for future collegiate riders, so this is meaningful.

Anything Else You Want Coaches To Know : Anything that doesn't fit somewhere else. Coaches like to hear that you ride a lot, or that you ride many different horses. Times new Roman 12.

Colleges of interest: Mention schools that have caught your attention for whatever reason, but don't feel like you have to mention names. Coaches like to know who is their competition, if there is any. If not, you can just mention something like "I want to go somewhere warm and south." Times new Roman 12.

Notes: These lines are for the convenience of the coaches at the clinic. It is not a big deal if you need to delete a line or two to make the other stuff fit.

Event Name: MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT EVENT listed on the bottom of the form. If you turn in the wrong event name, you will be entered into the wrong event! If you have no name I won't know where to put you! Arial 14 Bold.

Photos: There are two spots to add your own photos. Just insert them right on top of what is there – that way you won't mess up the formatting.

- The top photo is a face photo. Coaches want to be able to recognize you if they see your face in the building. Use whatever you like there, but it should be a closeup of your face.
- The bottom pic is an action shot – most people use a pic of them on a horse.

You'll need to insert it electronically, so you may need to scan and save a couple pics onto your computer first.

- Click on the photo spot to edit in the form. Then...
- Click "insert" in your top toolbar, click "picture" and then "from file". It will offer you a menu of where to find the pic you want to use – find it and click on the pic and click "okay" to insert it.
- You may have to adjust the size of the pic to make it fit back into the box. Click on pic and you'll see a frame appear around it. Click, hold, and drag the corners to adjust the picture size.

Fix all the formatting problems as you go along so the form doesn't get all distorted. You can always click on "edit" and "undo" if you screw something up.

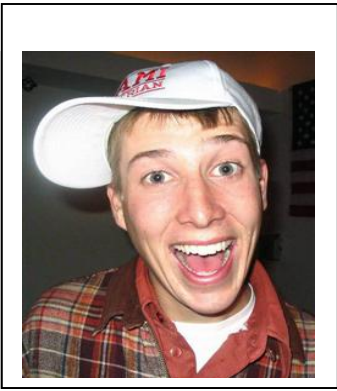
Save the file to your computer, as a Microsoft Word file, under the file name "ETS Name of Event your first and last name". For example, the file name might be... "ETS Tennessee Willhephalloff"

For more information, host hotels, driving directions, etc, visit:
www.BeckettRun.com and click on Equestrian Talent Search

or contact Jim Arrigon at JimArrigon@hotmail.com

or equestriantalentsearch@yahoo.com

FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE / TEMPLATE
for your ETS event program page.



Michael Brokenbrane **XXX**

Paducah, Kentucky

XXX

502/555/1234, m.brakenridge@dartmouth.edu

Parent: I. Ben Hephalloff , 502/555-1234 , benfalls@paducah.org

Paducah Militaary Academy, Paducah, Kentucky

Grade: 12,	Age: 17		
GPA:	3.95	Class rank:	na
SAT:	2220	ACT	32

Academic Notes: 4 on AP Chemistry in junior year; 3 on AP French. Taking AP caluculus, English, biology and Post-AP French Honors currently. .

Hobbies, Activities: Choir, sings in an acapella group. Also varsity Tennis.

Trainers: Suzie B Jumpin, Paducah KY; also Sissy Rider, Superman Stables, Metropolis Illinois.

Riding and Show Experience: 11 years total riding, 6 years competing in USEF A-rated, and KHJA, in Childrens hunter division. Also Southern Illinois HJ Assoc, Beetheel (Missouri) HJ Assocaition.

Recognized Competition winnings: 15 blues at 3' in recognized shows, 20+ wins in equitation on the flat. Won a 3' Medal in Bootheel Hunter Jumper Association.

Pertinent riding notes: 5th in Country Kentucky NAL Childrens Hunter Classic in 2006. Also competed in USDF dressage at 3rd level. Rides on Paducah High School IEA team with coach Suzie B. Jumpin. I ride a lot of different horses every week, for barn clients, etc.

Anything else You want coaches to know: I missed all last year after a bad fall, and I'm still getting back into shape. I feel like I am very coachable and always want the best for my team.

Colleges of interest: Murray State, UK, Sweet Briar, St. Mary of the Woods.



NOTES _____

