

2008 Team Challenge

The annual Area III trip to the Hagyard MidSouth Team Challenge was again made by eight Novice riders, four Training riders and two Preliminary riders along with the Area III Coach, Kyle Carter. Each of the four teams came up with an original name and team colors. They decorated not only their stalls and horses but wore their team colors on cross-country day. The teams and their members were as follows:

Novice – Krewe of Carter

Caroline Knight, Rachael Issacson, Katherine Frangos and Jordan Oldham

Novice – Team Fleur de Leap

Carley Whetstone, Haylie Walker, Gensie Britton and Mary Atkins Hunt

Training – Bahama Mamas

Mary Hollis Baird, Katy Nichwander, Emily Renfroe and Kate McQuilken

Preliminary – Flow Riders

Emily Renfroe and Felicia Bradley, Chelsea Adams and Amanda Barnes

As always, the Kentucky Horse Park proved to be beautiful, large and very busy with more than 350 riders in the Team Challenge. The Area III riders competed against 34 Novice teams, 25 Training Teams and 15 Preliminary Teams. The Stadium and Cross Country courses proved to be very challenging with rails and stops by several of our riders. There were also several other equestrian events being held at the parks so we got to see many Tennessee Walking horse competitors.

We couldn't have asked for a better coach than Kyle. He had several first timers to Team Challenge but remained patient as he answered many questions from both riders and parents. The knowledge he offered the riders during the lessons, warm-ups and course walks was worth the trip to Kentucky alone. He gave each rider individual attention and seemed to know just that "right word" of advice for the girls before each ride. After the competition, he was there to critique their riding and offer advice on how to learn from mistakes or increase successes. Hats off to Kyle for a job well done.

Parents and Riders enjoyed the camaraderie of the show – eating, cheering each other on and battling the cold snap that hit that weekend. Riders and parents will all agree that Team Challenge is a rewarding experience. The atmosphere of Team Spirit with everyone pulling together for the Area riders is hard to beat. All riders should consider participating in this event for the 2009 Season.

The final results for Area III YR had the Novice Team- Krewe de Carter in 6th Place with Rachael Isaacson ONF – 1st Place – 27.4, Jordan Oldham ONH – 5th Place – 36.8; Caroline Knight ONE – 9th Place – 50.7 and Katherine Frangos ONH – 12th Place – 56.3 . Novice Team Fleur de Leap finished in 10th Place with Mary Atkins Hunt OND – 3rd Place – 31.6; Haylie Walker ONB – 6th Place – 40.5, Carley Whetstone ONA – 8th Place – 43.7 and Gensie Walker ONC – 11th Place – 43.7. Emily Renfroe placed 2nd individually in OTC with a 30.5 but the other members of the team faced difficulties that prevented the Training team from placing. The Preliminary Team finished in 6th Place with the help of their pick-up riders. Felicia Bradley finished 7th individually in OPB with a 44.6, Amanda Barnes –OPA – 6th Place – 46.8; Chelsea Adams - OPB – 10th Place – 72.8 and Emily was eliminated.

Congratulations to all our Area III Participants!!