

Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association of Region 10

Sends Two Judging Teams to Nationals

The Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association and Region Ten recently sent two judging teams to the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to compete in the 2009 Arabian Horse Judging Contest. Team A consisted of Krysten Ekenberg, Melissa Kelly, Hayley Simmons, and Taylor Disch and was coached by Janet Ekenberg. Team B consisted of Jocalyn Carpenter, Taylor Colin, and Emily Wood, with Joan Rose serving as coach. WAHA youth members, under the guidance of Cathy Arnold (WAHA Youth Coordinator), held several fund raisers, including a silent auction at the awards banquet and concession stands at shows to help raise money for the trip. Five team members' mothers were able to attend as well, and they were Marita Kelly, Susan Wood, Cheryl Hartman, Kim Simmons, and Janet Ekenberg. WAHA member Rachel Bell also accompanied the group. All of the adults were very active in a variety of volunteer roles needed to run the contest.



Teams pose together for group picture. Taylor Colin, Emily Wood, Melissa Kelly, Taylor Disch, Krysten Ekenberg, Hayley Simmons, Jocalyn Carpenter

Despite a few bumps in the road during the preparation of this trip, it turned out to be very successful. The H1N1 Virus was looming in the background, and one team member on the B team was unable to go because of it. Krysten Ekenberg recovered from the flu just in the nick of time to accompany the teams on the long drive to Tulsa. They arrived on Thursday, Oct. 29th, during torrential downpours which flooded the parking lots at the horse show! Fortunately, the weather was much more cooperative after a day or so.

Despite these obstacles, the teams had a great experience in the judging contest and had the opportunity to enjoy many beautiful classes offered at the show. Team members were able to view, up close, some of the most beautiful Arabian and Half Arabian horses in the world as they showcased their skills with both amateur riders and professional trainers.

Early on Friday morning, the teams met at the Ford Truck Arena for the competition. Once the classes were underway, there was to be no talking whatsoever amongst the competitors, as this was very serious business. There were ten classes consisting of four horses each for the teams to judge. The classes were: Western Pleasure Open, Purebred Country English Pleasure Open, Purebred Hunter Pleasure Open, Hunt Seat Equitation, Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure Open, Half-Arabian Hunter Pleasure Open, Half-Arabian Geldings (Stock/Hunter Type,) Half-Arabian Mares (Stock/Hunter Type,) Purebred Arabian Geldings, and Purebred Arabian Mares. Contestants were required to present oral reasons to judges on the PB Hunter Pleasure Open, HA Country English Pleasure Open, HA Geldings Halter and PB Arabian Mares Halter classes. Judging took place throughout most of the morning, and then the team members boarded buses to go to a nearby hotel where they were to present oral reasons to judges. By late afternoon, all arrived back at the show grounds, ready to watch some amazing horses and riders in the show ring.

On Saturday morning, all of the teams attended the awards banquet, where results were announced and ribbons were awarded. Lance Walters, President of AHA, and Glenn Petty, Executive Vice President of AHA, were also in attendance and joined Team A in a photo op afterwards. WAHA and Region 10 are very proud of the accomplishments of our youth participants in the 2009 Arabian Judging Contest.



Photo op at the awards breakfast.
Glenn Petty, Executive Vice President of AHA;
Joan Rose, Region 10 Youth Director; Melissa
Kelly; Taylor Disch; Krysten Ekenberg; Hayley
Simmons; Janet Ekenberg; Lance Walters,
President of AHA

There were eight teams and thirty-one Junior AHA participants. Wisconsin AHA Team A came in 5th place and Team B came in 6th place on overall performance. In Reasons, Team A came in 5th, and Team B came in 7th. In Halter Judging, Team A came in second place, with Hayley Simmons earning fourth place in individual, and Krysten Ekenberg earning second place. Krysten Ekenberg was fourth place overall in High Individual out of all junior

AHA members. Not only did the teams do well, but new friendships were formed, and the Arabian horse fan base had grown, with several of the team members being new to the world of Arabian horses.

The Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association youth and coaches would like to extend their thanks to WAHA and Region 10 for supporting their trip to nationals. It was an amazing experience for everyone involved.



Teams marched through the pavilion during a special presentation on Saturday. Emily Wood, Jocalyn Carpenter, Taylor Colin, Taylor Disch, Melissa Kelly, Krysten Ekenberg, Hayley Simmons