

Two Alfred University Western equestrian riders set for nationals

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Two members of the Alfred University Western equestrian team will join a pair of AU hunt seat team riders at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championships later this month.

Senior [Lexi Buckheit](#) (Mansfield, PA/Mansfield) and sophomore [Erica Wise](#) (Dansville, NY/Dansville) qualified to compete in the IHSA Western Nationals after their performance at the IHSA Semi-Final show March 21-22 in Tallahassee, FL.

Buckheit won open reining at the Semi-Finals and will compete in that event at nationals. She had previously qualified to compete at nationals in open reining and open horsemanship by virtue of her being named American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) high point rider for IHSA Zone 2, Region 1. It marks the second consecutive year Buckheit has competed at nationals as AQHA high point rider.

Wise took fourth in beginner horsemanship at the Semi-Final show to qualify for that event at nationals. The top four riders in each event at Semi-Finals qualify for the national championship show.

Buckheit and Wise will join two members of the AU hunt seat team, juniors **Kassandra McCarn (Gouverneur, NY/Gouverneur)** and [Stephanie Zimicki](#) (Lockport, NY/St. Mary's), at the national championship show. McCarn won a Zone 2 title in novice equitation on the flat and Zimicki who took second in open equitation on the flat at the Zone 2 championships, held April 4 in Pittsford, NY. The top two riders in each event at Zones move on to nationals.

The IHSA National Championships run April 30-May 3 in West Springfield, MA.