

AU Western equestrian team finishes sixth at IHSA Semi-Finals

3/24/13

POMONA, CA The Alfred University Western equestrian team finished in sixth place at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Semi-Final show, held Saturday and Sunday (March 23 and 24) in Pomona, CA.

Only the top two teams at each semi-final show advance to the IHSA national championships, scheduled for May 2-5 in Harrisburg, PA, so the Alfred Western team's season is concluded. Three Alfred riders competed in team events Sunday: junior Derek Partridge (Groveland, NY/Geneseo) in open reining; senior Kristen Eklin (Bovey, MN/Grand Rapids) in open horsemanship; and freshman Stephanie Zimicki (Lockport, NY/St. Mary's) in novice horsemanship. Each rider took sixth place in their respective team events.

Two AU riders -- Partridge and sophomore Lexi Buckheit (Mansfield, PA/Mansfield) did qualify to compete at the IHSA national show in individual events by virtue of their performances at the semi-final show. The top four riders in individual events at semi-finals advance to nationals; Partridge and Buckheit were second and third respectively, in open reining during Saturday's individual competition in that event. Partridge, as the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) High Point Rider in Zone 2, Region I, had previously qualified for national in open reining.

One AU rider -- junior Erin Paterson (Hancock, NY/Oakwood Friends) -- competed in an individual event on Sunday. She did not place in beginner horsemanship.

In addition to Partridge and Buckheit, sophomore Danielle Strange (Wellsboro, NY/Wellsboro) and Eklin competed in individual events on Saturday. Strange was seventh in intermediate horsemanship; Eklin and Buckheit rode in open horsemanship, but neither rider placed.