

AU Western equestrian team opens season with weekend sweep at home

10/22/12

ALFRED, NY — The Alfred University Western equestrian team opened its 2012-13 season hosting a pair of shows Saturday at the AU Equestrian Center. The Saxons finished first among five teams competing in the morning and afternoon shows.

Alfred earned 27 points in the morning show to outdistance runner-up Alfred State (17 points). RIT was third, Cornell fourth and Brockport fifth. For the Saxons, junior **Ashley Sinclair (Cheshire, CT/Cheshire)** won open horsemanship and was second in open reining and was named high point rider, while junior **Derek Partridge (Groveland, NY/Geneseo)** took first in open reining and second in open horsemanship and was named reserve high point rider.

Other AU riders taking first-place ribbons were: **Dijon Brooks (Hartford, CT/Metropolitan Leaning Center Magnet School)**, in intermediate horsemanship; freshman **Alexandra Morency (Argyle, NY/Argyle)**, in novice horsemanship; and freshman **Ashley Mallery (Olean, NY/Olean)**, in intermediate horsemanship.

Other top riders for AU in the first show were: sophomore **Casey Duncan (Stuarts Draft, VA/Stuarts Draft)**, second in advanced horsemanship; junior **Kaitlin Maciejewski (Portlandville, NY/Laurens)**, second in novice horsemanship; sophomore **Danielle Strange (Wellsboro, NY/Wellsboro)**, second in intermediate horsemanship; and freshman **Shannon Dalton (Hamburg, NY/Frontier)**, second in beginner horsemanship.

AU scored 29 team points in the afternoon show, with runner-up Cornell scoring 17. RIT placed third, Alfred State fourth, and Brockport fifth. AU sophomore **Lexi Buckheit (Mansfield, PA/Mansfield)** placed first in open horsemanship and second in open reining to take high point rider honors. Partridge again was named reserve high point rider after winning open reining.

Other Saxon riders winning events were: junior **Kaylyn Slater (Phelps, NY/Midlakes)**, in novice horsemanship; junior **Nicole Mekker (Liverpool, NY/Cicero-North Syracuse)**, in beginner horsemanship; and junior **Caralee Cecala (Springville, NY/Springville)**, in intermediate horsemanship I.

Other top AU riders in the second show were: senior **Brianna Cappiello (Webster, NY/East Rochester)**, second in novice horsemanship; sophomore **Kelly Jo Stein (Scottsville, NY/Caledonia-Mumford)** and freshman **Caitlin Hughes (North Chittenden, VT/Proctor)**, each second in intermediate horsemanship II.

AU is in first place in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone II, Region I standings, with a 25-point lead over second-place Cornell. Partridge leads the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) regional high point rider standings by five points. The Saxon Western team is in action against for two shows at the AU Equestrian Center on Saturday, Nov. 17. The English team opens its season Saturday, Oct. 27, at Lehman Farms in Pittsford, NY.

