

Saxons sweep weekend Western shows at AU Equestrian Center

10/21/13

ALFRED, NY — The Alfred University Western equestrian team swept a pair of shows Sunday, Oct. 20, at the AU Equestrian Center. The Saxons finished first among five teams competing in the morning and afternoon shows. Other teams competing were RIT, Brockport, Cornell and Alfred State.

In the morning show, AU took first, while RIT and Brockport State tied for second. AU senior **Derek Partridge (Groveland, NY/Geneseo)** took first place in reining and earned High Point Rider honors. Two Alfred University riders -- junior **Lexi Buckheit (Mansfield, PA/Mansfield)**, second in reining; and sophomore **Alex Scott (Lewesburg, PA/Lewesburg)**, second in open horsemanship shared Reserve High Point Rider honors.

Other AU riders earning first-place ribbons were: senior **Kaitlin Maciejewski (Portlandville, NY/Laurens)**, in advanced horsemanship; freshman **Gabrielle Covert (Perry, NY/Perry)**, in novice horsemanship (Section A); junior **Danielle Strange (Wellsboro, NY/Wellsboro)**, in novice horsemanship (Section B); sophomore **Erin Gendreau (Guilford, VT/Brattleboro Union)**, in intermediate horsemanship II (Section C); senior **Nicole Mekker (Liverpool, NY/Cicero-North Syracuse)**, in intermediate horsemanship I; and sophomore **Kaileigh Jarvis (Marshfield, MA/Marshfield)**, in beginner horsemanship.

Other top riders for AU in the morning show were: sophomore **Stephanie Zimicki (Lockport, NY/St. Mary's)**, second in novice horsemanship (Section A); freshman **Sterling Campbell (Glen Mills, PA/Unionville)**, second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section A); senior **Rachelle Hija (Campbell, NY/Campbell-Savona)**, second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section B); freshman **Morgan Ivey (Bradenton, FL/Ohio Connections Academy)**, second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section C); and senior **Desmond Lewis (Brentwood, TN/Hume Fogg Academy)**, second in beginner horsemanship.

AU outpaced RIT to take High Point Team honors in the afternoon show. Partridge claimed a win in reining and a second-place finish in open horsemanship to take High Point Rider honors. AU junior **Casey Duncan (Stuarts Draft, VA/Stuarts Draft)** was named Reserve High Point Rider after taking second in reining.

Other event winners for AU were: Strange in novice horsemanship (Section A); Covert in novice horsemanship (Section B); Ivey in intermediate horsemanship II (Section B); Mekker in intermediate horsemanship I; and senior **Stephanie Mistark (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford Sutherland)**, in beginner horsemanship.

Other top AU riders in the afternoon competition were: sophomore **Alexandra Morency (Argyle, NY/Argyle)**, second in advanced horsemanship; sophomore **Caitlin Hughes (North Chittenden, VT/Proctor)**, second in novice horsemanship (Section B); Gendreau, second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section A); second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section B); junior **Kelly Jo Stein (Scottsville, NY/Caledonia-Mumford)**, second in intermediate horsemanship II (Section B); and freshman **Erica Wise (Dansville, NY/Dansville)**, second in beginner horsemanship.

The AU Western team, which won both shows on Sept. 29, has now swept all four of its shows to open the 2013-14 season and holds a commanding lead in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Zone II, Region I standings. Partridge holds a slight edge over Buckheit in the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) High Point Rider standings.

The AU Western team is in action next on Saturday, Nov. 16, with two shows at the AU Equestrian Center.