

Report of the Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Team at the NAJYRC
August 10, 2010

This year Region 9 had 8 Juniors and Young Riders qualify for the NAJYRC held in Lexington, Kentucky on July 26 to August 1. The Junior team consisted of Mary Kathryn Nommensen and Dom Perignon, Nathalie Martin and Royal, Audrey Jones and Rondo Del Rey and Elizabeth Allen and Whispering Wind. The Young Rider team included Rachel Campbell and Wandango, Jill Cowie and Carnegie, Faith Morris and Garrison and Julia Handt and Frambeau. The Kentucky Horse Park was the host to the Championships this year and the site was beautiful and the weather almost perfect. The team horses all arrived safely to Kentucky and all but one rider made it in good shape. Unfortunately, Audrey Jones had an altercation with a mounting block while in New York training, and fell and broke her arm the Thursday before the competition started. Audrey tried to ride on Tuesday morning before the jog, but the pain was too much and we had to withdraw her from the competition. The team really appreciated her effort to try.

All the horses passed the jog and the competition began on Wednesday with everyone riding the team test. The Juniors did their best and finished 9th, but only a few points away from higher placings and the Young Rider team finished 7th out of 9 teams. On Thursday the Young Riders rode their Individual tests and unfortunately they all didn't have their best rides and none qualified in the top 15 for the Freestyle. On Friday the Juniors rode their Individual tests and two had very good rides. Elizabeth Allen had a super ride on her mare and finished in a tie for 10th and Mary Kathryn Nommensen rode to an 8th place finish, both qualified to ride in the Freestyle on Saturday. On Saturday, the heat got to Elizabeth and she didn't have a great ride, but still finished 14th, Mary Kathryn had a very elegant ride and was 6th. It was a very successful show for Region 9.

Some observations for the next year. It is absolutely necessary to have a golf cart at the Kentucky Horse Park. The stables are quite a distance from the competition and schooling arenas and just in the matter of time it would not be feasible to walk the distance back and forth. The Chef also attends many meetings at the USEF and USDF headquarters also quite a distance from the barns. This cost should be made separate from the reimbursement for the Chef d'Equipe expenses as it is an absolute requirement for the Chef to complete their duties. This year we only had one rider attend as a groom for the Region. The competition was run according to FEI rules and strict adherence to stable access was followed. Because of the armband policy, most riders chose to name a parent as a groom. It was an absolute delight to have all the parents behind the scenes and not have many young people to watch over and care for. The parents all pitched in and helped when needed, but also were able to back away and allow the trainers to care for their children for the competition. I think that the previous policy of naming non-qualifying riders as grooms is difficult for the chef to manage as most times the groom's parents are not in attendance and certainly would not be allowed stable access. Lastly, I must say that our stable area was the finest looking at the Horse Park and we received

many complements on our stall decorations and the cleanliness of our area. The past purchases of stall drapes, stall door covers and the Region banner really made our team look professional and the riders, parents, grooms and trainers all conducted themselves in the best manner. I was proud to be the Chef for the Region 9 team this year and wish the new Coordinator and Chef d'Equipe for 2011 the best.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Darnell
Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Coordinator
Region 9 Chef d'Equipe