

# EQUESTRIAN SPORTS: UCONN STYLE

by: Tara Lynch

For years now, equestrian sports at UConn have been pretty secluded to only those traveling down to Horsebarn Hill. Not widely publicized, the Equestrian Team (UCET) instills competitiveness, commitment and confidence in all 30 of its riders and encourages personal achievement in lessons and horse shows. The team is made up of both inexperienced and advanced riders, ranging from freshmen to alumni.

Unknown to much of the student body, UConn houses approximately eighty horses; twenty-five of which have been donated to the school for the use of not just UCET but the polo, dressage and drill teams as well. With the use of these horses, riders are able to learn from as well as teach the horses that many times are welcomed into the UConn riding program as babies. Riders learn patience and acceptance of new challenges when guiding their horses around courses of eight or more fences or simply during a light “hack” consisting of walking, trotting and cantering around the ring.

Students on the Equestrian Team are full-time students juggling studies with taking care of horses and making sure that they are on time for lessons and horse shows. Throughout the semester UCET travels to more than five away shows ranging in locations anywhere from Rhode Island to Massachusetts and this year, the team’s national competition will be held in Burbank, California. Along with the traveling, UCET also hosts one home show a semester in which all riders are encouraged to clean jumps, groom and tidy up horses, hire judges and food trucks, decorate the indoor arenas and lounge and also to make sure all 11 competing colleges are checked-in the day of and are ready to mount their assigned horses on time.

Every horse show, riders ride for ribbons that hold a place value. Points add up and the higher the point value the farther a rider can advance. Riders have the ability to qualify for regionals, zones, and/or nationals depending on their final point totals. So far, 14 of UConn’s own have qualified for the advance to regionals. The rest of the team looks towards Spring semester’s final 4 shows to advance. The competitive nature of this sport encourages riders to cheer on their own team-mates as well as friendly opponents.

UCET is a very dedicated team that enables riders of all levels to compete and have fun all under the same roof. In 1998, 2005 and most recently in 2006, UConn held the region’s title for highest point accumulations against colleges such as URI, Johnson & Wales, Wesleyan, Connecticut College and UConn’s most competitive rival: Brown.

In the beginning of this Spring semester UConn trails Brown by 21 points. Come see the UConn Equestrian Team on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the arena on Horse Barn Hill and cheer on the Huskies as we take on Brown University. Meet the team and it’s new coach Elizabeth Rademacher as well as all of our horses. It’s guaranteed to be a fun and exciting day!

Riders to watch for at the UConn Home Show:

#	Rider
	Ackel, Elizabeth
18	Antenucci, Leanna
65	Argrelles, Isabel

13      Bartscht, Chelsea

190 Bushey, Katie  
141 Callahan, Anne Marie  
166 Cassavant, Julia  
117 Caswell, Heather  
Dechance, Lisa  
120 Edwards, Kristen  
178 Einkauf, Ellen  
147 Gloeckner, Samantha  
217 Guildea, Julia  
84 Kriwitsky, Amy  
121 Lewis, Caitlin  
22 Lynch, Tara  
251 Manning, Asia  
74 Massari, Kelly  
134 Morris, Amanda  
196 Morse, Samantha  
135 Murray, Kaitlyn  
127 Nestor, Rachael  
156 O'Toole, Robyn  
61 Philbrook, Katie  
256 Sarubbi, Lisa  
30 Withee, Lara