

HUSKIES FORCE BROWN BEARS INTO THEIR DEN

Tara Lynch

On February 23, 2008, Wesleyan University held their home show at Windcrest Farm in Hebron, CT. Here, the Huskies competed against 11 other colleges and won, earning themselves 38 points and closing in on Brown's lead on the region by only 7 points. The runner-up on Saturday was Post University while Brown University came in an astonishing fifth place. As UConn continues to ride competitively and focused, they bring themselves closer to the goal of a full-team admittance to this year's Zone 1 Championships. If they are able to pass Brown in leader points, they will achieve this goal.

This coming weekend, the Huskies travel to Connecticut College's home show in Gales Ferry, CT. When asked what she thought of the exciting gain on Brown, Julia Guildea of the UConn Equestrian Team, proudly answered "I'm really proud of our team and I know we have the capability to do it."

The competitiveness of UConn and Brown University is old hat to the equestrian teams. Known for their prestige and honorable riding skills, Brown continues to progress through the rankings providing to be UConn's top competition. As the qualifying period for the semester comes to an end on March 15, the riding will continue as riders from all of Region 1 compete at Regionals held in Gales Ferry, CT. Here the clash of rivals will take place, proving to be a very memorable and insiteful time; where educated riders and close-knit teams will compete for spots in the upcoming Zone 1 Finals and Nationals held in Burbank, CA.

Two years ago, in 2006, UConn and Brown rode to the mercy of the last show with only a small point margin between them. After UConn won that year, Brown was on a mission for the next season and accomplished their win in the Spring of 2007. Guildea responded saying, "We beat them by a really small margin 2 years ago so I have faith we can do it again!" As of October 29, 2007, UConn was behind Brown by an impressive 30 points but UConn riders were able to withstand the large point difference and ride to the blues closing the margin to only 7 points with 2 horse shows left of the semester. Senior rider Lara Withee commented as well on the closing in on Brown and said, "I think it's fantastic and definitely do-able. Im very proud of your girls!If anyone can do it our girls can!"

It will be interesting to see what team heads the region the end of the season but the Huskies are confident of their ability to come out on top. We salute the UConn Equestrian Team and wish them luck with their upcoming horse show on March 1, 2008.