

NKU equestrian team hits stride

By Howard McEwen • Enquirer contributor • July 24, 2010

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Lindsay Bosse was first put on a horse when she was 3.

Now, as a college senior English majoring in literature and business management, she is leading Northern Kentucky University's first equestrian team.

Bosse, from Harrison, Ohio, served as the treasurer for the University of Cincinnati team, but when she transferred to NKU she found her new school didn't have one - so she created it.

"It's my job," said Bosse. "It's what I do for fun. It's basically my life. I get a huge adrenaline rush by jumping and perfecting and working on how well I set and working on courses. A lot of the other girls feel the same way because basically horseback riding is their lives."

During the 2010 spring semester, the team had 12 members. Eight of them competed against other schools.

"The competitive members of the club show under the Northern Kentucky Equestrian Team name," said Bosse. All members are considered part of the Norse Equestrian Club.

"Competitions are a way to keep your faults recognized. Every show has a different judge with a slightly different opinion. I like to think of it as keeping me on my toes or on my heels - if I rode on my toes I'm pretty sure my coach would kill me."

The team is coached by Lynlee Foster at the H&H Ranch in Burlington. Bosse credits Foster with getting three of the team's members to qualify for the regional competition this year. Last year,

only one team member qualified.

She said success comes from practice.

"It takes as much practice as anything else. You're not just working on you and your team member's communication, it's communication between you and a 1,200-pound animal," Bosse said.

"Everyone on our team has a drive to succeed. We are a smaller team in comparison to the larger schools, so we have to prove ourselves."

Bosse said her team's biggest challenge is gaining exposure and resources.

"Although our team has doubled in size since our first year, the majority of students don't know we exist. The growth of our team is necessary to be competitive in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association but with growth comes the added expense of maintaining the team."

The Northern Kentucky Equestrian team competes through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The IHSA represents over 8,300 students from more than 370 colleges nationwide.

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