2008-09 JACKRABBIT EQUESTRIAN
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Britta Barta  
So., Glyndon, Minn.

Jordanne Blair  
Sr., Lake City, Iowa

Leah Bohlander  
Fr., Britton, S.D.

Allison Carie  
Sr., Fairbanks, Alaska

Kristen Carlson  
Jr., Westminster, Colo.

Jessica Carr  
Jr., Renner, S.D.

Ashlie Centa  
So., Kuna, Idaho

Julie Corcoran  
R-Fr., Aurora, S.D.

Ashton Dearing  
Fr., Westerville, Ohio

Brittnay Entsminger  
So., Battle Creek, Mich.

Angela Gebhart  
So., Maple Grove, Minn.

Brianna Grohs  
Sr., Hurley, S.D.

Kate Gunderson  
Sr., Canton, S.D.

Meghan Gunn  
So., Surrey, B.C.

Lindsay Harr  
Sr., Zell, S.D.

Brittany Henry  
Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.

Laura Hoff  
Sr., Monticello, Minn.

Maggie Holzworth  
Fr., W. Des Moines, Iowa

Gina Jespersen  
Fr., Hemingford, Neb.

Abby Knobbe  
Sr., Dodge, Neb.

Katelyn Knudsen  
Jr., Lincoln, Neb.

Helen Lauth  
Fr., Eyota, Minn.

Amy Mandelke  
Fr., Dalton, Minn.

Ashley Marrin  
So., Palos Heights, Ill.
2008-09 Roster

NAME          YEAR  EVENT(S)       HOMETOWN
Britta Barta  So.    W               Glyndon, Minn.
Jordanne Blair**  Sr.    W               Lake City, Iowa
Leah Bohlander  Fr.    W               Britton, S.D.
Allison Carle***  Sr.    E               Fairbanks, Alaska
Jessica Cann**  Jr.    W               Renner, S.D.
Ashlie Centa*    So.    W               Kuna, Idaho
Julie Corcoran  So.    W               Aurora, S.D.
Ashton Dearing  Fr.    E               Westerville, Ohio
Brittnay Entsminger  So.    E               Battle Creek, Mich.
Angela Gebhart*  So.    W               Maple Grove, Minn.
Brianne Grohs***  Sr.    W               Hurley, S.D.
Kate Gunderson***  Sr.    W               Canton, S.D.
Meghan Gunn*    So.    W               Surrey, British Columbia
Lindsay Harr***  Sr.    E               Zell, S.D.
Brittany Henry**  Jr.    E               Sioux Falls, S.D.
Laura Hoff***    Sr.    E               Monticello, Minn.
Maggie Holsworth  Fr.    W               West Des Moines, Iowa
Gina Jespersen  Fr.    W               Hemingford, Neb.
Abby Knobe***    Sr.    W               Dodge, Neb.
Helen Lauth  Fr.    W               Eyota, Minn.
Amy Mandelke  Fr.    W               Dalton, Minn.
Ashley Marrin*    So.    E               Palos Heights, Ill.
Marian Michalson*  So.    E               Columbia, Mo.
Katie Morris***    Sr.    E               Sioux Falls, S.D.
Kaylee Mundwiler**  Jr.    W               Milbank, S.D.
Angela Noyes  Fr.    E               Sioux Falls, S.D.
Victoria Pecak  Fr.    E               Maple City, Mich.
Lydia Placzek*    So.    W               Kearney, Neb.
Andrea Routzen  So.    E               Littleton, Colo.
Tory Ruppert**  Jr.    W               Currie, Minn.
Molly Ryan*    So.    E               Carmel, Ind.
Meredith Sauer  Fr.    E               Fishers, Ind.
Leslie Sauter*    So.    E               Columbus, Ohio
Megan Schiferl  Fr.    E               Fordyce, Neb.
Molly Seidel***    Sr.    W               Sioux Falls, S.D.
Hillary Siebels**  Sr.    W               Britton, S.D.
Trisha Smeenk*    Jr.    W               Newell, S.D.
Diana Sneve**  Jr.    E               Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sara Stirt**    Sr.    E               Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Elizabeth Sykes  Fr.    E               Sioux City, Iowa
Carolyn Wehde**  Jr.    W               Sioux Falls, S.D.

Head Coach: Megan McGee
Associate Head Coach: Joe Humphrey
Student Assistant: Kaylee DeVries

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION
Location: Brookings, S.D.
Enrollment: 11,995 (fall 2008)
Colors: Yellow and Blue
Nickname: Jackrabbits
Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Home Facility: Swiftel Center

COACHING STAFF
Head Coach: Megan McGee
Alma Mater: Cal Poly, 1985
Office Phone: (605) 688-6856
E-Mail: Megan.McGee@sdstate.edu
Associate Head Coach: Joe Humphrey
Alma Mater: Western Kentucky, 2000
Office Phone: (605) 688-4506
E-Mail: Joe.Humphrey@sdstate.edu

ADMINISTRATION
President: David Chicoine
Athletic Director: Mylo Hellickson (Interim)
Senior Woman Administrator/Assistant AD for Compliance: Kathy Heylens
NCAA Faculty Rep.: Cody Wright (Interim)
Associate AD-Internal: Rob Peterson
Associate AD-External: Mark Burgers

MEDIA INFORMATION
Sports Information Director: Jason Hove
Office Phone: (605) 688-4623
Home Phone: (605) 692-1484
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GENERAL INFORMATION
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Megan (pronounced MEE-gan) McGee will guide the South Dakota State University equestrian team through its fourth year of competition during the 2008-09 school year.

McGee has led the Jackrabbit varsity equestrian program since its inception, bringing a wealth of horsemanship and collegiate coaching experience. After being named the first equestrian coach at South Dakota State University on Aug. 31, 2004, she has worked to assemble a roster of riders capable of qualifying individually or as a team for postseason competition.

During the 2006-07 season, the Jackrabbit Western team qualified for the Varsity Equestrian National Championships. In addition, seven Western riders qualified individually for IHSA regional competition, with Molly Seidel and Kelsey Likness advancing to Super Zone Championships.

On the English side, McGee-coached riders Allison Carie and Kaylee DeVries competed at the IHSA Zone Championships, with DeVries advancing to the IHSA National Finals.

Under McGee’s guidance, 11 Jackrabbit riders qualified for regional competition during the 2007-08 season, including national qualifiers Abby Knobbe, Marian Michalson, Lydia Placzek and Trisha Smeek. In addition, 21 SDSU competitors were honored academically on the Equestrian Coaches’ Honor Roll as the Jackrabbits posted the second-highest grade-point average among Varsity Equestrian programs.

Previously, McGee developed Fresno State (Calif.) into one of the most successful collegiate equestrian programs, guiding the Bulldogs for seven seasons as head coach. She resigned from Fresno State in August of 2003 and most recently served as a consultant for two different management firms: Ram Tap, Inc., and Montana Equestrian Events, where she organized and managed events around the country.

Certified by international and national equestrian federations, McGee has served as an official or member of the management team for several high-profile competitions, including the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games.

At Fresno State, McGee led the equestrian team to seven straight Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) appearances and numerous regional and zone champions each year. In 2001, the Bulldogs finished fifth overall. The team also had two individual Reserve champions.

From 1998-2000, McGee had riders compete individually in the national finals. In 1997, the team placed eighth in its first year as a varsity sport at Fresno State.

She guided both the Stock Seat and Hunt Seat teams to the 2001 IHSA National Finals in Conyers, Ga. The team produced two Reserve national champions and four other top-10 finishers. The Stock Seat and Hunt Seat teams won the IHSA Regional Finals. The Hunt Seat team won the Zone 8 Finals and Western Horsemanship team was Reserve champions at the Zone 8 show.

A year later, in 2002, she coached the winner of the Varsity Reining Championships held in Oklahoma City, at the National Reining Horse Association Derby.

At the 2000 Division I Equestrian Invitational in South Carolina, the team was the overall Reserve Champion. The Western team also placed first, with both English and Western riders winning overall champion rider.

In 2000, McGee had two riders compete in the Olympic Selection Trials in Atlanta, Ga. McGee was instrumental in gaining a spot for the team in the 1998 and 2001 Tournament of Roses Parade. Also in 1998, McGee coached the winner of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Trophy at the IHSA Nationals, who was awarded the National Champion High Point title.

Prior to her hiring at Fresno State, McGee gained early coaching experience as a teaching assistant at both Morehead State (Ky.) and her alma mater, Cal Poly, as well as instructing the equestrian team at Portland State (Ore.). She has also taught at private facilities in California, Oregon and her home state of Kentucky.
Joe Humphrey brought national championship experience to the Jackrabbit equestrian program and is building South Dakota State into a national contender in the Western events.

The Western squad put together a solid season in 2007-08, sending eight riders to postseason competition. Going to IHSA Western Semifinals were Trisha Smeenk and Abby Knobbe, the latter of whom won the open reining horsemanship class. Both qualified for the IHSA National Championship Show, which was held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, where Smeenk placed third in her intermediate horsemanship class.

Additionally, Lydia Placzek was selected to represent SDSU at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships in reining, where she placed fourth.

During the 2006-07 season, the Jackrabbit Western team was selected for the Varsity Equestrian National Championships for the first time in school history and seven Humphrey-coached riders qualified individually for IHSA Regional competition. Two riders, Kelsey Likness and Molly Seidel, advanced to the Western Semifinals competition hosted by Cal Poly Pomona.

Prior to joining the Jackrabbits for their inaugural campaign during the 2005-06 season, Humphrey served as assistant coach in charge of the Western discipline at South Carolina for three seasons. The Gamecocks finished fifth in the Western standings at the 2005 Varsity Equestrian National Championships in Santa Fe, N.M., while riding a first-place effort in the Hunt Seat standings to win the overall championship.

Prior to coaching at South Carolina, Humphrey served as assistant coach of the Western Kentucky University equestrian club team in Bowling Green, Ky. He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science at WKU in 2000 and a master’s degree in agriculture in 2002.

As a member of the Western Kentucky equestrian team, Humphrey won the American Quarter Horse Association Trophy Open Reining class at the 1999 IHSA Nationals in Cazenovia, N.Y., and earned Reserve national championships in open reining in 1997 and open Western horsemanship in 1996 at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association level. He also was a member of the winning judging team in the junior division of the All-American Quarter Horse Congress judging contests in 1995, placing ninth individually.

A native of Kevil, Ky., Humphrey served as manager of the West Kentucky Exposition Center in Murray, Ky., for one year. He is member of numerous equine-related organizations and also judges and announces horse shows of all levels.

Kaylee DeVries is in her first season as a student assistant coach after completing a successful career with the Jackrabbit equestrian program.

A native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, DeVries competed three seasons for the Jackrabbits. A two-time regional qualifier, DeVries became the first SDSU rider to compete in a postseason event. She qualified for the 2007 IHSA Nationals in intermediate equitation on the flat after turning in a runner-up finish at the Zone 9 Finals. At the regional meet that season, she advanced to the zone finals with a Reserve champion effort.

DeVries made a return trip to the IHSA regionals during her senior season in 2008.

DeVries, who is pursuing a degree in early childhood education, transferred to SDSU from Ellsworth Community College (Iowa), where she competed at the IHSA level for one season. Prior to beginning her collegiate pursuits, DeVries competed a number of years on the U.S. Pony Club youth circuit.
DeHaan Equestrian Center

The Nathelle and Lawrence DeHaan Equestrian Center is the new home for Jackrabbit Equestrian at South Dakota State University.

Project benefactor Nathelle DeHaan’s avid support of South Dakota State University and love for horses have grown to make the SDSU Equestrian program and facility a reality. The Nathelle and Lawrence DeHaan Equestrian Center was dedicated on Oct. 15, 2008.

A 1937 graduate of South Dakota State, Nathelle DeHaan provided the initial gift to build the facility being dedicated today. For nearly five decades, she and her late husband, Lawrence were active in the local horse community, traveling to judge and show quarter horses.

She has always dreamed of the day when young women can attend college, have the opportunity to compete at the highest level and create experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

“The Equestrian program provides a wonderful opportunity for young women,” she says. “I am excited about the future of the SDSU Equestrian team.”

Completion of the building in the spring of 2008 more than tripled the team’s previous training facilities. At nearly 26,000 square feet, the $3.6 million climate-controlled facility features an indoor riding arena, 42 stalls with additional areas for grooming, washing and preparing the horses, as well as separate on-site work areas for veterinarians and farriers. In addition, the building, which is located along the U.S. Highway 14 Bypass north and east of the SDSU campus, houses a team locker room equipped with a study area.

“Being able to move to this expanded facility will enable us to enhance the practices and increase the student-athletes’ preparedness,” head coach Megan McGee said. “The flow of operation is going to be much, much smoother.”

The additional space will allow the team’s roster to eventually grow to 60 riders while continuing to offer the NCAA-maximum 15 full scholarships. The proximity of the Nathelle and Lawrence DeHaan Equestrian Center to the main SDSU campus makes it unique in the collegiate equestrian ranks and should allow for the Equestrian program to become further ingrained in the Athletic Department as it continues to mature.

Once the SDSU Foundation completes fund-raising for Phase I, planning will begin for the second phase of the project. Phase II will include the addition of a stall barn, a large outdoor riding arena, viewing rooms, coaching offices, a meeting room and trophy room.

“That next component will be necessary in order to maintain a competitive squad,” McGee said.

For more information on the SDSU Equestrian team, or to make a donation for scholarship support or facilities, contact Associate Athletic Director for Development Mike Burgers at the SDSU Foundation (605-697-7475).

Exterior view of the Nathelle and Lawrence DeHaan Equestrian Center.

Nathelle and Lawrence DeHaan Equestrian Center.

Nathelle DeHaan, center, pictured with SDSU head coach Megan McGee and equestrian student-athlete Lindsay Harr.
SWIFTEL CENTER
The municipally operated Swiftel Center continues to serve as the main home competition venue for the Jackrabbit equestrian team. A multi-purpose facility, Swiftel Center features a 30,000 square-foot arena floor, seating for about 2,000 spectators and other amenities for an equestrian event.
Adjacent to the Swiftel Center is a holding barn which serves as an auxiliary competition and training facility.
Swiftel Center has the site of a regional Arabian Horse Show in recent years.

OTHER FACILITIES
Schematic design of Dykhouse Student-Athlete Center scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009. The Dykhouse Center will be located in the north end zone of Coughlin-Alumni Stadium and will house an academic center to be used by all Jackrabbit teams.

The new Community Fitness Wellness Center that opened on the South Dakota State University campus in the fall of 2008. The 73,000-square-foot facility features basketball courts, a rock climbing wall, running track, workout areas and also is home to student health and counseling services.
Season Preview

As the South Dakota State University Equestrian team gears up for its fourth season of competition, head coach Megan McGee and assistant Joe Humphrey welcome back 34 riders from last season.

**ENGLISH**

Returning seniors Allison Carie and Lindsay Harr have started all four years for SDSU and have finished each season stronger than they did the previous year.

Fellow senior Laura Hoff, from Monticello, Minn., was a regional champion in equitation over fences and will move up to a higher level of competition during the season.

All three seniors will have carry over points from the previous season and will qualify for the regional championships early in the fall season. As they earn more points, each rider will compete at a higher level throughout the season. However, when they compete at the regional championships in 2009, they will move back to the level that they qualified at.

McGee said, “This is an ideal situation for us since they will compete at a higher level of competition virtually all season long and they will be very prepared at the regionals as well as having a chance to qualify for the postseason (national championships),” McGee said.

**MARIAN MICHALSON** returns to the Jackrabbit lineup after competing at the IHSA Nationals in equitation over fences during the 2007-08 season.

Junior Kristen Carlson will qualify for the regionals for the English team early and will also continue to compete as a Western rider during the season to try and qualify for the regionals for both teams during the season.

Brittany Henry, a junior from Sioux Falls, will study abroad in New Zealand during the fall semester.

“Brittany should have a strong finish to the season in the spring for us when she returns,” McGee said.

Sophomore Marian Michalson earned Reserve champion honors in open equitation over fences at the Zone 9 English Championships to earn a trip to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association national equestrian competition.

Andrea Routzon will join the Jacks as a sophomore transfer from Stephen F. Austin (Texas) after SFA’s equestrian program was turned into a club sport.

“I originally recruited her to come to SDSU when she was a high school senior, so I am very familiar with her competition record,” said McGee “She was a strong competitor for SFA and we are going to be really fortunate to add her to our roster. Routzon competed at the National Championships as a freshman in the jumping division and brings experience to the team.”

McGee said, “We don’t have as many riders with jumping experience in the region as we do Western riders, so our English riders should show improvement and more will qualify for the regionals and nationals.”

In Varsity Equestrian competition, the English and Western team scores are combined to determine a winner. Meanwhile, most IHSA competitions are English-only or Western-only.

**WESTERN**

On the Western side, junior Trisha Smeenk from Newell returns after she was one of three Jackrabbits to qualify for the IHSA nationals, where she placed third. Smeenk made it to nationals after placing fourth at the IHSA Western Semifinals in Canyon, Texas, back in March.

“Trisha gained a lot of experience and has improved throughout her time at SDSU,” said Humphrey.

Abby Knobbe, a senior from Dodge, Neb., also qualified on the Western side in open reining, an event she won at the national semifinals.

Seniors Brianna Grohs and Jordanne Blair each earned wins last season and should be very competitive in reining. Hillary Siebels and Molly Seidel also will be varsity starters and have been competitive throughout their years at SDSU.

Kaylee Mundwiler, a junior from Milbank, has been a starter and winner in horsemanship the last few years.

**LAURA HOFF** returns for her senior season after winning a regional title in 2008.
Lydia Placzek, a sophomore from Kearney, Neb., was the only SDSU invitee to the Varsity Equestrian National Championships, competing in reining. Other sophomores, including Angela Gebhart, should contribute to the team on the Western side also.

“Angela became a very strong rider once she figured the system out in the fall last year as a freshman,” according to Humphrey.

“Meghan Gunn is also someone who can come in and have a very positive impact,” said Humphrey.

Among incoming freshman, Maggie Holzwarth will compete in horsemanship, while Helen Lauth will be a reiner. Both will add depth and talent to the team.

“As a whole, our reiners are our strongest team on the Western side with the most depth,” said Humphrey.

With the $3.6 million, 50,000-square foot SDSU Equestrian Center adding an indoor riding arena, temporary stalls, team room, storage building, laundry facilities, washing areas and a farrier/veterinarian area, it will allow the coaches and team more time to concentrate on improving their performance.

“We now have the space to work and have functional practices. We all don’t have to spend three days hauling equipment to the Swiftel Center, so that allows that coaches spend more time getting the riders and horses better,” Humphrey said.

The new facilities will help in other areas, like recruiting.

“Recruits are hearing about it and they want to be a part of it,” said Humphrey.

McGee added: “We are seeing the overall quality of recruits coming to SDSU improve as our teams get stronger through the years,” said McGee. “We are starting to establish our own track record as a competitive team and that is something that recruits from all around the country want to be a part of. As the program gets stronger in the future and as the additional facilities are completed, we will be able to select the top candidates to come to SDSU from a very qualified group. I expect to be a very active and competitive team staying in the top 10 in the country all across the board.”

A number of Jacks have traveled and competing on their own horses to improve during the summer. Placzek has been training in Texas, Michalson competed in Germany and finished ninth individually in an international competition, and Laura Hoff has been training in Maryland and Colorado.

“Our riders work on some aggressive training programs in the off-season once they are sophomores and juniors because they see the limited amount of time that they have left to compete at the college level,” said McGee.
Returning Riders

Britta got a taste of collegiate competition during her freshman season, competing in two IHSA events during the fall season. She made collegiate debut at multi-team meet hosted by Nebraska, claiming a section title in novice horsemanship and third-place finish in open horsemanship. She won a section title and added a runner-up finish in novice horsemanship during two-day competition hosted by North Dakota State in November.

Before SDSU: Britta won multiple Clay County 4-H Horse Show individual and all-around Grand and Reserve Champion titles. At the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show, she was Showmanship and Horsemanship Champion. North Dakota Novice All-Around Champion and Reserve Champion. Member of the North Dakota Quarter Horse Youth Association. Lettered in basketball three times at Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, N.D.

Britta Barta
So., Western
Glyndon, Minn.
Oak Grove Lutheran H.S.
Major: Psychology

2007-08: Britta was a regular in the Western lineup for the Jackrabbits, seeing action in nine competitions. Earned Horsemanship MVP honors with score of 73 in head-to-head competition at South Carolina in October. Posted a victory in Horsemanship during home head-to-head competition versus Kansas State. Recorded victory in Reining and Tie in Horsemanship at New Mexico State. In IHSA competition, was named Reserve champion rider in multi-team meet at Minnesota-Crookston after winning section of open horsemanship and placing fourth in open Reining on the first day of competition, then placing fourth in open horsemanship on final day. Regional qualifier who placed fifth in open Horsemanship at Zone 9, Region 3 Championship. Claimed section title in open horsemanship on Day 1 and added runner-up finish on Day 2 as Jackrabbits won team title both days at Nebraska in February. Closed season by winning head-to-head matchup in Reining versus Minnesota-Crookston. Named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll.

2006-07: Started season strong with first-place finish in section of open horsemanship at season-opening meet at Wisconsin-River Falls. Added second-place finish in section of open horsemanship at North Dakota State during the fall campaign.

Allison Carie
Sr., English
Fairbanks, Alaska
Lathrop High School
Major: Business Economics

2007-08: Allison continued to be a team leader for the English squad, riding in eight competitions. Won section of open equitation on the flat at Wisconsin-River Falls to end fall season. Placed third in section of open equitation over fences at IHSA meet hosted by Wisconsin in February. Recorded score of 71 in equitation on the flat to post tie in head-to-head competition against Minnesota-Crookston in March. Member of the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll.

2006-07: Allison emerged as one of the top Jackrabbit English riders. Placed fifth in intermediate equitation on the flat at Zone 9 Finals. Earned regional title in intermediate equitation at Minnesota-Crookston in March. Claimed equitation title in head-to-head competition against North Dakota State and Delaware State. Posted pair of runner-up finishes in equitation on the flat at season-opening meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls.

2005-06: Was one of the top English riders during the team’s inaugural season. Placed first against the University of Georgia in equitation over fences at the Big Eight Tournament. Was the high-point English rider against North Dakota State. Placed second individually in both equitation over fences and on the flat in home event versus South Carolina. Posted four top-three finishes at two-day meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls, including first-place finish.
in section of intermediate equitation on the flat ... named to Equestrian Coaches' Honor Roll for academic excellence

BEFORE SDSU: Member of the United States Pony Club ... 2002-04 Interior Horseman’s Association English Performance champion ... National Honor Society officer

KRISTEN CARLSON
Sr., Western
Westminster, Colo.
Standley Lake High School
Major: Clinical Lab Science

2007-08: Kristen turned in a number of solid performances for the Jackrabbits ... runner-up in section of novice horsemanship on the second day of competition at Nebraska in February ... also was runner-up in novice horsemanship in multi-team meets hosted by Minnesota–Crookston in February ... overall, rode in eight different competitions ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll for academic excellence

2006-07: Kristen put together an impressive collegiate debut by winning her sections of novice equitation on the flat both days during the team’s season-opening meet at Wisconsin-River Falls in October

BEFORE SDSU: Won USEF Regional Western Pleasure and USEF National Western Pleasure championships in 2005 ... extensive list of show experience also includes winning Rocky Mountain Horse Show Association High Point honors in 2004 and 2005 ... was the USEF Regional Western Pleasure Champion in 2005 ... placed third for the USEF National Western Pleasure in 2004 ... USEF regional champion for Western Pleasure and Reserve Champion for Zone 8 Western Pleasure in 2004 ... received several high-point awards in Western pleasure, hunt seat pleasure, hunt seat equitation and Western seat equitation from the Rocky Mountain Horse Show Association ... lettered in academics at Standley Lake High School and was a member of the National Honor Society

ASHLIE CENTA
So, Western
Kuna, Idaho
Kuna High School
Major: Graphic Design

2007-08: Sat out the 2007-08 season

2006-07: Qualified for IHSA regionals in open horsemanship

BEFORE SDSU: Collected a total of 10 world and nine Reserve world championships sponsored by the Pinto Horse Association ... earned a total of 39 top-10 placings at the PtHA World Show from 2002-06 ... three-time Zone 1 national winner ... recipient of PtHA 18- and-under English scholarship ... began career by receiving PtHA World Championship Show Reserve all-around honors in 13-and-under division

JESSICA CARR
Jr., Western
Renner, S.D.
Baltic High School
Major: Nutrition Food Science

2007-08: Jessica earned a spot in the IHSA regional meet in intermediate horsemanship ... met regional qualifying standard by placing first in section of novice horsemanship and second in section of intermediate horsemanship during two-day Western competition at Minnesota–Crookston in February ... posted first- and third-place finishes in sections of intermediate horsemanship at Nebraska ...

2007-08: Julie was a late addition to the Jackrabbit roster and made debut at IHSA competition hosted by Minnesota–Crookston in February, placing third in section of beginner horsemanship ... won section titles in beginner horsemanship during both sessions of spring competition at Nebraska

BEFORE SDSU: Attended Greeley West High School in Colorado as a
Returning Riders

fresman, before finishing up at Brookings High School ... member of National Honor Society

**ANGELA GEBHART**

So., Western
Maple Grove, Minn.
Maple Grove High School
Major: Biology

2007-08: Angela earned a spot in the regular lineup for Varsity Equestrian competitions during her freshman season ... made collegiate debut in head-to-head matchup against Kansas State and came away with a victory in reining after recording a score of 70.5 ... helped team sweep the Western events in head-to-head competition with Minnesota-Crookston by winning reining matchup with a score of 68 ... in IHSA competition, finished as runner-up in section of open reining at spring competition hosted by Minnesota-Crookston ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

**BEFORE SDSU:** Angela’s impressive résumé included being named the National Reining Horse Association Central Affiliate Finals Non-Pro Freestyle Champion in 2006 and Reserve Champion in 2005 ... NRHA Central Affiliate Finals Youth 14-18 Division Champion in 2005 ... North Central Reining Horse Association Youth Saddle Circuit Champion 2002-05 ... National Merit Scholar at Maple Grove High School ... graduated with high honors (4.0 GPA)

**BRIANNA GROHS**

Sr., Western
Hurley, S.D.
Lennox High School
Major: Animal Science

2007-08: Brianna remained a team leader on the Western squad ... saw action in eight competitions, including head-to-head Varsity Equestrian matchups against Stephen F. Austin, South Carolina and New Mexico State ... posted victory in reining in head-to-head competition against Minnesota-Crookston with a score of 67 during spring season ... in IHSA competition, was runner-up in section of open horsemanship during first session of multi-team meet at Nebraska, then won section title in open reining finale in helping SDSU to sweep of team championships ... member of the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

**2006-07:** Brianna was a member of the Jackrabbit reining squad that competed at Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... placed first in section of open horsemanship at fall meet hosted by Nebraska

**2005-06:** Brianna’s top performance was earning high-point honors in Western meet at Nebraska, taking first in open reining and third in open horsemanship ... placed first in reining during dual at South Carolina ... won reining title at 10-team meet hosted by Minnesota-Crookston

**KATE GUNDERSON**

Sr., Western
Canton, S.D.
Canton High School
Major: Human Development

2007-08: Kate earned her third varsity letter after riding in four competitions ... was runner-up in section of open horsemanship in Western competition hosted by Minnesota-Crookston in February ... picked up victory in horsemanship in head-to-head competition against Minnesota-Crookston in March, recording score of 71 ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll for academic excellence

**2006-07:** Saw action in four Western competitions during the fall season ... selected as alternate for squad that competed at Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... placed third in section of open horsemanship at Nebraska in October

**2005-06:** Competed in the Western events for the Jackrabbits ... won her section of the trail competition against Kansas State to open the season ... competed in horsemanship against Baylor, Stephen F. Austin (Texas) and North Dakota State in other head-to-head action

**BEFORE SDSU:** Was a member of the Academic Decathalon team at Canton High School ... American Paint Horse Association (APHA) Youth Champion, APHA Youth Versatility Champion, APHA Scholarship Recipient ... participated in volleyball and one-act play competitions in high school ... great-uncle was former Vice President and U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey
**MEGHAN GUNN**  
So., Western  
Surrey, British Columbia  
Elgin Park Secondary School  
Major: Psychology

2007-08: Meghan lettered for the first time ... appeared in five Western competitions, starting with IHSA meet at Nebraska in November ... was runner-up in section of open horsemanship at November meet hosted by North Dakota State ... cracked the lineup for Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competition against Sacred Heart (Conn.) in March

**BEFORE SDSU:** Meghan earned AHA Canadian National Top Ten in Western Horsemanship ... AHA Region 17 Reserve Champion in 2005-06 ... AHA Region 17 Western Pleasure JTR Champion in 2005-06 ... Overall Youth B.C. Half Arabian Horse Association Champion from 2003-05 ... named to academic honor roll

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**BRITTANY HENRY**  
Jr., English  
Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Lincoln High School  
Major: Family and Consumer Science

2007-08: Brittany qualified for IHSA regional competition in novice equitation over fences ... met qualification standard during multi-team meet at Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... claimed section titles in novice equitation over fences on both days of fall competition at Minnesota-Crookston ... runner-up in section of intermediate equitation on the flat during fall competition at Wisconsin-River Falls ... rode in five competitions overall

2006-07: Placed second in novice section of equitation over fences at Wisconsin-River Falls in October ... won head-to-head matchup at Best of the West competition hosted by Fresno State in March

**BEFORE SDSU:** Gained valuable competition experience with the Sierra Equestrian Club ... played basketball at Lincoln High School

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**LINDSAY HARR**  
Sr., English  
Zell, S.D.  
(Redfield High School)  
Majors: Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine

2007-08: Lindsay was a solid contributor in the English events for the Jackrabbits, riding in seven competitions ... won section of novice equitation on the flat at Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... runner-up in novice equitation on the flat during IHSA competition at Wisconsin ... tied in head-to-head matchup against Minnesota-Crookston, tallying score of 72 in equitation on the flat ... also competed in head-to-head competitions against Kansas State and South Carolina

2006-07: Was a regular in the English lineup, competing in five meets ... placed fifth in section of novice equitation on the flat during both days of multi-team competition at Wisconsin-River Falls in October

2005-06: Earned Best Team Spirit Award during team’s inaugural season ... was a mainstay in the Jackrabbit English lineup, starting with competing in equitation over fences during team’s inaugural competition, at Kansas State ... also competed in equitation on the flat at Baylor ... placed fourth in equitation on the flat at meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Zeta at SDSU

**BEFORE SDSU:** Individual 4-H horse judging state champion in 2004 ... was named a member of the academic all-state team in both basketball and volleyball at Redfield Public High School ... member of the National Honor Society

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**LAURA HOFF**  
Sr., English  
Monticello, Minn.  
Monticello High School  
Majors: Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine

2007-08: Laura advanced to the Zone 9 English Championships, placing third in novice equitation over fences ... claimed IHSA regional title in novice equitation over fences ... posted victory in equitation on the flat with score of 72 against Minnesota-Crookston in March head-to-head competition ... during spring IHSA competition at Wisconsin, turned in runner-up finishes in both novice equitation on the flat and novice equitation over fences ... during fall season, was a section winner in novice fences and placed second in novice equitation on the flat at meet hosted by Minnesota-Crookston ... rode in a total of nine competitions ... repeat selection to the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Laura contributed in the English events ... top finish was a runner-up effort in section of novice equitation over fences at season-opening meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls

2005-06: Top performance was third-place finish in equitation on the flat in season finale against South Carolina ... placed fourth in equitation on the flat in exhibition against North Dakota State ... turned in fifth-place finish in novice equitation on the flat and sixth-place effort in equitation over fences at meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls ... competed in sportif at season-opening meet at Kansas
State ... competed in equitation over fences on the flat versus Auburn and South Carolina ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll for academic excellence

**BEFORE SDSU:** Active in several high school activities, including cross country, track and marching band ... was North Suburban academic all-conference selection in track in 2005 ... placed third in her division at the Junior Young Rider Region Four Team Championships ... participated in the Central States Dressage and Eventing Association Championships ... was a working student with FEI dressage trainer and rider Marija Trieschman ... participated in several Arabian horse shows, including Sahara Sands, Great Arabian GetTogether, Double the Fun, and Northern Lights Dressage show ... member of the National Honor Society

2007-08: Abby enjoyed another fine season, qualifying for the IHSA national Western show in open reining ... earned trip to nationals by winning championship at IHSA semifinals and taking Grand Champion honors at Zone 9, Region 3 meet ... also placed third in open horsemanship at regional meet ... earned high-point rider honors at spring meet hosted by Nebraska, placing first in section of open reining and third in open horsemanship as Jacks won team title in both sessions ... also won high-point honors in November at Nebraska, claiming reining and open horsemanship titles during morning session and a second reining title in the afternoon session to go along with a third-place finish in open horsemanship ... runner-up in open reining at meets hosted by Minnesota–Crookston and North Dakota State ... recorded victories in reining in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head matchups against South Carolina, Kansas State and Stephen F. Austin ... also was victorious in horsemanship against Stephen F. Austin ... repeat selection to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Abby was a consistent performer for the Jackrabbits during her sophomore season ... recorded lone victory for Jackrabbits in Varsity Equestrian National Championships competition against New Mexico State ... posted two wins in horsemanship and two in reining at Best of the West competition hosted by Fresno State ... claimed section titles in open horsemanship and reining, respectively, at meets hosted by North Dakota State and Nebraska ... placed second in section of horsemanship at season-opening meet hosted by Wisconsin–River Falls

2005-06: Enjoyed strong first season in Jackrabbit Western lineup ... won section of reining and placed second in open horsemanship during meet at Minnesota–Crookston in February ... at multi-team meet hosted by Nebraska, she earned high-point honors in Western, placing first in open horsemanship and second in open reining ... was team’s top performer in reining in head-to-head competition against Auburn ... honored on Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll for academic excellence

**BEFORE SDSU:** Served as president of her FFA Chapter at West Point High School ... earned various public speaking awards in FFA and 4-H ... horsemanship finalist at state 4-H Horse Show ... also qualified several times for Ak-sar-ben Livestock Exposition horse shows ... was part of the 2005 Nebraska State Champion 4-H Horse Judging team ... active in the National High School Rodeo Association and Midwest Barrel Racing Association ... also competed in track ... member of the National Honor Society

2007-08: Katelyn performed in four competitions ... helped team to runner-up finish at IHSA English meet hosted by Wisconsin with third-place finish in section of walk-trot-canter ... also rode in IHSA competitions at Minnesota–Crookston and two at Wisconsin–River Falls

2006-07: Competed in three English meets during freshman season ... placed second in walk-trot division at Minnesota–Crookston in November ... contributed fourth- and fifth-place finishes in walk-trot at season opener hosted by Wisconsin–River Falls

**BEFORE SDSU:** Competed in United States Pony Club shows for 11 years ... competed at the 4-H level with the Hunters Pride club ... qualified for the USPC Nations Games in 2004 and 2005 ... member of Cornhusker Pony Club ... participated in speech and debate at Lincoln Southwest High School ... member of the National Honor Society

2007-08: Ashley emerged as a solid performer on the English side for the Jackrabbits ... won Champion Rider honors after ride-off in multi-team meet to close fall season at Wisconsin–River Falls, winning section titles in intermediate equitation on the flat and novice
equitation over fences ... placed second in both intermediate equitation and novice fences to share Reserve high-point honors at Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... won section of intermediate equitation on both days of fall competition at Minnesota-Crookston ... notched ties in equitation during head-to-head Varsity Equestrian competitions against Kansas State and Stephen F. Austin, recording respective scores of 75 and 72

**Before SDSU:** Qualified for the A Show Mini Medal finals in competition before entering the collegiate ranks ... Southside Summer Series champion ... all-star rider at Jim Arrigon’s Equestrian Talent Search in spring of 2006 and reserve champion high-point rider in fall of 2006 ... attended Marist High School in Illinois

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**MARIAN MICHALSON**

So., English
Columbia, Mo.
David H. Hickman H.S.
Major: Spanish

2007-08: Marian anchored the English squad, earning a trip to IHSA Nationals in open equitation over fences ... won regional title in April, then was Reserve champion in Zone 9 Championships ... reached regional qualifying standard in March meet at Wisconsin-River Falls ... won section of fences and placed second in section of open equitation on the flat at spring meet hosted by Wisconsin ... claimed high-point rider honors at Minnesota-Crookston after winning ride-off with teammate Kaylee DeVries ... won section titles in both fences and equitation at Minnesota-Crookston ... recorded team-best scores of 80 in fences and 77 in equitation in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competition against South Carolina ... picked up victories in fences in head-to-head competitions versus Kansas State (76) and Stephen F. Austin (72) ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

**Before SDSU:** Won numerous championships and Zone 7 awards in the jumper division on the ‘A’ circuit prior to enrolling at SDSU

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**KATIE MORRIS**

Sr., English
Sioux Falls, S.D.
Washington High School
Major: Pre-Veterinary Medicine

2007-08: Katie saw action in three competitions during the fall season ... helped English squad to unbeaten mark in equitation on the flat in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competition against Stephen F. Austin, winning matchup with score of 77 ... in IHSA competition, won novice equitation on the flat and novice equitation over fences titles both days at meet hosted by Minnesota-Crookston

**2006-07:** Katie earned her second varsity letter while competing in the English events ... helped lead the Jackrabbits to victories over Tennessee-Martin and Delaware State in February ... selected to serve as warmup rider at IHSA Nationals

**2005-06:** Katie was one of the Jackrabbits’ top riders in equitation over fences during the 2005-06 season ... placed third individually in equitation over fences against Kansas State and in victory at Stephen F. Austin (Texas) ... posted three runner-up finish in novice class at meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... also competed in Big Eight English Tournament hosted by Georgia, home competition with South Carolina and at Baylor

**Before SDSU:** Was high point champion at Sioux Empire Fair Hunter/Jumper Show ... Novice and Open Division Junior Champion ... Junior Team Champion at Regionals in Huron S.D. ... was a member of the National Honor Society ... a member of the National Scholars Honor Society

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**KAYLEE MUNDWILER**

Jr., Western
Milbank, S.D.
Milbank High School
Majors: Pre-Mortuary Science, Global Studies and Spanish

2007-08: Kaylee competed mostly in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competitions ... helped Jackrabbits sweep Western events against Minnesota-Crookston in March, winning head-to-head matchup with score of 74 ... also competed in head-to-head competitions against Stephen F. Austin and Kansas State ... in lone IHSA competition, placed second in section of open horsemanship at fall meet hosted by North Dakota State ... member of the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

**2006-07:** Kaylee was a key contributor during her freshman season ... placed fifth in open rail competition at IHSA regional meet ... competed in horsemanship at Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... qualified for IHSA regionals after winning section of open horsemanship at Nebraska in February ... also won open horsemanship section at fall meet hosted by Nebraska ... turned in runner-up finishes in section of horsemanship on both days of competition hosted by North Dakota State

**Before SDSU:** Earned a number of American Quarter Horse Youth Association awards ... qualified for the AQHYA Youth Championships while earning SDQHYA Youth All-Around and High-Point honors ... captain for 2005 AQHYA Reserve World Champion team ... recognized as AQHA Open Performance and AQHYA Performance and Halter Register of Merit ... competed in gymnastics and was a member of the National Honor Society at Milbank High School
Returning Riders

LYDIA PLACZEK  
So., Western  
Kearney, Neb.  
Kearney High School  
Major: Business Economics

2007-08: Lydia made an immediate impact on the Western squad ... was selected to compete individually in reining at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... earned reining MVP honors with score of 70 in head-to-head victory over Minnesota-Crookston ... also earned head-to-head victories in reining at South Carolina and New Mexico State ... rode in a team-best 10 competitions ... in IHSA competition, marked return to home state by tying for Reserve high-point rider honors at spring meet at Nebraska after winning section title in open reining and fourth in open horsemanship ... earned spot on Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

BEFORE SDSU: Lydia competed in multiple state and world championships in the Western events prior to enrolling at SDSU ... coached by Jim and Sandy Jirkovsky ... member of National Honor Society

TORY RUPPERT  
Jr., Western  
Currie, Minn.  
Tracy Area High School  
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

2007-08: Tory qualified for IHSA Western regional competition in intermediate horsemanship ... met qualifying standard after pair of fourth-place finishes in multi-team meet at Minnesota-Crookston ... claimed pair of section titles in novice horsemanship runner-up in intermediate horsemanship at fall meet hosted by North Dakota State ... overall, saw action in five IHSA competitions ... member of the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Tory competed in four meets during freshman season ... placed third in section of walk-trot-canter at October competition hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls ... claimed section title in intermediate horsemanship on final day of competition and third-place finish on opening day at multi-team meet hosted by Nebraska in February

BEFORE SDSU: Recorded top-10 finishes in Showmanship and English Pleasure at 2005 Minnesota State Fair ... earned several titles, including English Pleasure, English champion and Reserve English champion at Murray County Fair between 2004 and 2006 ... 4-H officer and member of Minnesota state first-place FFA horse judging team ... earned individual gold awards in horse judging at state and national levels in 2005 and 2006 ... also active in cheerleading, she was named an All-American cheerleader in 2005-06 and performed at the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla. ... member of the National Honor Society

MOLLY RYAN  
So., English  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
Carmel High School  
Major: Journalism

2007-08: Molly contributed in the English events during her freshman season ... won section titles in equitation over fences and intermediate equitation on the flat at fall meet hosted by Minnesota-Crookston ... added section title in intermediate equitation at Wisconsin in February ... runner-up in intermediate equitation in multi-team spring meet at Wisconsin-River Falls ... made collegiate debut in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head meet against Stephen F. Austin

BEFORE SDSU: Molly’s list of honors include winning Amateur Adult Hunter championship at Lake St. Louis Horse Show ... attended Carmel High School in Indianapolis

LESLEY SAUTER  
So., English  
Columbus, Ohio  
Upper Arlington H.S.  
Major: Pre-Nursing

2007-08: Leslie turned in a number of strong performances for the Jackrabbits on the English side during her freshman season ... opened collegiate career by recording team-best score of 73 in equitation over fences during Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competition against Stephen F. Austin ... was runner-up in section of fences at IHSA meet hosted by Minnesota-Crookston in October ... won section of intermediate fences and placed second in intermediate equitation on the flat in fall finale at Wisconsin-River Falls during spring meet at River Falls, earned high-point rider honors after winning intermediate fences and placing fourth in intermediate equitation

BEFORE SDSU: Leslie qualified for the Ohio Hunter/Jumper Association (OHJA) Finals four times ... won Reserve Champion honors in the OHJA Children’s Hunters division in 2004 and 15-17 equitation age division in 2005 ... competed in United States Equestrian Federation shows since 1997

2008-09 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EQUESTRIAN
MOLLY SEIDEL  
Sr., Western  
Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Lincoln High School  
Major: Nursing

2007-08: Molly saw action in six competitions during the season ... earned victory in horsemanship with score of 70 in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competition against Kansas State ... also competed for Jackrabbits at South Carolina and Delaware State ... in IHSA competition, won section titles in open horsemanship at meets hosted by Nebraska and North Dakota State State in November ... posted runner-up finish in open horsemanship at Nebraska during spring season ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Molly was a regular contributor for the Jackrabbits as she advanced to the IHSA Super Zones and represented the Jackrabbits in reining at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... won advanced horsemanship at IHSA regional competition ... earned section titles in advanced horsemanship at meets hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls and North Dakota State ... earned reserve high-point honors in horsemanship with score of 69 during head-to-head competition versus North Dakota State and Delaware State

2005-06: Claimed horsemanship individual honors with score of 81 in meet at South Carolina ... won advanced horsemanship title at tournament hosted by Minnesota-Crookston ... placed third in section of horsemanship in head-to-head competition against Nebraska in Sioux Falls ... finished second in section of trail, and also competed in English equitation during team’s inaugural meet, at Kansas State ... named to Equestrian Coaches’ Honor Roll for academic excellence

BEFORE SDSU: Five-time state Grand and Reserve Champion in horsemanship events at the 4-H level in South Dakota ... also earned Lincoln County 4-H Grand Champion honors ... attained extensive competition experience in both the English and Western disciplines, including a top-10 finish in the Morgan World Finals ... named to Who’s Who in Academics list at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls ... also competed in soccer, in which she was a second-team all-state selection in 2004

HILLARY SIEBELS  
Sr., Western  
Britton, S.D.  
Britton-Hecla High School  
Majors: Pharmacy/Biology

2007-08: Hillary contributed in the Western events, seeing action in six competitions ... claimed section title in open horsemanship in November IHSA meet at North Dakota State ... helped Jackrabbits to sweep of Western events in head-to-head competition against Minnesota–Crookston, winning matchup with score of 72.5 ... also competed in Varsity Equestrian competitions against Stephen F. Austin and New Mexico State ... named to Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Hillary represented the Jackrabbits in horsemanship at the Varsity Equestrian National Championships ... top performance came when she won section of open horsemanship at fall meet hosted by North Dakota State

2005-06: Competed in Western events ... placed fourth in section of trail during team’s inaugural meet, at Kansas State ... named to Equestrian Coaches’ Honor Roll for academic excellence

BEFORE SDSU: Earned the 2004 South Dakota Point Horse Club All-Around championship ... competed at World Wide Point Horse Congress in 2004 ... also competed in volleyball at prep level ... class valedictorian at Britton-Hecla High School

TRISHA SMEENK  
Jr., Western  
Newell, S.D.  
Newell High School  
Major: Journalism

2007-08: Trisha had a breakthrough sophomore season, placing third in intermediate horsemanship at the IHSA Nationals in Burbank, Calif., in May ... began poseseason run by earning Reserve Grand Champion honors at regional meet and following with fourth-place finish at IHSA semifinals ... placed first in section of intermediate horsemanship at Nebraska in November ... during spring season, was section champion in IHSA meet at Nebraska and runner-up at Minnesota-Crookston ... also represented SDSU on the Equestrian Coaches Honor Roll

2006-07: Member of Western squad but did not compete

BEFORE SDSU: South Dakota High School Rodeo Queen and Junior Miss Rodeo South Dakota ... member of South Dakota National Horse Judging Team ... competed at 4-H level in reining and jumping ... attended Newell High School ... member of National Honor Society
2007-08: Diana saw action in the English events at four different competitions ... participated in meets at Minnesota-Crookston and Wisconsin-River Falls during fall season and at Wisconsin and Wisconsin-River Falls in the spring.

2006-07: In limited action, posted runner-up finish in beginner walk-trot-canter competition at Wisconsin-River Falls during fall season.

BEFORE SDSU: Attended Sioux Falls Lincoln High School ... member of National Honor Society.

2007-08: Sara competed only during the fall season ... appeared in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head competitions against Kansas State and South Carolina, and competed at IHSA meet hosted by Wisconsin-River Falls in December.

2006-07: Sara contributed in both halves of the season, including winning matchup in equitation on the flat versus Southern Methodist at Best of the West Tournament during spring season ... won section of intermediate equitation on the flat at Wisconsin-River Falls during the fall portion of competition.

BEFORE SDSU: University of Saskatchewan transfer ... a 2004 graduate of A.E. Peacock Collegiate high school, she competed in volleyball, soccer, basketball and women’s soccer ... garnered many province awards on the Saskatchewan Heritage Circuit ... placed third in five-bar competition at Mid-Summer Masters jumping competition ... won Junior Heritage Horse and Rider combination title in 2000 and 2001 ... honor roll student.

2007-08: Melissa was a strong addition to the roster in the English events ... won three-way ride-off to earn Reserve high-point rider honors at multi-team IHSA competition at Wisconsin-River Falls in March ... won open equitation over fences and was fifth in open equitation on the flat on the first day of competition, then placed second in open equitation on the flat during the second day of the meet ... competed in Varsity Equestrian head-to-head matchups against Stephen F. Austin, Kansas State and South Carolina in the fall and against Minnesota-Crookston and Sacred Heart during the spring.

BEFORE SDSU: Put together an extensive English competition career with the Michigan Hunter Jumper Association ... placed first in the novice adult equitation on the flat and adult equitation over fences in 2006 ... during the 2005 competition season, placed first in primary and intermediate junior hunter and primary junior equitation over fences classes ... competed on varsity equestrian team at prep level at Adams High School for one season and two seasons at Stoney Creek High School, from which she graduated in 2005 ... also competed in soccer.
Leah will contribute in the Western events ... made numerous finals appearances in Western showmanship at state 4-H shows, while also earning grand champion honors once and Reserve champion honors twice in Western Pleasure driving ... class salutatorian at Britton-Hecla High School

Leah Bollander
Fr., Western
Britton, S.D.
Britton-Hecla High School
Major: Journalism

Ashton has competed extensively in the hunter-jumper events, moving recently to the 3-foot division ... recorded third-place finish at tri-state meet in 2-foot division... 2008 graduate of St. Francis DeSales High School ... pre-pharmacy major

Ashton Dearing
Fr., English
Westerville, Ohio
St. Francis DeSales H.S.
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Brittnay transferred to SDSU from Kellogg Community College in her native Michigan ... earned numerous awards from the Michigan Paint Horse Association ... honored as reserve high-point rider by the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association in 2006 ... honor roll student and all-conference cheerleader at Pennfield High School ... member of FFA horse judging team that placed fourth in state on two separate occasions ... majoring in wildlife and fisheries

Brittnay Entsminger
So., English
Battle Creek, Mich.
Pennfield High School
Major: Wildlife and Fisheries

Maggie has competed at a high level both regionally and internationally ... claimed 2007 Youth Superior Award and placed in the top five at the 2008 Appaloosa Youth Worlds... honor roll student at Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines ... pre-pharmacy major

Maggie Holzworth
Fr., Western
West Des Moines, Iowa
Dowling Catholic High School
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Gina earned numerous awards at the 4-H level in Nebraska ... was honored as reserve champion in English Pleasure at the 2008 Nebraska State 4-H Horse Show, while also placing third in English equitation and fifth in showmanship ... qualified for American Quarter Horse Youth Association Youth World Show in performance halter category in 2007 ... reserve champion in English Pleasure at Ak-Sar-Ben in 2005 ... crowned Box Butte County Fair all-around champion nine consecutive years ... member of the National Honor Society at Hemmingford High School ... also competed in basketball and was active in band, one-act play and FCCLA

Gina Jespersen
Fr., Western
Hemingford, Neb.
Hemingford High School
Major: Early Childhood Ed.

Helen will help bolster the Jackrabbit lineup in the Western events, primarily in reining ... has claimed three top-10 World Reining finishes over two divisions ... served as FFA chapter president at Dover-Eyota High School ... also active in theatre and lettered in golf

Helen Lauth
Fr., Western
Eyota, Minn.
Dover-Eyota High School
Major: Undeclared
Newcomers

**Amy Mandelke**

Fr., Western
Dalton, Minn.
Fergus Falls High School
Major: Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Amy brings extensive show experience at the 4-H level and as a member of the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association ... recorded victories in Western Pleasure, hunt seat equitation and showmanship at MQHA competitions ... served as president of Minnesota Quarter Horse Youth Association in 2008 ... also competed in swimming at Fergus Falls High School ... honor roll student

**Andrea Routzon**

So., English
Littleton, Colo.
Heritage High School
Major: Animal Science

Andrea joins the Jackrabbits after transferring from Stephen F. Austin (Texas), which downgraded its equestrian program from varsity to club status ... competed at the 2008 Varsity Equestrian National Championship ... member of the Southland Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll ... prior to competing collegiately, claimed numerous championships in the equitation division of the Colorado Hunter Jumper Association ... also earned CHJA reserve champion honors in both 2004 and 2005 ... placed seventh in the 2005 CHJA Medal Finals and sixth in 2006 ... graduated from Heritage High School in Littleton, Colo., in 2007 ... majoring in animal science

**Angela Noyes**

Fr., English
Sioux Falls, S.D.
O’Gorman High School
Major: Undeclared

Angela has previously competed as a member of The Arabian Horse Association and The Arabian Horse Society of South Dakota ... in TAHSSD competitions, earned high-point awards and was champion in the 14-18 Performance/Equitation Open Show and also placed in the top 5 in the Halter Open Show ... honor roll student and National Honor Society member at O’Gorman High School

**Victoria Pecak**

Fr., English
Maple City, Mich.
Glen Lake High School
Major: Animal Science

Victoria will add depth in the English events for the Jackrabbits during the 2008-09 season ... besides competing in equestrian, qualified for state track and field meet four times at Glen Lake High School ... honor roll student

**Meredith Sauer**

Fr., English
Fishers, Ind.
Northpoint Homeschool
Major: Chemistry

Meredith compiled an impressive list of accolades at the youth level while competing in the English jumping events ... claimed victories in the NAL/WIHS Children’ Hunter Classic and 2007 Kentucky Nationals in 3-foot and 2.5-foot divisions, respectively ... also recorded numerous other top-three finishes in AA-rated shows ... graduated with honors through Northpoint Homeschool Classes
Megan is a versatile rider who begins her collegiate career after competing for more than a decade at the 4-H level ... qualified numerous times for state competitions, including recording a third-place finish in hunter under saddle event at 2008 4-H State Horse Show ... also earned youth champion honors in Mid-States Competitive Trail competition ... honor roll student and academic all-state selection at Crofton Community High School ... plans to pursue degree in medical field

Elizabeth has extensive show experience at high levels of competition ... earned reserve national champion honors in five-gaited horsemanship at the National Show Horse Finals by posting top-10 finishes in five-gaited amateur, five-gaited open and five-gaited grand championship competitions ... placed first in five-gaited open and Arabian hunter pleasure competitions at Great Plains Arabian Classic show ... also recorded numerous other first-place finishes in regional competitions ... member of the National Honor Society and also active in jazz, concert and marching band at North High School in Sioux City ... undeclared major

**Newcomers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Megan Schiferl</th>
<th>Elizabeth Sykes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fr., Western</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fr., English</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crofton, Neb.</td>
<td>Sioux City, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crofton Community H.S.</td>
<td>North High School</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Major:</strong> Biology</td>
<td><strong>Major:</strong> Undeclared</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Jackrabbits Honored for Academics**

Eight Varsity Equestrian programs were honored with the inaugural College Team Academic Award presented by the Equestrian Coaches Association in April 2008.

To be eligible for the award, teams must have posted a team grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale during the 2007 calendar year. Team GPAs from both the spring and fall semesters were taken into account.

All eight programs honored with the College Team Academic Award competed at the 2007 Varsity Equestrian National Championships, including champion South Carolina and runner-up Georgia. South Carolina also recorded the highest team GPA at 3.40, followed by South Dakota State at 3.34.

Following is a list of programs receiving the College Team Academic Award.

- **Baylor University**
  - Waco, Texas
  - Head Coach: Ellen White
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.02

- **California State University, Fresno**
  - Fresno, Calif.
  - Head Coach: Becky Malmo
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.00

- **University of Georgia**
  - Athens, Ga.
  - Head Coach: Meghan Boenig
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.04

- **New Mexico State University**
  - Las Cruces, N.M.
  - Head Coach: Andrea Hanson
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.19

- **Oklahoma State University**
  - Stillwater, Okla.
  - Head Coach: Larry Sanchez
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.26 GPA

- **University of South Carolina**
  - Columbia, S.C.
  - Head Coach: Boo Duncan
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.40

- **South Dakota State University**
  - Brookings, S.D.
  - Head Coach: Megan McGee
  - 2007 Team GPA: 3.34

- **University of Tennessee-Martin**
  - Martin, Tenn.
  - Head Coach: Meghan Cunningham
  - 2007 Team: 3.08
Jackrabbit Equestrian History

A new era of athletic competition at South Dakota State University began in the fall of 2005 as the Jackrabbits fielded their first varsity equestrian team.

Equestrian is a natural fit with SDSU’s status as a Land-Grant institution and strong ties to agriculture. SDSU currently offers majors in pre-veterinary and animal science within its College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, while offering coursework in equine studies.

The program was formed in the spring of 2004, making equestrian the 21st varsity sport at SDSU. The Brookings-based University currently offers 10 varsity sports for men and 11 for women.

Megan McGee was hired as the program’s first head coach on Aug. 31, 2004, and Joe Humphrey was added to the coaching staff in the spring of 2005.

During the inaugural 2005-06 season, the Jackrabbits put together a schedule that included head-to-head competitions against some of the top Varsity Equestrian programs in the country, including opening competition Oct. 1, 2005, at Kansas State. SDSU filled out its schedule by competing in Intercollegiate Horse Show Association events — a trend that continues today.

During the 2006-07 season, Kaylee DeVries became the first Jackrabbit rider to qualify for national competition, earning a trip to IHSA Nationals in intermediate equitation on the flat.

Also during the spring of 2007, the Jackrabbit Western squad was selected to compete in the Varsity Equestrian National Championships in Waco, Texas.

SDSU continues to be a program on the rise in the collegiate equestrian ranks. Eleven riders qualified for regional competition during the 2007-08 season, with four earning trips to national competition.

In addition, SDSU riders have excelled in the classroom. The Jackrabbits combined for the second-best team grade-point average among Varsity Equestrian teams during the 2007 calendar year, posting a team GPA of 3.34.

Following is a list of Jackrabbit Equestrian award winners:

**IHSA REGIONAL QUALIFIERS**

**2006-07**
- Allison Carie
- Ashlie Centa
- Kaylee DeVries
- Katie Hendrickson
- Nicole Jensen
- Kelsey Likness
- Kaylee Mundwiler
- Molly Seidel
- Karley Stoltenburg
- Carolyn Wehde
**2007-08**
- Jordanne Blair
- Jessica Carr
- Kaylee DeVries
- Brittany Henry
- Laura Hoff
- Nicole Jensen
- Abby Knobbe
- Marian Michalson
- Tory Ruppert
- Trisha Smeenk

**IHSA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS**

**2006-07**
- Kaylee DeVries
- Abby Knobbe
- Marian Michalson
- Trisha Smeenk

**2007-08**
- Abby Knobbe
- Marian Michalson
- Kaylee Mundwiler
- Lydia Placzek
- Tory Ruppert
- Molly Seidel
- Hillary Siebels
- Trisha Smeenk
- Courtney Smith
- Anna Taylor

**EQUESTRIAN COACHES HONOR ROLL**

**2007-08**
- Jordanne Blair
- Allison Carie
- Kristen Carlson
- Kaylee DeVries
- Angela Gebhart
- Brianna Grohs
- Kate Gunderson
- Lindsay Harr
- Kathryn Hendrickson
- Laura Hoff
- Abby Knobbe
- Kelsey Likness
- Marian Michalson
- Kaylee Mundwiler
- Lydia Placzek
- Tory Ruppert
- Molly Seidel
- Hillary Siebels
- Trisha Smeenk
- Courtney Smith
- Anna Taylor

**VARSITY EQUESTRIAN NATIONAL QUALIFIERS**

**2006-07**
- Western Team

**2007-08**
- Lydia Placzek
With a record enrollment of 11,995 students in the fall of 2008, South Dakota State University is the state’s largest institution of higher education.

EARLY HISTORY

Located in Brookings, SDSU was authorized in 1881 by the Territorial Legislative Assembly and serves as the state’s land-grant institution. Territorial Council member John O’Brien Scobey, failing to obtain the penitentiary for Brookings, managed to secure Dakota Agricultural College for his city.

Although allocations fell short of the actual cost, the school was able to open in the fall of 1884 because the president, George Lilley, was willing to advance $500 — one-third of his salary — to finish three rooms in the new Central Building.

In 1887, the Agricultural Experiment Station was established under the federal Hatch Act and linked to the University to conduct research that concerned agriculture and the home. The Cooperative Extension Service was added in 1914 through the Smith-Lever Act.

During the first year of operation, only preparatory classes were held. College classes started in 1885 with five teachers, 17 freshman and 61 preparatory students. Growth was slow and erratic for many years, but by the turn of the 20th century there were 242 students.

By 1990, enrollment topped more than 9,000 students. Today, students from all 50 states and more than 40 nations attend SDSU. More than 67,000 degrees have been granted since the college was chartered in 1881.

COLLEGES ESTABLISHED

The structure of the college became more complex as enrollments increased. The first nine chairs of instruction established in 1884 included agriculture, science, mathematics, English, modern languages, military tactics, veterinary science, practical business, political and domestic economy, and music.

By 1907, the year the name of the institution was changed to South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, there were 22 departments on campus.

In 1964, when “State College” was renamed South Dakota State University, there were six colleges; today degrees are offered through these eight colleges:

- Agricultural and Biological Sciences
- Arts and Science
- Education and Counseling
- Engineering

(continued on next page)
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• General Registration
• Nursing
• Pharmacy
• Graduate School

SDSU also offers degree programs through the University Center in Sioux Falls. Evening, RDTN, Internet and off-campus courses are coordinated through the Office of Academic Affairs and Outreach.

SDSU BY THE NUMBERS

In its 125-year history, South Dakota State has grown from a campus of 80 acres in 1881 to a 422-acre campus with facilities worth more than $380 million.

The University owns or leases another 15,000 acres for research throughout the state.

A University Student Union expansion and renovation project was completed in the summer of 2005, as was Caldwell Hall, a suite-style residence hall.

Other recent building projects have included:
• Crothers Engineering Hall — $7 million expansion;
• A $3.6 million equestrian center; and
• Solberg Hall — multi-million dollar renovation.

In addition, the Enterprise Institute building, which also houses the SDSU Foundation, was completed in the fall of 2004. The Enterprise Institute is designed to facilitate SDSU and industry resources to encourage and assist the establishment of entrepreneurial growth enterprises in the region.

Several other building projects are under way or in the planning stages, including:
• A $48 million, 144,000-square-foot Integrated Sciences Complex;
• Harding Hall South, a 30,000-square-foot building that will house an expansion within the College of Engineering;
• The $6 million Dykhouse Student-Athlete Center;
• A $7.8 million campus wellness center.

More than 200 majors, minors and options are available at SDSU with more than 2,500 different course offerings.

Master’s degrees are offered in more than 30 areas and doctorates are available in eight fields.

SDSU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and numerous departments on campus have earned accreditation from various agencies.

More than 2,000 people are employees of SDSU, and the University’s total operating budget was more than $195 million in Fiscal Year 2007.

Supplementing classroom instruction are the Harding Distinguished Lecture Series, the F.O. Butler Lectures, the Lusk Lecture and the Amdahl, Schultz-Werth and Griffiths endowments.

Students also have the opportunity to choose from more than 200 clubs and organizations active on campus.

RESEARCH

SDSU has the highest percentage of undergraduates involved in research of any South Dakota public university. SDSU is large enough to offer competitive research opportunities, yet small enough to foster student-faculty learning opportunities.

In 2006, SDSU was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as the state’s only RU/H (research university/high research activity) institution.
About South Dakota State University

This prestigious ranking recognizes the growth of doctoral programs, degrees granted and competitive funds obtained.

Major areas of research at SDSU include:

- Engineering and technology research into photovoltaic devices, nanotechnology, materials science, wind power, surface transportation systems, signal and image processing, water treatment, computer sciences, software engineering and computational science and statistics.
- Agricultural sciences research on crops, livestock and the spectrum of related issues, such as agricultural biotechnology, infectious diseases (animal and zoonotic), food manufacturing, bio-based energy and products, economics and horticulture.
- Management and conservation of natural resources, with research on soil and water quality, soil fertility, conservation farming practices, wildlife and fisheries, climate change, landscape ecology and livestock waste.
- Health sciences, nutritional sciences and wellness research programs in pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition and exercise physiology, muscle-bone relationships, cancer prevention, nursing and infectious diseases.
- Renewable energy research is developing bio-based energy technologies, while promoting diversification and environmental sustainability of America’s agriculture.
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SDSU has been selected as one of five universities to serve as a regional center for the Sun Grant Initiative. The Sun Grant Initiative is a concept to solve America’s energy needs and revitalize rural communities with Land-Grant university research, education and Extension programs on renewable energy and bio-based non-food industries. The Sun Grant Initiative will involve several SDSU departments, including mechanical engineering, biology and microbiology, the Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence, nutrition and food sciences, chemistry and plant science.

The Economics Department is studying the economic impact of ethanol development on the state’s economy and the logistics of using biomass for producing renewable fuels.
- Over the next five years, $69 million in federal funds is to be awarded to SDSU and six other universities to serve as Vanguard centers for the National Children’s Study. The NCS will study more than 100,000 children across the country from conception to age 21.
- As part of the Governor’s 2010 Initiative, a goal is for South Dakota to become a recognized leader in research and technology development. To realize this goal, SDSU faculty are involved in five research centers:
  - Center for Infectious Disease Research and Vaccinology
  - Center for Bioprocessing Research and Development
  - Center for Drought Tolerance Biotechnology
  - Center for Accelerated Applications at the Nanoscale
  - Center for the Research and Development of Light-Activated Materials
- An agreement between SDSU and Argonne National Laboratory will develop opportunities for SDSU faculty and students working in partnership to pursue fields of science that advance science and technology-driven economic development in South Dakota.

MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

The educational opportunities don’t end in the classroom or laboratory as South Dakota State University is home to several facilities, including museums and gardens, which highlight South Dakota history and heritage.

The South Dakota Art Museum houses several collections, including early Sioux Indian tribal art, the famed Harvey Dunn paintings of pioneer life and the exclusive Vera Way Marghab linens.

The State Agricultural Heritage Museum transformed the former Stock Judging Pavilion into a home for exhibits that record and (continued on next page)
preserve the agrarian heritage of South Dakota.

The 70-acre McCrory Gardens and South Dakota Arboretum, located south and east of campus, provide a beautiful setting for area residents and tourists to enjoy a stroll through the radiant colors and fragrances of one of the top 10 small ornamental gardens in the nation. It is also recognized as an All-American Display Garden, one of only 13 in the nation.

In 1993, McCrory Gardens was designated an All-American Judging Garden to conduct research on annual flowers.

In 1982, the area north of the formal garden was dedicated to the planting and testing of ornamental trees and shrubs. The 45-acre site was designated the South Dakota State Arboretum in 1988.

Perhaps South Dakota State’s most recognizable landmark is the 165-foot Coughlin Campanile, the state’s largest chimes tower. A climb of 179 steps leads to a panoramic view of the city.

The statuesque structure on the west end of campus was a $65,000 gift from 1909 engineering graduate Charles Coughlin, who later went on to become head of the Briggs & Stratton Corporation.

Coughlin laid the campanile’s cornerstone on June 10, 1929. Since then, its chimes have called students to classes with the famous Westminster peals.

An alumni-sponsored project to restore the campanile was completed in the summer of 2001.

Adjacent to the campanile, Coolidge-Sylvan Theatre has provided a restful, green haven for students since its dedication by President Calvin Coolidge in September 1927.

Over the years the outdoor amphitheater has been the site of concerts, graduations and inaugurations for university presidents.

Woodbine Cottage, the home of the university president, is a charming example of Queen Anne architecture. Built in 1887 by South Dakota Agricultural College’s second president, Dr. Lewis McLouth, the home is crowned by multiple roof lines.

The house also has served as a women’s dormitory, music hall and infirmary.

STATE’S LARGEST LIBRARY

The Hilton M. Briggs Library, the state’s largest, was opened in 1977 and joined South Dakota’s statewide automated library network in 1988. Through the library, users have access to holdings from all 10 of the state’s libraries, including official documents and more than 1 million other holdings at Briggs.

THE BROOKINGS COMMUNITY

Today, Brookings is a growing community of about 18,700 people. Located 20 miles west of the Minnesota border and 50 miles north of Sioux Falls in east-central South Dakota, Brookings is situated at the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and Interstate 29.

The community also is home to several recognizable companies including Rainbow Play Systems, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M), Larson Manufacturing, and Daktronics, a leading manufacturer of scoreboards and display systems.

For more information about South Dakota State University academic programs, call the Admissions Office at 1-800-952-3541, or (605) 688-6891.

Admissions E-Mail: SDSU.Admissions@sdstate.edu

University Web Site: www.sdstate.edu

Athletics Web Site: www.GoJacks.com

THE COUGHLIN CAMPANILE is SDSU’s most recognizable landmark.
2008-09 Schedule

September
19  Equitation over Fences, SDSU Equestrian Center, 6:30 p.m.
20  Western Events, SDSU Equestrian Center, 10 a.m.
21  Equitation on the Flat, SDSU Equestrian Center, 1:30 p.m.
27-28 Wisconsin (English), Madison, Wis., 11 a.m./9 a.m.

October
4-5  Wisconsin-River Falls (Western), River Falls, Wis., 1 p.m./9 a.m.
11  Fresno State (Calif.), Swiftel Center, 10 a.m.
12  Minnesota-Crookston, Swiftel Center, 10 a.m.
25-26 Minnesota-Crookston (English), Crookston, Minn., 11 a.m./9 a.m.

November
15  IHSA Hunter Seat Competition, Swiftel Center, 11 a.m.
16  IHSA Western Competition, Swiftel Center, 9 a.m.
22-23 North Dakota State (Western), Fargo, N.D., 11 a.m./9 a.m.

December
6-7  Wisconsin-River Falls (English), River Falls, Wis., 11 a.m./9 a.m.

February
7-8  Minnesota-Crookston (Western), Crookston, Minn., 1 p.m./9 a.m.
14-15 Fresno State Tournament, Fresno, Calif., 9 a.m.
14-15 North Dakota State (Western), Fargo, N.D., 1 p.m./9 a.m.
21-22 Wisconsin (English), Madison, Wis., 11 a.m./9 a.m.
28  IHSA Western Regionals, River Falls, Wis., 11 a.m.

March
1  IHSA Hunter Seat Regionals, River Falls, Wis., 9 a.m.
6  Sacred Heart (Conn.), Fairfield, Conn., 10 a.m.
8  Kansas State, Manhattan, Kan., 10 a.m.
20-21 Delaware State Tournament, Dover, Del., 9 a.m.
21-22 IHSA Western National Semifinals, Findlay, Ohio, 9 a.m.
28-29 IHSA Hunt Seat Zone Finals: Purdue, West Lafayette, Ind., 9 a.m.

April
16-18 Varsity Equestrian Championships, Waco, Tex., 8 a.m.
23-26 IHSA National Championships, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 8 a.m.

All home events in yellow. All times local to location. Schedules subject to change.

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