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[home](#) : [your stories](#) : [community news](#)

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Home

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SCHOOL
NEIGHBOR
SPORTS
OBITUARIES
THE BLOTTER
OPINION
LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR
BUSINESS

ALL AROUND HAYS
E-EDITION



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GARDENING TIPS
THAT DAD GUY
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8/27/2008 2:06:00 PM

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Locals win vaulting nationals

For the first time since their formation in May of 2006, the Lone Star Vaulters headed to the USEF/AVA National Championships. This event was held in Watsonville, Calif. from Aug. 9 through the 12.

The competitive vaulters from the Lone Star Vaulting club are: Coach Rosie Brown, Asst. Coach Melanie Schaubhut, Julie Stanley, Krista Kannen, Alex Schaubhut, Maya Leseten, Alyssa Hoogland, and Gibson Stanley.

Vaulting is generally done to the left (with the horse going counter clock-wise). Vaulters in three different levels from the Lone Star Vaulters representing Texas performed individually in compulsories and freestyle. The scores are then combined and overall awards are given. Alex placed 10th overall out of 41 vaulters in the copper division and Gibson placed 7th overall out of 32 vaulters in the preliminary trot division.

Vaulting is also performed in competition on the barrel apparatus as well. Alex placed third for her preliminary canter barrel freestyle out of 29 vaulters with a score of 7.350; Gibson placed 5th, Julie placed eighth and Krista placed 10th, for their trot barrel freestyles out of 50 vaulters. There is also a team division called 2-phase which is made up of four vaulters (at trot or canter) and they perform their compulsories on the horse to the right (horse going clock-wise) and a team freestyle (up to 3 people on at a time) on the barrel. The Lone Starz Trot 2-phase team is made up of Julie, Krista, Maya and Alyssa.

They placed first in freestyle out of five teams with a score of 6.933.

Background:

Vaulting is one of the seven equestrian disciplines recognized by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) for international competition, and is most easily described as gymnastics performed on the back (or other parts) of a moving horse. This fun sport will develop confidence, balance, strength, respect and body awareness. Safety is emphasized throughout. This exciting sport will also be a part of the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky, in 2010. As well as is reining, endurance, driving, three day eventing, dressage, para-equestrian and stadium jumping.

Visit www.lonestarvaulters.com for more information or to enroll in vaulting classes. You may also see the Lone Star Vaulters at the upcoming Oct. 11 Bluebonnet Horse Expo in Austin, Texas at the Travis County Expo Center. Or visit them at the San Antonio and Austin Rodeos next spring.



Alex Schaubhut performing the reverse flag. (courtesy photo)