



HUNTER SEAT TEAM 2012 - 2013

FIRST WIN FOR ST. ANDREWS AT IHSA ZONE FINALS!

A NEW COACH

In the fall of 2012 St. Andrews Hunter Seat Team received a new coach. Matt Arrigon came to us from an extensive equine background. He grew up riding in Cincinnati, Ohio where he showed Hunters, Jumpers, and Equitation on local and rated circuits. He attended Miami University in Ohio and was a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Hunter Seat Team, where he competed for the team at two National Championships. In his junior year Matt was the Reserve National Champion in Intermediate Flat. During his senior year and after graduation he worked for grand prix rider David Beisel. Prior to St. Andrews Matt worked at Randolph College and Lynchburg College.

When Coach Ashley Duda made the decision to move to Kansas following her marriage, St. Andrews started looking for a new hunter seat coach. We asked Matt, "What made you decide to come to St. Andrews?" He responded, "When the opening at St. Andrews became available it was extremely tempting for multiple reasons. First, the amazing facility, second the dedication the University provides the equestrian program plus their vision of and commitment to excellence; and lastly the potential and upside this program showed and has proved to possess. For all of these reasons and combining it with the support offered by Equestrian Program Director Peggy McElveen, the decision was virtually made for me. I truly believe this program has the potential to be a national power."

FIRST WIN AT ZONES!

After putting in lots of hard work and time, the team's effort paid off by winning Zones. Matt said, "Winning the Zone 4 Championship in my first year was a great experience and a stepping stone in the right

direction for this program as a whole. A zone championship is something that has eluded St. Andrews since the start of this great program and to win our first ever Zone Championship is a truly monumental event for the hunter seat program."

After winning Zones the team moved on to Nationals. Matt explained, "Competing at the 2013 Nationals was a great experience for everyone involved - the students and myself. We showed a lot of promise with three riders finishing in the top three."

IHSA Assistant Coach Rob Jacobs shared his feelings on the year. "I had the pleasure to watch our team progress throughout the 2012-2013 year, working through their challenges and improving upon their strengths was a task that required a lot of planning and patience but in the end it paid off. The team's sportsmanship was impressive year long. The riders are all competitive and channeling their focus and directing their competitiveness to the right areas is something Matt and I tried our best to do. I am always proud of our riders and it is a pleasure to watch their highs and even see how they handle their lows."



St. Andrews Equestrian Program | 9167 Hasty Road, Laurinburg, NC
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In response to a question about the future plans for the IHSA hunter seat team Matt stated, "I truly believe this program has nearly limitless potential as to what it can offer our students. My goal, and our combined goal as a team, is to continue improving, gaining recognition as one of the nation's elite programs, continue winning, and most importantly keep providing a top rate education to tomorrow's horsemen and horsewomen. Excellence is our tradition, now and far into the future."

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION!

Our St. Andrews coaches lead the attitudes of the Hunter Seat Equestrians but students have taken commitment to the team to next level. An interview with seniors, Tara Algeri and Keli Van Den Heuvel gave an insight to all of the requirements for being a St. Andrews equestrian team member. A horse show day will begin around 5:30 in the morning and starts with bringing in the 100+ horses, assisting with feeding and watering, followed by grooming and cleaning the barn area. The teammates have to work together! Riders support each other physically, emotionally and mentally to be ready for a horse show day.

During an IHSA show the horses are carefully looked after by students from western, dressage and therapeutic horsemanship as well as the hunter seat team members. Every horse is prepared for the riders. IHSA rules require riders to mount, adjust their stirrups and ride in their class, everything else is done for them. This creates a need for a large number of horse holders during the show. Other jobs that the team members take care of include directing parking, working the gate and distributing ribbons after each class. The team members work hard!

Matt leads and encourages the team with the motto "no excuses, play like a champion!" which sums up his overall expectations for his team.

IHSA 2013 National Championships Harrisburg, Pa.

Hunter Seat Team Results St. Andrews University - 8th

National Team Results for 2013

- Katie Hansen - 7th - Open over Fences
- Sami Cram - Honorable Mention - Open Flat
- Sami Cram - 3rd - Intermediate over Fences
- Kali Cram - 10th - Intermediate Flat
- Cami Glaff - 2nd - Novice over Fences
- Cami Glaff - 9th - Novice Flat
- Madison Edwards - Honorable Mention - Walk Trot Canter
- Jake Hobson - 10th- Walk-Trot

Individual Results

- Sami Cram - Reserve Champion - Novice over Fences
- Kim Graves - 10th - Individual Open over Fences
- Kim Graves - Honorable Mention - Individual Open Flat
- Shiloh Kozlowski - 6th - Individual Walk Trot



Sami Cram Reserve Champion, Novice over Fences

