

Rusinyak Places Third Nationally

By Gracie Rowe
Staff Writer

A new sport involving horses has been discovered in Heard County. Emily Rusinyak, a freshman at Heard County High School, is ranked third in the nation in the competitive field of eventing. She has trained with an Olympic jumper from India, Imteaz Annez. She also inspired her younger sister to take up riding after seeing her compete nationally. Rusinyak has a few competitions coming up; the nearest one being the Acon in South Carolina to qualify for the Eventing Championship Nationals in Lexington, Virginia. This particular competition will last a grueling three days. Also included on Rusinyak's schedule is maintaining a high GPA while attending honor classes and being an active member of the Beta Club.

Rusinyak's family has always raised and kept horses, so she has been exposed to equestrian related events all her life.



Emily Rusinyak

Presently, the family owns eight horses. To Emily, eventing is just an afterschool hobby for now, but one day she dreams to make it to the Olympics. "Riding is very important to me because I've worked so hard at it," she explains, "I practice almost every day in the arena at my house." Recently, at the National Competition, Rusinyak was in third place after dressage and second after cross country; but during show jumping, her horse fell, so she fell back in third. The fewer points you have, the higher ranked you are. Emily had a score of thirty-four, which is nearly unheard of. Most scores are usually in the low forties.

There are three different areas Rusinyak competes in: dressage, show jumping, and cross country. Helmets are required at all competitions in order to maintain safety. In dressage, the rider has to go out in the ring and do different, tactical movements. It is more accurately defined as "maneuvers of a horse in response to body signals by the rider." Emily says it is difficult because "you

have to know how to make the horse do the right things." The second element is show jumping, which involves doing jumps in an arena. Completing all of the jumps in the arena within the time allotted adds to the difficulty in this event. The perfect score is a zero and knocking fences over scores points. The last competition is cross country. The goal in cross country is "not to have your horse stop," Emily says, "It's my favorite part." The horses and riders have to maneuver

over obstacles, but if the horse hesitates and moves too slowly, points are added to the overall score.

Competitions are not only for competing. They are also for making lifelong friends. When you all share a common interest, it is easy to get along. Rusinyak has made many ties through her eventing career. As she prepares for her upcoming competition, her hard work and determination will be tested, as will her patience and friendly rivalries.



Hawg Heaven BBQ

218 Highway 29 North
Hogansville, Ga 30230
706-637-8990
I-85, Exit #28



Georgia Container, Inc.

Brandon Hannah
President

Shane Wright
Vice President

Rolls Offs, Demolition
and Debris Removal
Service

Fax: 770-854-7983
Cell: 770-301-9862
770-854-7906

Compliments of

**AVAILABLE REALTY
INC.**

Thomas & Judy Miller

706-675-3123

Village Inn Cafe
190 West Court Square
Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-0111
Sun. 8:00am to 2:00pm
Sat. & Mon. 6:00am to 2:00pm
Tues. - Fri. 6:00am to 8:30pm
"Catering for all your occasions"

Cindy & Joe Williamson
Owners