

CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

Q & A with Rob Jacobs

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Editor

The Lance: *I've been told that you are one of the best in your field of equestrian competition. So if you would, please tell the readers a little about yourself.*

Rob: I'm a senior politics major and equine business minor. I chose St. Andrews because of the strong equestrian program and well rounded academic structure. This is my fourth year competing with the college and one of the things that I will not forget about my undergraduate experience.

Q. *equestrian competition is a pretty broad field, including dressage, endurance riding, show jumping, horse racing, etc. So, for all the readers who may not know much about the sport, could you please tell us what your specialty is, and why?*

A. I ride and compete in the Hunter/Jumper/Equitation field of the equestrian sport. I chose these fields because of its way of progressing riders through the ranks of the different riding levels. I enjoy jumping courses more than anything else. It is the most fun and what I have proven to be better at than any other aspect of riding.

Q. *At what point did you first notice that you had a talent for this sport?*

A. I've always known that I was a natural rider and had a natural talent for the sport, but to answer your question I would say after my second riding lesson in July of 2001.

Q. *Is it something that comes easy to you, or to you find that you have to put in a lot of practice?*

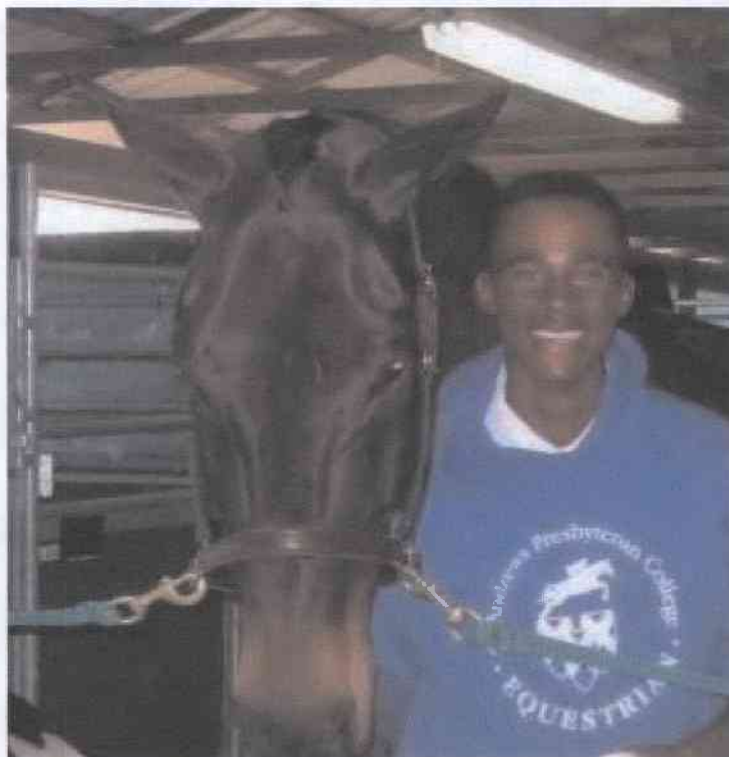
A. In my opinion with anything in life you will always get out of it what you put in...so I like to put in a great deal of effort and hard work into the sport and with that I usually receive rewards for my hard work.

Q. *What is a typical training session like?*

A. A typical lesson consists of a lot of "no stirrup work" and working on our feel of what's happening underneath us as the horse is in motion. This has really made me communicate with the horse in a way that is mainly invisible, but there is still work that can be done to improve my "feel".

Q. *What sort of preparations do you have to take before a big show?*

A. In preparation for a show we add lessons to our schedule



so that we ride at least twice a day around our class schedule. I have a mare boarded at the school barn that I lease so I always stay in the saddle. We usually jump more when we are preparing for a show just to practice the techniques that we will need to use for a course to answer the questions that the judge may ask us throughout the course of jumps. Usually the questions we are tested on are, can the rider ride in a forward smooth manner on a horse we don't know? Can the rider make turns ranging in difficulty levels? Can the rider be invisible?

Q. *Being an equestrian at St. Andrews is a pretty big deal. How does it feel knowing that you're on one of the best equestrian teams in the nation?*

A. Being on one of the best equestrian teams in the nation is truly an honor. Knowing that when I make a riding error which can cost us in points that I have a talented team backing me up and picking up where I may have fallen, is very important. We all make mistakes and it takes the pressure off of me knowing that I can make some mistakes and St. Andrews can still come out on top.

Q. *Could you tell us what your last equestrian event was like? Where did it take place? What colleges were you competing against? And what were the final results?*

A. The last equestrian event that we competed in was hosted by us, SAPC, on Saturday December 4th, which was my

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