



Intramural Sports At Polk Central

Students Lann Brewingham, left, and Tommy Bradley, right, were among 43 contenders in a recent arm wrestling contest at Polk Central. According to Coach Jeffrey Wilson, at center, more than 350 students have entered a variety of competitions during the last ten minutes of the lunch hour each day, including co-ed volleyball, "floopball," tag football, and partner free throw basketball shooting.

Horse Trials At FENCE Ran 185

In spite of frequent and drastic weather changes, the Foothills/NationsBank Horse Trials ran approximately 185 horses over three days of intense competition and stayed on schedule throughout.

Competitors from as far away as Vermont, Colorado, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Florida joined those from the south and east to make this the largest entry ever in any combined training event at FENCE.

On Friday the 13th, the day was taken up with the dressage phase where the competitors showed their horses' suppleness, balance and obedience (or the lack of) to three judges in three arenas.

Starting at 7:30 a.m., the early morning chill made for some spirited rides. A warm late afternoon found riders out walking the hills of the cross country course where they planned their strategies for attacking the obstacles they would be required to negotiate the following day.

Saturday morning, a definite nip in the air had jump judges shivering at their posts as the Preliminary Division started at 8:30 a.m. The new jump into the sandy splash caused some problems throughout the day and the first fence at Beginner Novice level took its toll as the late afternoon sun reflected off

its surface, causing several refusals and rider falls.

"We will definitely not have that as the first fence next time," says organizer Arrington Cox. "What looks like an easy jump to us must appear entirely different to a horse's eye."

Cross country requires boldness and galloping ability. Less fit horses had time faults caused mainly by the long gallop up the hill behind FENCE Center.

Sunday was show jumping day. The purpose of this phase is to demonstrate that the horse is still sound and responsive after the all-out effort of the day before. This day began warm and sunny with many spectators watching from the grassy bank beside the arena, where brightly colored jumps were augmented by flowers and shrubbery.

"The horse in each division with the lowest number of penalty points wins. As in golf, a low number is good," explains Technical Delegate Dot Benson. More than a few of the placings were rearranged, as some poles were rolled out of their cups and some had refusals.

Brenda Wilkinson of Simpsonville, S.C. leading her division for the first time in her life, narrowly avoided elimination for going off course by pausing half way round to make a careful correction in her path to avoid crossing her own line, and proceeded to finish with a

clean round to win her section of Beginner Novice Rider Division.

One Beginner Novice Horse Division found several local foxhunters vying for the ribbons. Though it was won by Nanci Lindroth of Southern Pines, a former USET Olympic rider who was starting a young horse, the next four places went to local talent: Bonnie Lingerfelt second on Bohicket, Jennifer Israei third on The Con Man, Susie Ashcem fourth on Castle Harbor, and Tippi Brown fifth on Upward Road.

The last two hours of competition were made more difficult by a strong wind straight out of the northwest that sent dust flying. At one point, jump crew had to physically hold up some of the wings on the jumps to keep them from blowing over.

Last year, as a Paramedic with Polk County EMS, Dewayne Blackwell watched the horse trials from the side lines. He liked it so well that he took up riding and bought two horses which he rode in Beginner Novice Rider Division A, placing third on one, and fourth on

the other. Is it any wonder that combined training is the fastest growing equestrian sport in the country?

Winners

Open Preliminary/Young Riders: Jimeny Krickett, Elizabeth Peacock.

Preliminary: Southern Cross, Bill Hoos.

Senior Training A: Moxy, Brandon Flowers.

Senior Training B: Arabesque, Lefreyda Williams.

Junior Training: Ocala, Robin Ragin.

Senior Novice A: Ekankar, Harriet Peterson.

Senior Training B: Theodore, Simon Eades.

Senior Novice C: C.W. Native, Pamela Maurey.

Junior Novice: Giselle, Adrian Jarvis.

Beginner Novice Rider A: Flying Luck, Mia Dube.

Beginner Novice Rider B: Prism, Brenda Wilkinson.

Beginner Novice Horse A: Ballytiegue, Nanci Lindroth.

Beginner Novice Horse B: Milehouse, Nanci Lindroth.

-Community Reporter

Friendship is Love without his wings.

—Lord Byron

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