

On Course with Sarah Milliren

By Jan Westmark-Allan

Junior rider Sarah Milliren lives in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and despite the fact that she's far from the big show circuits she has proven she can ride with the best of them. Sarah, a high school senior, rode into history at the end of 2011 when she won the ASPCA Maclay National Championship.

During the Maclay, Sarah wowed the judges with her smooth courses, go-for-broke attitude and her fearless riding helped her take home one of the most coveted titles in the junior world. "I rode Terrapin Station owned by Walstib Stables in the Maclay," she said. It was such an amazing feeling to win. I can't even explain it. I was so shocked. It's a day I will never forget."

Sarah has the good fortune of riding with Joey Brumbaugh and Don Stewart. "Riding with two trainers works out because both Joey and Don have been working together to make everything go smoothly and it has worked out great. I am currently in Ocala training with Don for the winter circuit and whenever I get to go home I ride with Joey."

Sidelines: How did your riding career begin?

SM: I've loved horses ever since I was able to talk. My mom rode a lot when I was younger and I always went out to watch her. When I turned six, I got riding lessons as a birthday present.

Sidelines: Is it difficult living in Oklahoma and competing in the big shows?

SM: It was definitely a culture shock at first; but now it's much more comfortable for me. I have been lucky enough to spend some time in Florida training with Don



Sarah Milliren

Photo by Ervin Photography

and I am excited to spend the winter competing at HITS in Ocala. I will stay at a house with one of my friends while I'm there. I love HITS shows because the atmosphere is always great and I have a lot of fun.

Sidelines: What horses do you own and compete?

SM: I own a junior jumper, Zanardii, who is being leased out right now and I have my junior hunter, CR Moet. I show my junior hunter in the Older Large Juniors and I show whatever horses I can for Don. When I am in Oklahoma full time, my jumper stays at Joey's farm, which is just a few minutes down the road from my house. My hunter and a retired equitation horse live at my house. When I'm in Florida, my horses stay at Don's farm.

Sidelines: Have you had success in other Big Eq classes?

SM: I won the Hunterdon Cup and was 11th at USEF Medal Finals on War Eagle. I was 5th overall in the Washington Equitation Finals on Vancouver. But I would definitely say that winning the Maclay has been the biggest highlight of my career to date.

Sidelines: What was it like riding in the George Morris Horsemastership Clinic in Wellington?

SM: I was a wild card for the George Morris Clinic. I loved being able to participate in such a great clinic. I learned so much from all of the amazing clinicians I was privileged to work with and I'll definitely never forget such a wonderful experience.

Sidelines: What do you like to do in your spare time?

SM: I like to workout, shop and hangout with friends. If I wasn't a rider I think I would play basketball competitively or run track.



Sarah says riding with Joey Brumbaugh and Don Stewart works out because they work together to make everything go smoothly

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