



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USEF Offers New Varsity Lettering Program for High School Equestrians

By Sarah Lane

Lexington, KY – You don't have to be a record-setting quarterback, point guard or track star to letter in high school sports anymore. The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) is writing a new chapter in the recognition of high school sports — one that honors Equestrian athletes. The USEF's High School Equestrian Athlete program will offer specially designed emblems and pins, exclusively for equestrian athletes in grades 9-12.

"High school equestrians have earned their place among the most dedicated athletes," shared John Long, USEF Chief Executive Officer. "Not only are they putting in long hours to train for and compete in the sport they love — they do so while taking the concept of teamwork to the highest level, forming a partnership with a horse to achieve their goals.

"Until now, most high school students haven't had the opportunity to letter in equestrian, simply because there are so few school-sponsored programs," Long continued. "We look forward to the beginning of a new tradition, where equestrians are able to earn the recognition they deserve, alongside their fellow athletes and classmates."

The new High School Equestrian Athlete program is open to equestrian athletes in all breeds or disciplines who are enrolled in grades 9-12, and are currently USEF members, or become USEF members. The program will run June 1–May 31 of each year, and will honor those who document their training and competition involvement by awarding emblems and pins. These are designed to be worn on

existing high school letterman's jackets, or any jacket of the athlete's choosing, as a rite of passage and symbol of achievement.

This new program requires enrollment and documentation prior to lettering. For more information, or to complete an enrollment application, simply visit this link on the USEF Youth Programs page:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/Youth/HighSchoolAthlete.pdf>

Please note: current Seniors are offered the opportunity to enroll by January 29, 2010, and complete the requirements by May 31, 2010, to earn their letters on a shortened schedule. For more information on the USEF's High School Equestrian Athletes Program, please contact Lauren Fahey via e-mail at lfahey@usef.org.

Attached: USEF Varsity Equestrian Logos

**The vision of the United States Equestrian Federation® is to provide leadership
for equestrian sport in the United States of America by promoting the pursuit
of excellence from the grassroots to the Olympic Games, based on a
foundation of fair, safe competition and the welfare
of its human and equine athletes.**