

Equestrian Team News



Equine Studies Students Use World Cup for Experiential Learning Experience Wednesday, November 7 2007



In April of 2007, seven University of Montana Western equestrian team athletes traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada for the annual International Federation of Equine Sports (FEI) World Cup.

The students were participating in the Equine Studies two credit elective World Cup Equestrian Event.

The student's trip was a perfect example of experiential learning. The group witnessed first-hand about the world show and were volunteers for the event's medical team.

Representing Montana Western were: students Sammy Ryan, Rebecca Raven, Katie Ostrom, Elizabeth Behrens, Amanda Carlson, Amanda Stephanson, Amy Deller along with head coach John Xanthopoulos, dressage coach Susan Foss and Joe Fowells.

The FEI World Cup is an international event featuring the best of Dressage and Show Jumping.

The students were exposed to world class athletes and shown how a large equine event was run.

Team members were present each day from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at each warm up, practice, and show event. During that time the students were watching and learning about the featured events and ready to help as part of the FEI medical staff.

Other responsibilities included enforcing the strict schedule of athlete warm up times, setting up a practice dressage arena, and assisting examining security videos.

The group were allowed to socialize and eat meals with the competitors and their families; which was a great privilege and learning opportunity.

The group was present to watch the athlete preparation, competition and the final crowing of the two new World Champions.

"I was honored to be able to go to this high level event," said Elizabeth Behrens. "I have been showing and jumping horses for many years but had never been able to attend, let alone work at a show of this level. It was amazing being able to interact with the top international coaches and riders,"

Montana Western equestrian team members felt the trip was an invaluable experience, one they are grateful for and hope to be involved with again.