

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Rider Heading to Interscholastic Equestrian Association National Finals

Emma Hale, an eighth grader at Swift Creek Middle School and a member of the Tallahassee Riding Academy, took third place in the Future Intermediate on the Flat class in Charleston, SC and qualified for the IEA National Finals in Syracuse, NY. She and one of her coaches, Amy Center, will attend the finals on April 19th through the 22nd.

Hale is part of the Tallahassee Riding Academy that is a member of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association. . Completing its first year, the Tallahassee Riding Academy competed against other teams in Alpharetta and Madison, GA, Dade City, FL and at Region Finals in Gainesville, GA. The IEA athletes compete with a team or on an individual basis in Hunt Seat, Western or Saddle Seat disciplines. There is no need for any rider to own a horse and there is a level of competition for everyone.

(www.RideIEA.org)

The mission of the IEA is to introduce students in private and public middle and secondary schools to equestrian sports and to promote and improve the quality of equestrian competition and instruction. The Interscholastic Equestrian Association ("IEA") will celebrate its 10th anniversary during the 2011-2012 season.

The Tallahassee Riding Academy, in its first year of competition, had four riders qualify and compete at the Regional Finals. Three riders went on to compete at the Zone 4 Finals in Charleston, SC. One rider continues on to the National Finals in Syracuse, NY. Team coaches Janet Cawley and Amy Center are excited about this new opportunity for the Tallahassee area children.

"We are so proud of our new team and excited about its future. The riders worked hard this past year and are looking forward to growing the team and continuing the wonderful success we found this first year. We are cheering Emma on as she represents the Tallahassee Riding Academy on the National scene!" said *Janet Cawley*

Only 288 out of the 5523 hunt seat riders nationwide qualify to compete at the IEA National Finals.

"It is so exciting to get to go to Syracuse and compete. It is so cool to go and represent our brand new team. I am really happy to have the opportunity to compete like this and be able to get National recognition. This will be a great step towards riding on a College team!"

Said *Emma Hale*