

Rider of the Month

Equimec

This month's Equimec rider of the month is the showjumping star, Olivia Hamood. Although Olivia is only 17 years old she has already represented Australia twice in junior competition. The overall rankings winner of the 2008 National Young Rider Selection series and winner of the first selection round for 2009 is well on the way to securing her place on the National Junior Squad for another year...

It proved to be a trickier course than most of the riders expected?

"It was a lot tougher than I thought it was going to be. After the first two days we haven't had very tough tracks at all and then today we came out and it was a lot harder than we expected. It was good though because my horse has had so much energy so he finally started listening to me today."

When you walked the course, what did you see as the problem spots?

"The skinny style had a long run down to it and they get a bit strung out so it's hard to get them up and careful enough. I knew the treble was going to be tough enough as well coming off the curved line."

Tell me about your horse, Randlab Nero...

"Nero is ten years old by Daley K out of a Warm-

blood mare. I've had him for about two years now but I've only had this and last season on him because of EI. He's a good horse and really careful. He always tries hard for me. I bought him from a young rider in Victoria."

How did you start out?

"I've been riding pretty much ever since I could walk but I've been showjumping competitively since I was 12 and prior to that I did hacking."

I had a decision about what I wanted to do and decided hacking wasn't really the go for me. I've always loved jumping. It's different everytime you go out."

Your Mum Paula must have been a big influence on your riding style...

"She's done it forever so I was pretty much always going to ride I guess. Pretty much everything I know, I learn and I do is because of my Mum so I'm pretty grateful to have her every day."

Who else coaches you regularly?

"I recently started going to a dressage coach, Ron Patterson. I've got a really nice young horse now and I want to put the right work into him from day one. I don't know where he's going to take me so I want to do a good job."

How do you fit riding in with school?

"I left school this year to ride full time. I compete five horses at the moment and at home that's all I do. I usually ride six a day."

What are your plans for the rest of the year?

"I'd like to have a crack at the National Young Rider Champs and the Junior Championships. I know I'm going to have some tough competition there but that's my goal for the year."

Do you think this selection process works well with two events in each State?

"Last year was the first time they did it this way and I think it worked really well because it's not just over one competition. If you travel you're getting the other competitions so it's pretty consistent and fair."

It must be nice competing for such good prizes...

"I was reading about the Tekna saddle going to the winner of each round and I got pretty excited about it! It's pretty cool to have companies offering that kind of support for the sport."

Any plans to train overseas?

"I would love to do that. At the moment I'm aiming to head over there in 2012 to get some training and I'll take my nice young horse to see where I can get with him. I groomed for John Whitaker in New Zealand a couple of years ago and he told me Belgium was the best for training but I really like the sound of Germany."



Each Equimec Rider of the Month receives six syringes of Equimec in recognition of their achievement.

