Horse judging team wins 3 national meets

By SHERI A. STEBENNE
Reporter

The Texas A&M Horse Judging Team is the first collegiate team in the nation to capture the "Triple Crown" of horse judging.

The team secured the title by winning first place in three major judging contests held during the fall semester.

"This team is unique from all the others," team coach Gary Potter said. "They are the first team to ever win all three contests."

The first contest the team competed in was the U.S. National Arabian Horse Show in Albuquerque, N.M. on Oct. 18. The team placed first, and the individual leaders were Barbara Gallaway and Miriam Frey.

On Oct. 25, the team traveled to Columbus, Ohio for the All-American Quarter Horse Congress. Winning first place again, the team recieved its second victory. The team leaders in Ohio were Scott Gryder, Mendy Fenton and Clay Whitehead.

The third and final contest was the World Championship Quarter Horse Show in Oklahoma City, Okla. Nov. 20. The juding team captured first place, securing the "Triple Crown." The individual leaders for the third competition were Barbara Gallaway, Mendy Fenton, Wes Shahan and Amy Sheffield.

"This was an outstanding team," Potter said. "They were all competative, hard working and very supportive of each other."

The judging team is sponsored by the Texas A&M Horseman's Association. They help the judging team pay travel expenses to the judging competitions.

To qualify for the judging team, a student must first take a horse judging class taught by Potter, a professor of animal science.

The horse judging team is comprised of 11 members this year, he said, but only five members and one alternate travel to each competition.

Potter said that one reason this judging team is so extraordinary is that a different five-member team was chosen for each contest.

The members chosen to go were picked from the practice judgings held throughout the fall semester.

Practice judgings started during delayed registration this summer. As the semester progressed and the contests got closer, the number of practices increased. Before the World Championship Quarter Horse Show, Potter said, the team was practicing every day and putting in many long hours of preparation.

There are two classes of horses that are judged in a competition, a halter class and a performance class.

In the halter class, the team members judge a set of four horses and rank them in five categories — balance, skeletal stucture, muscling, quality and movement.

The team members look for proportional balance in the horse and straight form in its skeletal structure.

When judging the muscling of the animal, they judge not only how much muscle the horse has but also the type and conformation of the muscle.

Quality in a horse refers to its overall appearance and attractiveness. Finally, the team judges the horse's movement, or how straight it walks and trots.

In performance classes such as western pleasure, reining or working hunter, the four horses are judged on functional correctness, attitude and movement.

Functional correctness examines how the horse executes maneuvers such as walking, trotting, jumping a fence or navigating an obstacle.

The horse's attitude is also a factor. Members of the team must judge if the horse is well-trained and willing to follow commands.

As in halter classes, the horse's movement illustrates its athletic prowess.

After judging the horses the team members must prepare to defend their reason for ranking one horse above another.

Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

FRONT ROW — Diane Schuhman, Rene Graf, Barbara Galloway, Wes Shahan, Mendy Fenton, Jane Pruitt, Dr. Gary Pruitt.

BACK ROW — Clay Whitehead, Amy Sheffield, Scott Gryder, Brandee Browwer, Gary Hebbert, Miriam Frey, Brett Scott.

Greenville police file countersuit against Geter

Associated Press

Police Chief Leon Powers and Lt. James Fortenberry said they suffered mental anguish and irreparable loss to their reputations as a result of a $28 million civil rights suit filed Nov. 8 in Dallas by Geter and the five other plaintiffs.

DALLAS — Two members of the Greenville Police Department have filed a $57 million countersuit against Lenell Geter and five other black engineers who sued the department in connection with its investigation of a series of 1982 armed robberies.

In a federal suit filed here Monday, Police Chief Leon Powers and Lt. James Fortenberry said they suffered mental anguish and irreparable loss to their reputations as a result of a $28 million civil rights suit filed Nov. 8 in Dallas by Geter and the five other plaintiffs.

Geter and the others are seeking compensation for damages they claim were inflicted during an investigation of a series of armed robberies in Greenville and Dallas County in 1982, and the subsequent prosecution of Geter and Anthony Williams.

Geter was sentenced to life for an armed robbery in the Dallas suburb of Balch Springs and served more than a year in prison before the charges were dropped in early 1984 following national publicity concerning his plight.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People led the fight to exonerate the young engineer, claiming he was the victim of racism.

Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade announced he was dropping the charges after another man was identified as the robber.

Williams, Geter's roommate in Greenville, was also charged with an armed robbery in Dallas County but was acquitted.

Geter, Williams and the other four plaintiffs are described in their civil rights suit as "six young black men, who were recent graduates of college in South Carolina and who were recruited to work as engineers at E-Systems Corporation in Greenville, Texas."

Greenville City Attorney Mick McKamie said the city has an insurance policy which will cover the attorney's fees if the federal court denies the damage claims of Fortenberry and Powers.

Student Senate to consider modified bill on bicycles

By FRANK SMITH
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Student Senate tonight will consider a bill recommending students refrain from riding bicycles on sidewalks through a designated part of campus.

The area specified in the bill runs from Military Walk to Spence Street. That comprises a substantially smaller region than was included in the original version of the bill introduced at the Oct. 23 Senate meeting.

The original bill encompassed most of the central part of campus.

Carol Ellison, the Senate's vice president of student services, said Tuesday senators have been talking to their constituents about the bill.

"We're not going to give up on it," she said. "If it doesn't pass, we may make a new bill and make it more agreeable."

Another bill scheduled to come before the Senate tonight calls for the establishment of a ticket exchange bulletin board in the Memorial Student Center.

The bill is designed to provide a single location at which students can leave their names and telephone numbers when they need or have extra football ticket books.

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