

Wildcat Canter



July 2008

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

With the summer heating up, we figured it was an appropriate time to heat up our student newsletter. The Equine Initiative student newsletter was launched in November 2007. We invited our readers to help us name it and many of you submitted some good names, but they just didn't seem to have the right fit.

However, after a long day of brainstorming and coffee sipping, the name "Wildcat Canter" came to us and stuck. We hope that the name provides you and the newsletter with a common thread -- representing the pride in being a UK Wildcat while also recognizing your equine interest.

You might have also noticed another new addition, a logo. The horseshoe with a paw print symbolizes UK's enhanced equine emphasis while also remembering our Wildcat roots in UK and in the College of Agriculture. It is also a symbol of the importance of cooperation and dedication among the horse industry and Kentucky's agriculture land grant university.

We hope that you enjoy the new name, the new look and the new feel of this newsletter.

In this issue:

- Unveiling of Wildcat Canter name and logo
- Kentuckysoldierboy wins first race
- UK Graduate Billy Ajello named Darley Flying Start participant

Soon you will be able to check out what's been done this summer with the overhaul of the Equine Initiative website. This will be another way to access the newsletter, information regarding clubs and organizations, news and a way to feed the needs of your other equine information interests.

Be sure to use plenty of sunscreen and stay cool during the hot month of July and we'll see you back in the even hotter month of August! If you have any comments or suggestions about the new format please feel free to let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you,



Savannah Craddock

Communications and Editorial Assistant

Equine Initiative Updates

Kentucky State 4-H Horse Show

The Equine Initiative set up a booth at the Kentucky State 4-H Horse Show Wednesday, July 2- Saturday, July 5. Dr. Jimmy Henning, Associate Dean of Extension, was present on Wednesday evening to assist in awarding scholarships on behalf of extension.

Student Working Group Update

The student working group met Monday, June 16 and had 10 attendees. Group members included undergraduate and graduate students along with equine club representatives and Equine Initiative communications director Holly Wiemers. This group discussed numerous topics regarding communications, recruitment, club benefits, monetary funding and much more. The next meeting will be held **Monday July 21 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Goodbarn Weldon Suite. If you are interested in attending this meeting or have any questions, please contact Savannah Craddock at savy@uky.edu



Industry News

Get Crowned 2008 Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Queen

The Kentucky Quarter Horse Association is pleased to announce it is now taking applications for the 2008 KyQHA Queen, Junior Queen and Princess Contest. The format of this contest has changed over the past few years and is now revamped. The contest is split into three categories: interview, AQHA rulebook test and horsemanship. The horsemanship portion will be held at the KyQHA Futurity October 4, 2008. The interview and AQHA rulebook test will be completed at the year-end banquet held in December. At that time, winners in each division and category will be crowned.

If you are interested in participating please contact KQHA Committee Chairman Savannah Craddock savy@uky.edu or visit the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association website at www.kyqha.com

The Equine Initiative purchased a box at the Junior League Horse Show July 7-12. The box was attended by UK faculty and staff associated with the Equine Initiative and Gluck faculty. There was also an ad featuring the Equine Initiative in the show program. www.lexjrleague.com

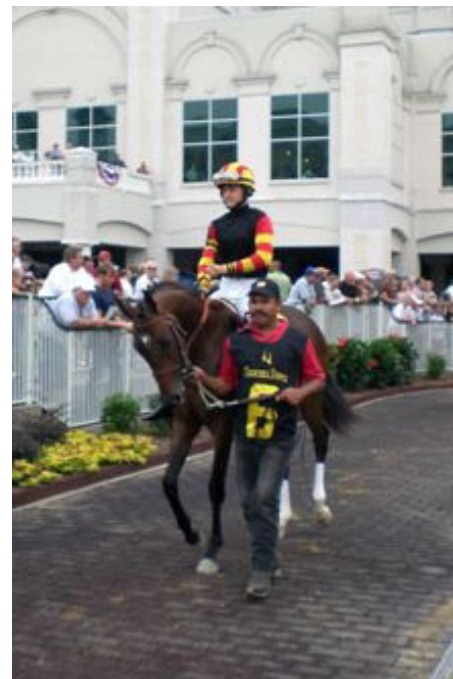


The month of July is a busy month for the horse industry around Kentucky. After the Junior League Show moves out of the Red Mile, Quarter Horse racing will begin to take over. The Equine Initiative will be sponsoring a gate during the Quarter Horse Racing meet July 18-19. This is a very exciting time because it is the only meet that Quarter Horses have in the state of Kentucky. Be sure to pay a visit to the sprint racers and get a glimpse of something that you seldom get to see. www.kyqha.com/pages/sprint_racing



For some of the latest equine news from the College of Agriculture, please visit the Equine Initiative website news section at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/press_news.html.

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Kentuckysoldierboy prior to his first race July 3 at Churchill Downs

Student Spotlight

Billy Ajello and Kentuckysoldierboy

April Student Spotlight Follow-up

By: Savannah Faye Craddock

In April we brought you the story of Billy Ajello and Kentuckysoldierboy. Over the past two months they have been on quite the journey. Ajello has had the honor of receiving a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with the Darley Flying Start Management Program, while Kentuckysoldierboy, the first time out of the gate, raced away with a victory.



Ajello with Robert Courtney Jr.

The opportunity of a lifetime

Last time we spoke with Ajello he had been notified that he received an interview with the Darley Flying Start Program. Of course this did not guarantee him a spot, but it did give him hope. Shortly after we ran the April edition of the Wildcat Canter, Ajello was informed that he was one of the few students chosen to participate in the program. This is a huge accomplishment for him and a big step forward in his career.

"It is an honor to have been selected into the program and I am looking forward to the opportunities ahead to learn about the incredible horse industry in all different parts of the world and alongside professionals from across the globe," Ajello said.

"I owe a great deal of thanks to everyone at UK for all that they have done for me, as well as Mr. Courtney, Robert Courtney Jr. and George Atkins, farm manager of the Courtney's Crestfield Farm. Without all these people, none of this would be possible," he said.

Sweet victory

During that same time, Kentuckysoldierboy had been in training with



Kentuckysoldierboy in trainer Paul McGee's Stables Paul McGee in Ocala, Fla., and Louisville. After months of training and keeping the fingers of shareholders like Sean Feld, Gus Koch and Ajello (all UK students or alumni) crossed, he was entered into his first race. It was during the fourth race on Thursday, July 3, at Churchill Downs where Kentuckysoldierboy ran away with a victory. He initially ran second, but ultimately was placed first because the stewards disqualified the original winning horse for interference in the stretch.

"Everyone was stunned and happy with the way he ran," Feld said. "We were all cautiously optimistic!"

This was hugely exciting, not only for Kentuckysoldierboy owners, but for his consigners as well, said Matthew Koch, Farm Manager and Co-Owner of Shawhan Place.

"We're extremely proud to have sold this horse to Bongo Racing and the UK Students. It is very special because we are UK graduates and we're excited to see it kept in the UK family," said Koch.

"We wish Kentuckysoldierboy the best of luck."

Future plans for Kentuckysoldierboy include an allowance race at Ellis Park on Thursday, July 31, so stay tuned!

We would like to congratulate Billy and Kentuckysoldierboy on their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in the future.

For more information about the Darley Flying Start Program, please visit www.darleyflyingstart.com

If you would like the stats from Kentuckysoldierboy's July 3 race visit the following link www.drj.com/drjPDFChartRacesIndexAction.do?TRK=CD&CTY=USA&DATE=20080703&RN=4

Equine Club Directory

Dressage Team

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Equestrian Team

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Polo Club

Advisor: Roger Brown
rogerbrown@uky.edu
President: Tannis Marley
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Scholarships

The spring time is peak scholarship application deadline season. For information on upcoming scholarships check these out.

- The Race for Education anticipates awarding at least \$400,000 in scholarships and hopes as much as possible can go to Kentucky horse farm workers and their families. Contact Elisabeth Jensen, Vice President, at (859) 252-8648 or visit www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources
- KyQHA: www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml

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You can also find us on Facebook under the Equine
Initiative Group

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted Classifieds:

Please note, classifieds listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.

The Kentucky Equine Humane Center announces the establishment of the KyEHC Internship Program. The KyEHC Internship Program is offered to students to help expand their knowledge through practical experience, giving them an opportunity to achieve professional competency through “hands-on” experiences in problem-solving, decision-making, and relational skills in a professional environment. Specific internships may be crafted to meet program requirements in the following areas: veterinary technician, pre-veterinary studies, horse husbandry, equine sciences, farm management or related areas. KyEHC can help students design a program to satisfy practicum, internship or independent study requirements within their major. On-site housing is provided. Interns will be selected from university and college applicants. Interested students should contact the Kentucky Equine Humane Center (KyEHC) for more information and an interview at 859.881.5849 or info@KyEHC.org.