

# Cord found future at fundraiser

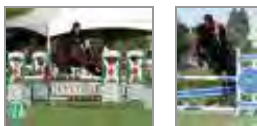
Del Oro sophomore was named reserve champion by two organizations

By Justin A. Lawson Journal Sports Writer



Courtesy

Del Oro High sophomore Addy Cord rides her horse, Maya, through an equitation course.



College scholarships aren't normally won at a fundraiser but for Del Oro sophomore Addy Cord it's certainly where she found her future.

Cord has gone from a shy, excited 8-year-old novice, who fell off the horse in her first lesson, to the 2011 Reserve Champion in two different organizations. Her maturation, both in life and on horseback, have her poised for a college scholarship offer with two more years of high school remaining.

"I think it would be fun to train but I definitely want to ride in college and see where it goes," Cord said. "I know a lot of amateurs who ride now who have taken like 20 years off and they come back and ride and I really want to ride my whole life because it's kind of my thing."

Riding is definitely her thing. She was named the reserve champion by both the Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association and NorCal Hunter Jumper Association in January and is moving beyond equitation and into jumpers where she has already progressed into four-foot jumps.

She found her way to riding when she was just 8 years old. She won a basket that included two lessons at Cavallo Stables during a fundraising raffle at her elementary school in Loomis. From that moment she basically walked away from any other sport that interested her, including karate where she earned a black belt.

In her first lesson, Cord fell off the horse and could have walked away but was determined to stay on the horse.

"It's scary because they do fall off," said Cord's mother, Erin Cord who rode Western when she was younger. "If you're going to ride, you're going to fall off. Every time she's fallen off she just has gotten back on and keeps riding."

Cord has progressed so far since her first lesson that she outgrew two horses. She is on her third, Maya, and is training another. She rides everyday with lessons six days a week and shows during the weekend, which doesn't leave much social time for a teenage girl.

"I don't really hang out with people on the weekend, I just hang out with my riding friends," Cord said. "At shows, I go from the shows and then I have to go home to ride my two then go to sleep then get up to ride again. So that's kind of my whole day."

The constant training will likely pay dividends. Sami Milo, who has trained Cord since her first day at Cavallo Stables, said she is ready to compete at the collegiate level now. Only a handful of schools offer scholarships at the Division I level and most are in the South or East. Fresno State is the only school in California that offers scholarships in the sport.

"She's naturally talented but she does have a special kind of ability to follow instructions and she works really hard," Milo said. "I think the No. 1 thing is I can say, 'Get your heels down or don't cut that corner.' I can tell her one thing and she applies it right away. She's not a kid that I have to repeat myself."

Cord still has two years to worry about what college she's going to attend. But you can hear the same determination now that she had as an excited 8-year-old that climbed back on the horse after she fell off.

"I don't want to fail," Cord said. "I want to keep trying."