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THE MAGAZINE FOR HORSE & PONY LOVERS

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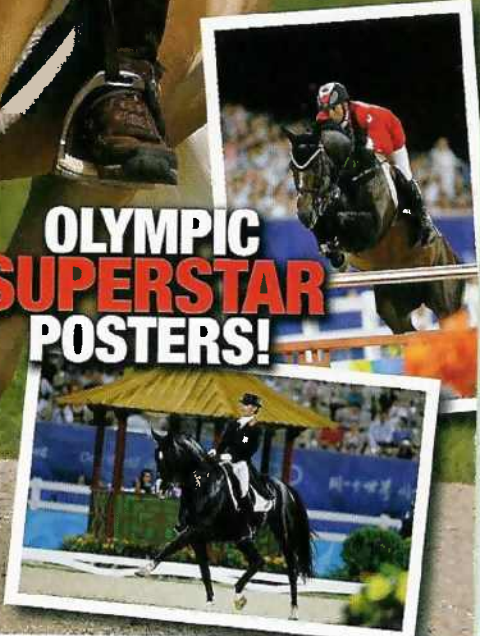
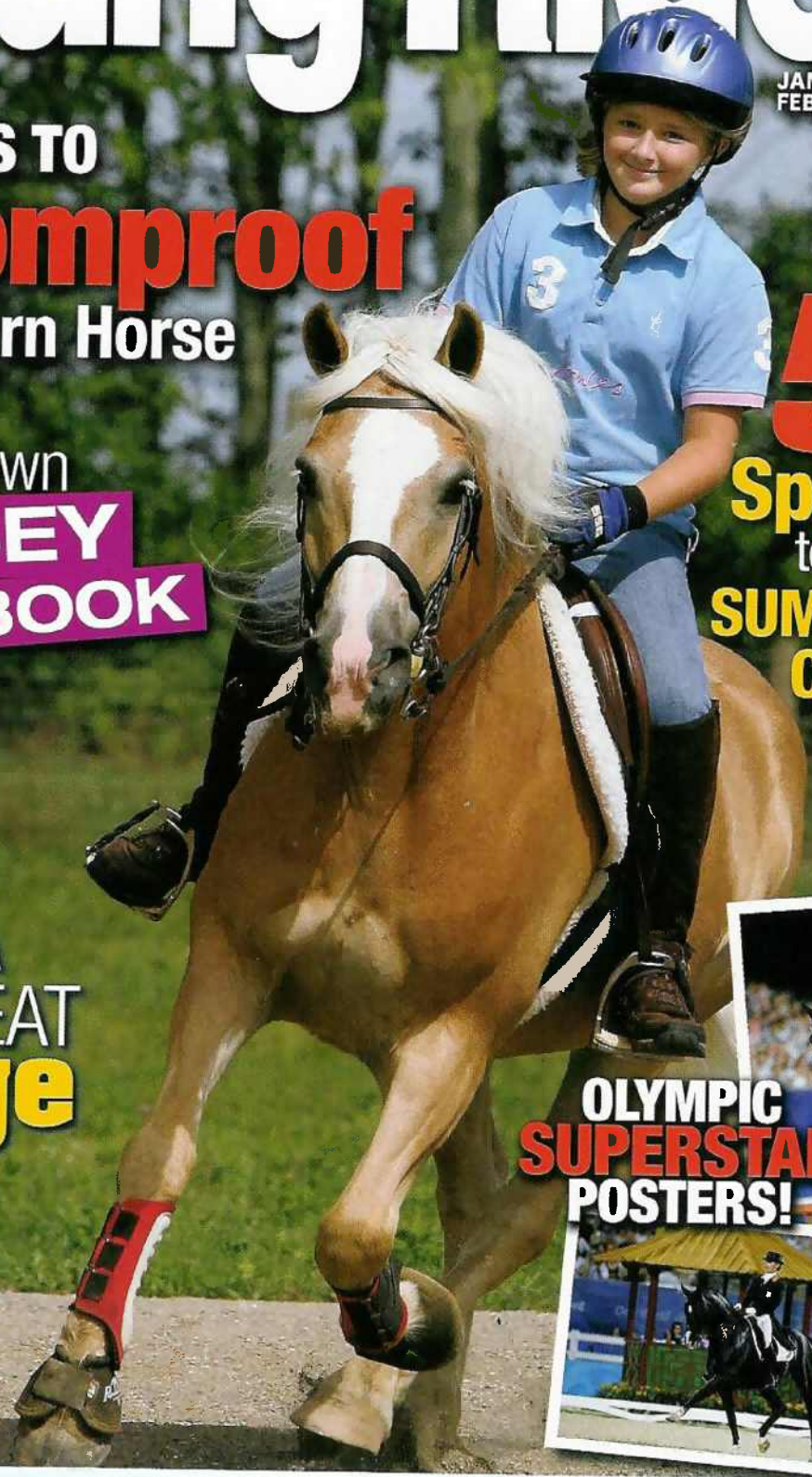
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How to choose a horsey college.

SADDLE UP AND STUDY

Choosing a college can be a tough decision. There are so many colleges to choose from, and it can be hard to narrow down your list. However, if you can't imagine a college career without some horsey time, here are some tips on how to research colleges.

Getting Information

In today's world, a college's website is the fastest way to get information about degrees.

Think about what sort of degree you want to get. Perhaps you want to be a vet; a biology degree might be the path for you. Or maybe you want to be an accountant; a business degree might be best for you. No matter what you want to do, look at each school's academic programs and make sure it offers classes that interest you.

Then check to see if a college has any horsey programs. A college may offer equine classes or it may have an equestrian team. Find a contact person on the school's website and send out an e-mail. Colleges want you to be interested in their programs, so ask as many questions as you want!

Riding in College

There are lots of different ways to ride in college. You can have your own horse, take lessons at a local barn or join

an equestrian team or club.

Even though some schools specialize in English or western, there's a program out there for you.

Many college equestrian teams compete in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). In IHSA, you can compete in hunt seat, western or both. Top divisions in hunt seat jump courses and in western, riders compete in reining classes.

The coolest part about IHSA is that it has six divisions. The top division is for riders who have been very successful in high levels of competition. The lowest division is for riders who have never ridden before. In order for a team to do well, it needs multiple riders in each division. There's a place for every level of rider.

IHSA is the ultimate catch-ride situation. You

travel with your team to a hosting school and compete on their horses. You can watch all the horses warm up, but you don't get to ride the horse until you walk into the show ring. You're judged on your horsemanship or equitation—how well you ride and show a horse that you've never ridden before. IHSA is affordable and a great way to meet other horsey people. Visit www.ihsa-inc.com for more information.

