

a RIDE like never before



ON HER HIGH HORSE

Claire Campbell performs a jump in the jumping seat portion during Texas A&M's Maroon and White scrimmage at the Hildebrand Equine Complex on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Photo by Hannah Harrison



BEST FRIENDS

Kendal Austin smiles with a horse during Texas A&M's Maroon and White scrimmage at the Hildebrand Equine Complex on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Photo by Hannah Harrison

NOTHIN' GONNA BREAK MY STRIDE

Kyla Jackson rides in the horsemanship portion during Texas A&M's maroon and white scrimmage at the Hildebrand Equine Complex on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Photo by Hannah Harrison



Team support is what makes Aggie Equestrian

When you think about Texas A&M sports, usually your mind will list the big three: baseball, football and basketball. However, another leading division one sport at Texas A&M finished their fall 2024 season ranked second in the nation, the equestrian team.

Equestrian became an official varsity sport at Texas A&M in 1999. Twenty five years later, there are 52 members on the team with most girls getting recruited from all across the country. For players, the sport varies from childhood competitions as college-level meets are based on team accomplishments rather than individual achievements.

Additionally, there is a significant difference between home and away meets. There is a large home field advantage because away teams only get four minutes to work with the horse they will be competing with. Despite increased difficulties on the road, agriculture science sophomore Kendall Dirksen finds comfort in her teammates, especially during away meets where stress is higher.

"Nobody on this team is only out for themselves," Dirksen said. "It really accelerates the abilities and accomplishments of the team. We embrace everyone's talents and we utilize every one of our girls."

The team went undefeated at home this season, defeating powerhouses SMU and TCU. It wasn't only the home field advantage driving their success but encouragement from the attendance of the entire team. Biomedical science sophomore Karsen Kadien used all of her energy to cheer on her fellow Aggies and provide her support to ensure wins at home.

"One of the biggest things on our team is cheering for one another," Kadien said. "We are very loud and we are very proud of it, which kind of fits the Aggie spirit of we don't cheer, we yell and if I don't leave the meet without a voice, I did it wrong."

Since most players are recruited from out of state, the community created by the team is integral in immersing every girl into the Aggie family. Upperclassmen mentor freshmen, ultimately solidifying their relationships and driving success. Dirksen has stepped up to ensure everyone feels welcomed and comfortable on the team.

"There is so much to learn and so many questions to be answered," Dirksen said. "My goal is to guide the freshmen and better integrate them at Texas A&M through transferring everything I have learned and giving it back to them to strengthen our team."

Story by Avery Kracmer



Assitant head coach named Wrangler Woman of Influence

On December 6, 2023 at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, TAMU Equestrian Coach Suzy Jeane received the 2024 Wrangler Women of Influence award. The award is given by the American Quarter Horse Association to four trailblazing women each year. Coach Jeane has over 40 years of experience in the equine industry from breeding to training to being the first female president of the National Snaffle Bit Association. Coach Jeane said this award is the most important she has received as it shows her impact on the whole industry rather than just winning a contest. She thinks of herself as a woman influenced by the industry and the cowgirls that came before her rather than a woman of influence. She said it has been a big honor to be at TAMU mentoring young ladies and getting to watch them grow as both equestrians and people.