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# Sidelines

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Olympic  
Show Jumping  
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Eric Lamaze



Eric Lamaze  
and Powerplay

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# Ali Tritschler: Farm, Family & Fun



Ali won the Sidelines Magazine sponsored Maclay class aboard Krunch during the 2014 FTI Winter Equestrian Festival.

Photo by Mancini Photos

By Emily Riden

Riding has always been a family affair for Ali Tritschler. Ali's mom, Libby McKinney Tritschler, grew up riding and, alongside her sisters Jean and Lucie McKinney, was a dominant force in the pony ring. Now, thanks to the support and guidance of her real family, Ali is making her own mark in the show ring with her "second family" – Norfield Stables LLC.

"Growing up, we were members of the Fairfield County Hunt Club which has a really big riding program," Ali explained. "When I was little and my mom still rode, Timmy [Kees] and Chris [Cawley] were trainers there. Even when I was younger, I always thought that I was going to ride with them."

Ali thought correctly. There were a couple vital stops along the way – at the Fairfield County Hunt Club and at Rabbit Hill Farm where she had an extremely successful pony career – but today, Ali rides with all three trainers of Norfield Stables LLC, Walter "Timmy" Kees, Chris Cawley and Molly Ashe Cawley.

Under their tutelage, the 16-year-old high school sophomore made the move to showing solely horses and is posed to make an impressive name for herself in the junior divisions. Ali closed out 2013 with a second place finish in the New England Junior Hunter Seat Medal Finals and a top 20 finish at the ASPCA Maclay Championship Finals, and she's already hit the ground running

this year with top ribbons and wins in the equitation and hunter divisions on each of her three mounts – Krunch, Helio Rouge and Velinta Palo Blanco.

Both Krunch and Velinta are now for sale, but Ali plans to continue showing all three throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida, with her sights set on specific goals for the winter season and beyond.

"I want to qualify for the George Morris [Excellence in Equitation class] again. It is a really good experience, and I had so much fun on Krunch in it last year," Ali said. "I also want to move up in the hunter divisions, but I still have to learn a little bit more."

Ali continued, "Beyond season and for the year, I want to do well at all of the finals. I also want to do USET Finals because I've never done USET Finals before. Ideally, I just want to do even better than I did last year."

While three phenomenal trainers and three talented horses will be a huge part of making those goals a reality, the third ingredient in Ali's recipe for success comes back to family – both her own family and her Norfield family.

"They are like my second family," Ali said of the trainers and fellow riders at Norfield. "The differences between Norfield and most barns, a lot of the other barns have an amazing trainer – we have three that are experts in all different areas. And they do

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**Editor's Note: Ali Tritschler won the Sidelines Magazine sponsored Maclay during the first week of the 2014 FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. Congratulations on your win Ali! We are pleased to share your story and to welcome you to the Sidelines family of Maclay winners.**



Ali and Krunch competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival.  
Photo by Arianna Delin

just train us and not really know who we are. They know us all on a personal level."

Ali continued, "We have a lot of fun. At [WIHS] Medal Finals we were all done walking the course, and we were just kind of nervous I think, but we took a bunch of selfies with Timmy, Molly and all of the kids. It's just stuff like that that is so much fun."

And while Timmy, Molly and Chris have helped shape Ali's riding, she credits the biggest impact on her riding successes to her mom.

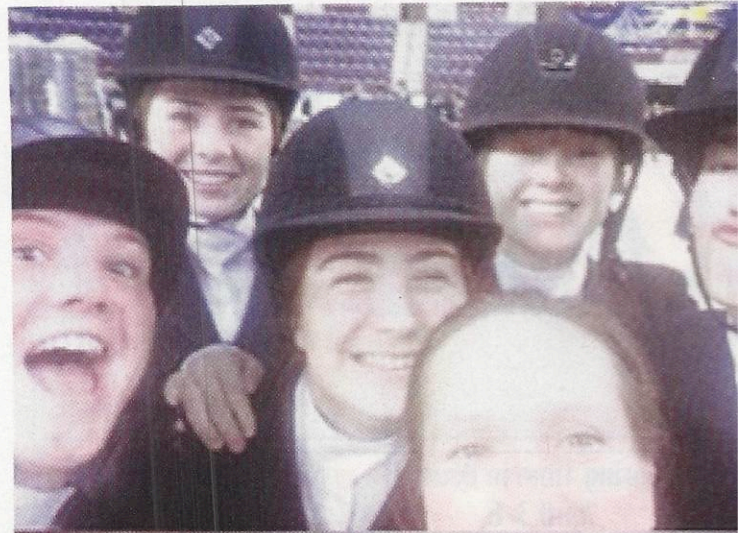
"My mom has had probably the biggest impact on my riding," Ali said. "The reason I started riding is because she was riding, and I just wanted to do whatever she did. Then, she brought me to the hunt club and to Abbi and then to Timmy and Norfield. She's always really helped to point me in the right direction."

Not only has Ali's mom, Libby, helped figuratively point her in the right direction, she's made sure to be there every step of the way to literally drive her in the right direction.



Ali and Velinta

Photo by Emily Riden



Ali's selfies show the fun she has with her second family.

"Generally, the best rider is the one who has the ability to get in the ring more than anyone else," Libby explained. "So literally every day after school except Monday, we would leave from school and drive 45 minutes to Rabbit Hill Farm and then hop over to Greenwich to Jill Shulman's farm. She'd ride five horses at Rabbit Hill, ride two at Jill Shulman's, sometimes come down to Norfield, and she'd be coming home at like eight at night."

"I couldn't do it without her," Ali explained.

With such a strong team of support behind her, the future looks extremely bright for the rising star. Watch for Ali this year at the Winter Equestrian Festival, Old Salem, Lake Placid and beyond.