

KARLI POSTEL



Goucher College

What was your riding experience before joining IHSA?

Prior to Goucher, I grew up riding at my family's property, Foxfield Riding School, in Westlake Village, California. Foxfield is known for helping start many top riders careers including Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum. I mainly catch rode and helped ride sales horses for my aunt, Kathy Megla. My experience was in the equitation and jumper rings.



How did you get involved with IHSA?

After graduating high school, I knew I wanted to keep riding. I have to credit my mom for helping learn about opportunities to ride in college. We began looking at colleges that had both IHSA and NCAA equestrian teams. I was fortunate to have the coach, Patte Zumbrun, reach out to me about the riding team at Goucher. We scheduled a weekend visit and by the end of the three days, I was sold!

Describe your experience competing on the team.

I fully enjoyed my experience of being on a team, as riding is generally an individual sport. I arrived to Goucher and immediately had a group of 20 friends, which helped make the transition into college less daunting. Maryland felt very far away from my home in California so having a team to help me on days when feeling homesick was imperative. Another interesting factor about being a team member is that it makes the competitive spirit even greater. You have a desire to win not only for yourself, but also for your teammates, your coach, and your school. It gave me a sense of pride that I had not experienced prior.

What do you think was most valuable about the experience? Do you keep in touch with any of your IHSA teammates/coaches?

The most valuable thing that the IHSA taught me was how to catch ride. Since you are not afforded the opportunity to warm up on your horse, you have to be able to hop on and quickly decide what your horse needs from you. You're best bet is to work with the horse you have, not to try to create the horse you want. Patte always did a great job of teaching us to keep it simple and to work with the horse. This truly has carried into my career today! I definitely keep in touch with my coaches, Patte Zumbrun and Jen Smith. I generally get together with them while I am on the east coast for the indoors circuit. I also have been lucky enough to catch up with some teammates during the Devon horse show each year.





Tell us about your life now.

After graduation, I returned to California and became a professional in the equestrian world. I spent three years working under Lesley Bulechek in Malibu, California for Cross Creek Farm. During that time, I developed a love for teaching and began to learn more about showing on the A circuit. I now work for Archie Cox at Brookway Stables. He has truly made my dreams come true by helping develop me into the rider I am today. We predominately spend the year traveling around horse shows in California. Towards the end of the year, we finish with the indoors circuit where we go from Maryland to PA to my favorite horse show, Washington DC. Archie has given me the opportunity to work with top quality horses and to experience horse showing at the highest level in our sport. The hunters continue to be an exciting journey for me! I also am currently working on my judges license through the USEF Mentor Program under Scott Williamson.

