

RMC'S BETHANY BAPPE QUALIFIES FOR CALIFORNIA SHOW

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ATTACHMENT:

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Rhiannon Laird, RMC

Photo caption:

Rocky Mountain College equestrian Bethany Bappe (left), with RMC equestrian instructor and coach Christi Brown (right), displays her winning ribbons from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Western Regional Horse Show. RMC hosted the event Feb. 20 and 21. Bappe qualified at the regional competition and will next compete at the zone competition in New York, in March.

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College's Bethany Bappe qualified for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone Championship to be held March 26 and 27, 2010, in New York. If she succeeds at that level she would qualify for the National Championship in May, in Lexington, Kentucky.

A modest Bappe said she "never expected to do so well after competing on Rocky's IHSA team for only a year."

"And I felt a little reluctant about making the trip to New York, but I'm warming up to the idea," she smiled.

Bappe credited her coaching and her horse, Sleepy, for her winning performance.

Bappe, of Pavillion, Wyoming, won reserve champion award during the IHSA Zone 8 Region 3 Championship held Feb. 20 and 21, 2010, at the Intermountain Equestrian Center, in Billings. The IEC is home to the RMC equestrian program, which hosted the

regional event for the fourth consecutive year.

“Rocky equestrian students enjoyed a very successful weekend of competition with many of our riders enjoying individual class wins,” said Scott Neuman, RMC director of equestrian studies.

Students compete in “horsemanship” type classes where they are judged on their technical riding skills and their ability to handle a variety of animals. By Saturday, in addition to Bappe, individual class awards were won by Meredith Burton of Camillus, New York; Lindsay Gran of Billings; Shauna Ketcham of Livermore, California; Jessica Steinke of Camas, Washington; and Kristin Dillehay of St. Paris, Ohio. They qualified to compete Sunday in the regional competition.

The RMC team competes against riders from seven Montana, Utah and Idaho equestrian schools. Only Bappe qualified for the zone championships. Each region sends only two individuals to compete at the zone championships.

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