

**I.H.S.A Senior Athletic
Academic Achievement Award
“The Wheel”**

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“You can’t recreate the wheel.” Practice after practice I can remember my trainer drilling this theory into my head. Upon entering the show ring, I remind myself of this no matter the draw. Some horses like to leave long. Others like to leave close. Some horses like to jump into the canter. Other horses don’t like to canter. In IHSA, horses can be big or small. The bottom line is I never could anticipate what kind of horse I would draw, but I knew how to create the best ride out of the horse I was given.

This concept not only applies to the hectic jump on jump off show world of IHSA, but it also applies to every day life. Life can be simple and straight forward one week. Then the next week, I will have three papers due along with two tests all while dealing with a dramatic breakup with my boyfriend and I will still work 40 hours that week. I can’t change when the papers are due or the day I have to take the test. These factors are out of my control. However, I am in control of how I react to the tasks in front of me. I can choose to panic or stay calm and complete everything to the best of my ability. I have learned from IHSA that panicking does not make the situation any better. It normally ends up making it worse as the rider will completely over think the situation.

I have mastered taking life as it comes. This is reflected by my grades, work evaluations, and ribbons. This is also expressed by my general attitude towards life. No matter how stressed or tired I may be, I always bring a positive attitude to the table. As

Cacchione Cup rider of my region this year, I have obviously mastered the sport of IHSA as well.

I will always remember the wise words of my trainer as I continue with my riding career and other endeavors. Now that I am graduating and trying to find out what I will do in the future, I may not know what my plans will be. I do know that no matter where my life takes me, I will approach each opportunity with a positive mindset and can do attitude.