

"On the Road to Nationals"

Mary Beth Smith, Computer teacher at Grand Island High School, and her husband Jeff began the 2006-horse show season at the class "A" Empire All-Arabian Horse Show in Syracuse, NY in May. Mary and her horses, purebred gelding Eqlypse+ and her homebred half-Arabian WOF Gold Standard+/- competed in 10 classes over the 3-day show. The boys brought home 1 championship, 3 firsts, and 2 second, 1 third, 2 fourths. WOF Gold Standard+/-, more affectionately known as "Clancy", competes mainly in the sport horse division, while Eqlypse+ also known as "Clips" competes in Show hack, Halter and Country English Pleasure.

Both horses had a fantastic 2005 show season. The icing on the cake was a Top Ten at Sport Horse Nationals in a 48-horse amateur halter class with Eqlypse+. Nationals were held at the Virginia Horse Center, Lexington VA. Competing at 11 shows in both Canada and the US, the horse's won 16 championships, 5 reserve championships, 6 regional top fives, 34 firsts, 10 seconds, 9 thirds, 5 fourths, 1 fifth and 5 sixths. From United States Equestrian Federation horse of the year program, Eqlypse+ won a fourth and a sixth in the Nation for Country English Pleasure. In Region 16, the two horses picked up 4 championships, 3 reserve championships a third, a fourth and a fifth.

Mary Beth and Jeff acquired a new horse, A Tempest, who will be joining the other two horses on the competition highway to Nationals. Tempest is a Full brother to Neil and Barbara Chur's Multinational Champion, A Temptation. The Chur's and their Strawberry Banks Farm are prominent in the Arabian industry and are located in East Aurora, NY.

As Mary Beth and Jeff compete over the summer months, their goal is to compete at Louisville Kentucky one last time before they move the Nationals to Tulsa Oklahoma. The US Arabian Nationals is one of the most prestigious shows in the country and will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Beyond to the 2007 show season, Mary and Jeff are anxious to finish Clancy by earning the Arabian Horse Association's Legion of Excellence award with a top ten or better at the Sport Horse Nationals at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington Kentucky. Only a few horses have earned this honor and is the highest achievement he is eligible to earn in his lifetime. He has over 300 performance points, but lacks the final qualifier, which is a National top ten or better. We hope to earn that at Sport Horse National in September of 2007.

Photo: Eqlypse+ Top Ten Sport Horse in Hand Amateur to handle (ATH) with owner Mary Beth Smith.