

A Surprise Ending
By: Stacy Rose

In the spring I wrote an article wherein I stated that I planned on taking this year to get to know my relatively new horse. The idea of having a new horse coupled with personal show anxiety resulted in making no plans of showing for quite some time. My unexpected participation in OCDA's spring schooling show sparked a renewed interest in showing and thus began a fantastic experience with my horse, Zips Fanci Chocolate (Zip).

Participating in the shows was only the half of it. I knew I had to work hard to develop our potential as a team. This was a task not to be accomplished without the support of my family, particularly my sister, Kerry, and of course, my trainer, Margaret K. Boyce. Margaret's encouragement and devotion carried Zip and me through numerous wins this year.

I enjoyed working with Margaret because she was able to help develop my confidence as a rider and transform my green broke horse into a competitive dressage horse. It was because of Margaret that Zip earned 8's and 9's and kept the judges wondering, "Is that a Quarter Horse?" Indeed, Zip is a Quarter Horse but Margaret rode and trained him with as much enthusiasm as she did with my sister's warmblood.

Months of showing was finally coming to an end. On September 20, 2009 Zip and I participated in the Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association's Dressage Championships. It was a wonderful way to end the season as Zip and I were the Reserve Champions for our division. What better way to end an unexpected show season than by making a victory lap with a beautiful neck ribbon on a horse of whom I couldn't have been prouder?!!

