

Aiken Standard

Schultz heads to top of the USEA

By: Ben Baugh

Jessica Schultz and Lock N' Load saved the best for last in 2008, and their victory in the Florida Fall International Three Day Event 1 Star in a field of 33 starters helped propel them to the top of the USEA Adult Amateur Rider Division. Lock N' Load is a 7-year-old thoroughbred. "He's just born for the sport, he's good at everything," said Schultz. "He's good in dressage, and he's a phenomenal jumper. He's fast cross country."

The announcement that she had finished first on the USEA 2008 Adult Amateur Rider leader board, and was recognized with the year end award in New Orleans, came as a complete surprise to the rider. She finished with 32 points, two better than Tracy McRae who finished with 30. "He wasn't even in the top ten until the 1 Star in Ocala," she said. Schultz is pointing Lock N' Load toward Intermediate Level later this winter. She has declared her professional status for 2009.

The horsewoman is currently attending USC Aiken. "He's aiming for Intermediate," said Schultz. "Probably at Poplar (Place, Hamilton, Ga.) in March. It's a pretty inviting course. I'm starting to pick up rides, and getting paid for it." In addition to their success at the Florida Fall International Three Day Event 1 Star in Ocala, Fla. at the Florida Horse Park on Nov. 14, the duo finished second at the Preliminary Open Level in the River Glen Horse Trials in Tennessee on Nov. 1.

The tandem also enjoyed success in early October at the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club placing fourth in the Preliminary Open Level division. At the Wellpride American Eventing Championships at the Lamplight Equestrian Center, Wayne, Ill, Schultz and Lock N' Load placed fifth at Preliminary Open Level in September. They enjoyed their first victory at the Preliminary Open Level, in a class featuring 18 starters, on Aug. 23 at the Difficult Run Fall Horse Trials in Herndon, Va. The two would also have a top 10 finish in the spring placing sixth in the Preliminary Open Level at The Fork Horse Trials in Norwood, N.C., last April.