



Junior Page



Interview by
Amanda Watson

Madeline Smart is the new Junior Representative for 2005. I interviewed her recently and asked her some questions and advice

What advice would you give another junior who was looking to get into fifties?

I think that the most important thing a junior needs to know to do fifties is to go slow. Make sure that your sponsor comes in at least middle of the pack. You want to know that they won't go too fast and run your horses (or your) legs off. Also, try to find a sponsor who doesn't have a history of pulls on that horse every time they do a fifty because it sucks to be stuck without a sponsor. Other than that try to get into other sports in school, a community league, running or working out on your own. Fifty miles is a long way and the stronger you are, the easier it is for your horse. A weak rider rides like a sack of potatoes at about mile 45.

Which ride would you consider your favorite and why?

I would say that Foothills of the Cascades is my favorite ride. I've only done the fifty there but it is a wonderful ride. There is lots of uphill and downhill but also plenty of flat. We are used to riding on lots of rock because we live up north of Seattle so the rock didn't bother me much. My favorite kind of ride has plenty of road or wide trail interspersed with some very technical stuff. That describes Foothills very well. At that ride you can make great time on the uphills and the flats and then slow down and give your horse some time to relax and cool off and work his brain while doing the technical stuff through the woods. Another great thing about it is the way the trails intertwine. There isn't much common trail but a lot of the water stops are at intersections so you know where you are because you've been there before. Even though when I did this ride last year I was very sick, I still had TONS of fun!



In your own opinion, what would be a good ride for a junior's first 100?

I think that this question depends a lot on what kind of trails you like to ride. However I think that Grizzly Mountain would be a good one. There's plenty of food and a lot of different types of trail terrain. None of it is excessively hard and the ride management does a great job. It also goes fairly quick. Last year they made burgers for everyone to eat during their vet check or after their ride. I don't think they offered a hundred there last year but I think it would be a great one if they did.

In your own opinion, what would be a good ride for a junior's first ride ever?

I think that Klickitat would be a good one for someone's first ride. It's not very hard, however it still works your horse. There are some hills, and some technical stuff. The trails are the kind of trails that you can pick your speed on. You can ride it fast if you want and you can take it slow while still knowing that you

will make it in on time. Another thing that's great about it is that the vet checks are sensibly spaced so you don't have to do 20 miles before your next vet. An inexperienced endurance rider would like it because it is one of those rides that a person could handle using their common sense and not really need tons of advice or instruction. Not only that but it's not at the very start of the season so there wouldn't be horses going crazy in camp like at HOTR and it's not at the end so if they liked endurance they could do more that season.

Thank you Madeline! We look forward to seeing you out on the trail this year. I hope you like the first Junior Page of the PNER newsletter. Please submit ideas, news, photos, stories, suggestions or anything Junior related to me, Amanda Watson. We hope to make this a regular column. Please let me know if you would like to be interviewed. Send to: karlawatson@verizon.net