

2011 NAJYRC REGION 7 YOUNG RIDER TEAM

Rider: Ari Lopez

Age: 20

Hometown: Pleasant Hill, CA

Horse: Corlander II

10-year-old dark bay Rheinlander gelding

(Cordino x Riante by Ravallo)

Bred in Germany by Alfons Van Zele

Owner: same as rider

Twenty-year-old Ari Lopez was born and raised in Pleasant Hill, CA where she has lived for her entire life. She credits her parents, John and Laurie, as her biggest supporters. "They have attended every show, and have stuck by me no matter what happens," said Ari. "They are truly the best parents!"

Ari has ridden horses since she was eight, and through the years has achieved numerous awards in both dressage and eventing. She is a winner of United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and California Dressage Society (CDS) championships in the junior/young rider division from Training level through Prix St. Georges, and in 2010 she competed at the Intermediaire I level with scores to 68%. In addition to dressage, she has also won almost every three-day event she has entered at Novice and Training level. She is a USDF Bronze and Silver medalist and is well on her way to earning her Gold. Ari is no stranger to international competition, as she was a member of the 2008 NAJC Region 7 dressage team with her horse Corlander II, where she helped her team to a Bronze medal (highest scoring team member), and also received the individual Silver medal with a score of 68.900%.

In addition to qualifying for the Region 7 Young Rider team, Ari is also ranked in the top twelve in the nation and therefore will be competing at the USEF Festival of Champions in Gladstone, New Jersey. Her future goals include moving up to the Young Rider Grand Prix (Brentina Cup) in 2012, and then to the open Grand Prix circuit; she hopes to achieve all of these goals with her horse Corlander II, which she has owned, trained and shown since purchasing him as a green three-year-old from Germany.

"I am so proud to have made the Region 7 Young Rider dressage team and compete at the 2011 NAJYRC in Lexington, Kentucky," said Ari. "And I would love to represent my country at international competitions in the future and have high hopes in doing so with Corlander II. He is the best horse any girl could ask for!!!"

