

# **2011 NAJYRC REGION 7 YOUNG RIDER TEAM**

## **Rider: Kelli Newton**

*Age: 20*

*Hometown: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA*

## **Horse: Luciano**

*17-year-old bay Holsteiner gelding*

*(Lasandos x Petunie by Libretto)*

*Bred in Germany by Helmut Bies*

*Owner: Karen Ball, Coto de Caza, CA*

Kelli McLean Newton was born and raised in Orange County, CA. She is a 2009 graduate of Santa Margarita Catholic High School, where she was Varsity Captain for two years on her high school equestrian team and two-year Captain on the soccer team. Kelli will be transferring to Baylor University this fall and will be a member of Baylor University's Equestrian Team (Sic 'Em Bears!).



*Genia Ply Photography*

Kelli's mother was a big factor in introducing her to all the different equestrian disciplines. Kelli currently rides year-round for OC Polo located in Coto de Caza where she plays both arena and grass polo. Her father is her biggest fan in all her endeavors, soccer included! Her brothers, Connor (17) and Jonathan (13) can also be spotted at a few of these events.

She has been riding at the Coto de Caza Equestrian Club since the age of four; her very first dressage lesson, at the age of eight, was with Karen Ball. Kelli's first pony was named Mona Lisa, with which she began the foundations of dressage. Kelli continued her dressage competitions on her next horse named Maple, which at 20 years old now teaches dressage basics to new enthusiasts. She also rides Carlavall, her nine-year-old Holsteiner, in hunter/jumper competitions.

Kelli's accomplishments include 2010 USDF Third Level Junior Rider Horse of the Year Champion; USDF 2010 Regional Fourth Level Freestyle Champion; CDS Open Third Level Champion; Third and Fourth Level Champion at the 2010 Junior Championships; and this year she attained her USDF Bronze Medal. In 2005, Kelli was the recipient of the Reserve Championship at the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals held in Allentown, NJ. With her aspirations of competing on a NAJYRC team, Kelli was given a wonderful opportunity by her trainer, Karen Ball, to ride her gelding Luciano (aka "Laddie"), which Karen imported from Germany as a four-year-old. A seasoned veteran, Luciano attended the 2007 NAYRC with another Young Rider and was instrumental in achieving the Team Gold Medal for Region 7.

"I am so excited to be on Region 7's team and compete at the Kentucky Horse Park," said Kelli. "I am so proud of Laddie and I am so grateful for both of my parents and to Kari, the EEC Team and OC Polo for supporting me and making this dream come true."