

the stall and into the ring.”

—Richard Cunkle

“We never like to give up Tori because we adore her, but all children grow,” Parker said. “Maddy was my next choice. I thought she was a very soft, effective ride for this pony and that their temperaments would really mesh well. They’re both quiet, sort of analytical individuals.”

Maddy will campaign the pony next year, starting in Florida, and already has a head start on indoors with an automatic invitation to Washington for 2010.

“This was [Elation’s] first year at in-

doors,” Cunkle said. “She basically walked out of the stall and into the ring. She’s special. She’s just a lovely, lovely mare.”

Colvin also earned her own accolades at Washington and was champion in the large pony division with Scott Stewart’s All The Best.

► Keck And Tango Dance To First

For Madelyn Keck, 11, winning the Washington Pony Equitation Classic Final felt exciting, but a little bittersweet.

“I had a lot of friends in there, so I wanted everyone to do well,” Keck said.

Keck, Allamuchy, N.J., who rides with Krista Freundlich of Beacon Hill Farm in Colt’s Neck, N.J., sealed the win with Porter Allen’s Tango when she took both inside turn options on the course and smoothly negotiated the trot jump. She was called back for the flat work-off in first place and never looked back.

“I knew she had it after the first jump,” Freundlich said. “She just went in there and nailed it.”

It was a nice triumph for Keck after finishing a close second to her best friend, Ailish Cunniffe, in the USEF Pony Medal Final during USEF Pony Finals (Ky.). Her confidence in Tango, her mount for the whole year, helped her decide to take the more difficult paths.

“I knew he would be good because he always is,” Keck said about Tango. “He’s very comfortable and easy. He’s not the fanciest pony, but we always tell him he is so he feels good about himself.”

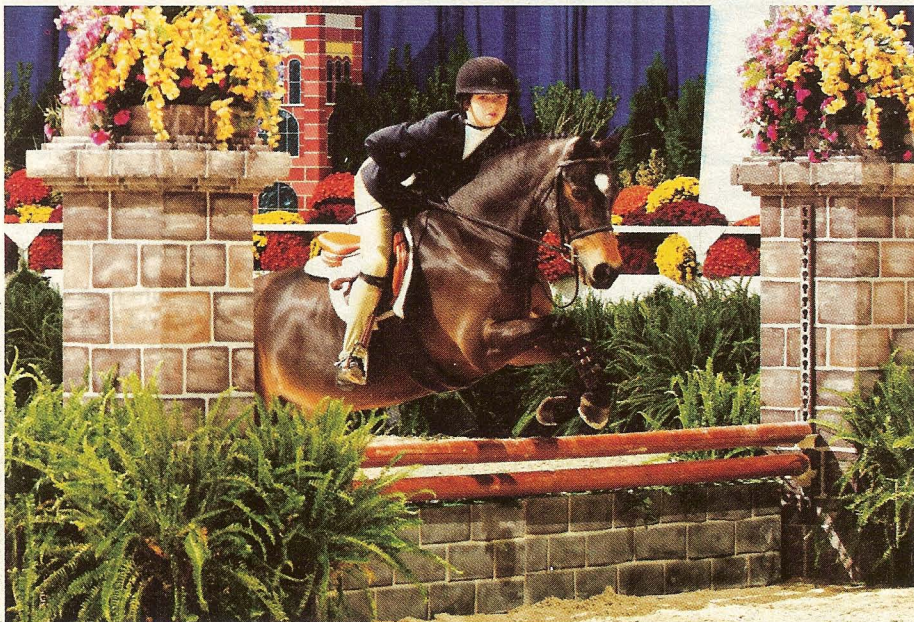
Next year Keck will start riding horses

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL PONY EQUITATION CLASSIC FINAL

Washington, D.C.—Oct. 24

RIDER	HOMETOWN
1. Madelyn Keck	Allamuchy, N.J.
2. Allison Toffolon	Bronville, N.Y.
3. Meredith Darst	Lebanon, Ohio
4. Victoria Colvin	Loxahatchee, Fla.
5. Dana Rizzo	Wall, N.J.
6. Lauren Martin	Great Falls, Va.
7. Ashley Foster	Brookeville, Md.
8. Alison Cooney	Chappaqua, N.Y.
9. Avery Finkel	Warrenton, Va.
10. Porter Allen	Boerne, Texas

25 riders competed.



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Skillfully negotiated inside turns and a smooth trot jump helped Madelyn Keck earn top honors in the WIHS Pony Equitation Classic Final at the Washington International.

but continue in the ponies too. "I see her as being a rising star in the equation world when she moves to horses," Freundlich said.