



INTERCOLLEGIATE CORNER - TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY



Transylvania University is located in the heart of horse country in Lexington, Kentucky. The team currently has five members but is hoping to continue to grow. These riders compete at levels Starter through Modified. The team encourages riders to find a coach that is best fitted to them and their horse versus having one coach for the team.

The school does not have any equine-specific majors. However they do offer pre-veterinary tracks. Senior, Liz Howell, just got accepted into Cornell's Veterinary Program and looks forward to working with horses in the world of eventing.

Kelly Shores has been the Team Manager since January 2023. She shared, “Our aim is to keep the program small to mirror the school's tight knit community on campus and also allow all riders to have funding to compete at every competition the team offers.” Transylvania used to have an IHSA team but after receiving feedback from their students they switched to having an Intercollegiate Eventing team instead. Transylvania is unique as the eventing team is a varsity sport. Athletes receive funding from the university and are held to the same standard as other university athletes. Kelly was asked how the team is set up. She said, “We have a very unique program at Transylvania University aimed to empower and connect the words of highly advanced academics and athletic success. The team manager organizes all aspects of competitions and travel, weekly team meetings, outings, individualized strength and conditioning programs, coordination with athletic trainers, communications with professors, outfitting, fundraising, and sponsorships. After a student is recruited the Team Manger sets that student up with a local trainer, farrier, vet etc. that fit the needs of that specific rider. Students are encouraged to work with trainers that align with their skill level, budget, and goals. This individualized program set up has allowed students to best manage their course loads with their equine pursuits.”

Kelly has many favorite parts about the team. She shared, “My favorite part of the team is the closeness a small team offers. Transy Eventing is a family and operates as such! The friendships here are forever and support for one another is unwavering.” Kelly also said, “Another unique aspect of our program is that our team breaks up the school year into two separate seasons. The fall is considered our "schooling season." The team travels to local competitions to hone in specific skills. In addition we attend a trail ride at the Kentucky Horse Park as a team bonding event as well as the Masterson Station Hunter Pace. Students are encouraged to be involved in their local communities on campus during the fall and explore clubs, associations ect. The spring is considered our "competition season" this time of the year is when the team ramps up a bit with strength and conditioning programs and attends USEA Events with the culmination of the year at our favorite event--Intercollegiate Championships.”

The Transylvania Pioneers plan to be at champs in May. Those interested in learning more about the team please contact Kelly Shores, Team Manager, at kshores@transy.edu.