



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: OLIVIA JEFFERSON



Photo by Alley Evans for Shannon Brinkman Photo

Olivia Jefferson began her riding career at age six at a small eventing barn in Colleyville, Texas called San Castle Stables. She trained with Sandy Murrell until she was fourteen. She said, "I learned the ins and outs of horsemanship and the eventing world, as well as getting my first horse, Gandalf the Gray, a gray appendix gelding. I had a couple different trainers afterward in Area 5, including Siobhan O'Brien and Mike Huber." She then got her current competition horse, FGF Flannery, a bay thoroughbred mare.

Olivia came to Aiken at the beginning of 2021, just to compete somewhere else for a season, but ended up finding Nilson and training and boarding her horses with him. Her future goals include making it to the four and five-star levels.

Olivia attends the University of Pittsburgh. One of the reasons that she picked the school was because of the cold weather. She shared, "I knew I wanted to go to a northeast school, as I've lived in the suburban South my entire life and wanted a change. When I toured Pittsburgh and the campus, it was just like something clicked. I'm currently majoring in Environmental Science with a German language minor. I work as an Audio Visual Technician at a few places in Pittsburgh and I'm also in Air Force ROTC, on track to commission into the Space Force as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Spring of 2026."

Olivia was the sole member to represent Pittsburgh for the school's first time at the USEA Intercollegiate Eventing Championship. Olivia was asked what it was like being at champs for the first time. She responded, "A little nerve-racking at first, I debated putting together a team for Pittsburgh at all since they've never been affiliated with USEA and I had no other Pitt members. I'm so glad I did it though, there's a first time for everything and being able to be the first to put the college forward in this sport was really exciting. Hopefully, now I can try to do some recruiting and putting together a full team for next year."

While Olivia was new to Champs, she is no stranger to Stable View. She shared, "A lot of traveling can take a toll and I take it for granted sometimes, but being able to fly in from school and, all the thanks to Nilson, my horses are better than when I left them; it's a dream. Riding and training with an experienced 5-star rider, and

getting to ride all different types of horses, at a gorgeous show venue, with indoor and outdoor arenas, trails, and a full cross-country course; it's an amazing opportunity. It does get a lot warmer here than it does in Pittsburgh." For those who attend Stable View on a regular basis Olivia said, "Flynn (Flannery) loves classical music and carrots, if you ever see her around Stable View, play her some violins. She also knows how to smile and is probably the sweetest horse you will ever meet. Hopefully looking to do our first Intermediate together sometime in the fall." Stable View wishes Olivia the best of luck with her season.