BY JOSEPH BROWN

The University of Wyoming equestrian club sends record number of qualifiers to compete at regional events

The University of Wyoming equestrian club, with a record 11 qualifiers, will compete in a pair of Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) regional events this weekend.

The top two finishers in each class at Saturday’s hunter seat riding event in Firestone, Colo., and Sunday’s western riding event in Cheyenne will move one step closer to qualifying for the IHSA National Championship Show, Sept. 5-8 in Lexington, Ky.

Seven UW contestants -- fronted by Katie Hurrell, a contender for the Cacchione Cup (the IHSA top individual award) -- will ride at the University of Colorado-hosted hunter seat finals. Hurrell of Golden, Colo., will be joined by teammates Katie French of Plymouth, Mass.; Jessica Ford of Casper, Wyo.; Rachel Kesy of Cheyenne, Wyo.; McCabe Jones of Dillon, Colo.; Beau Sanders of Castle Rock, Colo.; and Brittany Unrein of Littleton, Colo.

The following day at Laramie County Community College, Jones and Unrein will shift their focus to western riding. See EQUESTRIAN pg 10

Katie French, who will ride in the regional competition in Firestone, Colo., clears a jump during a practice round at the Hanson Arena.

UW cyclist to race for U.S. Women’s National team in Italy and France

BY SAM JONES

The Diercks Tribune

Melissa Doherty had an expensive airplane ticket to Europe and a big problem.

The University of Wyoming cycling club rider didn’t have a team. Less than two months after signing a contract with the European cycling team Rapha-LifeForce to compete in a series of overseas races this year, Doherty was stunned when the team ceased operations, leaving her without a ride.

“I didn’t know what I was going to do,” says Doherty, a senior who is majoring in art with a minor in sociology.

Doherty had raised nearly $4,000—mostly thanks to the folks in her hometown of Gillette, Wyo. -- and she was worried about letting them down. One of the donations was a $1,000 round-trip plane ticket.

“What was she going to do with the ticket now?” says Doherty’s coach, Frank Overton, who came to the rescue.

Relying on his affiliation with USA Cycling, Overton phoned Jim Miller, director of endurance programs for USA Cycling and, coincidentally, a UW graduate, and explained Doherty’s distressing situation.

“It was Jim who had the great idea of just parlaying her airline ticket for USA Cycling and getting her some races,” says Overton, who worked as an assistant coach with the U.S. women’s team last year.

In a matter of days, Doherty went from a cyclist without a team to a member of the U.S. Women’s National Team -- at least for four races this spring in Italy and France.

“This is so much better!” exclaimed Doherty, the daughter of Patrick and Cathy Doherty of Gillette. “The team I was going to be on was a beginning International Cycling Union team and the U.S. National Team is, obviously, more established and prestigious.”

“Af ter I ride for them, she adds, “I can probably get on any team.”

Doherty begins her European cycling odyssey March 31 in the Costa Etrusca, a two-day elite race through Italy. Then, she heads to France in April to race in the Tour du Nord.

See CYCLIST pg 10

UW freshman qualifies for national table tennis tournament in Minnesota

BY SALLY SMITH

The Diercks Tribune

When he was playing table tennis in the basement of his family’s home in Gillette, University of Wyoming student Luke Hays never thought it would lead him to a national tournament in Minnesota last season. This year’s regional tournament featured contestants from among UW, Sheridan College, Utah State, Arizona State, University of Arizona and Colorado’s Red Rocks Community College.

With his win, Hays advances to the national ACUI tournament at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz. Hosted by the Association for College Unions International (ACUI), UW students competed in table tennis and billiards.

UW competes in Region 13 along with colleges in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. This year’s regional tournament featured contestants from among UW, Sheridan College, Utah State, Arizona State, University of Arizona and Colorado’s Red Rocks Community College.

In a matter of days, Doherty ceased operations, leaving her without a ride. Doherty began her European cycling odyssey March 31 in the Costa Etrusca, a two-day elite race through Italy. Then, she heads to France in April to race in the Tour du Nord.

See TABLE TENNIS pg 10

Gi llette Lady Cam els take 13th state title

BY JACK NOWLIN

The Diercks Tribune

It was a game that deserved an extra four minutes - at least.

So that’s what Gillette and Sheridan played Saturday at the Casper Events Center, with the Camels finally prevailing 71-68 in overtime to finally give Gillette the lead for good at 68-65.

“Their game was a heart-breaker,” said Mitch Holt, Gillette’s coach. “We didn’t want any other kid shooting that shot.”

Other than Jordan Kel- ley, perhaps.

The Gillette senior scored 34 points, including a steal and subsequent three-point play to give the Camels a 63-61 lead with 37.5 seconds to play in regulation.

“Jordan is just a special player,” Holt said.

Noelle Gollinvaux tied the game with two free throws with 17.8 seconds remaining and Kelley’s contested mid-range jumper was off the mark to force overtime.

Sheridan led for most of the first half, despite leading scorer Kayla Woodward picking up her third foul with more than seven minutes to play in the half. Woodward, who fouled out late in regulation, finished with 24 points in just 23 minutes of playing time.

Kelley’s 17-foot jumper at the buzzer gave the Camels a 32-26 lead at the half.

Gillette pushed the lead to 37-28 early in the third quarter, but the Broncos battled back and finally rettook the lead at 47-46 on Steph Sessions’s pointer in overtime to finally give Gillette the lead for good at 68-65.

“Jordan is just a special player,” Holt said.

Gillette Lady Camels go for a loose ball during their game against Gillette in the class 4A Wyoming State Basketball championship on Saturday at the Casper Events Center.

UW equestrian club sends record number of qualifiers to compete at regional events

UW student Luke Hays, a Gillette freshman, returns a serve during a practice session at the Wyoming Union.

The following day at Rochester Technical College in Rochester, Minn., McCabe Jones will compete in table tennis and billiards.

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