

2005 Mother of the Year: Kathleen Waldorf

Let me start by saying that this letter is LONG overdue. I've been riding for twelve years now, and combined with my two sisters' eleven years and seven years, it is actually pushing 30 years overdue. I don't know why we haven't nominated her for "mother of the year" before now, but in truth, our mother has been THE mother of the year for every single one.

From the time I did my first class in the short stirrup, my mother has not missed even one show. That is pretty amazing considering how many there have been. I can't remember any one show that she hasn't been present for at least one day, usually more. And as we all know, as much as horse show parents want to support their children, watching can get pretty old. Hours and hours waiting around in 100 degree heat or pouring rain to see a one minute round or a pre-children's flat class at 6:00 at night can try even the most patient and dedicated viewers. But my mom did it, over and over again. She continues to come early and wait around late, even though I can drive now and she doesn't have to be there.

Not only is my mom our number one fan, whooping and clapping and telling us how fabulous we are, she is our mentor and support system. From moving to a house with enough land for horses so we could practice more often to doing her best to make sure we had competitive horse and looked sharp, my mom has sacrificed a lot to help us be our best. Even though there are plenty of other things she could spend her hard-earned money on, this sport and our involvement in it is her passion.

And now, after one of the most fun show seasons I've ever had, and going into my last year as a junior, I want to give her something to let her know how much my sisters and I appreciate and love her. I want her to know how much I value the hundreds of memories I've made with and because of her.

Kathleen Biemer