

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ivy Gate Farm**

**Mary Morrison, owner and trainer  
(949) 443-1903 (949) 300-5049 (cell)  
ivygatefarm@hotmail.com**

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**SAN JUAN TEEN WINS PRESTIGIOUS UNITED STATES  
EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

**San Juan Capistrano, California.** San Juan Capistrano native, *Alison Baileys* and her horse Tache' Rouge, were recently named ***Grand Champion Junior Hunter Horse of the Year*** for her first place finish in the national standings for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). This prestigious USEF award is the equestrian equivalent to college football's Heisman Trophy and annually honors the nation's best horses and riders in the Junior Hunter division.

Alison was born and raised in San Juan Capistrano, California, is the daughter of Debe and Steve Baileys, and is a 2007 graduate of St. Margaret's Episcopal High School (SMES) where she attended since preschool. From the fourth grade through graduation from high school, Alison competed and won several individual and school championships for St. Margaret's in the Interscholastic Equestrian League of Orange County (IEL) and served as the team's captain for two years.

Alison began taking riding lessons when she was seven years old at Ivy Gate Farm (IGF) located on San Juan Creek Road in San Juan Capistrano. Alison quickly showed her dedication and natural ability for the sport. Alison started showing her first pony at local horse shows and quickly demonstrated that she was an excellent competitor. Mary Morrison, owner and head trainer at IGF and a long-time San Juan Capistrano resident, said that from the beginning that she could instruct Alison at a more advanced technical level than other students of her age and experience.

As a young rider, Alison had to overcome personal adversity. At twelve years old, she was diagnosed with Graves disease. Alison was very sick but still wanted to compete at the Onondarka Finals in Los Angeles. Her mother, Debe, and Mary Morrison watched her carefully during that horse show week knowing that immediately after the finals she would have to go into the hospital to have her thyroid removed.

Alison's horse, Tache' Rouge was named Grand Champion Junior Hunter Horse of the Year by the USEF on December 18, 2007. The USEF award program is one of the oldest nationally recognized equestrian awards programs in the country. Alison, Mary Morrison, and Tache' Rouge will be celebrated during the USEF Annual Meeting Gala held on January 12, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Tache' Rouge, or "Marcos," as he is known around the IGF barn, is a 5-year-old Selle-Francais stallion who was imported from France by Mary Morrison and her business partner Jean Fourcart. According to Mary Morrison, "Tache' Rouge's natural ability and great attitude combined with Alison's competitive spirit and work ethic made them a winning team in the hunter divisions at the national-caliber level."

This past year, Alison finished her last year of eligibility in the Junior Hunters division with Tache' Rouge as the 2007 National Champion, the Champion of the West Coast Junior Hunter Finals, and Pacific Coast Horse Association (PCHA) Year-End Champion.

When discussing this prestigious USEF honor, Alison said "This year has been a dream come true, and it is all due to my mom, dad, my trainers Mary Morrison and John French, and of course to my equine partner and friend, Marcos,"

Allison will continue to show Tache' Rouge with John French in the Amateur Owners division until she heads off to college at Santa Clara University in the fall of 2008.

About Ivy Gate Farm:

Ivy Gate Farm is a premium hunter/jumper boarding, training, and sales facility nestled in the foothills of San Juan Capistrano. Owned and operated by San Juan Capistrano resident, Mary Morrison, since 1985, Ivy Gate offers individually-tailored programs for clients and their horses. Specializing in hunters, jumpers, equitation, and sales, Mary Morrison has built a solid reputation throughout the United States as one of the premier importers of European hunter/jumper prospects.