

Debbie Schultz & TR Notablymishaah



2016 AERC Decade Team



Rider's name: Debbie Schultz

Horse's name: TR Notablymishaah

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): 2007

Region: NE

Current rider lifetime mileage? 8195

Endurance: 8195 miles

Limited Distance: 115 miles

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?

My horse, Mishaah, was rescued at a horse auction when he did not get sold on the block. The killers were going to take him away, when his rescuer offered them his value in meat, plus one dollar. She

brought the horse home and tried competing him in combined driving. He liked the dressage in the ring, hated pulling the carriage, but LOVED trail riding. She decided to list him for sale as an endurance prospect since he just kept getting worse and worse with the carriage. I happened to spot the ad and was in the process of sending the ad to my friend, Patti Pizzo, who was helping me look for a horse, when an email came in from her telling me to look at the same ad. We both went to see him and Patti said that if I didn't buy him, she would!

The rest is history. I bought him and now he's the best endurance horse I will probably ever have. He's 16 years old and we JUST completed our 24th one day hundred, and he just got his 5000 miles award and on the same day I got my 8000 miles award. What a year this has been! Out of all the awards we could ever get, The Decade Team Award has been my greatest achievement and has given me the most gratification. FYI: He still HATES anything with wheels!

What is your horse's breeding? Polish Arabian

Sex: Gelding

DOB: 2/25/01

Horse height: 15H 1"

Approximate weight: 980

Color: chestnut

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? He had the big bones I was looking for, had a sweet, kind eye and was super cute!

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? Yes.

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? Eight.

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? Just occasional dressage lessons.

How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general? I've been competing in Endurance for 16 years but have been involved with horses for a lot longer. I used to ride hunter jumpers with some other women friends and did some fox hunting as well.

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested? My vet, Dr. Joanne Vecchione got me into it because she was into it and was having a hard time with her work schedule, keeping her horse fit so she asked to help with conditioning rides. Then she asked me to compete the horse and I was hooked from the get go! This was the sport for me!

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? 6 years old

How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons? 17

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 50

How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)? I never raced but came in 10th the first year in a ride.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? Average 2-4 months off.

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? 4-6 weeks. Depending on the distance we had to travel to the ride and back, how hard the ride was, how fast we went, how hot/cold, etc. Most importantly, how fast/well he recovered from the ride.

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? I treat them like 1 day hundreds. 4-6 weeks.

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? I prefer a treeless saddle because of how much he changes throughout the ride season and afterwards.

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? He's had some injuries at home, some trailer injuries, slight colic problems at rides, and lots of spooking. We've taken care of all but the spooking. Answer to that: I bought an air vest ☺

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. Can't say because each one brought something new to the table. Finishing with a sound, happy horse always made it "the best ride ever".

What was your most humbling experience? When one of my first endurance horses came in TOP 10, finished with all A's, then proceeded to colic back at the trailer. Turned out he had bot larva embedded in his gut but I will never forget that ride and how quickly things can go from good to bad.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? The one we all know but the one not everyone listens to. Do NOT get carried along by other faster, fitter horses! Do NOT say, "Oh, but I just had to let him go because he had so much energy and wanted to go".

What advice would you give to new riders? Try it. You'll never regret it. The only regret you might have is one day looking back, wondering why you didn't give it a try and wishing that you had.

Looking back, what do you feel you did right? I learned to truly "ride my OWN ride" no matter how hard my horse tried (and still does!) to convince me to do otherwise. DON'T GIVE IN!

What would you do differently? I wish I had started earlier in life.

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? "The Decade Team Award" and we just made it!!!!

Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours? We are kindred spirits. We both LOVE to compete. We both love the longer distances and riding in the dark. We both like the challenge of sometimes being the only team out there on trail. We both can be a little quirky. We both have a sense of humor, and we both love each other.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multadays, etc.)? Love the 100's! Luckily so does my horse!

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? My younger years I was always afraid of a challenge and in fear of failing, I wouldn't even attempt to try at many intriguing activities, etc. Once I started competing in endurance, the sky became the limit.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? He lives out on grass and has hay available 24/7. He gets very little grain but lots of supplements.

Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program (i.e., changed from one hay to another, added something special) that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? I give lots of supplements that seem to be working well.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? I use a lot of natural supplements such as soaked flax seed, slippery elm, sea buckthorne berry powder, daily probiotics, "Cosequin", and a vitamin supplement called "The Source."

Do you give any kind of joint products? He gets Cosequin orally, Adequan and Legends injections 1/month

Describe your electrolyte protocol. I use a program formulated by Mary Farris that uses all natural food items and ionized minerals. This has made the BIGGEST difference in everything I've done over the years. No more colic behavior during rides, mostly A's and not C's on gut sounds, continuous energy and impulsion, etc. Can't say enough about her stuff!

How do you choose which rides to attend? Footing/terrain for one. I hate concussive rides with a lot of road riding. I also look for rides where all the holds are at base camp whenever I can because I rarely have crew.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? Yes! I LOVE meeting new people and trying new rides. Those southerners really do put on that southern charm and the rides I've done in the Midwest have been a blast as well. The people make the rides and thankfully we've got some really great people doing our sport!

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why. Patti Pizzo. She's been an incredible inspiration to me from the start, has helped me in so many ways I can't begin to mention, and has been there for me when I really needed a boost. Dr. Joanne Vecchione who got me into this sport and who continues to help me find more and more ways to help keep my guy going. And I have to mention my farrier, Ralph Ferrell. Although he himself does not do endurance, he has shod MANY endurance horses over the years and is still shoeing a lot of the top competitors in my area.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. My mentor was Amy Cierri. She was very dedicated to our sport and taught me the really important things that matter if you want to be able to compete with the same horse over a long period of time. I learned about "pacing" from her and to this day, I think pacing should be everyone's #1 priority. Once you have a set pace, your horse gets to relax and if other horses are with you, it's amazing how they all relax as well. That is probably Mishaah's greatest talent as an endurance horse.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? A horse with a bright, kind eye, a strong, sturdy constitution, good bone and feet, and a real willingness to go down the trail. He/she must really want to do the sport.