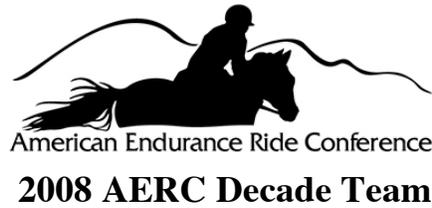


## Mary Coleman & Hawks Neopolitan



**Rider Name:** Mary Coleman

**Horse Name:** Hawks Neopolitan

**Region:** NE

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** I bought Hawk in July of '98 cheap with the idea of reselling him. He was with big bone and feet and I thought he may be a good foxhunter prospect.

**What is your horse's breeding?** Morgan

**Sex:** Gelding

**DOB:** 4-07-88

**Horse height:** 15.3

**Approx. Weight:** 1200

**Color:** chestnut

**Shoe size:** 1

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse?** Only one reason he was cheap. I did 3 competitive rides

with him that fall than moved him up to endurance the following spring. His attitude was no-nonsense and get on down the trail which showed me he liked the sport.

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

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** Not sure but not none for as long as Hawk has lasted.

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** Hawk is retired now except for LDs so to keep him happy we do parades and patrols since I joined the local Sheriff Posse last year.

**How many years have you been involved with horses? In endurance?** Horses my whole life, endurance 30 years.

**What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested?** Endurance especially the one day 100s teaches you more about your horse than any other sport. I mostly did competitive rides before Hawk he is the one that kept me going and interested. I love the camping and the stories at the rides.



**How old was your horse when first started? First ride?** 10. His first ride was that year.

**How many rides did you do the first, second, and third ride seasons?** 1999-525 miles, 2000-455 miles, 2001-690 miles plus many competitive rides them years as well.

**What mileage distance did you start with?** 50

**How long till you top tenned or raced?** I do not feel that we ever raced we did top ten by attrition at times.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** When we were seriously going three months.

**If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? What is your schedule in the month leading up to the ride?** I normally allow one day off for each 10 miles of competition. I never change my schedule for any ride once Hawk was fit I seldom rode between rides.

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? What is your schedule in the month leading up to the ride?** As above.

**What kind of tack do you use?** Traditional Ortho-Flex, Cloud Nine pad Kimberwick at the start of a ride than changing to hackamore after first loop.

**What kind of shoes do you use on your horse? Pads? Easyboots?** St. Croix eventers with sideclips and borium head nails.

**What kind of problems have you encountered?** I guess there have been some along the way but nothing that Hawk and me could not overcome.

**What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had?** I tried putting another horse in Hawk's field -- he ran the horse and broke his coffin bone in so doing.

**How did you work through it?** As my vet said, "Tincture of Time cures all." Just let Hawk off till the following season.

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse?** I would have to say there have been many but most recently finishing the National Championship ride in Fort Valley when only 49% could was quite an honor for me and Hawk who was 18 at the time.

**Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse?** Not once but twice we have been pulled at the finish line of Fort Valley.

**What was your most humbling experience?** Trailer back from 40 miles out in Vermont, Hawk's only trailer ride back to base camp ever.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** Rest is essential. I believe there are far more horses overrode that may have lasted longer otherwise. Plus I learned how much water and or ice it takes to cool down a Morgan!

**Where does your horse live?** At home run of the farm now out 24/7.

**What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life?** He was raised in a rocky field on the side of a mountain turned out with his sire and his sister.

**What are your horse's strengths? Weaknesses?** Good bone and tough feet and an attitude to match. Heat would be his weakness.

**What advice do you have for new riders?** Go slow do not override it takes 3 seasons to make a one day 100 mile horse especially if you goal is to be a decade team.

**Looking back, what would you do differently?** Not have gone to Vermont 100 when we had just done two hard 75s the month beforehand.

**What do you feel you did right?** Met a lot of people and made a lot of friends along the way.

**What was your highest goal for your horse? Did you achieve it?** 5,000 miles and the decade team -- got both this past March.

**Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours?** Hawk is very pushy not at all a people horse but loves his job. I guess people would say I am pushy too!

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most?** Multi-days.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** Lyte-Now, depends on heat how often.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** Heck what nutrition program? Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? Only thing different I ever did was changed feed during the ride that kept Hawk happy.

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** n/a

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** Before the NC I started Hawk on Legend which he still gets sometimes up to that point he had done over 4000 miles with just a local 12% feed.

**How far do you usually travel to rides?** No set mileage.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** I have.

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why?** Julie Suhr -- she's a legend, Maggy Price (the grand dame of endurance) and Irving McNaughton -- he just keeps going.

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** Not even looking. I wish everyone a "Hawk" horse he has been my horse of a lifetime. It has been one incredible journey. Morgan Power!