

MACEY MILES

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE *Instructor Of The Year*

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Macey Miles' name has been linked to multiple history making events in the equine industry. In 2016, she became just the 12th rider ever to win the Saddlebred equitation triple crown. In 2020, she became the youngest instructor in history to train and instruct a triple crown winner. And, in 2021, she made history yet again, as the first instructor to ever coach a rider to win both the Morgan and Saddlebred triple crowns. At just 23 years of age, Macey Miles has left her mark on the equine industry, training champions that traverse both breeds. She has taken her skills earned throughout her own personal illustrious junior exhibitor career and applied them to her successful students. Her riders are easily distinguishable in any arena, and her efforts have enabled her to rise throughout the equine world. In 2020 Miles was named the People's Choice Saddlebred Instructor Of The Year. She followed that up in 2021 when she directed two Morgan riders to great feats in Oklahoma City, helping her to now be recognized as the People's Choice Morgan Instructor Of The Year.

Macey Miles was a mere 19-years-old when she decided to join her family in business at their Tennessee based Milestone Stables. Miles had virtually grown up in the barn alongside her father Todd, a notable Saddlebred trainer, and her mother, Lesley, a former top show ring exhibitor. She became a famed competitor as a junior exhibitor, known for her widely successful equitation career that culminated with the title of the 2016 triple crown champion.

Though Macey Miles was predominantly known in the Saddlebred world, she had also dabbled in the Morgan horse industry, being named the 2016 UPHA Morgan Senior Challenge Cup National Champion. As the 2021 show season

unfolded, Miles was tasked with training two talented junior exhibitors who were teamed with Morgan horses. Both Jacqueline Schatzberg and Dawson Archibald were mounted on Morgans last season under the direction of Milestone Stables.

Jacqueline Schatzberg entered 2021 being prepared for her first year of out of walk/trot. Macey Miles explained that Schatzberg additionally trained with Julianne Rafferty and Josh Shino and also excelled with Saddlebreds and Arabians, which helps her to hone her skills.

"By doing this, Jacqueline is getting to experience a variety of horses and has learned to adapt to many different feels on a horse," Miles said. "When Jacqueline comes to Milestone we do lots of lunge lessons, figure work, and we work on our transitions. We are lucky to have a variety of lesson horses to practice on that are all very different, so it really helps a rider learn to ride the horse underneath them."

Jacqueline Schatzberg was the fortunate exhibitor to be teamed with Queen's Over Ruled in 2021-an entry that has developed a reputation for equitation excellence. She enjoyed an impressive debut season in the 13 and under ranks en route to Oklahoma. Once at the Morgan Grand National, Macey Miles met Schatzberg in the winner's enclosure as the Saddle Seat Equitation 13 and Under World Champion, and the UPHA Morgan Junior Challenge Cup Finals National Champion after also earning the 13 and under qualifier grand national title.

"It was super rewarding," Miles said. "I knew if she put in the time and work she would excel. Jacqueline also rides with Julianne Rafferty and Josh Shino, so we all work together to make Jacqueline the best rider she can, so I definitely did not do it alone. It was wonderful to see all of our practice and hard work pay off."

Macey Miles additionally worked diligently with Dawson Archibald last season. Archibald followed behind Miles, earning a Saddlebred triple crown of her own in 2020. She returned to her roots in 2021 and once again excelled in Morgan competition. While Jacqueline Schatzberg was teamed with an equitation veteran, the Milestone team was tasked with equitating Archibald's newest teammate, BRMF Lailani's Fireball GCH. The gelding had amassed multiple world titles in the English pleasure division but was a newcomer in the equitation ranks. Both Todd and Macey Miles worked to make Archibald and "Boo" a team.

"They showed me the videos of 'Boo' and I loved him instantly," Macey Miles said. "Dad and I talked and strategized to see if we thought 'Boo' and Dawson would be the right match for each other. 'Boo' was game, but very willing to learn. Reese and Maison Richey had done a great job preparing him before we got him. Dawson really had to work on keeping Boo calm in his figure work but letting him excel on the rail. When they were competing they really had a fire and intensity to them. You couldn't not watch the duo."

This new team quickly came together under the direction of Macey Miles and the Milestone team. Archibald closed out her junior exhibitor career by becoming the first rider in history to win both the Saddlebred triple crown in one season, as well as the Morgan triple crown in one season. Archibald represented Macey Miles by being named the AMHA Saddle Seat Gold Medal Finals winner, the UPHA Morgan Senior Challenge Cup Finals National Champion, and the Saddle Seat Equitation 14-17 World Champion.

"It was surreal," Miles said. "Dawson had worked so hard for that moment. If one ride did not go as we wished, she was always great about not getting upset, but always asking me 'What do I need to do to be better?' Even on her good rides, where I would meet her in the winner's circle, she always wanted to know how she could be better. That is what makes a true champion. I am very fortunate to be part of her historic story."

Both Dawson Archibald and Jacqueline Schatzberg have also excelled in equitation with other breeds outside of the Morgan horse, much like many of the riders that Macey Miles teaches. Miles explained that she instructs her riders in the same manner regardless of the breed.

"No matter what breed our riders are showing, I still hold them all to the same standard," she said. "I try to put the finishing touches on each and every rider that we have. When one of our riders hits the ring, I want people to be able to say, 'That's a Milestone Rider.'"

The Milestone riders will now be able to learn from yet another well-acclaimed equitation rider as Dawson Archibald has joined Macey Miles and the Miles family as a part of the training team. Archibald will begin her journey as a young professional at exactly the same age that Macey Miles was when she began. Miles has long been viewed as a role model in the equine industry and is looking forward to guiding Archibald in her new role.

"I am most excited to mentor her and teach her not only about the horse and rider, but the life lessons we learn each day from this industry," Miles said. "No one told me it would be easy being so young in this industry, but with hard work and dedication, success is possible. I am looking forward to combining our ideas and skills to put the best riders we can into the ring. I am looking forward to all the laughs, tears, and memories we will share."

With two triple crown champions at the helm of Milestone, each rider under the guidance of Macey Miles will learn not only how to be a well-rounded rider, but how to be well-rounded person in life. Miles explained that there is no one success in equitation and it is the life lessons that arise from riding equitation that she hopes to instill in her students.

"A blue ribbon at the end of the day, is just a ribbon," she said. "Success is adaption, mindset, work ethic, and dedication. Equitation is so much more than just pretty form and skillful figure work. Equitation creates a bond between horse and rider that is unmatched. A horse and rider really have to learn everything about each other. They must really become a pair. Everyone's success is different and each is just as important as the other. Equitation really teaches you how to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat."

Though still young, Macey Miles carries with her a lifetime of experience in the equine community. Her ambition, humility, and drive coupled with her skills in the saddle have enabled her to impact the lives of the industry's youth and catapult them to immense success not only in the Saddlebred industry, but now in the Morgan world as well. She is a savvy equestrian, a role model for her students, and an example of what can happen if you work diligently and believe in your dreams.

"If you would have told me four years ago when I started that I would have already had this much success, I would not have believed you," she said. "Not because I did not believe in myself, but because being so young, I knew I had a lot of respect to earn and still so much to learn. I would not have been able to be successful without numerous other trainers guiding me, teaching me, supporting me, and pushing me to be better every day. I am thankful for all of those who have always supported me and even those who did not support me, for each of you made me want to become better. I still have a lot to learn and so many more goals I look forward to pursuing. Also, without the support of my Milestone family and my parents I would not be the woman and horsewoman I am today. Big thanks to you all for believing in me each step of the way."



Dawson Archibald had a strong cheering section as she became the first rider in history to win both the Saddlebred and Morgan triple crowns. Macey Miles and the Milestone team were behind Archibald's success in both breeds.



Macey Miles enjoyed a victorious final day at the 2021 Morgan Grand National as she directed both Dawson Archibald and Jacqueline Schatzberg to equitation world titles.



Jacqueline Schatzberg was undefeated in Oklahoma City last season while competing in the equitation ranks. Macey Miles celebrated the success of this young rider in just her first year out of walk/trot.



Macey Miles' talents as an instructor have traversed multiple breeds. She instructed both Dawson Archibald and Jacqueline Schatzberg to world titles at the 2021 Morgan Grand National.