

# FUTURE FORUM

## *The Up and Coming of Young Trainers*

by Leeann Mione

This is another segment in a Saddle Horse Report series featuring the stories of young trainers from across the country. There isn't a school for horse training outside of the "school of hard knocks" so it's interesting to follow the paths taken by these young professionals as they pay their dues in their quest for making a successful career out of their passion for horses.

This week we are featuring Sammy Jo Galica co-owner and head instructor at the newly opened Rose Tree Farms Riding Academy located at Lance Hayes Stables in Neenah, Wisconsin.

**Give us a breakdown of where it all began for you.**

**How did you get involved in horses and at what age?**

**SAMMY:** My mother got me involved with the horses at the age of seven. She showed on the fair circuit in Wisconsin when she was younger.

**What made you decide to become a professional trainer?**

**SAMMY:** I loved being in the barn and working with the horses. I was a barn rat! I always wanted to be a horse trainer and couldn't imagine being anything else!

**Have you worked under any other trainers? If so, who?**

**SAMMY:** I have worked for Lance Hayes for the last 10 years and I still do to this day!

**Who are your role models/mentors? Why?**

**SAMMY:** I have a few. Lance Hayes: I have learned so much from him. From getting to know people and working horses. I owe a lot to Lance for everything that he has done for me! Also, Scott and Carol Matton along with Ann Wilt and Nancy Bucholtz: anytime I have questions about my lesson program they have always answered! They have helped me a ton and I really respect them for their generosity.

**What is your favorite thing about being a trainer?**

**SAMMY:** I love working with the clients and helping them reach their goals with their show horses and/or lesson horses! It is great to watch when a client really gets what you are teaching them! To me nothing is more rewarding than that!

**What is the hardest thing about being a trainer?**

**SAMMY:** When things don't go as planned!

**What advice do you have for the younger generation who have their eyes set on becoming horse trainers?**

**SAMMY:** Never give up on your goals! Work hard and learn from anyone willing to help you!

**What do you think is essential for the industry to focus on to ensure its success?**

**SAMMY:** Lesson programs.

