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## Local Youth Riding Team Wins Eventing Competition

Submitted by Anne Branagh



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On February 27, four local girls placed at the Twin Rivers Ranch equestrian facility in Paso Robles, competing at the United States Pony Club Eventing Rally representing Crossroads Pony Club. With combined scores, they won their division out of seven teams.

Eventing, which includes dressage, show jumping and cross country jumping competitions over the course of three days, requires a great deal of skill and athleticism from the rider and her horse as a team.

The winning riders were later honored to meet - and pose for a picture with -- Olympian Gina Miles, silver medalist in Eventing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics on her horse McKinlaigh, when Miles spoke to all the Pony Club riders. Pictured with Miles (center) are (left to right) Sarah Braun (sophomore, College Park) Lauren Branagh (7th grade, Orinda Intermediate), Grace Ann Carrick (7th, Joaquin Moraga) and Marissa Monroe (sophomore, Campolindo). Branagh and Monroe both ride at Lark Hill Farm, while Braun rides at Poplar Place Stables and Grace Ann rides at Rancho Dos Rios.

Crossroads Pony Club is located in the Briones Valley, just minutes from Orinda. Young equestrians from the Lamorinda area have enjoyed participating with Crossroads Pony Club for the past 35 years. The club teaches riders mounted sports and horsemanship through friendly competition emphasizing teamwork and sportsmanship. For more information about Crossroads Pony Club go to [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org).

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