

I can say that Jessie has given me the confidence to start jumping - something I was sure I would never do. Thanks to her infinite patience and amazing understanding of the 'mature' rider's concerns, wavering comfort level and uncertain competitive drive, I have gone from 'firmly ground driven' to excited about my next jumping lesson, relishing both the group lessons and those once terrifying, intense and exhausting private adventures.

I am in awe of Jessie's instinctive understanding of all the different horses and her impeccable timing. She has helped me take my 'started' horse from somewhat spoilt and challengingly opinionated to a very well mannered, honest and versatile pleasure horse. Horse and I are a much happier, much more functional team. I trust her explicitly with my horse and admire her incredible talent. Karen MacLean

I have had numerous coaches and instructors over my long riding career but I have never had one that cares so much for her student's young and old. Jessie is an excellent trainer - she has a real gift for teaching horses and their riders together. She celebrates with you in your accomplishments and empathizes and encourages when you make mistakes. She is always willing to laugh and cry with you - not traits often found in a coach. Jessie brought my 26-year-old Connemara Pony and me (a 60 year old woman) out of retirement to go on to win the HTBC Eventing Championship for Pre-Entry a few years ago - no mean feat! I whole-heartedly nominate Jessie Blackmon for Coach of the Year! Margot Watson

I met Jessie for the first time in the fall of 2014 at a mountain trail clinic and I was hooked. I was working with a young green horse and I myself was a green rider. Jessie took me under her wing and within months I was riding with a lot more confidence and my horse was becoming all around better at what he was doing. Unfortunately, my horse died in a freak accident and I was left with a Quarter Horse that I could not ride. I then gave him over to Jessie for training and that was less than six months ago and I am now riding him with the confidence I lacked previously due to numerous falls and injuries on him. Jessie has such a gift. To be able to work with horses of all breeds and disciplines, and to get it right is just incredible. Her timing is spot on and it makes all the difference in the training. I would not go anywhere else, as she truly loves the horses she works with as if they were her own. Maggie Murphy

Jessie has been my coach since I was 7 years old. She is a coach that has a personal relationship with each of her students. Being a student with Jessie is much more than just 45 min of her telling you what to do. She builds friendships and bonds with her students and their horses. I have done all my firsts with Jessie, from my first jump to my first event and to my first win. She helped choose my first horse, which I wouldn't trade

for the world. Jessie has a very soft heart and wants to be close with all her students. I don't know another eventing / hunter jumper coach that will get swimming with you and your horses or that will go fox hunting with you. Jessie would spend a whole day with you working out a problem with your horse, she never gives up on horses and all her patience pays off with all of the successful, well-tempered horses she has trained. I am proud to be a student of Jessie's and with her help I have had numerous successes in each of my show seasons. This past season in my first year moving up to pre training, I won 2nd at the Campbell Valley Horse Trials and later this year won 3rd in the Horse Trials B.C. Championships. She puts so much heart and dedication into her students. To me she is not just a coach; she's a close friend and someone that I look up to.

Abby Wittenberg

I first met Jessie as a 13 yr old girl who was passionate about horses. Jessie and her mom lived on our property so I had a lot of help from her as I was struggling with my TB mare as a brand new rider well into my 40's. She started teaching at a barn down the road where she acquired a large following of students. I believe she was only 19 when she received her EC level 1. She coached and trained all through her university years where she studied education, however when she graduated she realized her real love was training and coaching. Jessie has been my coach for at least 13 yrs and the only trainer for my horse Caleb. Jessie is an amazing young woman with incredible "horse" talent. She has compassion for both horse and rider. As an older rider, she knows just how much to push me without over facing me. My riding has improved more than I ever thought possible. I am jumping fences that only a few years ago terrified me. She is a perfectionist, paying attention to detail of both horse and rider. Jessie is encouraging, disciplined, positive and compassionate. She truly cares about her students and horses and considers them friends. I am thrilled to nominate Jessie for this award.

Rita Rawstron

What makes Jessie a one of a kind coach is her ability to teach such a variety of horses, students and disciplines. She truly educates her students on a full spectrum of horsemanship - from groundwork to foundation training to higher level dressage, eventing, jumping or western riding. Jessie is so passionate about what she does and has helped shape my performance in the show ring and strengthen my character. She has encouraged me to have the confidence to push outside of my comfort zone and continually challenge myself.

- 1st place at Campbell Valley Horse Trials 2014 at the Training level.

- Multiple jumper championships at the 3'6 and 3'9 divisions at Milner downs and Thunderbird. 5+ championships and multiple reserve championships.

Stephanie Clogg

I have had several coaches in my 50+ years of riding and Jessie is one of the best. She is inspirational and always ready and willing to try different ways to help you 'get' things you are having trouble with. I really appreciate that she is always positive and can find something good to say about your ride rather than pointing out what you are doing wrong. She is also good at adapting to what you and your horse need to work on. She has re-ignited my passion for riding and I look forward to our lessons. Jessie puts her heart and soul and considerable imagination into her clinics while always maintaining a focus on safety for horse and rider so we learn a lot and have a great deal of fun, she is truly deserving of the Coach of the Year award. Renee Racine

I have worked with Jessie for about 12 years. When I first met her she was a teenaged student instructor. Jessie has always had a talent for teaching and an uncommon dedication to her students. She started off teaching my two children and then took on the task of teaching me as well. It is amazing how she can relate to students of all ages and riding abilities. Jessie has inspired us to keep on riding for all these years and has helped us acquire and train our own wonderful horse. The basis of her instruction is good horsemanship which allows her to teach a variety of disciplines, all to great success. Darcy Racine

A couple horse falls was enough to knock out what confidence this vintage rider had since learning to ride at a later age. My horse had developed a crooked way of going that was due in part to my tense hands as well as my fear of falling. After partnering with Jessie two years ago, her coaching style had me so focused I had little time to feed the anxiety. She schooled my mare back to carrying herself straight & With her guidance I am back to cantering as well as strengthening the bond with my horse through the varied clinics Jessie challenges us with. She definitely deserves coach of the year in my eyes. Esther Groat

As a non-competitive, mature rider, I have been taking lessons with Jessie for over 5 years. I have always been amazed at how well she 'reads' her clients, both the riders and the horses. She seems to know just how far she can encourage me to go a little outside my comfort zone, try a little harder, and reach a new level of success. As a western rider, many of my friends rode English, so I gave it a try. I had no steering; no timing and no clue on how to post at the trot. With much patience, Jessie not only had me posting and steering, but participating in a schooling dressage test, and even hopping over a few small jumps! Riding with Jessie certainly provides a physical, and a mental workout. However, the best part of riding with Jessie, is group of students she attracts. I have made some amazing friends through the social network of the barn. With her genuine big heart, Jessie has attracted a long-term loyal base of clients, and she works hard to ensure everyone feels included and comfortable at the

barn. Being involved in Jessie's program has affected my life in nothing but a positive way. For her to be acknowledged as the coach of the year would be very well deserved.  
Carolyn Hunter

My experience of Jessie Blackmon as a coach, for myself as a senior rider (62), and my senior horse (25) has been very positive and inspiring. My current horse is also my very first horse, and as I struggled to navigate my way in the equine world, I was floundering and somewhat lost, until I met Coach Jessie Blackmon. I had worked with other coaches but they either just didn't click with me, or my horse. It was immediately evident she was passionate, compassionate, and extremely talented in teaching others the wonders of good horsemanship and riding. I have been fortunate to have Jessie as my riding coach for the past 6 years. She has taken a very green rider and a sensitive old horse with a mind of his own and taught us both how to work together. The skills I have attained working with Jessie have improved my riding immensely. She treats him like he was her own, and he trusts and responds to her willingly. Jessie Blackmon is a natural born teacher and horsewoman. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Jessie Blackmon for "Coach of the Year!" Barb Ingle & Colonel Otoe Lark aka "Buddy"

I returned to riding and horse ownership after 30 years away, older, more cautious and with a young green horse. Although I had tried other coaches and clinicians, it was Jessie who is using all her talents of coaching and horsemanship to help us fulfill our abilities and goals. My mare and I have become true partners as we experience a variety of disciplines together. Jessie coached us to Gold Medal Champions at the 2014 Senior Games in Mountain Trail. She has coached us to our first English dressage test and first Western Dressage test attaining scores of over 70%. At the tender age of 63, we are working towards my first Horse Trials event in the Spring of 2016. None of this would have happened if it were not for Jessie's innate ability to coach both me and my mare as a unit; with compassion, passion, patience (teaching seniors!), drive and most importantly, her true love of the sport. I don't know any other coach who will not only ride your horse to know what you have to work with, but without any hesitation care for the well-being of the animal – cold-hosing, wrapping, bandaging, and any other hands on care she can give. Thank you for accepting Jessie Blackmon as my nomination as Coach of the Year. It has been my great pleasure to be her student.  
Susan Chaworth-Musters

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