



February 18, 2009

Login or register

Text size: [up] [down]

Classifieds

- Place an ad
- Find a job
- Find a car
- Autos A-Z
- Find real estate
- Foreclosure sale
- Foreclosure listings
- Find rental properties
- NEW** Celebrations
- Pets

Weather



Traffic

News

- Broward County**
- Palm Beach County**
- City by city
- Your Time & Money**
- Crime & Safety
- Schools
- Nation/World

Sports

Miami Dolphins

Miami Heat

Matters of the Heart

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Travel

Obituaries

Opinion

Metromix

Blogs

Video

Multimedia Gallery

Topics

Corrections

News Tips

TV Listings

Movie Times

Newspaper Services

- Get home delivery
- Subscriber services
- Teacher resources
- Work at Sun-Sentinel
- Advertise with us
- Buy photos
- Buy back issue
- Contact us

Youngest-ever Olympic equestrian to perform at horse auction

By NADIA SOROCKA | Forum Publishing Group

February 18, 2009

Luiza Tavares de Almeida, 17, became the youngest-ever Olympic equestrian at age 16 when she competed with the Brazilian team in dressage at the 2008 Olympics. Almeida and her 8-year-old Lusitano Samba that she rode during the Olympics and the Pan American Games will be showcased at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center, 7500 Forest Hill Blvd., Thursday for the second annual 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction, which also takes place on Friday.

Almeida said she was amazed when she made the Brazilian Olympic team by competing in the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro. The team received the bronze medal and a spot to compete in the Olympics.

"I wasn't supposed to compete that day and had 24-hour notice to prepare," she said. "I was the last rider to ride; it was amazing and beyond words."

During her trip to the Olympics many of the other riders were at least 10 years older than her. But it didn't worry Almeida.

Ads by Google

"I try to stay on the confident side," she said.

Almeida shows maturity during her competitions, but she also is a typical teenager. She practices twice a day for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Although she travels, practices and competes, Almeida said she leads a normal life. She attends school when possible, completes her studies and socializes with nonriding friends like any other teenager.

She has been competing for five years in dressage, but has been riding horses since she began jumping at age 2. Almeida and her horse Samba have a strong bond that has been developed over the years.

"We were both young when we started dressage; I was 12 and he was 3," she said. "We have grown

together in dressage; I've been with him five years."

Almeida is competing in dressage during the Winter Equestrian Festival. It is her first visit to Florida and she said she has enjoyed competing in [the United States](#).

"I enjoy the amount of competitors here," she said. "There are more competitors here in the USA than in Brazil and Europe."

Almeida said she is excited about her presentation during the 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction Thursday in which she will lead the Showcase Parade of Horses and perform her freestyle. Her father Manuel Tavares de Almeida is the founder of Coudelaria Rocas de Vouga Lusitanos, one of the partners of The Lusitano Collection®. A portion of the proceeds from the auction will benefit the American Cancer Society and the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center.

For information about The 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction, which is open to the public for a fee, visit www.lusitano

collection.com or call 866-540-8809.

Sell our paper
Newspaper boxes



Digital Edition

Subscribe Now!

Log In

Resources

- Recent articles
- RSS feeds
- Mobile services
- Newsletters/Alerts
- Florida Lottery
- Find a restaurant
- Movie times
- Horoscopes
- Calendar of events
- Webcam
- Site Map


[E-mail](#) [Share](#) [Print](#)

Related topic galleries: Dressage, United States, Equestrian, Auction Service, Health Organizations, Dance, Multi-Sport Events

Foreclosure help: Will Florida see any relief? Click here to get the full story and the most up-to-date news breaking now.

Copyright © 2009, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

T-Mobile



+

All topics

LIMITED TIME WEB OFFER

Free phone + Free Bluetooth® Headset

Save \$149

2-yr. agreement req.; restrictions apply

Ads by Google

Looking for a photo?



Browse our albums to find and buy photos published in FPG products!

[Start browsing](#)

Popular stories: Palm Beach County

[Most viewed](#) [Most e-mailed](#) [Hot topics](#)

Missing Palm Beach County woman found safe
Home invasion ends with intruder shot dead, family rattled

Will Palm Beach County see express toll lanes on Interstate 95?

Four to be interviewed for Palm Beach County Commission vacancy

Alternate jurors sit through trials but are often dismissed

[More most viewed](#)

overstock.com

Site-Wide Deals

Save up to 55%



Royal Velvet Milan
Feather and Down ...
\$44.99



Damask Stripe 230
Thread Count Duvet ...
\$39.99

Find an Event

Search an event:

All locations

Today Weekend All dates

Send us your events to list!

Search for a restaurant by:

All locations

Find a restaurant

search by:

All Cuisine

Find restaurant by name:

[Click here for a detailed search](#)

Find a Restaurant

amNY | Baltimore Sun | Chicago Tribune | Daily Press | Hartford Courant | LA Times | Newsday | Orlando Sentinel | The Morning Call | The Virginia Gazette

Copyright 2009 | Privacy Policy | Advertise with us | Subscriptions | Paid Archives | Questions or comments

Broward Educator | City & Shore Magazine | El Sentinel | Forum Publishing Group, Inc. | News in Education | South Florida

Save on your next meal



50% off restaurant gift certificates
Buy here



[CareerBuilder.com for Jobs](#) | [Cars.com for Autos](#) | [Homescape.com for Homes](#) | [Apartments.com for Rentals](#) | [Houses for Rent](#) | [For Sale by Owner](#) | [Open Houses](#) | [Grocery](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Zap2it](#)

[Parenting](#) | [South Florida](#)
[Teenlink](#) | [TCPalm.com](#) |
[SouthFlorida.com](#) | [WXEL](#) |
[WPTV](#)

Search for a restaurant by:

search by:

Find restaurant by name:

[Click here for a detailed search](#)

[Home](#) > [Community News](#) > [Wellington Forum](#)