

Horseback Heroes



Ryan Carey, 19, of Dracut is pleased with his performance at the 20th annual Special Olympics equestrian tournament, held yesterday at Ironstone Farm in Andover. SUN/TORY GERMANN

Special Olympics bring out best in local equestrians

By Angel Roy
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ANDOVER — Jennifer Landers gripped the silver medal, looking at it with a grin. She then quickly clipped her red, second-place ribbon on the lapel of her jacket before sliding the medal over her black riding helmet.

"Olympic Spirit" by John Williams blared from the speak-

ers. Still beaming, Landers gave the gold-medal winner a pat on the back.

Landers placed third in her second event and attached that ribbon to her right jacket pocket, her new bronze medal dangling next to the silver.

But Landers is no stranger to winning medals. She will hang her new awards with the ones already tacked to a wall in her Chelmsford home.

Her mother, Patricia, wishes she could "bottle up" Landers' abundance of self-esteem.

Landers, 33, is a well-decorated horseback rider. She has been riding with Challenge Unlimited and the Special Olympics since she was 8. She has Down syndrome.

"This group is so wonderful

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