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Dear CSS Oscar,

I have ridden for approximately 15 years — give or take a few — always with the goal in mind to jump big and show in a grand prix some day. I want to go as far as this sport will allow me. 15 years ago I witnessed a jumping event for the first time. It was the 1999(ish) Pin Oak Charity Horse Show Grand Prix. I knew from that day on that THAT is what I wanted to do.

Of course being the optimistic kid, I thought that if I just put my mind to it, showed how bad I wanted it, I could achieve anything. My parents couldn't really support my horsey ambition, nor did they know how to supply me the right tools. I didn't even know about Pony finals, or the Maclay, or Young Riders until I was probably 17. The EAP wasn't invented until I was about 21. I didn't even show at my first rated show until I was 22 — a show that I proudly funded myself — and I still have never owned a horse.

I thought — and still do think sometimes — my riding goals might be a lost cause. I got a job after college, though, got a little money rolling in, just enough to keep me riding. I decided to get creative. I started dieting and working out like a maniac, dropping 35 pounds. Then I started watching AA show trainers at great length in the warm up rings at shows close by to see what they were doing. Perhaps I couldn't afford to ride with them, but I could at least study and learn from them, like a clinic.

At the age of 25, I got lucky, coming across a horse for lease, just within my price range, that had scope enough to do 1.15M, and finally I began the journey I had waited my whole life for. I have now won in AA competition up to 1.15M. That little horse helped me out a bit by winning prize money too. I am now riding another lease that may be capable of jumping even bigger. Unfortunately, my living expenses have increased to a point in which I can no longer afford this horse. I will sadly have to give him up. I didn't originally plan to keep him forever, but I do want to keep him long enough to see him to the peak of his scope. This sponsorship might allow me to do that and might see me to the next rung in my ladder. The more training I put into him, the more he increases in value. If nothing else, this sponsorship will allow me to hold onto him long enough to sell him for a greater amount. It might also allow me to hold on to him long enough to find a different source of income so I can continue and pursue the sport.

Thank you for this opportunity and consideration,
Amy