

2010 Rider's Choice Winner

Lazer's Legacy

Lazer's Statistics:

9 Seasons

3,280 Total Miles

2,375 Endurance Miles

40 completions of 42 starts, 21 1st place finishes and 19

Best Conditions

6 100 Mile Events

905 Competitive Miles

It is an honor for me to nominate Lazer's Legacy for 2010's Rider's Choice Award because he embodies a true distance competitor – athletic ability, dedication, and perseverance. To tell even a portion of Lazer's story correctly, you would need to hear from three riders – Darlene Molitor, Emily Stover, and me, Laurie Brown.

Darlene Molitor, who purchased Lazer having been trained in dressage, will tell you: I am honored to have a horse that is being nominated for the Rider's Choice Award. When Lazer was a young horse never in my wildest dreams would I have thought it would have been him. Through the years, over and over he has not only proven to me but to others as well that he can do whatever it is that we ask of him.

My Farrier will tell the story of the day he Lazer arrived at our farm and how he knew from how Lazer was built and the look in his eye that I would buy him. Others will tell the story of how later on that day Lazer cracked some of my ribs and got me on the phone calling some of his previous trainers to try to find out what made Lazer so angry. It truly became a partnership of negotiation and as time went on I would see the anger less often.

Lazer also has a soft side that is easy to become attached to and mostly we will see it on the ground. He is a great horse to crew for because he is so much fun. At one of the 100's I was doing on Lazer I told the girls to let him eat whatever he wanted while I went to eat lunch myself. A few minutes later I came back to find him eating a peanut butter sandwich! They said it was what he wanted. Over the years not only has he proven that he would be a good horse for me but for others as well. Emily Stover has ridden him successfully in Competitive rides. Laurie Brown had a very successful Endurance season on him in 2010. Elizabeth Klocker will take him trail riding on his break time between rides.

Lazer is by no means done running. But the way I see it whatever we get from here forward is icing on the cake. He came to me when I needed a horse most and has carried me through some tough times. Of that I am truly grateful. It was fun for me this October when I was not competing myself to watch Laurie as she finished to 2-day 100 come cantering over the finish line with him the way he has with me so many times before. With the biggest smile you can imagine, Laurie said to me "not once did I have to ask him to go".

Thank you for your vote for Lazer's Legacy for the Riders Choice Award.

Emily Stover rode Lazer for her first competitive seasons ever and she states: For me, riding Lazer is always an adventure. I will never forget one of the first times I rode him. We were on a gravel road at home and decided to canter. I remember it feeling like we were not going very fast, but when I looked back I saw I was leaving the other riders in the dust! It was amazing to me at how effortlessly and powerfully he moved. I will say, having crewed for some of the Endurance rides that Darlene and Lazer competed in, I was a little intimidated when I began riding Lazer in some Competitive rides, because I knew how he could run and how he loved to win. However, through the seasons that I competed with Lazer I learned how versatile he really was. He had the passion and drive to win an Endurance ride, as well as the determination and focus to win a Competitive ride. I can truly say that I learned how to compete from Lazer. If I ever found myself worrying about riding on muddy, slippery, or difficult trails, it always seemed as though Lazer would say to me, "just stay up there, I've got this." With no other horse that I've competed on since Lazer have I been able to achieve consistent 8-1 pulse and respiration scores. He made 1st place and high point seem easy. I will forever admire who Lazer is as competitor and part of my life. He got me through some difficult times, and he has been there with me for some incredibly fun times. He taught me to strive for the best, believe in myself, and enjoy life for all it is. I am honored to be a part of his Legacy.

And for me, Laurie Brown, to get the opportunity to ride Lazer this year, my first Endurance season: I have to admit I was excited and at the same time nervous, having heard of his 3:56 Charity Cup 50, among so many other 4 hour 50s. I have always admired Lazer's strength and speed, arriving at camp after a long loop and I am truly lucky to

have had the opportunity to have him as my ride partner. Whether it is hours alone together competing or GeoCaching with friends, Lazer is always teaching me if I am listening. Lessons like never give up, even if you've been kicked in the knee by your buddy... Lessons like sometimes think more and sometimes think less, depending on the situation. Above all, be safe and have fun. And Lazer has given me Rookie of the Year in a season that would have meant not riding at all! What a gift! To me, that's Lazer's Legacy... his athleticism in diverse events with unique riders, his tenacity in stress, his patience in teaching, his willingness to give...