

Quiet Success



Making horses feel special is just part of Mary Burger's routine.

Calm competence and a steady work ethic keep

Mary Burger on the road to championships.

By Larri Jo Starkey

MARY BURGER'S SMALL, STRONG HANDS DEFTLY ADJUST CINCHES and bridles and straps with the ease of long practice.

Her routine is set, and her horses know it and are comfortable with it. In the warm dawn of a day in Central Oklahoma that will eventually turn hot, Mary gets ready to work, the only noises the whuffing of her horses and the light thump of the saddle as it lands easily on the back of a 12-year-old sorrel gelding.

Other people are probably still sleeping, but Mary's day has already been busy. She got up early and fixed breakfast for her husband and fed the horses, but now it's time to work. She'll