

# Shooting Stars Vaulting

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Dear Sirs,  
Would you be able to help a Jersey girl shoot for the stars?

Walking in the opening ceremonies at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) is an incredible feeling. Standing on the podium in the medal ceremony is indescribable! You well up with pride and joy, excitement and amazement. It was hard to believe I was there, twice. For ten days this coming September-October, the 2010 International Equestrian Federation's World Equestrian Games will take place in Lexington, Kentucky. As the largest sporting event in the U.S. in 2010, it is the first time in its history that the WEG that it will be held outside of Europe. In mid-summer, the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) will select three female vaulters, three male vaulters, and a team to compete in Lexington. I have a dream to stand on that medal podium again! To achieve my dream of being a national and world champion, but I need help.

Hi. My name is Annalise VanVranken and I am an equestrian vaulter. Equestrian vaulting is gymnastics and dance on a live, moving horse, and is one of the eight disciplines that the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) recognizes at the WEG, the World Championships of our sport. Individuals and teams compete in compulsory, technical and freestyle tests, similar to regular gymnastics and figure skating competitions. As NBC Sports' next biggest televised event of the year after the Winter Olympics, we vaulters hope the 2010 WEG will provide great exposure so others can enjoy our exciting sport.

I started vaulting just before my sixth birthday. I turned 18 at the end of last year. In those twelve years, this sport has taken me around the world with the opportunity to train and compete with the very best. I've been privileged to represent the United States on the teams that won the Silver Medal at the 2006 WEG in Aachen, Germany (see our top of the world performance at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=km4fqXsAqmU>), and the Bronze Medal at the World Vaulting Championships in Brno, Czech Republic in 2008.

All last year, I continued my vaulting training while cross-training in ballet and gymnastics. I've been practicing with my new horse, and I traveled to compete at the highest levels, starting in Saumur, France (I'm back there right now to start the 2010 competition season). Last year I was one of three US women chosen to compete at the prestigious CHIO in Aachen, Germany. Then it was on to several competitions across the US highlighted by three international events in Lexington, including the CVI\*\*Kentucky Cup, the test event in the brand new arena built just for the WEG. As an individual female, I finished the season ranked fourth in the country, just hundredths of a point behind the leaders.

Recently, I was invited to join my former teammates to build one of the most experienced vaulting teams ever. This is both a fantastic opportunity and a big challenge. I am the only East Coast vaulter among the group of Californians. Besides twice monthly practices in California, all the qualifying competitions will be on

the West Coast as well. This is an expensive endeavor, and while many equestrians and elite athletes in other sports receive endorsements and sponsorships, those opportunities are limited for vaulters. My parents and some friends have been extremely supportive throughout my vaulting career, but as I have become more involved in international competition, the expenses have risen so high that I need to reach out to a larger community. My sport receives a some financial support from the American Vaulting Association and USEF, but not nearly enough to cover the costs of traveling to compete around the world.

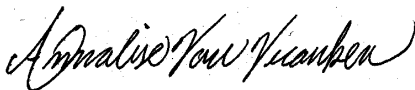
I love this unique sport, but to join the team, train and compete at the U.S. and European qualifying competitions will cost over \$40,000. My parents have refinanced their house twice to get me this far, but the banks tell them that's not an option this year. To reach my goal of representing the U.S. at the WEG this fall, I need help.

If you can assist me in realizing my dream, I would be forever grateful. Please contact me or my dad, Rick, if you have any questions.

If you can assist me in realizing my dream, I would be forever grateful. Anything you could share would be very helpful. Donations on my behalf may be made to "Shooting Stars Vaulting Club" (EIN: 20-1734334), a non-profit 501(c) - 3 subordinate of the American Vaulting Association. There are also sponsorship and endorsement possibilities, or **direct donations may be made on my behalf through the team site at [www.facevaulting.com](http://www.facevaulting.com)**. As the 2010 WEG will be NBC Sports' next biggest televised event after the Winter Olympics, this event will provide great potential exposure. Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of these options.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,



Annalise VanVranken

### 2010 High Performance Vaulting Competition Budget

Training (Vaulting, Gymnastics, Dance)		\$650/mo X 12			\$7800
Horse Upkeep and Maintenance		\$500/mo X 12			\$6000
Expenses to compete at US qualifiers					
	Travel& Lodging		Competition &Coach	Horse Use &Longeur	
FACE Off, CA	\$1500		\$350	\$500	\$2350
Garrod's, CA	\$1500		\$350	\$500	\$2350
Woodside, CA	\$1500		\$350	\$500	\$2350
Great Falls/Topaz, VA	\$600		\$150	\$300	\$1050
Expenses to compete at European CVIs					
	Travel& Lodging		Competition &Coach	Horse Use &Longeur	
Saumur, FR	\$2000		\$700	\$1300	\$4000
Aachen, GE	\$2400		\$700	\$1300	\$4400
Expenses to compete at World Equestrian Games					
	Travel& Lodging		Competition &Coach	Horse Use &Longeur	
	\$8000		\$1200	\$2500	\$11700
TOTAL					\$42000