Emma Mandarino and the sport of equestrian

ATHENS, Ga. – Former University of Georgia equestrian standout Emma Mandarino was the first-ever Top 30 finalist from the sport of equestrian for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. She, along with the Georgia coaching staff and administration, attended the annual banquet for the honorees in Indianapolis on Oct. 20.

Mandarino was one of ten finalists from Division I, the only finalist from the Southeastern Conference, and the first nominee in the Top 30 to be from the sport of equestrian.

Mandarino graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting in May and has begun her master's of accountancy, also at Georgia. She is a five-time UGA Presidential Scholar, as well as a three-time National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) First Team Academic All-American. She was the SEC Boyd McWhorter Scholarship nominee from Georgia this year and earned the Bernard Ramsey Scholarship for Academic and Athletic Excellence for having a GPA within the top 10 of all UGA student-athletes.

After walking on the team as a freshman, Mandarino grew to be a two-year captain in her junior and senior seasons. She led the Bulldogs to back-to-back SEC Championships in 2017 and 2018, and the team finished Reserve Champions at the NCEA National Championship three-straight seasons. In 2019, Mandarino contributed to the Bulldogs' Equitation Over Fences National Title.

As a constant competitor in Georgia's Equitation Over Fences lineup, she earned six Most Outstanding Performance honors as a Bulldog. She was recognized as NCEA Standout Student-Athlete of the Month (October 2017) and SEC Equitation Over Fences Rider of the Month (October 2017). She is the eighth leading scorer for Equitation Over Fences in Georgia equestrian history.

Mandarino was a member of Georgia's Student Leadership Academy (LEAD) and was named UGA's Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the equestrian team. She also earned the team's Coaches' Award, "Committed to the G", and Sportsmanship awards.

Through this process, Mandarino has not only represented equestrian, but also helped promote the emerging sport.

Click the link below to read a letter to the sport of equestrian from Emma.
https://spark.adobe.com/page/2KXYsQVhRr8rW/