



**Name:** Chelsea Higgins

**Horses:** Holstein Park Comedian

**Location:** Brisbane, Queensland

Chelsea Higgins has made a remarkable recovery from the extensive injuries she suffered whilst competing in the Equestrian Australia Interschool National Championships on the 2000 Olympics eventing course in September 2010.

She suffered a major brain injury, fractured scapula, lacerated liver and a perforated lung when her horse clipped the top of a jump and fell on her.

The accident left her unconscious and then she was put into a medically induced coma and on an intubation for 9 days in Liverpool Hospital in Sydney.

When she woke she was also suffering paralysis on the right side of her body and she was unable to speak.

Three weeks later she uttered her first words, which were “mum, Dad” and by November 2010 she started to regain some feeling in the right side of her body.

In the first eight months she’s regained 100 per cent of the feeling in her right side, and she then completed grade 12 last year.

Before this life changing accident Chelsea represented Queensland at the Interschool National Championships as part of the Eventing and Showman teams.

She was Reserve Champion in her class for the Showman Team and placed in the top four for three consecutive years in the Eventing Team.

Despite her injuries Chelsea had achieved enough recognition as an outstanding equestrian to become a Rising Star finalist at the Equestrian Queensland Awards.

Chelsea competed in the 2nd , 3rd and 4th nomination events for the Paralympic selection for London on her new horse Holstein Park Comedian where she was the top Australian rider for Grade III, Champion Grade III and Reserve Champion consecutively in these events.

Chelsea is now a member of the Australian National Squad and has just been awarded Queensland Women in Sport Rising Star award for 2012 she was also a nominee for the Junior Sport Star of the Year through Equestrian Australia in May 2012

In the opinion of her mum, Kerry Higgins, Chelsea is also a great ambassador for young children coming through the ranks. “She helps them with their warm ups, talks to them about their preparation and helps them get over being nervous about competing and gives her time generously”.