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Schools Nation/World		Almeida shows maturity during her competitions, but she also is a	
Sports		typical teenager. She practices twice a day for about 1 to 1 1/2	
Miami Dolphins		hours. Although she travels, practices and competes, Almeida	
Miami Heat		said she leads a normal life. She	
Matters of the Heart		attends school when possible, completes her studies and socializes with nonriding friends like	
Business		any other teenager.	
Entertainment		She has been competing for five	
Lifestyle		years in dressage, but has been riding horses since she began	
Travel		jumping at age 2. Almeida and her horse Samba have a strong bond	
Obituaries		that has been developed over the years.	
Opinion			
Metromix		"We were both young when we started dressage; I was 12 and he	
Blogs	together in dressage; I've been with him five year	was 3," she said. "We have grown s."	
Video	Almeida is competing in dressage during the Win	ter Equestrian Festival. It is her first visit	
Multimedia Gallery	to Florida and she said she has enjoyed competing in the United States.		
Topics	"I enjoy the amount of competitors here," she said. "There are more competitors here in		
Corrections	the USA than in Brazil and Europe."		
News Tips	Almeida said she is excited about her presentation Auction Thursday in which she will lead the Show		
TV Listings	freestyle. Her father Manuel Tavares de Almeida Vouga Lusitanos, one of the partners of The Lusi		
Movie Times	proceeds from the auction will benefit the America Equestrian Center.	an Cancer Society and the Jim Brandon	
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Get home delivery Subscriber services	For information about The 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction, which is open to the public for a fee, visit www.lusitano		
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Youngest-ever Olympic equestrian to perform at horse auction

By NADIA SOROCKA | Forum Publishing Group February 18, 2009

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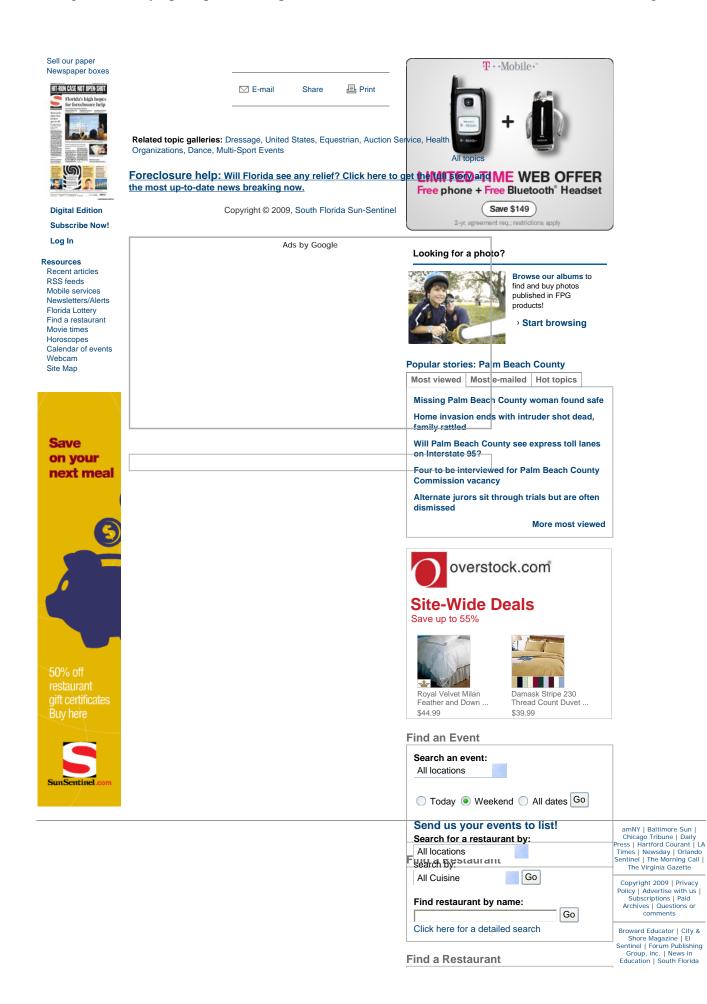
Luiza Tavares de Almeida, 17, became the youngest-ever Olympic equestrian at age 16 when she competed with the Brazilian team in dressage at the 2008 Olympics. Almeida and her 8-year-old Lusitano Samba that she rode during the Olympics and the Pan American Games will be showcased at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center, 7500 Forest Hill Blvd., Thursday for the second annual 2009 Lusitano Collection® Auction, which also takes place on Friday.

Almeida said she was amazed when she made the Brazilian Olympic team by competing in the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro. The team received the bronze medal and a spot to compete in the Olympics.

"I wasn't supposed to compete that day and had 24-hour notice to prepare," she said. "I was the last rider to ride; it was amazing and beyond words."

During her trip to the Olympics many of the other riders were at least 10 years older than her. But it didn't worry Almeida.

> "I try to stay on the confident side," she said.



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