

# Combined training luring riders to equestrian sports

By LISA GERBER

The thrill of galloping over the countryside on horseback is luring more and more riders to equestrian sports, especially combined training.

Although combined training may be a household word, the Michigan Combined Training Association (MCTA) may be one of the fastest growing groups in Michigan horse circles.

MCTA president Bob Hutton reports that the group's membership has just gone over 100, only in its second year of existence.

The sport is a relatively new spectator activity, but demands loyalty, determination and guts from its rapidly increasing number of participants, says Raymond Holland, West Bloomfield resident, township trustee and avid horse fan.

In track events the ultimate test of

the all-around skill of an athlete is the decathlon. In equestrian sports, combined training represents the all-around rider.

Holland and his horse Juggernaut (a word meaning unstoppable force) train and compete nearly year round.

It takes about two to three months to condition a horse for combined training events. "The horse has to be obedient, responsive and courageous—willing to listen to what you want and do what you ask," Holland says.

"They don't have to be the best horses in the world, but they have to have guts."

ORIGINALLY BASED on the demands made of cavalry horses, combined training involves three equally demanding tests—dressage, endurance and stadium jumping.

Horse and rider working as one is the key to success, Holland says.

"The horse must rely entirely on its rider for direction and obey without hesitation," Holland adds. "He must be conditioned so that he can meet all kinds of stress situations and work through them with your direction."

Unlike other competitive sports, where only the human body is utilized, in combined training, "two minds and bodies must work as one. You use your brain and the horse uses his brain."

For highly proficient riders, the combined training event is held for three days. The MCTA competitions last one day and are called horse trials.

The first test the riders undergo is dressage. A set series of complicated movements must be performed in an arena. Precision, smoothness and the dance display the horse's finesse, Holland explains.

The second test, endurance, is the most crucial and strenuous of the three.

The cross-country phase encompasses one-half to three-quarter mile of rough country terrain with 14 to 15 imposing obstacles of every type—fallen logs, fences, streams and cliffs.

"The test requires 'speed, strength and courage from the horse and rider'."

THE REAL OBSTACLE is that while the rider may walk the course beforehand, the horse never sees it.

After the demands of the endurance phase, the horse must prove that he has retained the energy and obedience

## Bluejays place in AAU meet

Three members of the Bluejay Track Club placed in the top 10 in the One Mile Walk at the Region 6 Track and Field Championships, held July 15 at Martin Luther King High School in Detroit.

The Bluejays were Lisa Budyk, Michelle Gagner, and Jennifer Worthing. Budyk placed fourth with a time of 9:21.5, Gagner was sixth in 10:11.0, and Worthing was eighth in 10:42.0.

All three girls will participate in the Michigan AAU Age Group Championships on July 22. Michelle and Jennifer will also compete in the One Mile Run, and Jennifer will compete in the Two Mile Run, as well as the One Mile Walk.

necessary to continue.

The horse and rider must now clearly negotiate a series of closely stationed jumps in the arena.

Each test is scored individually but added together for the end results. It was from this that the modern name, combined training, was derived.

According to Holland, one of the most important elements of a successful team is trust. "The horse has to know that I won't take him through something that he can't handle. If he gets hurt, he would never trust me again."

There is also the thrill of danger. However, Holland's most serious injuries have been a broken rib and a broken toe. "It's all a matter of coordination, training and experience. If an accident occurs, it is usually the

rider's fault," he adds.

If a horse is not properly positioned as he hears a fence, the horse will stop, but the rider may not.

The thrill of combined training has not only sparked the interest of local riding enthusiasts, it also has caught the eye of horse fans throughout the world.

The participation of Princess Anne and the royal family in Great Britain has created combined training aspirants by leaps and bounds.

The U.S. holds both the Olympic and World Championship team gold medals, as well as individual gold and silver medals. The team will host the 1978 World Championships at the new Kentucky Horse Park near Lexington in September.

## Farmington youth beaten in Cranbrook Jr. Open tennis

Roger Blackburn of Birmingham, for the second consecutive year, has won the boys' 14-and-under singles title at the Cranbrook Junior Open, held July 16.

Blackburn had little trouble with Brad Goodman of Farmington Hills, in the final, 6-1, 6-1. The Birmingham youngster won the championship last year by defeating Marco Lorenzetti of Bloomfield Hills.

In the boys' 12s, Greg Stickle of Kalamazoo downed John Macleod of Grosse Pointe, 6-1, 6-2.

Bloomfield Hills' David Drew lost the boys' 10-and-under crown to Stephen Hentschel of Ann Arbor, 6-2, 6-3.

Capturing the title in the girls' 14-and-under age bracket was Birmingham's Amy Walsh. She blasted Megan Foster of Southfield, 6-0, 6-2.

Erin Ashare of Bloomfield Hills continued her fine play by grabbing the girls' 12-and-under championship. She ripped last year's Detroit Public Parks champion Jackie Ranger of Grosse Pointe Farms, 6-1, 6-1, in the final.

In the girls' 10s, Plymouth's Wendy

Gillies defeated Lisa Pamintuan of Munster, Ind., 6-2, 6-2.

In all, 201 players participated in the three-day tourney.

Keith Soltriff of Birmingham captured the boys' 14-and-under consolation draw by disposing of Ann Arbor's Eric Johnson, 6-2, 6-2.

In the boys' 12-and-under consolation final, Detroit's Brian Hunt got by David Johnson of Ann Arbor, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Another Detroit, Mark Hunt, took the boys' 10-and-under crown consolation play by beating Brian Tuckerman of Columbus, Ohio, 6-2, 6-1.

West Bloomfield netter Kristian Streng defeated Kathy Kamsan of Mt. Clemens in the consolation girls' 14-and-under final, 6-0, 6-1.

In the consolation girls' 12-and-under final, Madeline Willard of Grosse Pointe won Lisa Black of Grosse Pointe, 6-2, 6-1.

Nicole Ashare of Bloomfield Hills bested Lisa Ann Lucido of Grosse Pointe Woods, 6-2, 7-5 in the girls' 10s consolation final.

## In The Pocket

The hot weather of the past few weeks hasn't bothered Ron Sarah. As a matter of fact, on one of the hottest evenings of the summer he reached the goal of all bowlers when he fired a perfect game in the special men's doubles at Woodland Lanes.

This is a league that bowls four games and Ron, who carries a 205 average, linked games of 176, 300, 224 and 202 for a 902 series to pace the entire loop.

It was his first perfect game, although he has been bowling only two years.

While he was doing some great shooting, the low average bowlers among the women were doing quite well, too.

Jessie Jare, who carries a 105 average, threaded scores of 139, 130 and 120 for a 389. Right behind her in the

Morning Glories league came Connie Kimball. With a 101 average, she opened with 107, followed with 137 and closed with 125 for 360.

ONE OF THE MOST fascinating leagues in the western suburbs is the league for the handicapped that bowls at Westland Bowl each Thursday morning.

As part of the Tri-County Therapeutic group, more than 30 handicapped persons take part each Thursday. And no league has more fun. They use 10 lanes and the joy of topping the pins is unforgotten.

THE MEMBERS of the all-star women's leagues are anxiously awaiting the annual picnic scheduled in the grove next to Eastland Shopping center on August 19. They have good rea-

son to be interested.

It is at this picnic each year that most of the changes among the various teams are announced—officially.

For the past month there have been all sorts of rumors of changes as the teams attempt to strengthen their lineups.

Up to now, none of the changes have been confirmed. But they will come to light at the picnic.

PAM CAMPBELL was about the only bowler who wasn't confused in the Confusion morning league at Westland Bowl.

Finding the range to the pocket she rolled games of 236 and 244 in a 642 series and easily took top scoring honors.

THINGS WON'T SEEM the same at

By W.W. EDGAR

Bel-Aire Lanes when the fall and winter league season opens. Erv won't be there.

Erv Watson, who has been on the management side of the operation for years, has retired. In fact, he retired early in the summer, but he won't really be missed until the many sanctioned league bowlers report for the fall and winter schedule.

THE AMERICAN BOWLING CONGRESS is making every attempt to acquaint the proprietors with the new rule regarding conditioning of the lanes. The new rule was adopted by a vote of the board of directors. The board also approved a series of seeded level of play to help you find competition that is right for you.

For those of you who don't play tennis, come out and watch. Spectating is fun, too.

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