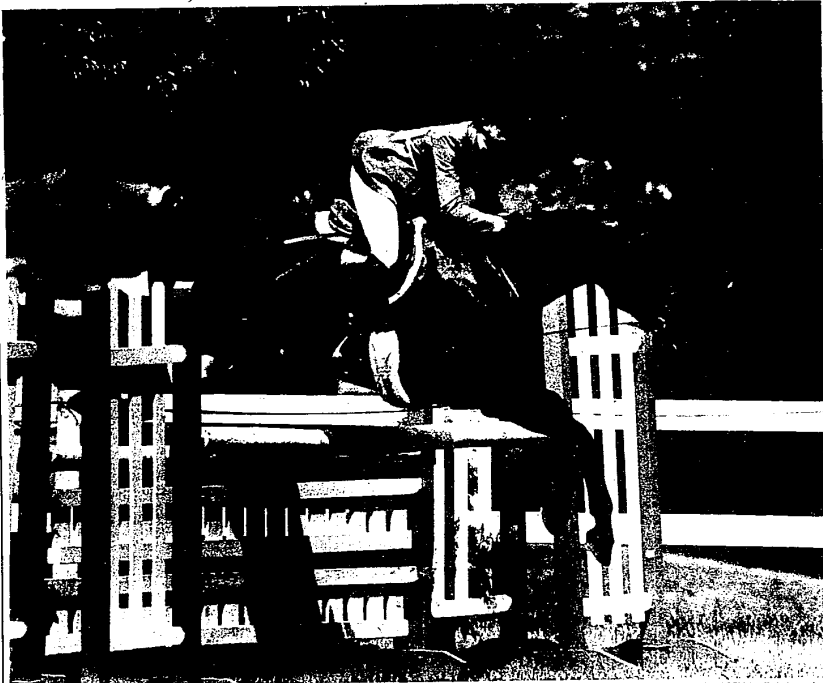


# Sterling Image — reflection of perfection



## Rider rebounds from leg injury

By M.B. Dillon  
Dennis O'Connor  
staff writers

No one would have thought Anthony D'Ambrosio was saddled with a broken ankle six weeks ago. D'Ambrosio, riding Sterling Image, made his first appearance in Bloomfield Hills a memorable one, completing a double sweep of the major events at the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club (BOH) Friday night, taking first place in the \$20,000 North American Grand Prix.

One week earlier, D'Ambrosio and Sterling Image teamed up to win the \$5,000 Motor City Classic at the BOH.

The prestigious Grand Prix event was worth \$5,400 in first-place money.

It was the first time in the six-year history of Grand Prix events at BOH that the same rider and same horse won both featured events at the same show.

"THIS HORSE is a winner," said D'Ambrosio, who won his first Grand Prix since 1979. "You need a horse like that — that's going to help you and do the right thing by you."

Sterling Image was one of four horses in a sudden-death jumpoff, which qualified after two rounds of faultless riding over the championship equestrian course.

Sterling Image completed the jumpoff in 47.156 seconds, edging All, also ridden by D'Ambrosio,

which finished in 52.075 seconds before a crowd of 6,000 fans.

The first- and second-place finish earned D'Ambrosio a total of \$6,900.

"We had to jump 45 fences at a taxing speed (to get to the jumpoff). He (Sterling Image) is the type of horse that had consideration and will try as hard as he can in each jump."

Hometown favorite Katie Monahan, last year's horsewoman of the year and a graduate of Bloomfield Hills Lahser, also qualified for the jumpoff.

She rode Balletage and completed the course with the fastest time (45.156), but faulted on a double-jump obstacle and settled for fourth place, worth \$2,000. She also took fifth place on another horse, Spot.

Network, ridden by Randy Cole, placed third for \$2,500.

D'AMBROSIO, 27, began riding at age 7. He entered junior jumper ranks at age 9.

A native of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., D'Ambrosio's most recent victory had been the World Cup of Mexico in Cocoyoc in April. He broke his ankle on May 2 in competition at Saratoga, N.Y., and was out of action for three weeks.

In preliminary competition, 17-year-old open jumper Paula Inman of Farmington Hills won two amateur events.

The North American Grand Prix is one of a series of American Grand Prix Association show jumping events sponsored by Mercedes-Benz.

1980 Horsewoman-of-the-Year and West Bloomfield native Katie Monahan demonstrates hell-bent-for-leather style aboard eight-year-old Centrefold in Regular Working Hunter class competition last week. The horse went on to win a blue ribbon in the event.



Cyndi Evans  
Athens

Jeanne Gibbons  
Kingswood

## O&E honors best golfers

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

With Meg Mallon as the consistent medalist, Farmington's Lady of Mercy's golf team enjoyed an excellent season. The Marlin capped the campaign by finishing above every metropolitan Detroit entry in the recent state championship meet in Marshall.

Cyndi Evans of Troy Athens was the top golfer in that meet, carding a three-over-par 79 over the Marshall Country Club links.

Mallon and Evans are two of the brightest stars on the 1981 Observer & Eccentric's All-Area girls' golf team, recently picked by a panel of coaches representing the newspaper's coverage area.

The rest of the six-member first team: Ann Lauer of Birmingham Groves, Luanne Cherney of Birmingham Marian, Jeanne Gibbons of Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook and Arlene Romanski of Troy High.

Vicky Buñetta was named Coach of the Year for her accomplishments at Our Lady of Mercy.

MERCY'S MALLON, the only senior on the first team, will play her golf at Ohio State University next year. But she can look back on an impressive prep career, which includes two O & E All-Area appearances.

A powerful hitter, Mallon "consistently drives over 200 yards," her coach said. She was low medalist in eight of Mercy's dual-meet victories this season, and her best nine-hole score was a 38 at Edgewood Country Club, Mercy's home course, in a dual against Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Mallon tied Evans for first place in the Oakland County Championship at 87 at Pontiac Country Club, and then won the playoff on the par-72 course. At the regional, played at the Travis Point Country Club in Ann Arbor, Mallon was the medalist with a 12-over 82.

Mallon landed in a six-way tie for third place at the state meet with an 11-over 85.



Vicky Buñetta  
Mercy  
Top coach

EVANS, a junior at Athens, also had a spring to remember. In addition to her showing at state — where she played alone because her team didn't qualify — and in the county meet, Evans was low medalist in the regional with an 83 at Oxford Hills Country Club.

She also earned medalist honors in the Metro Suburban Activities Association.

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Ann Lauer  
Groves

Arlene Romanski  
Troy

Luanne Cherney  
Marlin



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Consistent medalist Meg Mallon was Oakland County champion and led the Mercy to a first-place finish at the Oakland County meet this year.

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