

Suburban Life

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Sparkling Kerie Colleen Dwyer danced her way to capture the title of Miss Farmington 1989 and is now an automatic contender for the title of Miss Michigan.

Kerie Dwyer wins crown

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Kerie Colleen Dwyer, 18, a talented North Farmington High School 1989 graduate, danced her way to the crown of Miss Farmington 1989 July 12.

Dwyer was chosen from 13 young women in the 16th annual Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, winning a \$1,000 educational scholarship and a \$1,000 modeling and grooming scholarship, among other awards. She plans to attend Western Michigan University to study communications and dance in the fall.

"I'm just really excited about this," Dwyer said. "I prepared myself for the pageant and I feel I was ready. The whole year should be very exciting."

She is the daughter of Jim and Marilyn Dwyer of Farmington Hills and was sponsored by L.S.G. Marketing.

The scholarship pageant is a preliminary to the Miss America Pageant and is staged by executive director Sarah D'Ascenzo. Dwyer plans on working throughout the year to prepare for the Miss Michigan Pageant in June 1990.

Dwyer swept the stage with her

tap/jazz performance of La Jazz Hot during the talent competition. She has had extensive dance training with 11 years of jazz, nine years of tap, six years of ballet, and two years of ballroom dancing. After college, Dwyer plans on pursuing a career as a Broadway entertainer.

JIM DWYER gave a wink and said, "Did you know I was her choreographer?" Marilyn Dwyer nudged him and he admitted, "Well, not really."

"She has always been very talented," Marilyn Dwyer said.

"We're just very, very proud of her," Jim Dwyer said. "She's the baby of the family."

Dwyer is one of seven children with four brothers and two sisters.

Carrie Lynn Brown, 21, daughter of Wallace and Sadie Brown of Farmington Hills, placed first runner-up, singing a classical ballad for her talent. She attends Oakland Community College and plans to become a classical music performer. Brown was sponsored by Atlantic Western.

Allison Marie Ayres, 17, daughter of Nick and Carol Ayres of West Bloomfield, placed second runner-up with a classical piano performance. Ayres will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall to study international business and law. Ayres was sponsored by Metrobank.

The 13 contestants were judged 40 percent on talent, 30 percent on interview, 15 percent on evening gown dress, and 15 percent on swimsuit appearance.

BRUCE HUBER, pageant producer, said officials plan to eliminate the swimsuit competition for next year's pageant.

"Miss America preliminary pageants are not beauty competi-



Carrie Lynn Brown, sponsored by Atlantic Western Personnel Leasing Corp., took the first runner-up spot. The red-headed, brown-eyed vocalist is a graduate of Harrison High School and a student at Oakland Community College.

tions," Huber said. "They are scholarship programs."

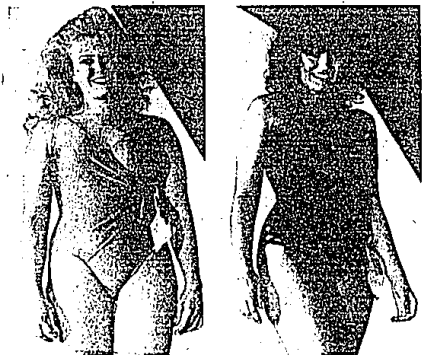
"Farmington has very talented young ladies who are bright, who are poised, who could get far in the pageant system."

Each contestant received cultured pearl earrings from Berdon Jewelers.

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Allison Marie Ayres played a piano solo and took the second runner-up spot in the field of 13. She is the daughter of Nick and Carol Ayres and was sponsored by Metrobank of Farmington.



Staci Decker (at left) and Lisa Carey both racked up a lion's share of points in the bathing suit department. Decker is a graduate of Farmington High School and is now attending Western Michigan University. The dancer is the daughter of Thomas and Judith Decker and was sponsored by Focal Point Studio. Carey is a graduate of Southfield Christian High School and a student at University of Michigan. She is a country western singer, the daughter of Carl and Mary Carey and was sponsored by Rodeo Drive Limousine Service.

Staff photos
by
Sharon LeMieux



High kicking Julie Ann Stockel is blond, blue eyed, a talented jazz dancer and was sponsored in the competition by World Wide TV. She graduated from Farmington High School this spring and is the daughter of Donnie and Sandra Stockel.



A look back stage finds the contenders in various stages of rehearsal for their opening number. The cowgirl costumes are in keeping with the theme for this year's Miss Farmington

Scholarship Pageant, "A Little Bit Country," honoring country western singer and songwriter Kristen Conley who will reign as Miss Farmington 1990 on pageant night.