

Rider makes 'Grand' show

By Rich Swenson
staff writer

For many years, the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club (BOH) was just a part of the neighborhood for Katie Monahan, but for at least one night on Saturday, she owned it.

Monahan, 38, who grew up right next door to the BOH, won the Detroit Horse Show's main event, the \$30,000 Mercedes-Benz North American Grand Prix Saturday night, despite having to compete in miserable conditions on a wet and muddy course.

Though she has been riding in BOH shows for 23 years and is considered one of the top riders in the United States, it was the first time she had ever won the big one in her own town.

"I was thrilled," said Monahan, who now lives and owns a horse farm in Middleburg, Va. "It was great to come back. It felt really good to win on the course where I started my riding career."

MONAHAN RODE Mrs. W. Averill Harriman's The Governor to victory, beating 36 other entries for the \$7,500 first prize and the Stewart Cram Memorial Trophy. She also finished fifth on The Natural, owned by Paul Iman of Farmington Hills.

The field featured six of the top 10 riders in the country. Peter Leone, ranked No. 4, came in second and the country's leading rider, Leslie Burr finished third. Half of the horses entered turned in clean rides in the opening round of jumps, forcing a jump-off. Eight of the 18 finalists had faultless rides the second time around.

Monahan was declared the winner because her time of 29.4 was more than two seconds faster than her closest opponent.

"The jump-off was a good one," Monahan said. "It was a little slippery. I had to try to go fast and still have a clean ride."

THE JUMPER CIRCUIT'S "Rider of the Year" in 1982, Monahan is vying for a berth on the U.S. Olympic Equestrian team. She has already won three events on the Grand Prix circuit this season, adding the Detroit Horse Show event to the ones she won previously in Ocala and West Palm Beach, Fla.

She will compete in the I Love New York show in Lake Placid this weekend, the last show before the final selection is made.

"I think my chances are very good," she said. "I have two rides (Amadiah and Noreen) and they (Olympic committee) want to take one or two riders that have backup horses."

Whether she makes the Olympic team or not, Monahan is content just to be a part of the sport of equestrian.

"It's a great sport," she said. "I feel lucky to be doing what I love to do most."

A number of other local riders performed well last weekend.

JULIE BACON of Bloomfield Hills stole the show, capturing three events, including the Equitation best class rider award. She also won the National PHA Medal Hunter Equitation and Small Junior Working Hunter classes on Most Magical.

Bacon also placed second in the Large Junior Hunter Under Saddle class aboard State-of-the-Art and took a third in the Small Junior Working Hunter and Large Junior Working Hunter events.

Sue Clippert, a 15-year-old from Bloomfield Hills, took top honors in the Limit Equitation on the Flat under 18 division.



Katie Monahan of Bloomfield Hills rides The Governor to a first place finish in the 1984 Mercedes-Benz North American Grand Prix Horse Show.

The Children's Hunter Classic was won by Tammy Nimbach of Bloomfield Hills on Moon Myth. Rochester's 12-year-old Stephanie Grimes finished second in the Pony Equitation class and third in the Pony

Hunter Classic on Bear Hug. Heir To Fortune, ridden by Bloomfield Hills' Donald Graves, earned second place medals in both the Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic and Amateur-Owner Working Hunter classes.

the week ahead

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE

Friday, June 29
Mich. National at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.
Redford Caesars vs. Water's Appearance, Redford Caesars vs. Livonia's Ford Field, 5:30 & 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, July 1
Garden City vs. Redford Caesars at Redford's Capitol Park (2), 5:30 p.m.
Water's Appearance vs. Mich. National, Mich. National vs. Livonia, Aday at Livonia's Ford Field, 5 & 7:30 p.m.

REDFORD-ADRAY CONNIE MACK LEAGUE

Thursday, June 28
RTJAA at Cantonville, 6 p.m.
Bish, Georges at RU-Don Foxes, 6 p.m.
Solom Club at Bish's Lathrop, 6 p.m.

LIVONIA CONNIE MACK

Thursday, June 28
Eagle Manufacturing vs. Mustangs, Special Steel vs. Griffin's Red Sox at Livonia's Ford Field, 6 and 8:30 p.m.
Dulodge vs. Franklin Angles at Gensley High School, 6 p.m.

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Tennis and Crumpets anyone?

The United States Tennis Association's (USTA) Women's Circuit of Michigan Tennis Tournament, featuring world-class players, will take place Monday, July 2 through Sunday, July 8 at the Deer Lake Racquet Club in Clarkston (on White Lake Road off Dixie Highway and I-75).

The tourney will feature ranked players from the

U.S., Canada, Japan, Austria, New Zealand, Great Britain and Chile.

The tourney is sponsored by Tennis and Crumpets Inc. All profits from the tourney are earmarked for the Therapeutic Medication Monitoring Program at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Ticket prices range \$2-\$5 and may be purchased at Deer Lake or by calling 625-8886.

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Each season ticket costs \$125 (payment may be made by cash, check or money order). Enter the stadium through the East gate. Times: Friday, June 29, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 30, noon to 6 p.m.