

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450



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Miss Farmington '91 begins 1-year reign

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

A 22-YEAR-OLD Farmington Hills resident who has dreamed of being Miss America ever since she was able to utter those words took the first step up the Miss America ladder when she took the title of Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills at the close of the pageant last week.

Marlo Ponos, a senior at Ferris State University, also took the Talent Award when she sang "Stand By Your Man."

Ponos has never had a singing lesson, yet took the award against some of the toughest competition in the talent category ever to appear in the local pageant. She says she will use her scholarship money for some professional training.

Her career aspirations are to be both behind the TV cameras as a producer and in front of the TV cameras as a singer. She is winding up her last year of college as an intern

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in TV production at Ford Motor Co. Ponos grew up in Livonia and graduated from Stevenson High School. She has worked since she was 11, with a paper route, baby sitting, as a waitress or singing at weddings.

She is the daughter of Rose Marie Ponos of Livonia and was sponsored by Bonton Shoppe.

In addition to her educational scholarship, she won the queen's crown, a Miss America pin, photos from Focal Point Studio, dance lessons for a year from Dance Dynamics of Walled Lake, make over and

personal color analysis from Joan LaMarra, a NuSkin package from Sarah D'Ascenzo, commemorative T-shirt and a commemorative plaque.

THE CONGENIALITY award went to Kerry McGlinch, an award voted on by the contenders. First runner-up to Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills is Jeannine Palkowski. Second runner-up is Wendy Kulezyski.

McGlinch, 20, is a junior at Central Michigan University who played the Maple Leaf Rag on the piano for the talent portion of the program. She won the Miss Congeniality Plaque, and along with all the other non-finalists, tickets to the Civic Theatre and a commemorative T-shirt. She was sponsored by Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Palkowski is a graduate of Western Michigan University who sang "I Wish I Were in Love Again" for the talent portion of the pageant. She was sponsored by Hearts & Roses and won an educational scholarship, photos from Focal Point, a NuSkin gift from Sarah D'Ascenzo, a commemorative plaque and T-shirt.

Kulezyski is a senior at Eastern Michigan University and was sponsored by Bill Cook Buick. She performed a lyrical jazz dance for the talent portion of the pageant and won the same list of prizes as the first runner-up.

TRACEY LOCHMAYER, a freshman at Madonna University, was sponsored by Metrobank and did a dance and baton routine.

Karan Morris, a junior at Wayne State University, was sponsored by Globe Furniture and performed a Tahitian dance.

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Staff photos
by
Sharon LeMieux



Poised and confident in white lace and spangles, Marlo Ponos gave a crowd-pleasing rendition of "Stand by Your Man" to win both the title and the talent award in the Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant.



Wendy Kulezyski, first runner-up to Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills, did a lyrical jazz dance for the pageant audience that filled Vladimir's Restaurant.



High points in the swim suit category went to Heather Lynne Appel, a classical pianist who attends Michigan State University.



Sparkling Kathleen Keller did an upbeat tap dance to an updated version of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy From Company B."



Waiting for the judges' announcement of the winners are (from left) Stephanie Aho, Marlo Ponos and Jennifer Hardy. Just a few seconds

after this photo was taken, Ponos stepped forward to take the crown. Aho is a flutist and Hardy a pianist.



Kerry McGlinch and Karan Morris rehearse their opening number backstage. For the talent

portion of the pageant, McGlinch played the piano and Morris did a Tahitian dance.