



Pageant line-up: Nine contestants vied for the title of Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills, which was won by Amber Joy Arbuckle.

# Glittery reign

## Pageant is a night of glamor

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

In the end, the new Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills met her fate first and crowned it. Amber Joy Arbuckle, who is the 1992 Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills, admits having a little bout with stage fright before the talent portion of the 19th annual scholarship pageant Wednesday at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

"I never sang in front of anyone before," said Arbuckle, 21, who is a 1989 graduate of Farmington High. (In rehearsals) I sang before Joan (LaMarra, pageant director) and I had to turn my back to her."

Thanks to the encouragement of people like reigning Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Marlo Pinos, her high school music teacher Margaret Koltz and LaMarra, Arbuckle sang supreme before an appreciative audience.

The senior at Eastern Michigan University turned out a soul stirring rendition of "Story of Love," which she dedicated to the seniors she's worked with during the past four years at Windermere in West Bloomfield.

The daughter of John and Sally Arbuckle of Farmington Hills receives \$1,000 in scholarship money and a host of other prizes. Arbuckle will also compete in the Miss Michigan pageant in June 1993.

"I still can't believe it," said Arbuckle, who was sponsored by Subway of Farmington.

Arbuckle more than set the tone for an evening dubbed with the theme "Believe in Yourself."

All nine contestants took their talents to their limits, providing a night of personal accomplishment as well as enchanting splendor.

Second runner-up Jennifer Lee Hardy won the Talent Award, performing an encore of "Tara's Theme" from the classic film "Gone with the Wind" on piano. The junior at Alma College, who was sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, performed the same number at last year's pageant.

Dance was the most popular choice in the talent portion, which is worth 50 percent of the total points.

First runner-up Julie Dugan, who was sponsored by Muirwood Square, electrified the audience with a futuristic dance routine to Michael Jackson's "Jam" she choreographed herself. She receives \$500 in scholarship money as first runner-up.

Miss Congeniality winner Kristy Yodzevics dazzled the crowd with a sparkling aerobic routine. The senior at Central Michigan University was sponsored by Century Comfort Center, Inc.

Kira Lewis kicked things off dancing to Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation." The freshman at the University of Evansville was sponsored by Contemporary Awards.

Sheila Marie Murray performed a tap dance routine while Gigette Marie Ilagan belted out C Music Factory's "Live Happy." Murray was sponsored by Little Caesar's; Ilagan by Hearts & Roses.

From dance, Armani Fatima Plater did a dramatic reading of the poem "Mother to Son." The recent Farmington High School graduate was sponsored by Bill Cook Auto.

Nicole Lynn Igrison sang the first note of the talent competition, performing the contemporary Christian number "Desire to Win." The freshman at Oakland Community College was sponsored by Metrobank.

Arbuckle, a pre-med student who wants a career in geriatric medicine, says she wants to visit as many nursing homes as possible during her tenure. She also plans to talk to high school students on the importance of staying in school.

Arbuckle was involved in gymnastics, cheerleading and Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) at Farmington High. A week before the pageant, she sought the advice of a high school teacher, Margaret Koltz.

"She's like a second mom," Arbuckle said. "She helped me last week when I was really nervous. I had tea with her and we sang."



STAFF PHOTO BY GUY WARDEN

Winning Walk: Amber Joy Arbuckle, 21, a student at Eastern Michigan University, wants to visit seniors in nursing homes and also talk to high school students on the importance of staying in school as 1992 Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills.



Vocal note: Nicole Igrison sang a contemporary Christian number "Desire to Win."



High-steppin': Kristy Yodzevics, who was chosen Miss Congeniality, performed an aerobics routine.



Clicky-clack: Sheila Marie Murray performed a tap dance routine at the pageant.



Reclining lines: Armani Fatima Plater did a dramatic interpretation of the poem "Mother to Son."



First runner-up: Julie Dugan choreographed her own dance routine for the pageant.



Talent winner: Jennifer Hardy, who was second runner-up, won for performing a selection from "Gone With the Wind" on piano.



Evening wear: Gigette Marie Ilagan wore a sleek black and gold dress in the evening gown competition.