

Last year year's runner-up wins pageant

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

With a thumbs up, a pumped fist, a few puffed cheeks and tears of joy, Julie Dugan walked her first steps as 1993 Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Wednesday.

The glorious moment on the runway at Vladimir's billowed into a release of exhilaration, relief and a touch of sadness for Dugan, who finished as first runner-up in last year's pageant.

This year's turn at the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant was sweeter.

"(I was) in complete shock," said Dugan, 19, who is a 1992 graduate of Farmington High. "Every emotion that had been bottled up inside of me... it all spilled when they announced my name."

With the crown, Dugan receives a \$1,000 scholarship from the pageant as well as a \$1,038 scholarship (six credit hours) to William Tyndale College.

Others prizes include a studio

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*Julie Dugan
pageant winner*

portrait from Focal Point Studios, a dance scholarship and \$825 wardrobe fund for the state pageant.

Dugan has the distinction of being the winner in the 20th year of the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant. She will carry on a tradition forged by others, including former Miss Michigan winners Holly Schmidt (1976 Miss Farmington) and Kelly Garver (1986).

First runner-up Melissa Surma receives a \$500 scholarship while second runner-up Trish Ann Sabbe gets a \$250 scholarship.

Sabbe also picks up \$100 in scholarship money as the talent winner. She performed Mozart.

For Dugan, the year ahead will be filled with public appearances and preparing for the Miss Michigan Pageant in June 1994.

She plans to make the most of her title. She wants to raise awareness about the hospice programs and work with children's groups.

"Adults in the community almost seem to embrace you. They see it as such a positive role model," said Dugan, who is a sophomore at Michigan State. "That will help me."

Dugan dazzled the crowd with a modern dance routine which she choreographed herself, to Michael Jackson's "Jam."

The talent selection fit her personality. Dugan is athletic, having played soccer for 14 years and ice hockey for seven. She's also a big sports fan.

"I'm a jock really," Dugan said. Dexterity was a needed requirement in the pageant.

Dance routines were the most popular among contestants. The evening included a tap dance tribute to Charlie Chaplin from Julie Ann Stockel and a stunning lyrical jazz routine by Surma.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

High-stepper: Julie Dugan, a Michigan State University sophomore, kicks off her reign as Miss Farmington during the Scholarship Pageant last week.



Answer please: Kathleen Fitzpatrick, at 17 one of the younger contestants, answers a question during the pageant.



Beauty and talent: Six of the Miss Farmington contestants are (from left) Julie Stockel, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Patti Paciocco, Julie Dugan, Jennifer Hardy and Valerie Ward.

Patty Paciocco did a choreographed aerobic number to Paula Abdul's "One or the Other." Kristy Yodzevics did a jazzercise routine to "Anything I Can Do, I Can Do Better Than You" while Kathi Fitzpatrick danced to Abdul's "Vibeology." Kira Lewis did a choreographed dance number as well.

Vocal ability was also a highlight.

Stacy Swanderski, who won Miss Congeniality honors, belted out Wynonna Judd's heart-rendering ode "I Saw the Light" while Valerie Ward crooned the tender "My Funny Valentine."

See PAGEANT, 4A



A song to sing: Stacy Swanderski, voted Miss Congeniality of the '93 pageant, belts out a country tune.



At the mike: Trish Sabbe, the second runner-up, hopes to major in physical therapy.



Dance moves: Melissa Surma, the first runner-up, shows off her talent with a lyrical jazz dance.



Hi, Charlie: Contestant Julie Stockel performs a Charlie Chaplin dance during the talent part of the pageant.

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