
The Calvert Recorder

Friday, December 21, 2018

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Calvert County, Maryland ■ 75¢



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

St. Leonard's Mikayla Miller (Maid of New Castle) rides for the half-inch rings at the 2018 Maryland State Championship. Miller snared eight of nine rings to win the state championship.

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Lady of the rings

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The State Ring Jousting Tournament was held Oct. 6 at the Anne Arundel Fairgrounds with the best riders in Maryland, and when it was all over a local jouster was crowned the top competitor in the state.



Lusby's Grace Riddile (Maid of Little Cove Farm) won the 2018 Novice Championship and was presented with the 2018 Mary Lou Bartram Award as the tournament's highest-finishing rider aged 16 or younger.



Mikayla Miller (Maid of New Castle) and her horse Tyke claimed the 2018 Maryland State Championship.

Lady of the rings: Local rider wins at state

The State Ring Jousting Tournament was held Oct. 6 at the Anne Arundel Fairgrounds with the best riders in Maryland, and when it was all over a local jouster was crowned the top competitor in the state.

Competing in the championship class, St. Leonard resident Mikayla Miller secured the title of state champion.

The 19-year-old is one of the youngest riders, and just the third female ever to win the title.

The first female to do so was Mary Lou Bartram, who accomplished the feat in 1953, 1956 and 1960. In 2016, then 19-year-old Southern Maryland jouster Lily Fisher-Flaherty earned the title.

Both Miller and Flaherty are from the Tynewydd Riding Club in St. Leonard.

Miller, who just recently reached the status of professional rider in May, charged through the season to win the 2018 Maryland state tournament by spearing eight of nine rings.

In ring jousting, each knight or maid gallops their horse down a straight 80-yard track and with a long, steel-tipped lance, trying to spear three metal harnesses each suspended from a separate arch in nine seconds or less.

Rings vary in size from one and three-quarters of an inch in diameter all the way down to a quarter-inch, which is about the size of the inside of a Life Savers candy.

The half-inch rings are the starting size used to determine the Maryland State Jousting Champion.

During the regular season, Miller was also presented with one of Octo-



Mikayla Miller and Tyke show off their 2018 Maryland State Championship form Oct 6. at Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds.

ber's Touch of Class Awards, which is bestowed to Maryland jousters by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. The award is presented each month to honor Maryland horses, individuals, teams, organizations or events that have garnered national or international recognition.

Miller won the award, which is named after "Touch of Class," the Maryland-bred mare who won two Olympic Gold Medals in show jumping at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, in part from her 2017 overall championship win at the Garleton Lodge International Tilting Tournament in Scotland, and her Semi-Professional 2017 National Jousting

Tournament win.

Lusby's Grace Riddle (Maid of Little Cove Farm) won the novice class at the state tournament.

Riddle was also the recipient of the 2018 Mary Lou Bartram Youth Rider Award, which is presented annually to a rider aged 16 or under who places the highest at the state tournament.

Port Republic's Emily Trawick (Maid of Port Republic) was runner-up in the amateur class, Lusby's Ian Flaherty (Knight of Tynewydd) was third in the amateur class, and Leonardtown's Tabitha Dunn (Maid of Catalina) placed third in the novice class.

For more information about jousting, go to www.marylandjousting.com.