

Local horse is dressage champ



National championship horse owner Debbie Williams with "Lancer" and winning rider Pam Thompson at the Lexington Horse Park in Kentucky.

Lancer isn't just a backyard pet anymore. The 10-year-old purebred Arabian horse, who is owned by Debbie Williams of Rising Sun, recently won a National Championship in a large Training Level Dressage class of 55 horses. The event, the seventh annual Sport Horse Nationals, was held in late September in Lexington, Kentucky.

Lancer whose registered name is Siraj Amir Moniet, was bred in Rising Sun by Dr. Jane Fassinger of Sylmar Road. The rider during Lancer's win in Ky. was Pam Thompson of Hy-Hope Stables of Cochranville, Pa.

Williams never expected to be the owner of a national champion, especially a champion of dressage which is translated as "training" in French.

"I am just a horse crazy kid that never grew out of it," said Williams, 46, who is a bookkeeper for R. Brooks Mechanical. "What a thrill."

"Lancer is my backyard pet. That is what's so amazing. I've had him since he was 14 months old," said Williams.

The horse has only recently been entered in competitions. Williams said she needed to be convinced to enter competitions which qualified Lancer for the national event.

"He earned two titles in his first show season ever...He eats grass and hay and a little bit of grain. I guess it was just his year to shine," said Williams.