

# Martz shows 'wild' steer to Gratz grand

BY SHEILA MILLER

GRATZ — Seventeen-year-old Steve Martz, the son of Ron and Lorraine Martz, Millersburg, led his first black steer, "Butch", before Judge Ron Trostle's critical eye and came out the winner, here on Wednesday.

Finishing up the Gratz Fair livestock shows, the selection of the grand champion steer found spectators and exhibitors shivering — not necessarily from excitement but from the chilling winds that whipped down through the scenic farm valley of upper Dauphin County.

Braving the elements paid off for Martz who is in his third year of 4-H competition. His 1130-pound Chianina x Angus steer placed first in its heavyweight division before going on for the top title.

It was all the difference between black and white for Martz who purchased his steer last December from a local cattle breeder, Eugene Sweigard, Halifax. The steer was quite a stand out — color-wise at least — amidst the families' 30 purebred Charolais cattle.

When asked what made the

difference for him this year, Martz commented with a grin that "you have to have a wilder steer to win — that's what the judges like these days. You saw how he jumped around." What also helped Butch on the road to the championship was the fact that Martz tied him every day and fed him corn, oats, supplement and hay in just the right proportions.

The reserve grand champion steer was another Angus x Chianina crossbred hailing from Lebanon County. Nineteen-year-old Brett Eberly, Newmanstown, added another champion ribbon to his collection in his final year of junior competition. Brett also was selected as the champion senior fitter.

Sister Dorene Eberly, 16, didn't leave her first competition at Gratz Fair without a championship ribbon. She was named champion senior showman.

And younger brother Bryan Eberly was not to be left out. He was chosen champion junior fitter.

These talented young cattlemen are the children of Raeu and Dorothy Eberly.

The top junior showman was



Steve Martz, Millersburg, exhibited his 1130-pound steer to the grand championship here at Gratz Fair on Wednesday. Making the selection was Judge Ron Trostle, York County, right.



Marc Webster, Halifax and Angus x Chianina steer Mohammed Ali worked their way to Junior Champion Showman honors. Marc explained his mother named the steer that because "he's the greatest."



Lebanon County's Brett Eberly, Newmanstown exhibited the reserve grand champion steer at this year's Gratz Fair, a stretchy Angus x Chianina crossbred. Eberly also was named Senior Champion Fitter.



Dorene Eberly, Newmanstown, was the champion Senior Showman.

Marc Webster, 15, of Halifax. This was Marc's fourth year in 4-H competition. He is the son of Mel and Deb Lebo.

Steer show results are:

Lightweight  
1 Becky Webster, Halifax, 2 Matt Webster.

Halifax, 3 Amy Bowman Halifax  
Mediumweight  
1 Dorene Eberly, Newmanstown, 2 Marc Webster, Halifax, 3 Grayson Fair, Harrisburg  
Heavyweight  
1 Steve Martz, Millersburg, grand champion, 2 Brett Eberly, Newmanstown, reserver grand champion, 3 Bryan Eberly, Newmanstown  
Jr. Showmanship  
1 Marc Webster, 2 Bryan Eberly, 3 Amy

Bowman, 4 Becky Webster  
Sr. Fitting  
1 Bryan Eberly, 2 Marc Webster, 3 Amy Bowman  
Sr. Showmanship  
1 Dorene Eberly, 2 Brett Eberly, 3 Steve Martz, 4 Grayson Fair  
Sr Fitting  
1 Brett Eberly, 2 Dorene Eberly, 3 Grayson Fair, 4 Steve Martz

## E-town fair features fun and games

ELIZABETHTOWN — The annual Elizabethtown fair gets underway on Tuesday, September 29 with the fair parade at 6:30.

On Wednesday the judging begins with rabbits and swine. Later in the evening visitors will have a chance to bid on their favorite art works at the art auction. The Sweet Adelines will provide harmony during the evening concert.

Dairy cattle judging is featured on Thursday evening after a Jazz Band concert and the Miss Elizabethtown contest.

Friday's schedule offers plenty of visitor participation in tests of strength. At 5 p.m., boys, girls, men and women can compete in the Bale Hay Throwing Contest. Contestants must register between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Classes are broken down by age and sex.

Friday also continues the livestock judging with beef cattle. Saturday features a garden tractor pulling contest at 11 a.m.

Youngsters will get a chance to test their speed and grip at the greased pig content at 5 p.m. Saturday. Contestants must be under 18 years of age and 125 pounds. Registration will be between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. with a 50 cent fee. Instead of a blue ribbon, the winner will take home the pig.

Following the pig chase, the sale of champion swine, lambs and beef will begin at 7 p.m. Throughout the final day, Magician Tom Ogden will be on hand with a magic show.

All contestants must be registered by 10:30 a.m. and registration fee is \$5. The contest is open to garden tractors with rubber tires, however no four-wheel drives or cut tires are permitted.

Lawn and garden tractors can have a drawbar height of no more than 10 inches and no less than 6 inches. No portion of any tractor may exceed 8 feet forward of the center of the rear wheel or exceed 6 feet in width.

Sheep judging will take place on Saturday, beginning at 2 p.m.



Bryan Eberly, Newmanstown, was the champion Junior Fitter.

**Beat  
the Heat  
with  
Eggs**