

Beauty Pageant

'Hard work' pays off for titlist

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SANTA CRUZ — Two years of what her mother called "hard work and dedication" paid off for Lisa Gail Davenport Monday night as the 23-year-old San Mateo resident became the 62nd winner of the Miss California Scholarship Pageant.

Davenport, a radio-television major at Fresno State University, will now go on as the state's representative to the Miss America Pageant to be held in September in Atlantic City.

Davenport's victory, which comes with a \$6,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 clothing allowance from Miss America, is notable in several ways, not the least of which is the fact she may be the last Miss California to be crowned in Santa Cruz.

Mounting protests and limited facilities at the Civic Auditorium have for years hampered the pageant. But beginning last year, and apparently continuing into this one, the several hundred demonstrators who traditionally gather in front of the Civic have had a "tremendous" negative impact on the pageant, officials said.

Davenport, however, also broke an 12-year string of Southern California women who have won the Miss California title, including last year's winner, Donna Cherry of West Los An-



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Miss California Lisa Gail Davenport

geles, who presented Davenport with her new crown.

The last Northern California contestant to win the event, coincidentally, was another Miss San Mateo, Dianne Wagner in 1972.

For Davenport it will mark the second time she has worn the crown of Miss California, although the first time that she has won it outright.

Two years ago Davenport was

the first runner-up to Debra Sue Maffett, who went on to become Miss America 1983 three months after winning in California. Davenport was elevated to complete Moffett's reign. She was forced to sit out a year before she became eligible to compete for the crown again.

"This time I won it for myself," Davenport said immediately following the competition. "I've been working for two years for this."

She was greeted after the competition by her jubilant parents, Leila and Ken Davenport, who said the pressure this time was greater on their daughter than the last time she entered.

Monday night a total of six people were arrested, one for breaking a window while trying to padlock the doors of the auditorium and the remainder were held for spilling blood on the sidewalk.

The arrests, including former model Ann Simonton, who organized the demonstration, were apparently the only signs of rowdiness from a generally well-behaved group across the street from the auditorium.

Simonton had said last week she would try to keep the atmosphere more festive this year to avoid a repetition of the confrontations that marred last year's pageant.

Other observers, however, at-

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tributed the relative quiet to a police presence that included dozens of police stationed in front of the building keeping chanting protestors as far from the scene as possible.

Security inside the auditorium was just as tight. A Sentinel reporter and a photographer from the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian were kept from entering the building because of what pageant officials said were "security considerations."

Bob Coldren, chief of security for the pageant, said the considerations were the possibility that the two might be carrying vials of blood or raw meat to throw on stage. Both, however, had the proper credentials issued by the pageant itself.

Davenport, however, said she was unaware of this or other instances of protest during the competition and all through the week of rehearsals leading to the pageant.

"I don't think I or anyone else even saw them," she said.

Asked her schedule for the next few weeks leading up to the Miss America finals, Davenport said she did not have a full itinerary but she understood she would "never have a moment's rest."

On Wednesday she is leaving for Los Angeles for a wardrobe fitting and from there continued preparation in her attempt to become the seventh Miss America from the state.

Davenport's court for the coming year will consist of the following: First runner-up Miss Brea, Mary Elizabeth Scott; second runner-up Miss Fresno County, Lisa Steffensen; third runner-up Miss Inglewood, Kimolin Cheyvonee Smith; and fourth runner-up Miss Compton, Debra Johnson.

Scott will receive \$2,500 for her second place finish, to go along with \$500 she won for winning the preliminary swimsuit competition Saturday and \$600 for winning in preliminary talent on Sunday.

Steffensen will receive \$1,500 for her performance while Smith will be awarded \$1,000. Smith also won the Saturday preliminary competition in talent and won an additional \$600. This morning Smith was also named the winner of the Miss Congeniality award.

Johnson will receive \$750 for her placement, while the remaining top 10 finishers will receive \$650. The remaining contestants will be receiving \$400 for their participation.