

Local rider earns top honors at 'Congress'

SPECIAL TO THE US&J

Jenna Striffler of Lockport recently attended the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, and came home with a championship trophy and more.

The Quarter Horse Congress is so large that it takes almost a month to complete. It is the world's largest single breed horse show, with more than 8,500 horses on the grounds and more than 17,000 entries made. The show attracts more than 650,000 people to the Columbus area.

On Oct. 1, Striffler and her horse Brand One Next A Kin, aka: Kenny, completed a course of fences with beauty and grace earning themselves the title that so many people in this sport dream of — Congress Champion.

The class was called Novice Amateur Equitation over fences. And she also was placed third the next day in Novice Amateur



RIDING HIGH: Lockport resident Jenna Striffler won the top honor of Congress Champion at the recent All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. From left are Mitchell Hanssen, Craig Weyers, Kelley Seekins, Virginia Beaton-Weyers, Amy Hanssen-Keyes and Striffler.

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Working Hunter.

Striffler rides and is instructed by Amy Hanssen-Keyes, who runs a horse stable in Middleport. Offering training and instruction to both horse and rider. Hanssen-Keyes

and her assistant, Virginia Beaton-Weyers, are proud of all of the horses and students that made the haul to the All American Quarter Horse Congress.

"Just becoming a strong enough rider to compete at

that level is something to be proud of," Hanssen-Keyes said.

"Watching each one compete, knowing how hard we all work to get there, is so gratifying," Beaton-Weyers said.