

MEDIA RELEASE

January 21, 2010

Seven Kelowna Artistic Gymnasts Will Travel to BC Winter Games

Okanagan Gymnastics Centre hosted the annual Cobweb Invitational competition on Sunday, January 17th. This competition was the zone 2 (Thompson-Okanagan) trials to BC Winter Games for the Provincial level 4 and 5 athletes. Kelowna is home for four of the six women's artistic athletes who qualified for the zone 2 team. Zone 2 is also sending three men's artistic gymnasts as well. Coaches Jesse Jakins and Norihiko Horie will be accompanying the athletes to Terrace.

Alison Watters, 13, and Miranda Pineau, 14, will be representing the zone in the Provincial level 5 category. Both of these girls are new to the provincial level 5 category after competing in the provincial level 4 category last season. Watters traveled with the zone to 2008 BC Winter Games which were held in Cranbrook, BC. Watters finished second over all at the Cobweb competition this past weekend. She took home the gold medal on the uneven bars and on the floor exercise while taking the silver medal on the balance beam. Pineau finished in fourth position in the all around with a second place on the vault. These girls competed in a category with two other Okanagan Gymnastics athletes, Sugar Tiner and Kelly Atamanchuk. Tiner and Atamanchuk finished in first over all and third overall respectively, but are not age eligible to attend the BC Winter Games. Atamanchuk has represented zone 2 twice at past BC Winter Games.

Tiner took home the title in the Provincial 5 category with a first place finish on the vault and balance beam. Atamanchuk finished with a silver medal on the uneven bars and floor exercise.

In the Provincial 4 category, Emma Morel, 11, and Lindy Drope, 11 are the two Kelowna athletes who qualified for the four person Provincial 4 Women's team that will travel to this year's BC Winter Games. Morel finished with a second in the all around with gold on the uneven bars, silver on the floor exercise and a bronze medal on the balance beam. Drope finished with a bronze medal in the all around, taking the gold on vault, silver on uneven bars, and bronze medal on the floor exercise. These two girls will be accompanied by two other athletes from Kamloops to fill the provincial 4 level women's team.

Three young men will also attend this year's BC Winter Games. Liam Dawson, Kolten Marino, and Stephen Hiscock comprise this year's zone 2 Men's gymnastics team. These boys will be competing in the Provincial level 4 category. This is the first year that zone 2 has had more than 1 male athlete attend the games.

Other results from Cobweb Invitational:

In the provincial level 3 category, Brielle Culbert finished in third place all around, earning herself gold on the balance beam. Emaree Handley finished in fourth position with gold on the vault and a bronze on the balance beam. Ellen Bradford finished with a bronze medal on the vault and silver on the floor exercise. Hannah Butcher earned a bronze on the uneven bars.

In the provincial level 2 category, Brooke Murray finished with a third all around with two gold medals on the vault and floor exercise. In the 10 and under level 2 category, Jenna Mick finished in third place all around with a gold on the uneven bars and a bronze on the balance beam. Grace Fecht finished with a bronze on the floor exercise.

The 10 and under provincial level 1 category was the largest category of the competition with 22 participants in the age category. Braelyn Dillon placed the highest of any Kelowna athlete finishing with a bronze medal in the all around. She also took home a bronze medal on the balance beam. Olivia Minor finished with a

fourth in the all around and a bronze medal on the uneven bars. Selina Habib took home silver on the vault, while Sally Haaheim took the silver on the balance beam.

Two Kelowna athletes competed in the National Novice category. Makinli Handley and Adele Lefevre took home the gold and silver medals respectively. Both of these athletes recently competed at Elite Canada in December in Toronto and used this local competition as another practice competition for this year's upcoming National stream competitions.

Nicole Pavia and Muriel Stroda competed in the Pre-Novice Aspire category which is a developmental category leading toward the National Novice category. There are not many pre-novice athletes in the interior so these girls also used this competition as more of a warm up for the competitions later in the season that will be in the lower mainland. Pavia took the gold all around while Stroda finished in second place.

For further information contact:

HEATHER IVANITZ

OKANAGAN GYMNASTICS CENTRE, 365 HARTMAN ROAD, KELOWNA, BC, V1X 2MP

Phone: **250 765 0888**, Fax: **250 765 0890**, email, **ogc@telus.net**,

website: **www.okanagangymnastics.com**
