

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 31, 2009

## **Handley qualifies for Western Canadian Championships**

Okanagan Gymnastics' Women's Artistic team traveled to Coquitlam for a competition this past weekend. This competition was an invitational for most levels but for the Provincial level 5 athletes it was their trials to Western Canadian Championships.

Makinkli Handley, 11, took the top spot in her category again this competition, but this time earning herself a solid spot on the Provincial 5 Tyro (11-12 year old) Team BC that will travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba in May.

This weekend Handley earned gold on the balance beam, floor exercise and in the all around. She also took home silver medals on the vault and uneven bars.

Other athletes in the Provincial 5 category were Sugar Tiner and Kelly Atamanchuk. Both of these athletes competed in the Open category (15+). Tiner took home silver on the vault, while Atamanchuk took home a fifth on vault.

Alison Watters competed in the Provincial 4 Novice (13-14 year old) category and took the all around title. She finished with a gold medal on the balance beam and on the floor exercise. Teammate Miranda Pineau finished with a gold medal on the vault and silver medals on the bars and in the all around.

Madison Arnold competed in the Provincial 3 Novice (13-14 year old) category with her best finish being a fourth on the balance beam.

Ellen Bradford took the bronze on the balance beam for the Provincial 2 Argo (Under 10& under). Hannah Butcher finished with a fourth on the uneven bars.

Hunter Geiger finished with a fourth on the vault in the Provincial 2 Tyro category (11-12 year olds). This Provincial 2 Tyro category was the largest in the competition with 48 competitors in the competition.

In the Pre-Novice categories Adele Lefevre competed in the Elite category finishing with a second in the all around. She brought home a gold medal on the uneven bars and two bronze medals on the balance beam and on the floor exercise. Lefevre will also be traveling to Western Canadian Championships as an independent.

In the Pre-Novice Aspire category Nicole Pavia finished with second in the all around while teammate Carissa Sebelius finished with the bronze. Pavia won the bronze medal on the balance beam and Sebelius won the bronze on the vault.

Julia Pasutto brought home two gold medals, one on the vault and one on the uneven bars. Emma Morel won a bronze medal on the uneven bars and a bronze medal on the floor exercise.

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