

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 18, 2009

## **First Annual Okanagan Invitational a Success!!**

Kelowna's Okanagan Gymnastics Centre hosted the first annual Okanagan Trampoline and Tumbling competition in Kelowna. This event was hosted at University of British Columbia Okanagan and proved to be a great success. The invitational competition was held in conjunction with Elite Canada which is an annual national level competitive event that rotates cities throughout the country. Kelowna was lucky enough to host Olympic medalist Jason Burnett and Olympic athlete Rosie McLennan. Many other top athletes from across the country in all three disciplines participated in this great event.

For BC athletes, this was the third trials of the season. The provincial stream athletes were trying to fight for a place on Team BC to travel to Western Canada Cup which will be held in Winnipeg at the end of April, while the National Stream athletes were trying to fight for a place on Team BC that travels to Canadian Championships which will be held in Ontario at the beginning of June.

BC names a team of only nine provincial athletes, three on each event, regardless of their category for Western Cup. Seven of these nine athletes call Kelowna home, Kara Harms, Danielle Gruber, Rachel Stone, Brynn Tucker, Emma Tucker, Carli Gruber, and Taylor Gretzinger.

Other medalists in the provincial stream categories are:

Sarah Croteau who once again finished with two gold medals in the Women's 10 & under trampoline and double mini trampoline. Croteau was also nominated for "Gymnast in Motion" for Gymnastics BC along with four other athletes from across the province.

Cami Hill finished with a silver in the Women's 10 & under double mini event.

Kalin Judson finished with two gold medals in the Men's Level C trampoline and double mini events.

Kara Harms finished with a gold on the trampoline in the Women's Level C event.

Stephanie Hill finished with a gold in the Women's Level C double mini trampoline and she took the silver on the trampoline.

Hailey Tomlin finished with a gold in the Women's level C tumbling event and also took a silver in the Women's Level B double mini event.

Emily Crichton took the gold in the Women's Level B trampoline event and bronze on the double mini.

Rachel Stone finished with a gold medal in the women's Level B tumbling event.

Carli Gruber finished with a gold in the Women's Level B trampoline event and took a silver in the tumbling.

Gina Bukovnik finished with a gold medal in the Women's Novice 15+ category and also shared a gold medal with her partner Rachel Morrison in the Women's Novice 15+ Synchronized trampoline event.

Trevor Stirling won both the Men's Novice 10-14 category on trampoline and on double mini.

Brittany Falconer won the Women's Novice 15+ event on the double mini trampoline.

Ben Goossen finished with a gold in the Men's National Open category on double mini trampoline.

In the Elite Canada event, Olympic silver medalist Jason Burnett of Toronto won the gold medal in men's senior trampoline on Saturday to conclude the 2009 Elite Canada. Burnett tabulated a score of 109.60 points for the win. Charles Thibault of Quebec City second at 104.10 and Carl-Rom Colthoff of Toronto third at 102.70.

In women's senior trampoline, Rosannagh MacLennan of Toronto took the title with 102.70 points with Kailey McLeod of Toronto second at 98.55 and Brenna Casey of Ottawa third at 96.40.

Veteran Karen Cockburn of Toronto, who hasn't competed since winning her third consecutive Olympic medal last summer in Beijing, is skipping the meet and will focus on World Cups and the world championships later this year.

In women's tumbling, Ashley Speed and Kylie Petrie, both of Etobicoke, Ont., and Jordan Sugrim of Burlington, Ont. were 1-2-3. On the men's side, the top three finishers in order were Andrew Egyed, Alexander Seifert and Chris Melemenis, all of Calgary.

In men's double mini trampoline, **Luke Friesen** of Kelowna was the winner with Seifert second and Kyle Soehn of Red Deer, Alta., third. Gillian Bruce of Calgary and Chelsea Nerpio from BC were 1-2.

In youth competition, the winners were Keegan Soehn of Red Deer and Mariah Madigan of Toronto in men's and women's trampoline; **Curtis Gerein** of Kelowna and Janelle Desmaris-Moen of Alberta were the winners of the men's and women's double mini trampoline event and Amiel Clarke of Calgary and Megan Mereniuk of Coquitlam, B.C., in men's and women's tumbling.

Friesen and Gerein also took the gold medal in the Synchronized Trampoline event. Gerein also took the bronze medal in the Men's Youth Trampoline event.

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