

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 16, 2009

## **Tiner and Handley at the Top**

Kelowna's Okanagan Gymnastics traveled to Abbotsford for a provincial invitational competition this past weekend. The Women's Artistic Team and the Men's Artistic Team both competed at this annual invitational.

Sugar Tiner, 14, and Makinli Handley, 11, both won their respective categories. Both of these athletes will compete in two weeks in Coquitlam for a chance to qualify to Western Canadian Championships which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in May.

Makinli Handley competed in the Provincial 5 Tyro (10-11 year old) category. Makinli dominated this category finishing a massive 4.0 points ahead of second place. Handley won the vault, bars, and all around and took the silver on balance beam and floor exercise. Handley will try to qualify for the Provincial 5 Tyro team that travels to Western Canadian Championships in May.

Kelly Atamanchuk competed in the Provincial 5 Open category and took the gold on the vault after sticking her landing on her new vault called a yurchenko pike. Atamanchuk also finished with a bronze in the all around and on the floor exercise.

Tiner competed in the Provincial 4 Open (14 & up) category taking the lead with the gold in the all around. Tiner also took the gold on the vault, bars, and floor exercise while she missed the gold on the balance beam by .05. This was Tiner's last competition at the Provincial 4 level. In two weeks she will try her first competition at the Provincial 5 level. Tiner also won a special award for the cleanest bar routine. Tiner's bar coach is Serge Chelest.

Meghan Fehr also competed in the Provincial 4 Open category and took the bronze on the uneven bars.

In the Provincial 4 Novice (12-13 year old) category, Alison Watters finished with a fourth in the all around. She took a silver medal on the balance beam and also won the beam choreography award. Watters' beam coach is Heather Ivanitz.

Miranda Pineau also competed in the same category and took the silver medal on the vault.

The Provincial 4 women's team took first place in the team event.

Adele Lefevre competed in the Pre-Novice Elite category and finished with a silver in the all around. Lefevre took the gold on the balance beam, silver on the uneven bars and floor exercise, and the bronze on the vault.

In the Pre-Novice Aspire category, OGC had six athletes competing in the category. Emma Morel finished the top of the OGC Aspire athletes finishing with a silver in the all around. She also took the bronze on the vault and balance beam.

Nicole Pavia finished with the bronze in the all around and took two silver medals on the vault and the floor and a bronze on the uneven bars.

Julia Pasutto finished with a silver on the uneven bars.

Carissa Sebelius and Lindy Drope tied for the bronze medal on the floor exercise.

Emaree Handley finished with a silver medal on the balance beam.

In the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Event, five male athletes competed in the Provincial Level 1 category and one athlete competed in the Men's National Open category.

Cody Briggs finished with a gold medal on the pommel horse and qualified for Western Canadian Championships. He also took home a bronze medal on the parallel bars.

In the Provincial 1 Men's category, Liam Dawson finished the meet off strong. The provincial 1 program in Men's gymnastics is a developmental program where all athletes receive a gold, silver, or bronze, depending on their score. He took gold ribbons on floor, pommel horse, rings, parallel bars, and high bar and he took a silver ribbon on the vault.

Kolten Marino took home golds on all six events - the floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and on the high bar.

Jayden Vandyk finished with golds on floor, rings, vault, and high bar and silvers on the pommel horse and on parallel bars.

Stephen Hiscock finished with golds on rings and high bar and silvers on floor, pommel horse, vault, and parallel bars.

Jackson March finished with a gold on vault, silvers on floor, rings, and high bar and bronze ribbons on pommel horse and parallel bars.

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