

MEDIA RELEASE

September 30, 2008

Okanagan Gymnastics

Okanagan Gymnastics Centre has set a new record in September 2008 for registration numbers. The club is already 95% full at the start of classes in September. This is a record high for the club. It is great to see so many young athletes interested in the sport of gymnastics! It is a great foundation sport for other sports.

This past season, Okanagan Gymnastics Centre had many highlights. In the Artistic gymnastics program, two athletes, **Adele Lefevre** and **Makinli Handley**, traveled to Prince George to compete at Western Championships.

Lefevre qualified for Team BC and competed in the Pre-Novice Elite category. Lefevre's highest finish at the Western Canadian Championships was a bronze medal on the uneven bars where she competed her routine with four bonus elements which gave her the second highest start value in the entire competition. She finished with a fourth place in the all around.

Handley competed in the Pre-Novice Aspire category which is another subdivision of the Pre-Novice program. Handley started competitive gymnastics in 2007 and had a very successful first year of competition. She traveled to Western Canadian Championships in her first competitive season which is unheard of in this sport! Handley was discovered last May in the recreational program at the Okanagan Gymnastics Centre and since then her family has altered their lifestyle with the enormous committed required of this sport. Handley has learned her skills at a tremendous speed and is a great addition to the club. Handley finished fifth all around in her category.

OGC also is home to four Provincial Champions in the Artistic discipline. **Nicole Pavia** finished with a gold medal on the floor exercise in the Provincial 2 Argo category. **Meghan Fehr** finished with a first place on the uneven bars in the Provincial 4 Open category. **Tiffany Sewell** finished first on the balance beam and in the all around in Provincial 4 Tyro while **Emily Crichton** finished first on the balance beam and all around in the Provincial 4 Novice category.

OGC also hosted the Ogoopogo Invitational competition this year at University BC – Okanagan. This competition was a great success with team traveling from across Alberta and BC as well as a team from Burlington, Ontario and a select team of Ontario's top 6 Provincial 4 & 5 athletes.

In the Trampoline and Tumbling discipline, OGC proved another very successful year.

Russell Canning is the national champion in Novice Men's 15+ double mini trampoline. This was Canning's first national championships.

Ethan McLeary dominated the competition in his age division winning three events in Men's Novice 10-14 years division at National Championships. McLeary has claimed top spot on individual trampoline, double mini trampoline, and in the tumbling event.

Trampoline athletes also competed at Canada Cup in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec in July and **Curtis Gerein**, and Ethan McLeary both brought home two medals a piece, while **Jade Wolf** brought home one medal.

Gerein competed in the Men's Junior division winning the double mini trampoline and finishing with a silver medal in the Men's Junior Trampoline event. Gerein sustained a major arm injury less than one year ago and after undergoing successful surgery he is back in action at the top his division which is also one level higher than he was competing last season.

McLeary also finished with one gold and one silver medal in Quebec. McLeary won the double mini event again at Canada Cup and finished with a silver medal in Men's Novice 10-14 year old tumbling.

Jade Wolf competed at her first Canada Cup and brought home a bronze medal in the Women's Novice 15+ division.

Coach **Angelo Despotas** and athletes **Jade Wolf, Ethan McLeary, Nelson Murray, Curtis Gerein** are traveling to New Zealand in October to compete at Indo-Pacific Championships. **Gerein** is then traveling onto Japan to represent BC.

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