

MEDIA RELEASE

May 3, 2010

Golden Glory for Gymnasts in Regina

Eight artistic athletes from Okanagan Gymnastics competed at the Western Canadian Gymnastics Championships this past weekend in Regina with their coaches Sergei Chelest for the women's athletes and Norihiko Horie for the men's athletes. Three Kelowna athletes claimed top spot in their category as Western Canadian All Around champion - Nicole Pavia, Sugar Tiner, and Makinli Handley.

Nicole Pavia, 9, competed in Pre-Novice Aspire category and finished with four gold medals and one bronze. She claimed the top spot on the vault, the uneven bars, and balance beam as well as the title of all around champion. She also earned a bronze medal on the floor exercise.

Sugar Tiner, 15, dominated the Provincial 5 open category at these championships winning the all around title after repeatedly dominating the category within the province. She then qualified for all four event finals and brought home the gold medal on the floor exercise and a bronze on the vault and balance beam. Sugar led the Team BC Provincial 5 Open team to the silver medal.

Makinli Handley, 12, earned the honour of Western Canadian Champion in the National Novice category. She also won the gold on the bars in event finals after qualifying for all four event finals.

Other medalists at these championships include Adele Lefevre, 11, who earned the bronze medal in the all around in the National Novice category. Lefevre qualified for three of the four event finals.

Handley and Lefevre were part of the BC National Novice Team that finished in top spot with the gold medal.

Muriel Stroda, 9, earned the bronze medal on the balance beam in the Pre-Novice Aspire category. Stroda and Pavia were successful at their first trip to these championships and are eager to attend these championships again in the future.

Alison Watters, 13, competed in the Provincial 5 Novice category qualifying for the uneven bars finals. She was also part of the Team BC bronze medal placing Provincial 5 Novice team.

Two Okanagan male gymnasts also competed at these championships.

Cody Briggs, 17, competed on the BC National Open team. Briggs is the pommel horse Western Canadian Champion after his strong performance this past weekend. He also earned the silver medal on the horizontal high bar and the bronze medal in the all around. Briggs was also part of the BC Men's National team that finished in second place with the silver medal.

Kolten Marino, 10, competed at his first Western Canadian Championships in the Men's High Performance Argo category finishing with a silver medal on the vault.

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