

MEDIA RELEASE

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Okanagan Gymnastics First Competition for Men's Gymnastics Team

This is the first competition that Okanagan Gymnastics Centre has sent a team of male athletes to a competition. In the past the club has only had one male artistic athlete and this is the proudly the first time the club has been able to send a team of Men's Artistic athletes.

This year's team is coached by Norihiko Horie who moved to Kelowna from Abbotsford to coach the boys.

Men's Artistic Gymnastics has six events rather than four events like the women's competition. The men must compete in the same level on all six events and also fight for the all around title which is the final total score added up from all six events.

The men's events in Olympic order are the floor exercise, the pommel horse, the still rings, the vault, the parallel bars, and the high bar.

Cody Briggs competed in the National Open Men's category. This is the first time competing in this category for Briggs. He proved himself worthy finishing taking home a silver medal on the pommels. Pommels proved to be Briggs' best event, but he also finished with a sixth place on the rings and on the parallel bars.

Okanagan Gymnastics Centre also had representation in the level 1 category with five athletes competing. The level 1 category is a beginning or developmental category that awards the boys a gold, silver, or bronze to represent their performance. These routines are not ranked. A "gold" routine is a routine that scores between 9.0 and 10.0 while a "silver" routine is scored between a 8.0 and a 8.99 and finally the bronze routines are scored 7.99 and lower. The scores are not shown in this competition, only the colour is flashed for the audience and athletes to see.

Liam Dawson finished with a gold on floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, and high bar and earned a silver on the vault.

Stephen Hiscock finished with a gold on the floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, and high bar and earned a bronze on the parallel bars.

Kolten Marino finished with a gold on the floor, pommel horse, tings, vault, and high bar and earned a silver on the parallel bars.

Jackson March finished with a gold on the rings and vault. He earned a silver on the floor and high bar, and earned a bronze for his performance on the pommel horse and the parallel bars.

Jayden Vandyk finished with a gold on the floor, rings, and high bar and with silver on the pommel horse and vault. He earned a bronze on the parallel bars.

The boys will try again at the upcoming competition in Abbotsford in March.

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