



929-2869

Grand Traverse Bay

GYMNASTICS

News Release

submitted by
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February 13, 2018

Northern Michigan's Premiere Gymnastics Center

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GT Bay Gymnasts Win "Chicago Style"

(Chicago, IL) – Coach Jennifer Van Deirse had a lot to smile about following the IGI "Chicago Style" meet held at Navy Pier this past weekend. The event has been confirmed by Guinness as "the world's largest Junior Olympic gymnastics meet".

For starters, her team members recorded the highest number of individual gold-medal all-around championships of the season. Avery Lahti, Peyton Zipser, Montana Timmer, Maya Carrazco, Norah Galton, Seryna Javin, and Olyvia Galton each won all-around championships in their respective divisions, and that feat was accomplished amidst 4,000 gymnasts from 28 states, as well as The Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

And then there were the individual event gold medals – 29 in all won by Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics competitors. Ava Hodges contributed two of those gold medals, winning top honors on bars and beam. Sophia Tucker, meanwhile, won the vault event championship in her age division. Ava Wendel won beam, Jayla Ristow won bars, Ella Wendel won vault, Mattea Ball won floor, and Dahlia Evans won beam.

Coach Van Deirse was also pleased with the team's depth. In many divisions the strongest competition came from Grand Traverse Bay teammates. Rylee Herban finished fourth all-around behind Lahti, claiming the third-place bronze medal for her vault, and placing third on floor behind Lahti's event gold championship. In addition to her beam championship, Ava Wendel finished in second-place all-around, just .125 behind teammate Zipser, who had also won event gold on floor. At Level 6, Grand Traverse Bay gymnasts stood not just 1-2-3 on the podium all-around (Carrzco first, Ristow second, Ella Wendel third), but also recorded two other top-ten finishes: Chloe Christenson at fifth all-around, and Malorie Hood at eighth all-around.

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"Where Grace Abounds"

Norah Galton and Mattea Ball had also paired up for a 1-2 finish at Level 7. On bars, Ball finished second to Galton's first, while on floor the roles were reversed with Galton finishing third to Ball's gold medal event championship. On vault, Galton placed third and Ball took fourth.

Level 8 gymnasts Olyvia Galton and Dahlia Evans had a similar see-saw battle, with Galton placing third on beam behind Evans' event championship, and Galton then finishing first on bars and all-around with Evans nipping at her heels in second place.

The "gold sweeps" was yet another positive Van Deirse noted. Timmer won three individual event championships (vault, beam, and floor) en route to her all-around gold medal, and Hodges, Carraczo, and Olyvia Galton each won two events to garner their all-around championships. At Level 7, Seryna Javin swept all four events plus the all-around to finish with an impressive score of 38.000.

One of the higher individual scores of the meet was Maya Carraczo's 9.800 championship floor routine, and she needed all of it to edge out teammate Chloe Christenson's 9.700 score on that event. Norah Galton's 38.050 was the highest all-around tally among GT Bay Gymnastics competitors.

In the team scoring, Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics finished in first place at both Level 7 and Level 6. Other competitors contributing to team scoring were Natalia Cotturone (second place vault), Katie Frank (third place beam), Kelsey Saxton (seventh place beam), Emma Egelski (ninth place beam), Madie Bowman (10th place bars), and Avery Wisniewski (fourth place vault). All in all, Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics competitors won 53 individual medals, including 29 gold, 11 silver, and 13 bronze.

With a lot to smile about, coach Van Deirse commented, "We're definitely peaking at the right time. We have two more meets this season, and then the state, regional, and national championships begin, so Chicago is a great focal point to get us ready for the post season."

The Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics teams next compete at the Tulip City Invitational in Holland, MI February 17 - 19. For more information about Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics, go to www.gtbaygymnastics.com, or contact Betsy Van Deirse at 929-2869.