



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Friday, January 22, 2010

NEWS AND INFORMATION from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
3000 Racquet Club Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684 info@gtbayymca.org
www.gtbayymca.org

GYMNASTICS INFORMATION, CONTACT: Betsy Van Deirse, Gymnastics director, YMCA Gymnastics Center, 1100 Woodmere, Suite A, Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 929-2869
tvd@gtbayymca.org

GENERAL YMCA INFORMATION, CONTACT: Tom Van Deirse, CEO, 231.933.9622, tvd@gtbayymca.org or Dave Eitland, Y Director of Development and Marketing, 231.933.9622, dave@gtbayymca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

YMCA Gymnasts On A Roll!

(Canton, MI) How do you improve on a season-opening performance featuring 18 individual first place medals and a statewide 3rd place team finish? With a second place finish the following weekend, of course, and that's just what the YMCA Level 5/6 gymnastics team accomplished in their second meet of the season.

Eleven year old Amanda Gardner led the YMCA team with a sweep of first place medals on Vault, Bars, Beam, Floor Exercise, and All Around. Kendra Benak and Francie Flores each claimed first place on Floor in their respective divisions, and Flores and Suha Augenstein each took home first place honors for their Bar routines, while Annie Gerstner once again turned in the state's top Vault performance, helping to earn her a 2nd place All Around award.

"I'm so proud of the way every one of our girls steps up for competition," said coach Jennifer Van Deirse, "Last week Kayla [Jackson] and Samantha [Neddo] were the high scorers, this week it was Amanda [Gardner] and Annie [Gerstner], and next week it could be the twins [Amy and Patricia Davis]."

"We have a lot of girls that work very hard," added sister and co-coach Gina Van Deirse. "We're so deep. Kalyn Peterson, Olivia Flores, or any of the other girls have just as much chance of stepping up to the first place podium at any given meet as our current individual All Around state champion Rachel Ovalle."

As a team, the YMCA gymnasts took top honors on Bar and Floor, and finished second on Vault and Beam, for a 110.35 All Around score, just one tenth of a point behind host team Splitz out of Canton, Michigan, in the "Splitz Splash State Qualifier".

Next up for the YMCA girls team is the “Totally Rad” meet in Kalamazoo February 5 – 7, and then on to the Guinness record “world’s largest invitational meet” in Chicago.

For more information about Y Gymnastics, call Betsy at 929-2869, stop in to the Y Gymnastics facility at 1100 Woodmere, Suite A, or visit the YMCA website at www.gtbayymca.org.

+++

About the YMCA:

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is a Judeo-Christian organization that serves more than 11,000 kids and 2,600 members each year through 65+ programs that build body, mind, and spirit.

Part of the largest charitable group in the country, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA granted more than \$120,000 in financial aid to 500 families in 2009. Some 600 volunteers donated over 44,000 hours of their time to ensure the Y could fulfill its mission of building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.