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NEWS AND INFORMATION from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA  
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Gerstner, Jackson Win “Chicago Style”

(Chicago, IL) 4,300 gymnasts from 140 clubs in 29 states participated last weekend in the Guinness-verified “world’s largest invitational gymnastics meet” at Navy Pier in Chicago. Known as the “Chicago Style” meet hosted by the Illinois Gymnastics Institute, teams competed from as far away as California, Connecticut, Bermuda, Canada, New Mexico, and New York, but it was two Level 6 Michigan teams finishing first and second place on the podium – Splitz, out of Canton, Michigan, and the YMCA Gymnastics Team out of Traverse City.

“It shows how tough our region is to have produced two of the top Level 6 teams in the nation,” commented 18 year old coach Jennifer Van Deinse. “What’s even more exciting, though, is that some of the top individual gymnasts come from our local YMCA program.”

Leading the pack among those individual gymnasts were 11 year old Annie Gerstner and 12 year old Kayla Jackson, both of whom claimed first place All Around in their age division. Both gymnasts have dominated vault all year long, scoring first place in every competition this season. Gerstner’s 9.75 Vault score was, in fact, a meet high in all age divisions combined.

Jackson placed second on Bars and Beam to complement her gold medal Vault, while Gerstner turned in a first place Beam routine and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> on Bars and Floor.

Co-coach Gina Van Deinse adds, “It takes more than two great scores to do so well at a meet of this caliber. In our session we captured five out of the top six

places All Around in the 11 year old age division, and six of the top nine places in the 12 and older age division. All of our girls did great!”

Right behind Gerstner, YMCA gymnasts Francie Flores, Kalyn Peterson, and Rachel Ovalle took 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> places All Around, respectively, including first place Bars and Floor exercises turned in by Flores. Amanda Gardner placed 6<sup>th</sup>, just .025 points behind the 5<sup>th</sup> place finisher from Illinois.

Jackson’s All Around (AA) gold medal was bolstered by teammates Patricia Davis (4<sup>th</sup> AA), Suha Augenstein (5<sup>th</sup> AA), Kendra Benak (6<sup>th</sup> AA), Amy Davis (7<sup>th</sup> AA), and Samantha Neddo (9<sup>th</sup> AA). Augenstein’s 9.125 Bars performance was good enough for first place in that event.

“Francie’s and Patricia’s Floor, Suha’s and Amanda’s Bars, Kalyn and Kendra’s Beam – we are really peaking at the right time on all events,” concluded coach Jennifer, “but we were definitely led by Annie and Kayla. They’ve got to be considered two of the top Level 6 vaulters in the nation.”

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](http://www.gtbayymca.org).