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Grand Traverse Bay

GYMNASTICS

Northern Michigan's Premiere Gymnastics Center

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News Release

submitted by
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Galton, Wisniewski Vault Into Nationals

GT Bay Gymnasts Finish 1, 2 in Regional All-Around

(Battle Creek, MI) Basketball and football coaches will tell you that defense wins championships, but Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics coach Jennifer Van Deirse credits consistency.

Two of Van Deirse's top gymnasts put that adage to the test this weekend in Battle Creek at the five-state USAG Region 5 championships. When the chalk had settled, it was consistency that earned them first and second place all-around finishes, as well as a berth in the Level 9 National Junior Olympic Championships in Orlando next month.

Avery Wisniewski began the competition with a second-place silver medal on vault. While she did not place in the top three medal positions on bars, beam, or floor, her consistent performance on each event added up to an all-around score of 37.200, second highest in the Region in the Junior division and good enough for a silver medal all-around.

Olyvia Galton's story was similar. Her best individual event result was a 9.425 third-place bars routine. But solid, consistent scoring on every event led to an all-around score of 37.375 and a gold-medal regional championship.

"Region 5 is considered one of the strongest in the nation," commented coach Van Deirse, "so Via [Galton] and Avis [Wisniewski] really earned their medals and their spots at nationals." Region 5 is not only strong, but large. The two Grand Traverse Bay gymnasts competed among 637 top qualifying contenders from 129 gyms located in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky. Only the top seven athletes in each age division qualify for nationals.

The next post-season completion for Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics is the Level 7/8 Regional meet April 26 – 28 in Bourbonnais, IL, to be followed by the Level 3 State meet April 27 – 28 in Saginaw. The Level 9 National Junior Olympic Championships will be held May 10 – 12 in Orlando, FL. (There are no national championships for Levels 7 and 8.)

For more information about Grand Traverse Bay Gymnastics, contact Betsy Van Deirse at 929-2869 or visit www.gtbaygymnastics.com.

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"Where Grace Abounds"



**Left: Region 5 All-Around Champion
First-Place Gold Medalist**

Olyvia Galton



**Right: Region 5 All-Around
Second-Place Silver Medalist**

Avery Wisniewski