



104-B N. Greenville Ave
Allen, TX 75002
Phone (972) 727-9911
Fax (972) 555-9970

Press Release

Contact: Bret Stout
Phone: (972) 727-9911

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. EDT, May 21, 2009

EWA WOMEN WIN AT NATIONALS

ALLEN, TX: Four first-year Level 10 gymnasts who train at Eagle's Wings Athletics (EWA) in Allen traveled to Washington State in May for National competitions. The Level 10 Junior Olympic National Championships were held in Puyallup, Washington May 15 and 16, while the Junior Olympic National Invitational Tournament (NIT) was held May 17.

Jessica Howe, who qualified to compete in the National Championships, is a 14-year-old Level 10 gymnast from Plano. She competed in the youngest age group, Junior A, and took bronze on the balance beam with a score of 9.4. She also earned a 9.45 on floor exercise, 9.325 on vault and 9.275 on uneven parallel bars to tie for seventh place all-around (37.45).

"Competing at Nationals was a very exciting and awesome experience", said Howe. "I had so much fun and I could not have done it without my supportive coaches, family, and teammates."

Three EWA gymnasts competed in the NIT - an additional competition for those who earned eighth, ninth, or tenth place all-around at Regional Championships and missed qualifying for Nationals. This competition allows an additional 192 athletes to compete at a National Level, and gives them an opportunity to perform for NCAA coaches who are already there for the National Championships.

Makenzie Johnson was the first alternate for Region 3's Junior C team at Nationals, having placed eighth all-around at Regionals. She earned the NIT Junior C all-around gold medal with a score of 37.275. She also earned gold on vault with a 9.6, and took silver on bars with a score of 9.125. She placed fourth on floor exercise (9.325) and sixth on balance beam (9.225). The 15-year-old Parker resident was the youngest in her session of 42 athletes, and had the highest all-around score of both age groups in the session.

In the Junior A division, Plano resident Nickie Guerrero won fourth place in the all-around (36.65) and on the beam (9.325). The 13-year-old earned bronze medals on floor exercise (9.35) and uneven bars (9.05). Twelve-year-old Tia Allbritten, of Rowlett, tied for second place on balance beam (9.4), third on vault (9.35) and placed fifth all-around (36.5).

The USAG optional team at EWA is coached by Alex Atamas and Amber Prather, under head coach Tatiana Schegolkova.

--END--