

To: Region 5  
From: John Geddert  
Re: Nationals Wrap Up

There couldn't be a more fitting end to a story than the one written at this year's Junior Olympic National Championships. For the fifth consecutive year Region 5 dominated nationals by earning the OVERALL TEAM TITLE reserved for the best overall region in the USA. For the 6<sup>th</sup> time in the last 8 years we captured 5 of the 8 possible age group titles. Simply Amazing!

This year there is no story about the underdogs overcoming adversity to win. This year we were as strong on paper as any team we have ever had represent Region 5. With that being said however, being good on paper means nothing (just ask the Dallas Mavericks). What matters most is performing when it counts and perform we did!

The weekend started with a 1-2 Junior and Senior A punch. Both age groups were crowned champions. The Senior As were unstoppable taking the top 5 all around spots while setting an all time team scoring record of 192.75. Senior Bs followed suit to cap off the first day of competition with 3 wins for Region 5. Sunday saw the Jr Cs and Senior Ds pull off exciting and emotional wins. What is really amazing is that we had legitimate shots at winning the Jr. D and Senior C age groups also (both ended up 3<sup>rd</sup>).

National All Around Champions were aplenty: Amanda Jetter-CGA Jr A, Venessa Zamarripa- Midwest Twisters- Sr. A, MacKenzie Caquatto- Aerial- Jr C, Gina Nuccio-Arena- Sr B. Not bad ... 50% of the National Champions are from Region 5 ... Not bad at all.

National Team Members include the 4 previously mentioned plus Elizabeth Mahlich-Twistars- Sr. A, Katherine Zurales- Phenom-Sr A, Stephanie McAllister-Wrights- Sr. A, Kari Pearce- Twistars- Sr. C, Trisha Wilson- Arena- Sr. D, Danielle Ikoma-Arena- Sr. D, Ashley Sledge- World Class- Jr. C, Kaelie Baer- DeVeaus- Sr. B-

National Champions on the individual events included Kameron Moore -Twistars- Jr. A Vault, Trisha Wilson-Bars and Floor- Sr. D, Kaelie Bear- Sr. B Vault, Gina Nuccio- Vault and Bars- Sr. B, Meredith Magjuka- Wrights- Floor- Sr. A, Katherine Zurales- Sr. A Vault, Taira Neal-Gym Etc.-Jr. D Vault, Nicole Dayton-Twistars- Jr. C Vault, Amanda Jetter- Jr. A Beam and Floor, Venessa Zamarripa- Sr. A Beam, and Stephanie McAllister- Sr. A Bars.

It was a wonderful weekend of competition and no better place to show off our arsenal of talent than in our own Region. Congratulations to Patrick Jordan, Scott Harris and the GymNation organization for putting on a fabulous event. Many in our gymnastics community have only heard about our national successes. This year they were able to witness it first hand.

None of the above could be possible if it were not for the support of this region. From athletes to administrators, from coaches to parents this was and continues to be a team effort. You can take pride in the fact that you were a part of this special season but furthermore you can feel a great sense of accomplishment in the role you have played in maintaining the present state of greatness that we have grown accustomed to celebrating. Thanks to all!

Sincerely,

John Geddert  
Region 5 JOPC