



The level 6 team from Stumpf's Gymnastics Center took third at the Spring Graffiti Invitational. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: front row - Ashley Materise and Michaela Stumpf and back row - Callie Flanagan, Kristin Kelly, Taylor Balsler, Lily Szafranski, and Shannon Martinsen.

## Stumpf's Level 6 gymnasts place third

The level 6 girls from Stumpf's Gymnastics Center were honored as the third place team at the Spring Graffiti Invitational recently held at the Pepsi Center in Amherst.

The girls also combined for several medals in the event finals, produced two events champions, and one all-around champion.

Lily Szafranski was spectacular in the 10-year-old age group, scoring a 37.675 all-around and winning first place. Szafranski also dominated the event finals, placing first on uneven bars (9.400), balance beam (9.575) and floor exercise (9.500). She was fourth on vault (9.200).

Shannon Martinsen turned in another great performance, totaling a 36.950 all-around score and placing second. Furthermore, Martinsen had a pair of third place finishes on beam (9.500) and floor (9.475). Taylor Balsler executed her strongest routines of the season, earning a 36.175 all-around and finishing in eighth place. Balsler also won ribbons on vault (9.100) and uneven bars (8.850). Marissa Stumpf was the final competitor in the age group and earned her highest score of the day on beam (8.750).

Stumpf's 12 and over division was comprised of Callie Flanagan, Kristin Kelly and Ashley Materise. Flanagan backed up her second place medal on beam (9.600) with a first place on floor (9.400). After an eighth place finish on uneven bars, Flanagan won third in the all-around. Kelly executed a polished floor routine that earned a 9.100 and captured sixth. Materise had a strong day on vault, earning an 8.650.

The level 6 team is preparing for the New York State Championships that will be held in Orchard Park on May 12-13.

## Pop Warner Football Woite named All-American Scholar

Mitch Woite from the Amherst Broncos organization of Pop Warner Little Scholars Football

has been selected as a 2006-2007 Second Team All-American Scholar.

According to Pop Warner, the title of All-American applauds Woite's off-the-field accomplishments, as well as his promise for continued academic achievement and excellence. By receiving this honor, Woite academically ranks among the top two percent of the 400,000 Pop Warner participants nationwide. He was the only recipient from the Western New York area.

To celebrate his accomplishment, Woite has been invited to participate in the 47th Pop Warner National Tribute and Awards Banquet to be held in Anaheim, Calif. from May 25 to 26. There will also be a regional celebration held in Rochester this June.

Woite, a sixth grade student at Amherst Middle School, maintains a 99 percent grade point average and was recently named to the 2007 edition of "Who's Who among American Middle School Students". Woite played center and cornerback for the Amherst Broncos last season.



Mitch Woite was selected as Second Team All-American Scholar and will participate in a special banquet in Anaheim, Calif. later this month. Pictured is Woite, left, and Joel Coppola, Commissioner of Pop Warner Little Scholar's Buffalo Niagara Region.

## Sabres do best when D pushes O

by MATT KRUEGER  
Reporter

The Buffalo Sabres run more lines than Walt Disney World.

With four legitimate scoring trios, it's easy to see why Buffalo was the only team to top the 300-goal mark during the regular season and has averaged 3.25 goals per game in the playoffs.

But don't forget about those blue-liners. As they did all through the season, Buffalo's defensemen have pushed the offensive action on the opposite side of the ice. And when they do, Buffalo is at its most dangerous.

With Brian Campbell, Toni Lydman, Dmitri Kalinin, Teppo Numminen and Henrik Tallinder adding their names to the scorecard, the Sabres have shown far more weapons than most people knew they had.

"It's been key to our attack all year long," coach Lindy Ruff said. "We've looked for those guys to get involved. We've preached a lot of this five-man attack. At the same time, it's important for them to be in good position defending, but we also encourage them to be involved."

Through Buffalo's eight games in the playoffs — The Bee went to press before Tuesday's game — the defensemen have contributed five goals and 12 assists. The most active blue-liner has easily been Campbell, who skates on the first power-play unit as the lone defenseman with four forwards.

Campbell is fourth among NHL defensemen with seven points in the playoffs. His three goals and four assists place him behind only Detroit's Nicklas Listrom (three goals, six assists), Anaheim's Chris Pronger (two goals, seven assists) and New Jersey's Brian Rafalski (two goals, six assists). Campbell had six goals and 42 assists during the regular season to garner a plus-28 rating.

Campbell's penchant for pushing the action in the offensive zone shown brightly in Game Two

of Buffalo's Eastern Conference semifinal series against the New York Rangers Friday. Not only did Campbell put Buffalo on the board first with his blue-line blast midway through the first period, but he forced the play in the third period as well. With the score tied, 2-2, the red-haired defenseman carried the puck across the blue line and behind the Rangers' net. A quick pass to rookie winger Drew Stafford, who slipped the puck backward between his own legs to Thomas Vanek, set up the game-winning goal.

"You look at the amount of skill he has, it definitely works to our advantage for him to jump up on the play and make some plays, create something, especially in that time of the game when we needed a spark," Stafford said.

Campbell scored two goals in Game One of Buffalo's quarterfinal series against the New York Islanders, a 4-1 victory, while Lydman and Kalinin each netted a goal in a 3-2 loss in Game Two.

"It's great, I think more so even from the bench when we see a two-on-two turn into a three-on-two and the third guy's a D," co-captain Chris Drury said. "I think it excites everyone and kind of lays it out in front of us as to what can happen when the D jump in."

Lydman (one goal, two assists), Numminen (three assists), Kalinin (one goal, one assist) and Tallinder (two assists) have all taken advantage of opportunities to get involved in the attack.

"We've been carrying the forwards all playoffs," Campbell joked after the Game Two win.

Through the first eight games, Buffalo got goals from 12 players, with Drury and Vanek leading the way at five each.

"Obviously, our depth is our main strength," Vanek said. "We don't look for one or two guys. We look for 12 guys offensively, six guys defensively and two good goalies."

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The level 5 team from Stumpf's Gymnastics Center won third place at the Spring Graffiti Invitational. Pictured from left — Samantha Manniccia, Rachel Kania, Kaily Martens, Mackenzie Donner, Katie Uba, Allie Scumacci,

Rebecca Reinhardt, Miranda Roberson, Emily Schulenberg, Jackie Schactner, Lacey Woite, and Maddie Meyer.

## Stumpf's Level 5 takes third at Spring Graffiti

The level 5 girls from Stumpf's Gymnastics Center recently competed in the Spring Graffiti Invitational held at the Pepsi Center in Amherst.

Competing against 75 gymnasts and nine different teams, the Stumpf's excelled in the competition, boasting two event champions and winning third place team honors.

The 7-9 year old age group was very strong, placing six girls in the top dozen of all-around competitors. Lacey Woite gave an extraordinary performance, which earned an all-around score of 37.300 and second place. Woite's performance was highlighted by a brilliant uneven bars routine that scored a personal best 9.775 and placed first in the competition. Woite was also the vault champion with a meet-high 9.500. She was also fifth on balance beam and tenth on floor exercise.

Mackenzie Donner earned a career-high 36.425 and placed fourth all-around. Additionally, Donner earned a solid 9.200 on vault for third. Donner had a pair of sixth place finishes on uneven bars and beam.

Miranda Roberson tied a career-high with a 36.250 all-around score that earned sixth place. Roberson also stuck another strong beam routine (9.450) which placed her second. Roberson had a pair of seventh place finishes on uneven bars and floor.

Katie Uba, Rebecca Reinhardt and Emily Schulenberg placed tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, respectively. In the event finals, Uba landed her best vault of the season to score a 9.00 and earn seventh place. Uba was ninth on floor. Reinhardt executed another great uneven bars routine (9.275) and placed ninth. The highlight of Schulenberg's day was a solid uneven bars routine that raised her personal best by an entire point and delighted the enthusiastic crowd.

Kaily Martens and Samantha Manniccia each gave a great performance in the 10-year-old age group. Martens completed a well-rounded meet as she was one of two team members to place in the top 10 on all events. Earning a score of 36.675, Martens placed second in all-around and

beam (9.375). She was third on vault and eighth on floor. Most impressively, Martens was the uneven bars champion with a stunning 9.650. Additionally, Woite and Martens' uneven bars scores ranked first and second among all Level 5 gymnasts, regardless of age groups. Manniccia also had a career day on uneven bars, earning a 9.150 and placing fourth all-around with her highest total of the season. Manniccia earned a sixth on vault and eighth on beam.

Rachel Kania and Jackie Schactner competed in the 11 and 12 and over age groups respectively. Kania continued a season of solid vaulting with a beautiful 9.400 and a second place finish. She was eighth all-around and ninth on beam. Schactner struggled with an injury, but managed to turn in a solid performance, earning her highest all-around score of the season.

The girls will compete in the "Dare to Be Great Games" in Rochester, N.Y. before traveling to the New York State Finals on Long Island from May 19 to 20.