



The Level 6 girls from Stumpf's Gymnastics combined to win the second place team banner at the Dare to Be Great Games in Rochester, N.Y. Pictured on the floor, Michaela Stumpf; standing - Callie Flanagan, Shannon Martensen, Ashley Materise, Taylor Balsler, and Lily Szafranski.

Stumpf's Level 6 places second at invite

The Level 6 girls from Stumpf's Gymnastics combined to win the second place team banner at the Dare to Be Great Games in Rochester, N.Y. In addition, the team produced 13 event medals and two all-around champions.

Lily Szafranski of Amherst was simply outstanding in the 9-10 year old division, winning the all-around title with a combined score of 38.050. Furthermore, Szafranski struck gold on the vault (9.300), uneven bars (9.550), and balance beam (9.600). She also won silver on floor exercise with a 9.600. Teammate Taylor Balsler of Snyder also gave a strong performance, winning bronze on vault (9.225) and scoring a 35.475 all-around score to capture fifth place.

Williamsville's Shannon Martensen competed in the 11-year old class and won a silver medal with a score of 36.375. She also won a pair of silver medals on beam (9.450) and floor (9.425). Teammate Michaela Stumpf, also of Williamsville, earned a 9.000 on beam that finished seventh and placed eighth all-around with a solid 35.100.

Callie Flanagan of Lancaster dominated the 12-year-old division, winning gold with a total score of 36.950. Flanagan was also champion on uneven bars (8.925), beam (9.575) and floor (9.350). She won silver on vault with a 9.100. East Amherst's Ashley Materise won a pair of sixth place medals on vault (8.800) and uneven bars (7.950).

Thirteen-year-old Kelly finishes 11th on beam

Kristen Kelly of Amherst competed in the 13-year-old Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships at Gymnastics Unlimited in Orchard Park. Kelly is a gymnast at Stumpf's Gymnastics Center and a seventh-grader at Transit Middle School.

Kelly ranked 11th in New York State on the balance beam, where her tight routine scored a 9.000. Additionally, she placed in the top 20 on floor exercise, scoring an 8.800, and executed her strongest vault of the season with an 8.850. Kelly finished the day with a 34.200 all-around score.

Materise, Flanagan compete in 12-year-old state finals

Amherst's Ashley Materise and Lancaster's Callie Flanagan competed in the 12-year-old Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships at Gymnastics Unlimited in Orchard Park. The girls compete for Stumpf's Gymnastics Center, where they are coached by Leah Recor.

Materise, a seventh-grade student at Casey Middle School, executed a very strong vault that earned her highest score of the season (9.00). She finished the day with a 32.800 all-around score.

Flanagan scored a solid 36.075 all-around and placed 10th in the state. Additionally, Flanagan earned a pair of 9's for a graceful balance beam routine (9.000) and a strong floor exercise (9.025). She was ranked 11th statewide on both events. Flanagan is a seventh-grader at Lancaster Middle School.



Ashley Materise of Amherst and Callie Flanagan of Lancaster had excellent performances in the 12-year old division Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships. Pictured from left, are coach Leah Recor, Flanagan, and Materise.

Amherst trio scores well at states

Amherst's Shannon Martinsen, Michaela Stumpf and Amber Moser competed in the 11-year-old Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships at Gymnastics Unlimited in Orchard Park. The girls, who compete for Stumpf's Gymnastics Center, performed well in this very competitive division.

Martinsen scored a solid 36.700

all-around score to place eighth in New York State. Martinsen's best performance was on balance beam, where her graceful routine earned a 9.425 and ranked seventh statewide. Martinsen was also awarded a medal on floor exercise, where her 9.150 finished in 12th place. Martinsen is a fifth-grade student at Nativity of Mary.

Stumpf posted a 35.700 all-around score in one of her best meets of the year. Stumpf was awarded an 11th-place medal on uneven bars where she scored a 9.225. She also executed a nice vault that scored a 9.250 and placed 16th. She is a sixth-grader at Mill Middle School.

Moszer, a sixth-grade student at Heim Middle, posted an all-around score of 34.400. Her best performance was on vault, where she landed a year-high 9.125 and placed 25th in the state. Moser also matched her best floor exercise routine of the season, earning an 8.500.



Amherst residents Taylor Balsler, left, and Lily Szafranski had excellent performances in the 10-year-old Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships.

Szafranski wins state all-around title; Balsler takes fourth on vault

Lily Szafranski and Taylor Balsler of Amherst competed in the 10-year-old Level 6 New York State Gymnastics Championships held at Gymnastics Unlimited in Orchard Park. The girls competed against 56 of the best 10-year-olds in all of New York State.

In a spectacular performance, Szafranski earned the title of New York State All-Around champion with a score of 37.900. Szafranski also earned three bronze medals in the event finals. Her highest score of the day was on vault with a 9.600, followed by a 9.525 on uneven bars and 9.425 on floor exercise. Szafranski finished fourth on balance beam with a 9.350. She is the daughter of Lisa Szafranski of Williamsville and will begin fifth grade at Mill Middle School in September.

Balsler executed her best performance of the season on her way to ranking ninth in the state with a 36.425 all-around score. Balsler's performance was highlighted by a 9.575 on vault that ranked fourth in the state. She placed ninth on uneven bars with a score of 9.00. Balsler is a fifth-grade student at Smallwood Elementary and is the daughter of Jennifer and Chuck Righetti of Snyder.

Szafranski and Balsler compete for Stumpf's Gymnastics Center and are coached by Leah Recor of Lancaster.

Sports briefs

Amherst resident Lydia Penberthy, representing the Niagara Level 6 from Gleason's School of Gymnastics, placed ninth on balance beam in 9.025 in the age 12 division at the New York State Championship held in Orchard Park on May 12-13. She also scored 9.20 on vault and had an all-around score of 35.525. Penberthy attends Sweet Home Middle School.

Abigail DeCicco of the Niagara gymnasts from Gleason's Gymnastics led the team in the 6-to-8 year old division at The Dare to Be Great Games in Rochester on May 6.

DeCicco, a second grader at St. Christopher's School, placed fifth on bars with a score of 9.25, sixth on balance beam with 9.325, and eighth on floor exercise with a score of 9.075. Her efforts earned her fifth place all-around with a score of 36.550.

The Level 4 team from Niagara took third place in the team competition with a final score of 186.60.

Williamsville East High School graduate Mike Faracca earned the Hobart College football team's Rookie Award at the 42nd Annual Block H Awards Banquet held on Monday, April 30.

The defensive tackle had an exceptional first year, playing in all 10 games and tallying 28 tackles. Faracca registered a career-high six tackles (one solo) in a 19-14 win over Worcester Polytechnic Institute and posted five takedowns in a 31-21 win over Rochester Institute of Technology.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 23

Baseball: Alden at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Clarence at Amherst, 4:45 p.m.; East at Tonawanda, 4:45 p.m.; North at South, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 24

Softball: Sacred Heart at Nardin, 4:15 p.m. (LaSalle Park)

Friday, May 25

Boys Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at ECICs (Alden) 3 p.m.

Girls Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at ECICs (Alden) 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 26

Boys Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at ECICs (Alden) noon

Girls Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at ECICs (Alden) noon