

## Gymnastics

## Section VI places third at states; Arcury named all-star



Williamsville South senior Kristina Arcury took fourth in all-around at the New York State Championships on Saturday at Carmel High School. Arcury was named a New York State all-star.

File photo

by MATT KRUEGER  
Reporter

While Western New York may be a hotbed for quality gymnasts, Section VI has repeatedly come up just short at the New York State Championships.

Section VI won its only state championship in 2000, but has placed in the top three for the past 20 years.

And you can add the 2007-08 season to the list, as Section VI placed third at this past weekend's state meet at Carmel High School. Section VI scored 181.700 points to finish behind Section I (186.175) and Section III (182.675).

"The competition is very good at the state meet," Section Coordinator and Lancaster coach Donna Aquino said. "New York State has some very good gymnasts, especially down by the New York City area. We're always very strong, but we just can't seem to come out on top each year."

Section VI's failure to win the state championship this year, wasn't due to a lack of effort or mistakes in routines. Of the 20 routines that counted toward the score, Section VI only counted falls on two of them. That's only a one-point deduction from the team score. Last year, Section VI counted six falls on balance beam, a three-point deduction, and ended up losing the team title by 1.35 points to Section I (New York City).

"We're a little younger this year," Aquino said. "But the girls did very well for what they were able to do. We only had two seniors on the team."

One of those seniors, Kristina Arcury of Williamsville South, followed up her Section VI all-around title with a fourth-place finish at states. Arcury, a two-time sectional champion and six-time state competitor, posted a 37.050 all-around score to finish a little more than a point out of first place. Section Eight's Jessica Panza won the title with a 38.100, while Section I's Kyle Shields (38.075) and Danielle Bonner (37.325) took second and third, respectively.

Arcury placed third on uneven bars (9.45), fourth on beam (9.55), 11th on vault (8.95) and 15th on floor exercise (9.1)

"I talked to her after the meet and told her 'I'm so proud of you,'" Aquino said of Arcury, who will

compete for Kent State University in the fall. "I remember her as a seventh-grader. She was so nervous at the state meet, she was racked with fear. But she maintained her competitiveness all through high school. It will be sad to see her go, but that's what happens. The girls have to move on after high school."

Arcury was Section VI's only athlete named to the state all-star team.

Lancaster's Amanda Recor finished seventh in the all-around competition with a 36.675, while Kenmore East's Sarah Nadrowski (36.625) was eighth. Recor, who won the sectional vault and floor titles back in November, finished fourth on vault (9.2) and 11th on floor (9.225), bars (9.05) and beam (9.2). Nadrowski, who finished second at the Section VI meet, finished fifth on bars (9.35), seventh on floor (9.325), eighth on vault (9.05) and 17th on beam (8.9).

"We'll be looking for more out of Amanda and Sarah next year," Aquino said. "They both did well at states, and I expect them to lead the Section VI team next year."

Frontier's Nicole Radon finished seventh on bars (9.175), ninth on vault (9.0) and 12th on floor (9.2). Teammate Kelsey Kryszak finished 25th on bars (8.4).

Williamsville South's Kailyn Arcury placed 13th on vault (8.85), 15th on bars (8.925) and 31st on beam (8.25).

Hamburg's Taylor Wierzba finished 18th on beam (8.875) and 20th on floor (8.9). Teammate Elise Konikoff placed 18th on floor (9.0) and 23rd on vault (8.35).

Lancaster's Chelsea Recor went to states as an alternate after finishing sixth in the all-around competition at the Section VI meet. She ended up competing on beam, when Kenmore West's Marissa Fabrizi decided not to make the trip. Recor placed 29th with a 8.325.

"Young girls can get nervous a bit at states," Aquino said. "In a big meet like that, I look to the older girls to keep them cool and calm. States is so much different. Next year, these young girls will be all the better for having this experience."

e-mail: mkrueger@beenews.com

## East excels at sectionals

Four athletes who have shined all throughout the Section VI indoor track season shined again Saturday at the Section VI Championships at Fredonia State College.

Eighth-grader Kala Allen led Williamsville East with three second place finishes, qualifying for the New York State Championships on Saturday at Cornell University in the 55-dash, 300- and 600-meters.

Her 300 time of 41.53 set a new school record, her second this season.

She also ran a 1:41.18 in the 600 and a 7.45 FAT in the 55 dash.

On the boys' side, senior Colin Begy took third in the 600 in 1:27.37 and had qualified for the state meet as part of the intersectional medley relay. It's Begy's first season of indoor track.

Senior Greg French finished fourth in the 55 hurdles in an extremely talented field of hurdlers, said East coach Kurt Holme.

"French looks forward to the 110 meter hurdles in the outdoor season, in which he finished second in Section VI last spring," said Holme.

Senior Andy McDonald ran the fastest indoor track 1600 time in the last 25 years for the Flames, finishing in 4:44.

## Panther trio heading to states

Sweet Home's indoor track program tripled the amount of qualifiers for the New York State Championships from last year at Saturday's Section VI Championships at Fredonia State College.

Junior Ken Anaya, sophomore Josh Blango and sophomore Katie Niblock each advanced. Anaya won the boys high jump with a leap of 5-11. Blango took second in the boys 55-meter hurdles in 7.98. Niblock placed third in the girls 1,000 meters in 3:04.90 and will run the 1,000 leg of the intersectional relay.

Each also placed in the top six in another event. Anaya came in sixth in the boys 55 hurdles in 8.25. Blango went 41-0.75 in the boys triple jump for third. Niblock came in fourth in the girls 1,500 in 5:04.51.

Senior Andrew Hopkins threw the shot put 49-0.25 for fourth place. Senior Dan Miranda high-jumped 5-8 for third.

## Amherst Central

Sophomore Brenna Symoniak took second in the girls 1,500 (4:53.63) and 3,000 (10:45.32) but is only going in the 1,500.

## Garus bowls well in states' debut

Amherst Central left-handed junior Justin Garus rolled a six-game total of 1,212 at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championships last weekend in White Plains, N.Y.

Garus opened with a

three-game set of 194, 202 and 184 for a three-game total of 581. His second three-game set was 190, 225 and 216 for 631.

"Justin did a great job adjusting to some less than ideal scoring conditions," said Amherst coach Jason Beckman. "A lot of the bowlers found the shot difficult, but Justin was able to stay focused, string together some strikes and convert most of his spares. Overall, I think he had a great tournament. Just to make it to the state championship is a tremendous accomplishment and the whole experience is something that I think he'll remember for a long time."

Garus was part of the six-man sectional all-star team which finished in sixth place.

Garus is the first Amherst bowler on record to qualify for the state meet.

## Hopkins wins shot put

Andrew Hopkins won the shot put in 51-9 to lead the Sweet Home boys indoor track team to an eighth place tie at the Section VI Team Championships on Feb. 9 at Fredonia State College.

The boys finished tied with Kenmore East with 21 points.

Ken Anaya was third in the high jump in 5-10. Isaac Hagen was seventh in the 1600 in 4:54.90. Sweet Home's 4x800 relay came in fifth in 9:12.60. Josh Blango came in sixth in the hurdles in 8.77 FAT.

For the girls, Katie Niblock came in third in the 1500 (5:07.30) and fifth in the 600 (1:46.20). Sweet Home's 4x800 relay took eighth in 10:56.30.

## Amherst Central

Brenna Symoniak took second in the 1500-meters

(5:02.10) and third in the 3000 (10:43.30). Olivia May tripled jumped 33-10.5 for third. Abby DeFrancis tied for eighth in the 300 in 45.80.

The girls were ninth in team scoring with 20 points.

## Williamsville East

Kala Allen took second in the 300 (41.80). Melissa Spada placed seventh in the 1500 (5:19.50).

The East girls were tied for 10th with 16 points.

Colin Begy led East boys with a 1:28.20 in the 600 to place second.

Greg French took fifth in the hurdles in 8.32. Andy McDonald went 4:48.40 in the 1600 to take fourth. Dan Egan long jumped 20-1.75 to place fifth. The East 4x400 relay was sixth in 3:49.60. The boys finished 11th with 17 points.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

## Sweet Home

Boys basketball — Section VI Class AA semifinal - lost to Niagara Falls 85-62

Federation hockey — New York State Division II quarterfinals - def. Section IX's John S. Burke Catholic, 3-2 (OT)

## Williamsville East

Girls basketball — Section VI Class A-1 final - def. Grand Island 41-38; Class A final - lost to Pioneer 62-38

## Sacred Heart

Girls basketball — Monsignor Martin Association semifinals - lost to Nardin 48-44 (3 OT)