

Fort gymnasts find success at Salto Mardi Gras

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Success was the order of the weekend for the girls of the Fort Gymnastics Club.

The team made its annual journey to Sherwood Park's Salto Gymnastics for the 10th Mardi Gras Madness Invitational.

There, most of the competitive team brought home ribbons while several of the pre-competition gymnasts got to see how their scores might stack up.

The most awarded Fort athlete at the event was P3 Open competitor Reese Glawson, the club's first P3 gymnast in over a decade.

According to club head coach Leanne Cameron, "We weren't expecting a lot."

She clarified her comment, noting Glawson is a working high school graduate who has little time to fit practice into her schedule and only returned to the sport in January.

As a result, all involved were thrilled as she claimed a first in her category on the balance beam, second on both the uneven bars and the floor, and a fourth on the vault.

Those scores led Glawson to be first ranked overall in her group of eight, a promising showing for an athlete who practices for less than six hours a week.

Perhaps the most disappointed from the event was P1 Argo Madison Bossert, who unwittingly fractured her foot during the event warm-up.

Uncertain about the pain, Bossert opted out of the vault and floor routines, but she still managed a 12.1 (out of 13) score on the bars, good for ninth of 41 competitors, and an 11.05 on the beam, which ranked her at 16th in her category.

"She was really happy with her bars score," Cameron said.

Also doing well were the Fort P1 Novices, Kaitlyn Krauskopf and Cierra Plamondon, who competed directly against one another.

Krauskopf claimed bronze medals on both her vault and floor routines, while grabbing the fourth place ribbon on the beam and a fifth place on the bars.

Cameron described Krauskopf's beam performance as "awesome," but she noted Krauskopf actually had a slightly lower score than usual on the vault.

Overall, Krauskopf ranked fourth in her group of 10. Cameron noted 10 competitors was a large field for the age category, as there were only five in the group at the last event.

Plamondon was just behind Krauskopf, coming in fourth on the vault, fifth on the floor and seventh on the bars and beam.

Cameron noted Plamondon was a first year competitor, but this was her last meet before moving away from the area.

P1Tyro Rayleen Sloman did well in her second competitive outing, claiming an eighth place ribbon with her floor

routine and ranking 16th overall in a field of 26.

Perhaps the most disappointed in herself was P2 Novice Meigen Smith, whose struggles on a couple of events led to a lower overall score than she would have liked.

While she had an 11.55 on the vault, described by Cameron as an “awesome score,” and a 10.6 on the bars, Smith’s difficulties with the beam continued.

“She gets really nervous,” Cameron said, noting Smith fell off three times, each leading to a full point deduction. “She’s improving, but she was still disappointed.

“She remembered all her skills and completed her cartwheel,” Cameron added, noting the latter as a first for Smith.

Smith also ranked lower than she would have liked on the floor, but Cameron waved it off as a byproduct of nerves on the beam.

“She can tumble really well.”

Cameron suggested much of Smith’s nervousness likely stemmed from moving up in both age and competition categories.

Also competing at the P2 level was Katelyn Carson, who claimed fifth of seven in the Open category.

Competition was fierce and close in the group, as Carson’s “beautiful” floor routine score of 12.1 grabbed a silver and was only 0.05 points off the gold.

She claimed fourth on the bars with an 11.9, completing a sole circle for the first time, and had fifth on the vault with a 12.15, 0.6 off the gold medal winner.

Carson’s only disappointment came on the beam, where a fall cost her a point, but she still managed a fifth with a 10.55 score.

Finally, the club brought five pre-competition gymnasts out to get a feel for meets: Novice Darby Kondro, Tyro Morgan Phibbs, Tyro Emily Power, Tyro Gabrielle Shank and Argo Sarah Weidmann.

According to Cameron, three of the five were “pretty nervous” at their first meet, but they all had fun, with all remembering their routines, something Cameron said was uncommon for first timers.

While not given scores, all pre-competition gymnasts are given ribbons based on how well they did, and three - Power, Shank and Weidmann - claimed golds.

Overall, Cameron said she was happy with her gymnasts.

“The girls have been working really hard and they’re improving.”

The club members won’t have to wait long to show that improvement, as they’ll be back on the floor this weekend for the Dynamyx Sweetheart meet in St. Albert.

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