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Local Gymnasts Finish on Top at State Meet

COPPELL – Tiffany Tolnay, 17, of Grapevine, Nicole “Nikki” Felley, 18, of Flower Mound, Anna Goldblatt, 10, of Coppell, Aimee Erb, 15, of Flower Mound and Ashley McCann, 15, of Grapevine, finished on top during the 2005 Level 9/10 Texas State Meet. With scores well above what was required, all five athletes have qualified for regional competition that will take place on April 16 in Norman, Okla.

Tolnay, who already claims the title of Level 10 all-around state champion, won first place in all-around for the second time. With the highest score of all Level 10 athletes (39.1 out of a possible 40), she placed first in vault, uneven bars and floor, and placed second on the balance beam. Felley finished right behind Tolnay with the second highest score (38.6 out of a possible 40) putting her in second place in the all-around. In addition to their individual victories, Tolnay and Felley helped their Texas Dreams Gymnastics Level 10 Team win the first place team title in the state’s small-team division.

“It felt awesome to stand on the podium next to my teammate,” Tolnay said. “This is ‘Nikki’s’ and my last year to compete in club gymnastics before going to college; so I guess you could say we’re off to a good start to finishing this chapter.”

Tolnay received a full gymnastics scholarship at the University of Georgia, where she’ll be joining her fellow teammate, Olympic medalist Courtney Kupets. Felley also received a full gymnastics scholarship at Utah State University.

At only 10 years old, Goldblatt made quite the introduction into her first state competition with the third highest all-around score (38.1 out of a possible 40) for Level 9 in the state. She finished in first place on the balance beam. Goldblatt showed true competitive spirit while remaining undeterred as her floor music failed; thus proving this 10-year-old not only has what it takes physically to finish at the top but also mentally.

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Local Gymnasts Finish on Top at State Meet Cont. Page 2

Erb claimed the Level 9 all-around title for her age group with a 38.175 score out of a possible 40, the second highest score of all Level 9 gymnasts in the state. She also captured the title on floor exercise and came in second on balance beam and uneven bars.

McCann won first place in all-around for her age division in Level 9 with a final total score of 37.5 out of a possible 40. She had top finishes in three of the four events including vault with first place; balance beam at second place; and floor at third place.

The performances by Goldblatt, Erb and McCann solidified another team win for Texas Dreams Gymnastics in the small-team division. They defeated the second place team by a 1.75 margin.

"I'm so proud of all of our girls," said coach Kim Zmeskal Burdette. "We're seeing bigger skills in gymnastics than ever before, so these gymnasts have to train hard to compete at this level. I think we've definitely started off on the right foot."

The 2005 Level 9/10 Texas State Meet was hosted in Coppell, Texas, by the Texas Dreams Gymnastics and Texas Flyers Cheerleading Parent Club at EveryBody Fits this past weekend. More than 1,000 athletes, coaches, judges and families came from all over the state to see the best-of-the-best Level 9/10 Texas gymnasts compete to qualify for regional competition.

Tolnay, Felley and Goldblatt train 40 hours a week at Texas Dreams Gymnastics at EveryBody Fits under the direction of former Olympic medalist Kim Zmeskal Burdette and National Team Coach Chris Burdette.

In addition to these top finishes, Texas Dreams Gymnastics athlete Molly Lewis, 16, from Plano, qualified for regional competition during this meet. She also placed second among Level 10 gymnasts in her age division on balance beam.

About Texas Dreams Gymnastics and EveryBody Fits

Texas Dreams Gymnastics, which is directed by former All-Around World Champion and Olympic medalist Kim Zmeskal Burdette and her husband, National Team Coach Chris Burdette, is located in EveryBody Fits in Coppell, Texas. EveryBody Fits offers the finest artistic and athletic programs for the whole family including: Gymnastics, Dance, Cheerleading, Taekwondo, Fitness, Art, Acting, Sports Skills and a Café. The first of its kind, EveryBody Fits is a uniquely-designed facility providing one place to enroll kids in a diverse set of programs while also allowing parents to focus on their own fitness or leisure desires. To learn more about this announcement or EveryBody Fits, visit our Web site at www.EveryBody-Fits.com or call 972-471-2345.

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