

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“YMCA GYMNASTS START SEASON STRONG”

The YMCA of Darke County recently kicked off the 2008-2009 competitive gymnastics season by hosting the first meet for the Southwest Ohio area teams. Over 170 gymnasts came poised to compete for team and individual awards. Those in attendance included the Great Miami Valley YMCA of Hamilton, Sidney-Shelby YMCA, Countryside YMCA of Lebanon, Tecumseh YMCA, Powel-Crosley YMCA of Cincinnati and Darke County's own. In the end, our local girls emerged with one first, one second and two third place team awards.

Earning the first place team award were the Level 4 gymnasts. Many individual awards were given as well. Brooke Condon of Versailles took a first place All Around title including first on uneven bars with a score of 9.0, first on floor exercise and second on balance beam. Taylor Ward, 10, placed first on floor exercise, second on uneven bars, and third on vault and in the All Around competition. Ashley Jolley, 8, scored a 9.0 on vault earning her the second place recognition along with a second on balance beam and first on uneven bars and in the All Around category. Leighana Rautsaw, also in the 8 year old division, earned a first place recognition on balance beam, second place in the All Around competition, and third on vault and floor exercise. Shelby Herrmann, 7, placed first on uneven bars, floor exercise and in the All Around competition. Ellie Barga, also age 7, placed first on balance beam and third on vault. Thirteen year old gymnast, Sarah Bradshaw, placed second on vault and balance beam with scores of 9.0 and 9.025, while Kali Miller earned first place on vault in the 11 year old division. A second place on vault went to Danielle Thorton with Amber Aultman placing third in her respective age group. Madison Goubeaux enjoyed a second place on floor exercise and Natalie Esarey earned third on uneven bars.

The Level 5 team emerged with a third place award. Helping the team out was gymnast, Meg Rehmert, taking first place All Around in the ages 8 & 9 category. This included a first place on vault, second on floor exercise and third on uneven bars. Teammate Jenna Frantz placed second All Around in the same age group with a second place on uneven bars and third on balance beam and floor exercise. Marisa Turpen placed first on floor exercise, second on uneven bars and third on vault earning her the third place All Around title. Kayley Ruschau earned first place on uneven bars and second on vault. A second place All Around title was earned by 10 year old gymnast, Tessa Schatz. Her individual awards included a first place on floor exercise with a score of 9.0, second on balance beam, and third place on vault and uneven bars. Twelve year old Karina Bridenbaugh earned a first place recognition on uneven bars, third on balance beam and a second place All Around title. Madison Myers, also 12, earned first place on vault and third All Around. Kari Kueterman earned a second place on vault and Danielle Smith a second on uneven bars.

The Level 6 Darke County girls also received a third place team award. Individually, Madison Schaar received second place on floor exercise and third vault, while teammate Morgan Bingham received second place recognition on balance beam.

Sydney Bowser's Level 7 competitive season got off to a great start. She placed first on vault and in the All Around competition and received second place on uneven bars, floor exercise and balance beam.

Level 8 gymnasts, Andrea Keller and Leah Allread, combined their scores to take the second place Level 8 team award. Keller placed second in the All Around competition, first on floor exercise and third on vault and uneven bars. Allread took second on balance beam and floor exercise as well as third place All Around.

Level 9 gymnast, Samantha Shook, received first place awards in all events except balance beam where she took second place.

According to coach, Katy Smith, the gymnasts and coaches worked hard preparing for the first meet of the season. "I was so pleased with the meet results. The entire team enjoyed competing in their home gym and we are all looking forward to 2 more home meets later in the season," stated Smith.

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PICTURE CAPTION:

Pictured is the Darke County YMCA Level 4 competitive gymnastics team.

First row, left to right: Ellie Barga & Shelby Herrmann

Second row, left to right: Ashley Jolley, Cassie Peters, Leighana Rautsaw & Madison Goubeaux

Third row, left to right: Danielle Thorton, Marina Mehaffie, Taylor Ward, Shelby Hartzell & Amber Aultman

Fourth row, left to right: Emma Smith & Lexy Snodgrass

Back row, left to right: Brooke Condon, Kali Miller, Sarah Bradshaw, Shelby Carmean & Mackynzie Weldy