

Mountain Gymnastics finishes strong in Roswell

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Roswell - The Mountain Gymnastics Center's 2012-13 Competition team picked up four overall first place finishes at the Champion Cup during the weekend of Feb. 9th.

Eight-year-old Olivia Blocker picked up a first place overall finish with an all-around score of 34.525 in the AAU Prep-Op 1.

She finished second on the vault, first on the bars, second on the beam, and second on the floor.

Jordan Swanson was first amongst the 10 year olds with a 35.35 all-around score. Swanson was second on the vault, third on the bars, first on the beam, and first in the floor exercises.

In the AAU Prep-Op 2, Laura McGaha came in first place with an all-around total of 31.95. The 8-year-old completed the clean sweep, taking first place in all four events.

Caymin Thompson added another first place finish in the AAU Level 3, 6-year-old division.

Thompson topped all competitors in the bars, beam, and floor, while coming in second on the vault for an overall score of 34.475.



The 2012-13 Mountain Gymnastics Center Competition team.

The MGC's highest point total of the weekend belonged to 11-year-old Erin Raper in the AAU Prep-Op 1. Her all-around score of 35.675 resulted in a third place overall finish after coming in first on the floor, third on the vault, and fifth in the bars and the beam.

Nine-year-old Emma Patterson also picked up a third place finish with an all-around score of 33.60 - taking second in the bars, and third in the vault, beam, and floor exercises.

Reagan Ledford came in

fourth in the AAU Prep-Op 2, placing second in the vault and third in the bars.

Other scores in Prep-Op 2 include, Addicyn Dockery (age 9), who placed third on the beam and first on the floor. Evelyn McBride (11) placed first in the floor exercises and third on the beam, Kaylie Kendall (9) came in second and Lexi Stephens (14) was third on the floor, in their respective age groups.

The AAU Level 3 saw Haley Craig pick up a third overall finish with an all-around score of 33.05. The 9-year-old

was first on the beam and the floor and third on the bars.

Another 9-year-old, Kaitlyn Daves placed fourth with an all-around total of 30.25, taking second in the floor exercises.

AnnaLyse Kiernan, Jacyelee Lee, and Brandy Barlow rounded out the top 12.

The next scheduled event was the Spring Breakout in Woodstock last weekend. As of this writing, results were unavailable, but check back with the *North Georgia News* for more results from the MGC's Competition Season.

Swim team award winners



Left to right: Ansley Garrison, Most Improved, Nicole Gautieri-MVP, Amy Brumley- Coaches' Award, Tanner Gay- MVP, Cristian Garcia- Most Improved.

Panther Baseball Scheduling Changes

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com



With Mother Nature's one-two punch of rain and wintery weather wreaking havoc on the Panther baseball schedule, Union County Head Baseball Coach Brandon Bradburn said that, "I feel like I'm playing a Sudoku puzzle that you can't win at," when it comes to the daily task of rescheduling.

With the region schedule not beginning until Saturday at Oglethorpe County, the 8-AA portion of their schedule remains all laid out as planned.

Last Saturday's double header with Lakeview Academy has been moved to Apr. 13th at 1 p.m.

Meanwhile, Union was supposed to host Murphy, NC last Thursday for the first time since 2009, but saw sub-freezing temps push that contest to Apr. 17th at 5 p.m.

On the other hand, the

J.V. Panthers haven't been fortunate enough to get a single game in.

If all went as planned, that changed on Monday, when Union hosted Pickens County.

On Thursday, Union will visit Lumpkin County for a 5:30 p.m. start

The game against Dawson will be made up at home on March 28th with two, five-inning games.

The Union County varsity's Tuesday game with North Murray has been moved to Thursday, Mar. 7th.

Disc Golf creates "Meeks Madness" in Blairsville

Submitted by Marilyn Estes,
Georgia Super Six Series

The North Georgia Mountains will resound with the music of rattling chains Sunday, March 10 when 72 disc golfers from around the southeast descend on Meeks Park for the first tournament of this year's Georgia Super Six Series.

"The Georgia Super Six Series is Georgia's longest-running and largest statewide disc golf series. We hope to showcase the best courses and players in the state," says series director Wes Campbell. "Sunday's tournament will feature players from all over the southeast, with players of all skill levels from recreational through some of the region's top-rated pros."

Disc golf, a.k.a. Frisbee® golf, is a variation of regular ball golf. It's played on designated disc golf courses where the "holes" are above-ground baskets that catch discs thrown from as far as 400 feet away, and the drivers, mid-rangers and putters are the discs themselves.



Disc golf participant Photo by Elizabeth Shimkus

This will be the sixth time the GSSS Blairsville tournament, nicknamed "Meeks Madness," will be played on the park's 18-hole disc golf course. The series will continue in Rome, Marietta, Athens, Macon and Stockbridge.

"Meeks is a popular disc golf course in a beautiful region of the state," says tournament director Matthew Mashburn. "The main reasons I direct tournaments at Meeks is to provide a tournament on my home course for visiting players to enjoy, to bring tourists to our community, and to

show the park directors and government officials that our course is relevant and good enough to attract players from outside of our county."

It seems the disc golf community agrees. This marks the fifth straight year that Meeks Madness has sold out before tournament day, with players coming in from across the state, including five local heroes from Blairsville, as well as players from Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Founded in California in the 1970s by the modern inventor of the Frisbee, "Steady" Ed Headrick, the sport of disc golf has grown worldwide. The Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), based outside of Augusta, GA, currently has over 57,000 registered members, with international members from over 20 countries.

The ease of the sport combined with its affordability (a disc can be purchased for less than \$10, and most courses are free) has made it popular with both young and

old, male and female, from all walks of life. And like regular golf, it can be played alone or in groups, with friends, teams or families. The ages of Sunday's players range from recreational youths to Grandmasters (ages 50-59), while a number of disc golf tournaments in the country have hosted players in their 80s.

The competition extends to the pro level, with this year's overall series offering players the chance to win part of approximately \$20,000 in cash and prizes, with each event worth roughly \$3,000. The various winners also receive the Georgia Super Six Series title, recognition, and trophies.

"We're proud to have Meeks Park chosen as part of the Georgia Super Six Series, and couldn't host such a quality event without the support of our sponsors and the Union County Recreation Department, which keeps the park in great shape year round," says Mashburn. "We're very fortunate to have such a popular disc golf course in Blairsville." (NMar6, X) JICA

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament" beginning March 9th at Lake Chatuge. 60% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area.

The remaining 40% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$50 per

boat, the tournaments begin in March and end in October, occurring the second Saturday of each month rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: March 9th - Chatuge; April 13 - Nottely; May 11 - Chatuge; June 8 - Nottely; July 13 - Chatuge; August 10 - Nottely; September 14 - Chatuge; and October 12 - Nottely.

Fuzion Dance Company brings home awards from KAR Competition in Spartanburg, SC

The Fuzion Dance Company attended the Kids Artistic Revue (KAR) competition in Spartanburg, SC and came home with 10 Top First Place and First Place Trophies.

The Senior Company earned top honors with their trio of Lindy Hollingshead, Caitlin Sheffield and Ansley Vardeman placing 3rd and a duet of Ansley and Caitlin placing 4th overall in the duet/trio category. Ansley Vardeman placed in the top 20 of all senior solos. All 8 of the Senior Company solos and group routines earned Top First Place awards. The Junior Company of Tori Anderson, Amaira Barrett, Ashlynn Leatherwood, Mai Lim, Skylar Stephens, Montana Walker and Carly Woodard earned the Judges Choice award. The trio of Tori Anderson, Ashlynn Leatherwood, and Mai Lim earned a First Place award.

The Fuzion Dance Company, a project of Brasstown Dance Academy, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit company for the promotion of dance education and performance. Membership is by audition only. Currently, the Company includes 16 dancers under the direction of Amy McIntyre and Madge Smith.

You can see these dancers perform all of their competition pieces and more at their Benefit Concert on Saturday, March 23 at 7pm at Towns County School. The Benefit Concert will feature Notariety, the audition only acapella group at Towns County High School under the direction of Chris Adams and the Fuzion Dance Company. The concert will benefit the arts and other local charities that involve Towns County students. It will be a collaboration of amazing local young talent that you don't want to miss!

For tickets or more information call Brasstown Dance Academy at 706-379-2651.



Fuzion Junior Company



Fuzion Junior Company Trio



Fuzion Senior Company

National Karate Championship recognition

Many modern schools teach the patterns but do not break down the bunkai (practical theories and applications) of each kata, which brings to light the importance and purpose of every hand technique, foot technique, posture, stance and movement.

As a student learns kata in such a manner they start mastering that kata instead of just memorizing the kata. Buddy and Brandy Cook have attacked each kata in this manner as all of our students have.

Through this formal training, they learn to combine the basics of martial arts (called Kihon), perfect them through forms (called Kata), and apply them thru fighting (called Kumite, Real life or Competitive). Buddy and Brandy have taken the teachings of our class and style and applied them very effectively in the arena of competition.

Buddy and Brandy have, as many of our students, won numerous state, national and world level championships through tournaments such as the Battle of Atlanta World Championships, Gator Nationals (Daytona) World Championships, US Open Internationals (Orlando), Dixieland Nationals (Myrtle Beach).

These are all very prestigious events and victories are well deserved and certainly praise worthy. All of these events along with many others are NASKA (North American Sports Karate Association) rated tournaments.

Above these individual championships they take the winners from all of their various tournaments throughout North America and keep ratings and crown an overall champion for the year.

Buddy Cook was crowned 2012 Men's over 40 Advanced NASKA National Champion in Forms (Kata) and was also recognized as



Brandy Cook and Buddy Cook with their National Championship jackets. Buddy was crowned the 2012 Men's 40 and over Advanced NASKA National Champion in Forms. Brandy was crowned the 2012 Advanced 15-16 year old female NASKA National Champion in Fighting and Forms.



Brandy Cook and Buddy Cook. Both train at Premier Martial Arts in Blairsville, Ga.

the number 2 overall Fighter in the same division. Buddy holds an advantage in head to head wins over the number 1 fighter, but ended in second place as the number 1 fighter attended more tournaments. Congratulations to National Karate Champion Brandy Cook!

Buddy and Brandy both are true martial artists and epitomize sportsmanship and the spirit of Karate.

They train at Premier Martial Arts in Blairsville.