

Sporting Excellence Hosted by Local Gymnastics Club

On February 23 and 24, the Trampoline 2nd Ontario Cup was held at Pope John Paul II Secondary School on Military Trail and hosted by the Scarborough Gym-Elites Gymnastics Club. The competition included individual, synchronized and double mini trampoline events. Over 300 athletes from all corners of Ontario participated in the event each striving to qualify for the privilege of competing in the Trampoline & Tumbling Ontario Championships (April 25, 2003), and the T & T Eastern Canadian Championships held in Quebec in early May; senior National athletes attended the event in the hopes of achieving the scores that would enable them to be one step closer towards earning a spot on the Olympic Team participating in Beijing.

The individual trampoline event consists of a Compulsory routine consisting of 10 pre-set elements and is judged purely on execution. The Voluntary Routine consists of 10 elements chosen by the competitor and is evaluated on execution and degree of difficulty. In both cases, the 10 elements must be performed one after the other, with no breaks or extra jumps in between.

The synchronized trampoline event features two competitors who perform the same routine at the same time on two separate trampolines, as a mirror image of each other. Execution and degree of difficulty are evaluated by the judge's panel as is the ability of the athletes to synchronize each of their movements.

The double mini-trampoline consists of 2 small trampoline beds with the first bed slightly slanted upward to meet a second horizontal bed. The athlete performs a running approach, an entry skill off the first bed which must land on the second bed. This element rebounds up into the air to initiate the final skill off the second bed before landing on the dismount mat. Double mini (DMI) is a fast paced event that is enjoyable to watch as a spectator.

Scarborough Gym-Elites Trampoline athletes competed in the 2nd Ontario Cup in the Individual and Synchronized events. Amy Moote, Taryn Eadie, Loni Maxwell, Virginia Wright, and Jenna Snetsinger competed at the National Level. As first year National athletes this was an excellent opportunity to grow as serious competitors. Kendal Wilson-Kasper, Samantha Lucente, Dana Hogan, Aaron de la Cruz, Sophie Heisler and Tia Hodowansky competed at the Provincial level. Each athlete had very positive results with Aaron de la Cruz and Samantha Lucente each earning qualifying scores towards the Provincials and potentially the Easterns in their categories. Scarborough Gym-Elites Club is very proud of all their athletes and their accomplishments at this competition.

This event was enjoyed by all the competitors, spectators and judges. These types of events are very important for the advancement of sport in Ontario as well as Canada. Margaret Best and Ron Moeser lent their support to this event by participating in the awards ceremonies which was much appreciated. Many corporate sponsors lent their financial support and the parents of Scarborough Gym-Elites Club gave generously of their time and energy to ensure that the competition was a success for all involved.

Mai Janssen