

# TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS POSTS STEADY GROWTH AND WINS

*By Tamas Mondovics*



ONE OF THE ORIGINAL, LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS, GYMNAST AND NOW ASSISTANT COACH NAOMI RETTER, 15, PRACTICES HER RIBBON ROUTINE AT THE CLUB'S NEW GYM LOCATED AT 6542 KRYCUL AVE. IN RIVERVIEW.

In spite of hard economic times, Tampa Bay Rhythmics - a new business that teaches girls of all age groups rhythmic gymnastics - can report a steady growth since its opening this past October.

Proud of the organization's accomplishments, owner and Head Coach Tyana Marlowe spoke highly of her team's efforts, dedication and commitment, citing Tampa Bay Rhythmics to become the first and only dedicated rhythmic gymnastics facility in Central Florida.

"Rhythmic gymnastics is still a sport not very well known. Being able to show success is truly remarkable," Marlowe said.

Marlowe explained that the group is nearing the completion of its 2009 competitive season with 15 girls,

recently competing in the Regional Championships in South Carolina. It was a qualifying event for the USA Gymnastics Junior Rhythmic Olympics that was scheduled to be held in late May in Virginia Beach, Va.

"Two of our girls, Linda Dillon, 9, and Hannah Buzbee, 13, qualified in the level 5 division, while Kiersten Varga, 11, Michelle Gonzales, 13, and Chayse Anthony, 10, all participated in level 6 and qualified as well," stated Marlowe.

According to Marlowe, after coming away with level 7, 8 and 9 regional championships, the entire team of the three levels qualified for the Junior Olympics that is to be held in Chicago from Wednesday-Tuesday, June 17-23.

Immediately following the regional championships, some of the team members traveled to Boston for an international competition.

"I am proud to say that all were very successful, winning their age divisions and conquering the Bulgarian, Puerto Rican, Russian, Ecuadorian and Canadian teams," said Marlowe.

Tampa Bay Rhythmics, located at 6542 Krycul Ave. in Riverview, looks forward to a busy summer, as well with a number of camps scheduled, including a beginner camp held at the Riverview facility from Monday-Friday, June 29-July 3, from 9 a.m.-12 Noon, with no experience necessary.

A competitive camp with 2004 Olympian Mary Sanders is also scheduled for the last week of July.

For more information contact Marlowe at 741-2TBR (2827) or visit [www.tampabayrhythmics.com](http://www.tampabayrhythmics.com).