

# Sports Connection

## TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS TEAM HOSTS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Photos & Story By Tamas Mondovics



TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS GYMNASTS OLIVIA PAUL AND KAYLA KORTE PAUSE FOR A SMILE DURING PRACTICE.



EMMA JANUS DEMONSTRATES HER TALENT, WHICH EARNED THE LEVEL 6 GYMNAST A RECENT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.



NEWSOME HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RACHEL LITTLE, 17, WON THE LEVEL 9 STATE TITLE AND HOPES TO BECOME A LEVEL 10 GYMNAST.



TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS' TIFFANY PAUL WON A LEVEL 9 JUNIOR DIVISION ALL-AROUND TITLE DURING A THE RECENT USA GYMNASTICS RHYTHMIC FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



TAMPA BAY RHYTHMICS LEVEL 4 GYMNASTS POSE FOR A PHOTO FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT HELD LAST MONTH.

As Jr. Group national champions, members of the Tampa Bay Rhythmic gymnasts have turned their attention to their individual season, which began last month with the hosting of the USA Gymnastics Rhythmic Florida State Championships.

The event did not leave owner and head Coach Tyana Marlowe disappointed after welcoming teams from Jacksonville, Boca Raton and several teams from Miami.

"We head a full house and a very successful event," Marlowe said, proud of her girls' performances as they walked away with several state championship titles in their respective divisions.

Level 4 gymnast Stephanie Kanelous, 7, won the all around Child A division, while Savannah Howell, 8, won the rope title Child B division. Teammates Jillian Ruck, 9, won the all-around Child C division, while Michelle Kanelous, 9, won the ball title. Desiree Knight, Julie Cheng and Kristen Ng completed the division.

Level 5 gymnast Olivia Paul, 9, claimed the rope and ball state title, supported by Jaylen Palmer, Vik'Toriah George and Kayla Korte.

Level 6 gymnast Emma Janus earned the ribbon title, while

Linda Dillon tied for the rope title in the Child C division. Hannah Buzzbee won the level's all-around title with Leah Hansil coming in second.

The Level 7 all-around Child division belonged to Chayse Anthony, while Pamela Tang and Tiffany Paul won the Level 8 and 9 Junior division all-around titles. Katya Marlowe, 13, and Alyssa Anthony, 13, placed second and third, respectively.

In the senior division, Newsome High School senior Rachel Little, 17, won the state title.

Level 10 gymnast, Ivana Benson, 17, is ranked No. 11 in the country and is the only one in the state. Benson did not compete but performed two routines, and is now working on earning a spot on the U.S. Senior National Team in August at the Visa National Championships in Concord, CT.

Tampa Bay Rhythmics, now located at 6542 Krycul Ave. in Riverview, is in the process of expanding and will soon be offering traditional dance classes, ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop, as well as increasing its beginner and pre-school rhythmic gymnastics classes. Call 741-2827 (2TBR) for more information.

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