

The North Shore Women's Gymnastics teams showed up at Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center for the Twin Cities Invitational January 24-25 ready to take home some hardware. Athletes on the Xcel Gold through Diamond teams and Developmental Program Levels 7-10 put their hard work on the line, and it paid off with many gymnasts finishing on the podium and several teams taking home winning banners. The weekend started with the Level 7 team where Harper Takunen, 13, of Plymouth took first place on Bars and Floor, second on Beam and earned first place All Around honors. Evelyn Belgarde, 12, of Wayzata won first on Floor and third on Vault, and Ava Meyer, 12, of Rockford finished second place on Vault. Kennedy Farley, 14, of Long Lake had a strong showing in the Level 8 competition, taking second on Vault and third on Bars, finishing fourth overall. Natalie Reardon, 13, of Wayzata took fourth on Beam in the Level 8 meet.

The Level 9 team won first place against tough competition. Madelyn Hallett, 16, of Minnetrista had an excellent meet, taking first place on Beam and second on Bars, making her the All Around first place champion in her division. Grace Green, 15, of Chaska finished fourth in the All Around competition with a first place finish on Vault, second on Floor and third on Bars. Addison Berg, 16, of Mound placed first on Floor and second on Vault. Additionally, Lillian Anderson, 16, of Hamburg, took first on Bars. Every Level 9 athlete took home a first place medal at this meet, making their first place team win extra special. In the Level 10 competition, Luciana Levya, 16, of Mound was the only North Shore athlete competing, and she represented her gym with a first place finish on Bars and second place on both Vault and Beam, which were strong enough to earn the Level 10 team a fourth place finish all on her own.

In the Xcel Divisions, the Gold team took first place for the second meet in a row with strong finishes by several athletes. Having the best meet of her gymnastics career, Reese Moslander, 10, of Minnetrista, took first place honors in every event and first place honors in the All Around. Cora Wegleitner, 11, of Hamel also took first place All Around honors in her division by earning a first place medal on Bars and third on Beam. Ellie Wexler, 14, of Plymouth took first on Beam and third on Floor. Landry Vaale, 10, of Hanover placed second on Floor while Elise Marcouiller, 11, of Maple Plain and Grace Barsness, 10, of Medina both placed third on Vault in their divisions.

The Xcel Platinum team took fourth place with many strong performances. Angelina Kovar, 13, of Independence placed second All Around and second on Floor. Lauren Wheeler, 11, of Independence placed third All Around. Alayna Sandbulte, 11, of Plymouth took fourth place in her division and third place on Floor. Hannah Erickson, 13, of Plymouth also placed fourth in her division with a third place finish on Beam.

The Xcel Diamond team ended the weekend in first place. Maya Wetter, 12, of Delano had an excellent meet with first place finishes on Vault and Bars, second place on Beam, and earned first place All Around honors. Rounding out the podium medals was Mia Garding, 17, of Wayzata with a second place finish on Vault. Maddie Meyer, 15, of Rockford, earning first place medals on Beam and Floor, second place on Vault, and taking home first place All Around Honors for her division. All in all it was a stellar weekend of gymnastics.

The Xcel and Level 7-10 teams will next compete at the River City Classic in Omaha, NE February 6-8. All teams are looking forward to another great meet.

North Shore Gymnastics Association, Orono, was founded in 1974 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization. It is the club's purpose to acquaint children with all levels of physical ability,

potential, and growth with the sport of gymnastics in an atmosphere of safe, fun, positive learning, and to help each child develop gymnastics skills, good sportsmanship and discipline. For more information please call 763-479-3189 or visit us at www.northshoregym.org.

Photo Caption:

North Shore's Excel Diamond Team pictured from left to right: Maddie Meyer, Maya Wetter, Kate Pohl, Mia Garding