

Three Hawaii Gymnasts Named to US National Teams For the Age Group WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last weekend three local gymnasts competed at the USA Gymnastics National Team Selection Camp in Huntsville, Texas (the USA Gymnastics Olympic Training Center) and won international assignments. Nationally, the top four and invited others in each of the following age groups for each competitive event trained together and competed for spots on the US National Trampoline Gymnastics Teams to compete at the Age Group World Championships in Daytona Beach, FL, in November: 11-12 yrs, 13-14 yrs, 15-16 yrs, and 17-18 yrs, for both males and females.

The trampoline gymnastics competitive events are individual trampoline (TRI), synchronized trampoline (TRS), double mini-trampoline (DMT), and power tumbling (TUM).



Alexander Paul (12, Moanalua Middle School) placed 1st on TRI and DMT for the first selected spot on the 11-12 yr old males TRI and DMT teams. He will also compete in TRS with a partner selected by the national coaches. At the US Championships this year he placed: DMT Level 10 (11-12 yrs) **1st Place (National Champion)**; TRI Youth Elite (11-13 yrs) **8th Place**. He is a past National Champion in the US and Japan.



Kayttie Nakamura (12, Kaimuki Middle School) placed 1st on TRI and 2nd on DMT for the first selected spot on the 11-12 yr old female TRI and DMT teams. She will also compete in TRS with a partner selected by the national coaches. At the US Championships this year she placed: DMT Level 10 (11-12 yrs) **2nd Place**; TRI Youth Elite (11-13 yrs) **4th Place**. She is a past National Champion in the US and Japan.



Sydney Senter (12, Hawaii Baptist Academy) placed 1st on DMT and for the first selected spot on the US 11-12 year old DMT Team. At the US Championships this year she placed: DMT Youth Elite (11-13 yrs) **3rd Place** and TRI Youth Elite (11-13 yrs) **13th Place**. She is a past National Champion in the US and Japan.





COACHES



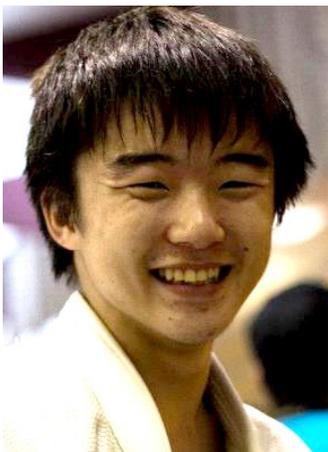
All three gymnasts compete for the Hawaii Trampoline and Tumbling Club and train at Hawaii Academy in Honolulu. They are coached by Nani Vercruyssen (with assistants Spencer Dupio and Kelsen Onigama). Their coaches were previous Age Group World Championships medalists from Hawaii Academy. For additional information contact Dr Donna Mah (mah@hawaii.edu; 842.5642). Photographs available upon request.



NANI VERCRUYSSSEN (Head Coach) is the most decorated gymnast, ever, from Hawaii winning all levels of US National Championships (Level 10, Junior Elite, and Senior Elite), as well as national championships in many other countries, USAG Sportswoman of the Year, 10 years on US National Teams, National Team Most Valuable Gymnasts Award, and has represented the US in all world events except the Olympics. She is a three-time Age Group World Champion (sharing the record with Mikhail Melnik of Russia).



SPENCER DUPIO (Assistant Coach, to become head coach when Vercruyssen leaves for graduate school this summer) is a US National Champion at Level 10 and Junior Elite and was a bronze medalist in the 2007 Age Group World Championships.



KELSEN ONIGAMA (Assistant Coach) is a US National Champion at Level 10 and a 12 year old Age Group World Champion. Yes, Onigama won the world championships that he is coaching three Hawaii gymnasts to attend in November (see cover and article in Hawaii Parent Magazine).

