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Roseburg gymnast wins two titles at state meet

December 11, 2007

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Emily Pennington of Roseburg, a member of Umpqua Valley Gymnastics, was hoping to win one event in the state meet at the Oregon Gymnastics Academy in Beaverton on Dec. 1.

But coming away with two individual championships in the Level 6 division for 12-year-olds might have been more than she expected.

Pennington, a seventh-grader at Fremont Middle School, won titles in vault (9.85, a personal best) and floor exercise (9.175) to highlight UVG's performances in the meet. She also placed third on bars and finished third in all-around with a score of 36.2.

"I was really happy and surprised," Pennington said of her state showing. "I felt pretty good. I was surprised when I got first on floor and really excited about my all-around score."

Pennington, who has been in gymnastics since she was 5, practices for over four hours four days a week during the season. She also excels in the classroom at Fremont, having turned in a 3.8 grade-point average during the first quarter.

"I like competing and meeting new people," she replied, when asked what she enjoys about gymnastics. "A lot of my friends are on other teams."

Pennington's coaches at UVG are Khumbulani Moyo and Alison McAfee.

In other UVG state results, Ashley Elias placed third in vault in the Level 6 13-year-old division with a 9.1. She also placed second on bars and floor and third on beam and finished third in all-around with a score of 33.9.

In Level 6 (12), Mariah McGovern received a 9.025 in vault and had an all-around score of 34.875. In Level 6 (8-10), Kily Gilbert had an all-around score of 33.45.

In Level 5 (11), Colleen Winn had an all-around score of 33.45. In Level 4 (all ages), Alex Stanley received a 9.65 on beam and finished with an all-around score of 35.95.

For UVG's sectional results, see today's Umpqua Valley Report on page 15.

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