

All-Observer

Gymnastics team includes Farmington trio

Youth dominates this year's All-Observer gymnastics team, which has only one senior. Four of the seven gymnasts are either freshmen or sophomores.

Three honorees are repeat selections: Plymouth Canton senior Liz Fitzgerald, Farmington United sophomore Chelsea Keesling and Wayne-Westland junior Nicole Simonian.

Farmington's trio of gymnasts includes sophomore Kristin Ulewicz and freshman Clara Seymour. Plymouth Canton junior Amy Driscoll and Plymouth Salem freshman Bethany Bartlett round out the elite squad.

ALL-AREA

ALL-AREA GYMNASTICS
Nicole Simonian, junior, Westland Glen
Liz Fitzgerald, senior, Farmington United
Amy Driscoll, junior, Plymouth Canton
Bethany Bartlett, freshman, Ply. Salem
Chelsea Keesling, sophomore, Farmington
Clara Seymour, freshman, Farmington
Kristin Ulewicz, sophomore, Farmington

HONORABLE MENTION
Farmington: Jenny Galbraith, Kaitale Olsak, Nicole White; Canton: Kristin Schick, Maggie Bart; Salem: April Aquino, Kelsey Ennor, Ashley Hurd; Glen: Kristian Costantino, Julie Costello, Sarah Venn.

on floor, 17th on beam, 20th on vault and 31st on bars.

She also set a Farmington Harrison school record with a 37.10 all-around score during the season.

"Chelsea made a name for herself last year, and she did the same things she did last year," Dwyer said. "Nobody is as good as her."

"She expects to hit nines in each event, and she does meet after meet. It's easy to take what she does for granted, because she's so good and she always is the one to watch."

"(At the state meet), I think she just got beat up a little. She had a back problem, and her body was really hurting this year."

"But meet after meet she had the ability to get over her pain and compete. That's what I mean about her being a tough competitor."

Kristin Ulewicz, Farmington United: Ulewicz tied for fifth place on the balance beam in the Division 2 state meet with a 9.2 score. She also qualified in floor exercise.

"She was one of our most consistent gymnasts last year, and she just picked up where she left off last year," Dwyer said. "Her consistency is reflected in her balance beam. This was the second year in a row she qualified for state."

"I don't think she could get a higher score with her routine, as far as the difficulty. She had a near-perfect routine, and that's why she was fifth in the state."

Ulewicz performed on bars for the first time this year, and Dwyer looks forward to bigger and better things from her in the next two years.

The sophomore averaged nines on beam and floor; she scored in the mid eighties on vault, the high seventies to low eighties on bars.

"The next two years she can really start to show she's one of the top Division 2 gymnasts," Dwyer said. "Kristin makes the sport look easy, and that's what helps in her scores. She's very artistic when she performs."

Clara Seymour, Farmington United: Bartlett competed in three events in Division I. Her best finish came in the vault; she scored 9.2 to tie for 13th.

She also had an 8.5 in floor and a 7.8 in bars. At the state regional meet, Bartlett narrowly missed making the cut for state meet in the Division I all-around, scoring 35.375; the sixth (and final) qualifying score was 35.575.

Her best event is another matter. "I can't pinpoint just one event she was good on," said Salem coach Melissa Hopson. "She was good on everything."

"She's very serious, very determined, and very dedicated to gymnastics."

Amy Driscoll, Plymouth Canton: A junior, Driscoll reached All-American standards in four of five events, including the all-around—in which she qualified for state meet.

Competing in Division II at her first state finals, Driscoll finished third in the bars with a 9.2 and tied for 15th on floor with a 9.1, and took 17th in the all-around with a 34.8.

Her performance at the state regional was even more impressive. Driscoll was second in the all-around with a 35.65, winning the vault (9.15) and bars (9.05) and placing second in floor (9.25).

Indeed, Driscoll's biggest foe throughout her prep career has been injuries. She had a bad ankle sprain that limited her at state meet as a freshman and a broken hand sidelined her last year.

"She would have made it to state both years, without question," said Cunningham. "She has state championship potential in any event."

"She's doing a little club work right now. She's going to do magnificent things."

How magnificent? "Keep her healthy and we're looking at a possible state champion," answered Cunningham.



Chelsea Keesling
Farmington United



Kristin Ulewicz
Farmington United



Clara Seymour
Farmington United



Liz Fitzgerald
Plymouth Canton



Amy Driscoll
Plymouth Canton



Bethany Bartlett
Plymouth Salem

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Nicole Simonian, Wayne-Westland: The John Glenn High junior was a state qualifier in Division II where she posted scores of 8.15 (floor exercise), 9.0 (vault) and 8.875 (uneven parallel bars).

At the regional, Simonian took third in the vault (8.95), fifth on floor (9.05) and eighth on bars (8.875). She also scored a 8.35 on beam for an all-around total of 35.025.

In the Western Lakes Division II meet, Simonian finished an all-around score of 34.25 after taking fourth on vault (8.77), fifth on bars (8.75), fifth on beam (8.9), and 11th on floor (8.85).

"Nicole is one of the most dedicated gymnasts I've ever coached," Glen's Katie Boogren said. "She really puts her heart into it."

"She was consistent all year, but improved from beginning to end. She always had a positive attitude and was serious about her sport and the team."

"When the pressure was on, she handled it well and kept up with the competition."

Chelsea Keesling, Farmington United: Keesling is a two-time state qualifier and one of the top gymnasts in the WLAA.

The sophomore was second in Division 2 all-around at the WLAA championships. She tied for first place on vault; she was second on bars, sixth on beam and fourth on floor.

At the state finals, Keesling was 15th in all-around competition. She was 15th



Nicole Simonian
Westland Glen

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