



Press release – 2007 Artistic Gymnastic Nationals

THE FULL PACKAGE

COMPLETE DOMINATION BY A LOCAL CLUB

In 2006 when Christchurch School of Gymnastics proudly announced that NZ's biggest club had now become the best. There were a few grumbles from around NZ, this year the results were so emphatic that there are no more arguments, just stunned disbelief.

The club scooped 8 individual all around titles out of the 12 they contested. 3 of the other titles came also to the south. That left the North Island with 3, as there were two divisions that were not contested by the SI.

How did CSG dominate so completely so fast?

The employment of a quality Head Coach in early 2006 was beginning. The club already had a strong structure in place with excellent coaches and a strong base of gymnasts, but the addition of former Romanian Olympic Head Coach Iosif Ferencz was just what was required to bring it all together and raise the bar.

But it wasn't only the all around (AA) titles that CSG gymnasts won it was the depth of talent right through.

**2006: 4 AA. 26 firsts which include apparatus and team. Total medals 60
2007: 8 AA. 33 firsts which include apparatus and team. Total medals 74**

Winning 8 of the prestigious all around titles out of the 12 contested was a superb feat in itself but they were runners up in 3 of the 4 they didn't win, and their gymnasts made up the majority of the 7 teams that won 8 titles. Every one of their 34 gymnasts that travelled to the nationals won a medal.

Christchurch School of Gymnastics not only dominates on the competition floor but also provides an amazing array of classes and programmes for the community. In their fantastic new extended stadium at QE11 Park, they provide over 33,000 coaching hours for school children from aprox 66 schools as well as weekly classes

for the over 1650 members they have enrolled. It is rare for a club to provide for a variety of abilities and gym sports and do everything so well.

Next week will see Iosif Ferencz come up as one of the 3 finalists in the Sir Richard Hadlee awards, he was nominated as Coach of the Year. Executive Officer Avril Enslow is also a finalist in the Professional Administrator of the Year.

It is hard to see the selectors going past these two.

Looking ahead CSG has entered 3 of their teams in the Australian Clubs Competition in December; it will be interesting to see how they compare with their Australian rivals, but it is obvious that they need to now go offshore and compete against one of the worlds gymnastics power houses – Australia.

Watch this space next year.