

Falcons Academy Gymnast is the new Level 2 (Under 10) National Elite Gymnastics Champion after one of the most dominant performances ever seen in Junior Men's British Gymnastics competition history.

The competition, held in Leicester, featured to top 5% of the country's most talented gymnasts and Adam's assured performance put him truly at the top of this elite group.

Adam, aged nine, began the event on the High Bar and was almost faultless as he showed perfect lines throughout each of his Giants and hit each of his Handstands with seamless ease. Having dropped just 0.20 points throughout the entire routine Adam's final score of 9.80 out of 10 was just the start of what was going to prove to be a tremendous all round display.

The second rotation of Physical Preparation has notoriously been Adam's weakest element in the past but, with the pressure of a National Championships at stake, as well the prospect of being judged by British Gymnastics Junior Men's National Coach, Barrie Colley, this notoriety was quashed with his second successive high quality routine. The most minimal of errors left Adam scoring 9.70 on his least favoured element and continuing his excellent start to the competition.

On to the floor and yet another tremendous performance was in the pipeline. Adam displayed superb control to post a score 9.40 with just a few of small errors preventing another seemingly faultless routine. Despite the excellent start to his opening three rotations, the best was still yet to come.

Perfection was Adam's next achievement as he scored a maximum 10.00 points with a Pommel routine that was faultless in every sense of the word. Wonderful body shape and control was demonstrated in abundance as Adam, despite being unaware at this point, was pulling away from his closest competitors.

The Rings were to follow next and again this youngster's undoubted skill was shown with profusion. Beautiful lines, accompanied by controlled strength gave Adam another extremely high score of 9.65 as he continued to display his dominance over the rest of the field.

The Vault was to follow and with a truly remarkable score on the horizon Adam wasn't in the mood to hold back. An excellent score of 9.70 was rewarded for the tremendous Handspring demonstrated. The landing was immaculate and Adam was ready for his final piece of the day.

That final piece was the Parallel Bars. With what appeared to be effortless swings to Handstands and another faultless dismount Adam scored yet another maximum 10.00 to finish the competition and although he was understandably pleased with how each of the apparatuses went he was still unsure to exactly how well he had done as he awaited the medal ceremony.

With the top 6 from the category required to make their way the presentation party when called upon Adam patiently waited in anticipation for his name to be summoned. Competitor placed sixth to fourth pleasingly made their way to the rostrum before the medal positions were announced. Adam, whose family were nervous with anticipation, remained calm as the Bronze medal gymnast

was announced. Then, with a brilliant score of 64.80, the silver medal position was publicised. Had Adam reached the summit? And then the moment he had been waiting for.

“Your Level 2, National Elite Champion, with a score of 68.25 – Adam Tobin”

Adam made his way to the top step of the podium, amidst a plethora of applause from fellow gymnast and spectators alike, and with humility beyond his years he sportingly shook the hands of the other medallists before finally breaking into a smile when having the Gold medal draped admirably around his neck by the British Gymnastics Junior Men’s National Coach, Barrie Colley.

It wasn’t until after the event did Adam, accompanied by Falcons Head Coach – Mike Beagley, truly appreciate this unprecedented level of achievement. Adam, in dropping just 1.75 points across all seven apparatus had beaten all comers by an incredible 3.45 points. To have won such a prestigious event was worthy of many plaudits but the manner in which Adam made this happen was a great advert for the tremendous effort applied by this wonderfully talented gymnast and the excellent work ethic applied by his coach.

Adam wasn’t the only Falcons gymnast to grace the National Championships as once he and finished his competition he was able to watch and support club mate Byron Day-Rogers and Ryan Owen.

Byron, who competed at Level 4, began his afternoon with the Parallel Bars. He hit each of the required elements with great precision and went on to top score on the apparatus with a fantastic 9.50 to get his competition well and truly under way.

He followed with an assured High Bar routine that was full of quality and was rewarded with a score of 8.50 to leave him in touch with the leaders.

Byron was again awarded 8.50 as he produced yet another excellent routine, this time in Physical Preparation.

On the Floor, the routine was going according to plan but was unfortunately undone as he was just unable to hit the final tumble connection. Despite this, Byron was still able to complete the routine and score a respectable 7.70

On to the Pommel and a projected high score was hindered by an unlucky fall whilst traversing across the handles of the Pommel. The fall meant a score of 7.80 was awarded but the courage shown to get back up complete the routine cleanly was a great sign of Byron’s determination.

Rings proved to be a more rewarding apparatus. A great display of strength and poise was judged with a score of 8.90 as Byron attempted to rise up the leader board before he moved on to his final piece.

To finish the afternoon’s competition Byron had to complete two Vaults that were to be averaged out to produce his final score. A Tsukahara followed by Yurchenko were both well executed and Byron finished his competition with a very high 8.90.

As the scores were collated it became apparent that Byron had finished inside the top ten. Ninth place at the National Elite Championships was a fantastic achievement and one everyone was extremely proud of.

Finally, Ryan Owen, competing in Level 6 category began his competition with Physical Preparation. An accomplished routine was awarded 8.30 and set Ryan on his way in what would prove to be a challenging competition.

The Floor was next for the 12 year old and yet another well rounded performance was on display as Ryan scored a commendable 8.50

The next piece was to prove the most challenging as Ryan unfortunately fell twice during his Pommel routine but still picked himself up to complete the apparatus with a final score of 5.50

A more established routine on the Rings was to follow as Ryan went clean to record a valuable 8.10 before he was able to fully display his undoubted talent.

A near perfect Tsukahara was on the Vault was adjudged to have scored an excellent 9.30 as only minimal errors were deducted.

On to the Parallel Bars and the memories of nasty fall during the Regional qualifiers last month were put to one side as Ryan brilliantly completed the routine and scored an excellent 8.60

Finally a score of 8.20 was awarded for another highly difficult High Bar routine in which despite almost not hitting his Stalde was able to produce another clean performance and finish the competition on a high.

Ryan finished just outside the top ten, in eleventh place, but was full of high spirit after completing the competition to a very high standard.

Each of the three Falcon's boys performed extremely well and everyone associated with the club is incredibly proud of the gymnast's efforts and that of Mike Beagley, the Academy's Head Coach. There is undoubtedly more to come from Falcons Academy Gymnastics.

For more information and details of how to join Falcons please visit our website www.falconsgymnastics.co.uk or ring 01271 859191.