

Press Release
2007 World Age Group Championships
Tumbling & Trampoline
Quebec, Canada

HISTORIC MEDAL FOR IRISH GYMNASTICS

The Irish delegation returned to Dublin Airport today with a 13 year old gymnast that has made history for the federation. Aoife Keily from Ballincollig Gymnastics Club in Cork took the silver medal in the 13 – 14 age group at the 2007 World Tumbling Championships (Quebec, Canada) – Irelands first major world medal. Qualifying for the finals on Saturday Aoife went up against the best in the world including the top Russian and British gymnasts in the final. Her overall score of 30.90 was bettered only by Valentina Zinets of Russia who came in with a score of 32.30. This result sets Aoife up as one of the brightest stars for the future for Irish Gymnastics – with an application pending to include Tumbling as an Olympic sport for the 2012 London Games Aoife and her team of personal and national coaches are now focusing on the long term preparation towards the goal of an Olympic medal should the sport be included.

Aoife's results were not the only cause for celebration for the Irish Delegation who had their most successful World Age Group championships to date...

Gillian Clarke from Millennium Gymnastics Club in Cork also made the world final alongside Aoife finishing in 6th place with an excellent score of 30.00. This result again puts Gillian firmly in the world's elite in her age group and shows great potential for the future! FIBE Gymnastics club's Jenny Ryan weighed in a credible 16th position with Millennium's Michella Jannick finishing in 30th place in the same age group.

In the 11 – 12 age group Killeevan's Jessie McFadden finished in 13th place followed by club mate Daisy Monaghan in 21st. The successful results were topped off by a 12th place finish from Jack Allen in the 11 – 12 boys age group.

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