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USA GYMNASTICS HOLDS JUNIOR OLYMPICS TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS:
ST. LOUIS ELITE ATHLETES TAKE 4 MEDALS, INCLUDING 2 GOLD

From June 23rd through the 30th, nearly 1600 athletes from across the United States converged on the San Jose Convention Center in downtown San Jose, California for the 2009 USA Gymnastics Junior Olympics (J.O.) Trampoline & Tumbling National Championships. Eight area athletes from St. Louis Elite Tramp and Tumble in Hazelwood competed at this year's Nationals, with 2 of these athletes winning a combined 4 medals – 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze – and nearly all athletes placing in the Top Ten in one or more event. Of the eight, 5 athletes made it to the awards stand by placing in the top 6 overall.

"It was an exceptional competition for the athletes," said Gene Kohler, head coach of St. Louis Elite Trampoline & Tumbling. "They trained very hard all year long and it was incredible to see all that hard work and determination paying off!" "It is a huge accomplishment to even qualify for this event because of the difficult selection process. Many athletes in our sport don't make it and I am thrilled to see how many not only have, but also made it to the awards stand by placing in the top 6 overall."

Two St. Louis Elite athletes won Gold to become National Champions in their respective events. Henry Baer of Town and Country, started off the competition on the 1st evening winning a gold medal in the level 10 synchronized trampoline event. His partner Nick Pointek is from Kansas City and they scored an impressive 9.8 on synchronization. They took the lead in Prelims and secured finals with an even better performance.

Clayton Janvrin of Florissant, MO medaled in all three events. He won gold in tumbling level 8 beating all his competition by an impressive 2.9 full points and scoring the highest scores out of all the level 8's including all age groups for both boys and girls. Clayton won silver on level 8 trampoline and bronze on level 8 double mini trampoline. Earlier this season Clayton also was hand selected to be on the USA Gymnastics Jump Start National team. He was one of eleven boys in the country to be awarded this honor. The Jump Start National team did a demonstration to the audience during the Grand March at Nationals.

"Clayton's performance was stellar, he competed with confidence and got the job done! I was pleased to see how well he performed as a USA Gymnastics National Team Member."

Kimberly Sanderson of Maryland Heights, MO, Kevin Foster of Blackjack, and Sulaiman Hinton of Florissant, all made it to the awards stand placing in the top 6.

About St. Louis Elite

St. Louis Elite is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing each athlete's life through competition and training, by developing strength, agility, courage, confidence, and discipline; thereby creating a safe, positive, winning environment. St. Louis Elite trains at Kids World Gymnastics, 8701 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042. For more information about St. Louis Elite and our teams, visit our website at <http://www.kidsworldgymnastics.com>.

About Trampoline and Tumbling

Trampoline was first recognized as a sport in its own right in the United States in 1967 and made its Debut as an Olympic sport at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Double-mini trampoline competition was added in 1978. Power tumbling, first performed on simple mats, has had US National Championships dating back to 1886. For more information, visit the official USA Gymnastics Trampoline and Tumbling web site at <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org>.