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### **Turek takes 2nd in USA Gymnastics tournament**

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After qualifying with a 15th-place performance at regionals in April, Emily **Turek** walked away with a second-place finish in the all-around at the USA Gymnastics' Level 10 National Invitational Tournament on May 9-10 in Dallas. "Our goal was to go there and win," her coach, Chris Riegel, said. "She didn't believe that was a possibility." **Turek** capped her performance by winning the uneven bars in her final event with a score of 9.1. The timing for the order was perfect because uneven bars is **Turek**'s best event. "That's her anchor," Riegel said. "Bars is her event. She was put on this Earth to do bars." **Turek** also finished sixth in the vault (9.15) and balance beam (9.025), and 13th on floor exercise (9.175). Her second-place all-around score was 36.45. **Turek**, a senior at Crystal Lake Central, injured her ankle in March and has been struggling to get back to her pre-injury form. The injury was unfortunate both from a competitive and college scholarship perspective. "It's just the worst time for a level 10 [gymnast] finishing her junior year," Riegel said. "It was a long recovery. She wasn't back to full strength when the colleges came to the gym." Before nationals, **Turek** was considering the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and had not received any interest from Division I schools. Her performance at nationals changed that. "After the meet, we had eight or nine [college] coaches lined up to talk to her," Riegel said. The University of Alaska-Anchorage has offered her a full scholarship over the phone, and she is set to visit the school before deciding. She also has received interest from Rutgers, Kent State and George Washington. "Emily's really been under the radar because she was injured," Riegel said. "[National's] really opened up a floodgate for her." Although the injury came at a bad time, Riegel said **Turek** had come out of the injury in better shape overall. She no longer is seen as a standout in just the uneven bars. "To be scholarship worthy of a D-I school, you have to be competitive on three of the four events," Riegel said. "Post-injury, she has become extremely viable on the floor and vault and beam." **Turek** competed as part of Crystal Lake Gymnastics but has since teamed up with Trinity Gymnastics in Crystal Lake, along with Riegel. • Rob Smith is a sports writer for the Northwest Herald. He can be reached at [rsmith@nwherald.com](mailto:rsmith@nwherald.com).

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