

Greenfield excels despite injuries

Megan Greenfield has been riddled with injuries the past three years but put a stamp on her comeback at a recent gymnastics meet in Florida.

Greenfield, who competes for the Trinity GEMS out of Lake in the Hills, won the Level 10 all-around championship in the senior age group at the Tampa Bay Turners Invitational on Jan. 13-16 at the Manatee Convention Center in Palmetto, Fla. In individual events, Greenfield placed second on the floor exercise and vault, and fourth on the balance beam and uneven bars.

Three years ago, Greenfield tore her ACL and meniscus. The next year at the regional championships, she tore her meniscus again.

GEMS coach Chris Riegel said the way Greenfield has come back from serious injury has been remarkable, and he described her as a workhorse.

"It was just absolutely huge on multiple levels," Riegel said of the all-around championship. "How many athletes could come back from that twice, let alone in three years?"

Riegel said Greenfield, a sophomore at Crystal Lake Central, is not hesitant in competition and acts as though she had never been injured.

"It's like she hasn't skipped a beat," Riegel said. "She tumbles like it's not on her mind at all."

The win gained recognition for Greenfield and the GEMS team which trains out of Trinity Gymnastics. Riegel and a number of gymnasts began training out of Trinity last year, and the Turners Invitational was their second competition as a team.

As a team, GEMS finished third behind Twistars from Michigan, which won the event. GEMS won the team title in floor exercise and was second on vault.

To be able to compete with Twistars, recognized as one of

the top teams in the country, in a short amount of time together, was a big accomplishment for GEMS, Riegel said.

"To beat Twistars on any event is a real nice feather in our cap," Riegel said. "The fact that we won floor and were second to Twistars on vault was a good measuring stick for us."

The win also opened up college scholarship opportunities for Greenfield. Phillip Ogletree, an assistant coach from LSU, was at the Turners meet. He told Riegel that he was impressed with Greenfield's performance.

[Ogletree] was disappointed that [Greenfield] was only a sophomore," Riegel said. "She's someone, according to him, they are going to watch closely."

That Greenfield is competing and winning at Level 10 as a sophomore is a big plus to college programs, Riegel said.

"When I talk to college coaches, the first thing they ask is 'how long have they been a Level 10?'" Riegel said. "It shows you're durable and in it for the long haul."

Also at Turners, Miranda Saathoff, a freshman at Marian Central, finished third in the all-around in the Level 10, junior age group and third in the floor exercise. Also in the junior division, Cary-Grove sophomore Christine Liautaud finished fifth in the all-around and second in floor.

Elaina Cammarata, a senior at Cary-Grove, finished fourth on the floor exercise in the senior division and qualified for the Illinois State Championships in March with her all-around score.

Katarina Schmid, a fourth-grader at St. Thomas School in Crystal Lake, finished seventh in the all-around in only her second meet at Level 7.

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