

## West Zone Championships

From March 5-8, our Juniors and 13-15s' headed to Roseville for their first major competition of the season, the **West Zone Championships**. The Junior A team competed in individuals while the Junior B, 13-15A and 13-15B competed in all events. The 13-15A's Suying Rothrock and Karime Andere, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in figures.

Karime then added a gold in solo, and a silver in duet with Marisa Tashima. In other duets, Rina Horii and Suying placed 5<sup>th</sup> while Lizzie Welzien and Tori Yee placed 7<sup>th</sup>. The trio of Rina, Suying and Marisa topped their competitors with a solid gold. The 13-15B trio, Karina Boyle, Leah Read, and Laila Shaker followed with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish.

In team routines, Sofia Bouzos, Karina Boyle, Kelsey Bowman, Devan Murphy-Hopson, Cassie Naughton, Monique O'Bryan, Leah Read and Laila Shaker of the 13-15B team secured 5<sup>th</sup> place while colleagues, Gwen Gabie, Grace Moran, Karime Andere, Rina Horii, Suying Rothrock, Marisa Tashima, Lizzie Welzien and Tori Yee endured a nail-biting finish to their routine. After encountering problems with the sound system and a third start, the 13-15A's finally completed their routine. Although receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest routine score, it didn't deter the group from earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in finals.

Whew! Both Junior teams also did WCA proud. In figures, Kellie Stump placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Alyson Haylor 6<sup>th</sup> and Emily Burkhart 8<sup>th</sup>.

The trio of Emily, Aly and Kellie earned gold. They were followed by Alena Faulkner, Carolyn Morrice and Raena Sumiyoshi in 4<sup>th</sup> place, and Samantha Golomb, Miriam Margolis and Jourdan Meltzer in 6<sup>th</sup> place. In duets, Heidi and Jane Homma performed their first duet together earning 5<sup>th</sup> place, *and* a spot to compete at Jr. Nationals! Rounding out the junior duets were Samantha and Raena in 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Juniors also competed in the Senior category and earned honorary 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place in duets. The duets comprised of Aly Haylor and Kellie Stump, and Morgan Boneberg and Emily Burkhart, respectively. In senior solos, Aly received an honorary 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Kellie 7<sup>th</sup>. Lastly in the senior team routines, Junior B members Veronica Fletcher, Samantha Golomb, Gina Griego, Heidi Homma, Jane Homma, Miriam Margolis, Jourdan Meltzer and Taylor Miron earned an honorary 5<sup>th</sup> place.

One final note on the West Zone Championships: the announcement of this year's **West Zone Athlete of the Year** award that went to two individuals, one of whom is an Aquanut. **Raena Sumiyoshi** won the prestigious award based on several criteria: her motivation to work in a positive way toward her individual goals and those of her team and the sport; and, her personal attitude and habits demonstrated a good image and she is a role model to all athletes of the Zone and others involved in the sport.