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**Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy Names Two Gymnasts to USA Gymnastics TOPs National Teams.**

(picture)

Olivia Ference, 9, has been named to USA Gymnastics' 2008 TOPs (Talent Opportunity Program) National Gymnastics Team. Allison Kunz, 11, was named to the TOPs B National Team. Ference and Kunz, who train at Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy (MEGA) in Farmington Hills, Michigan, were named to the National Teams based on results from the National Testing that was held at Bela Karolyi's National Team Training Center in Houston, Texas.

"For Olivia to qualify to the TOPs National Team is an incredible accomplishment because it means that she is one of the country's top 25 gymnasts in the nine year old age group," said Kim Tanskanen, owner and Head Coach at MEGA. "Allison qualified to the TOP B National Team, which makes her one of the country's top 50 gymnasts in the eleven year old age group. They are dedicated, hard-working gymnasts, and their hard work has paid off. "

Olivia began participating in the TOP program when she was seven years old. She has been named to the Diamond TOP National Team for the past two years. The Diamond TOP National Team is comprised of the best seven and eight year olds in the country.

Allison was a member of the TOP National Team last year. She has participated in the TOP program for the past three years.

TOPs is USA Gymnastics annual program to identify young gymnasts who have the ability to excel in the sport. More than 2600 gymnasts participated in state and regional testing, with only a little more than 300 qualifying for national testing based on state and regional scores. State and regional testing is conducted for gymnasts 7-11 years of age, with the 9-11 year olds eligible to advance to the National Testing. The top 25 in each age group are named to the National Team.

Ference will be attending the National TOP Team training camp at the National Training Center in Houston, Texas in early December.

USA Gymnastics Elite Program Manager Gary Warren, said, "The TOPs program is definitely working. With more that 50% of the current National Team and 3 of the 2008 Olympic Team having been National TOP Team Members, marks the success of the program.

Based in Indianapolis, USA Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics in the United States. Its mission is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in the sport. Its disciplines include men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, and

acrobatic gymnastics. For more information on USA Gymnastics and its TOPs program, log onto [www.usa-gymnastics.org](http://www.usa-gymnastics.org).

### **About Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy**

Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy (MEGA) is a first-class gymnastics and physical education academy founded in 2005 to help build the self-confidence and self-discipline of its students through physical fitness, fun, and achievement. Located in Farmington Hills, MEGA offers classes in gymnastics, dance, and tae kwon do while focusing on healthy living habits that students can use for the rest of their lives. Since its inception MEGA has taught over 900 students in a variety of physical activities. Visit [www.mega-gym.com](http://www.mega-gym.com) or call **248-474-7778** for more information.