

## Hugh McConnell Ranked Amongst the World's Best!



Leigh, Hugh, Aidan & Jo at the 2011 World Age Championships in Birmingham

*Ben Kelly, Tuesday, 6 December 2011*

### **Hugh McConnell ranked amongst the World's Best**

Tasmanian Junior Trampoline Gymnast, Hugh McConnell has finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place at the 2011 World Age Championships competition in Birmingham.

McConnell qualified for the final round of the Under 15 Men's Double-Mini event in 7<sup>th</sup> place, performing two solid final routines in the final round to secure an =5<sup>th</sup> position with Australian team mate, Josh Ibrahim from NSW.

McConnell's 5<sup>th</sup> place is the second Tasmanian final at the World Championship level after Jack Penny finished in 5<sup>th</sup> position in the Men's Open Double-Mini Tramp last year in France. Penny and McConnell train together under the guidance of State Coach, Ben Kelly, at the Eastside Trampoline Club Inc. facility located at Rokeby High Gymnasium. McConnell also competed in the Individual Trampoline event, narrowly missing the final, finishing in 14<sup>th</sup> position. State Coach, Kelly, is thrilled with this result saying that McConnell had been training well and working on consistency and height in preparation for the World Championship event.

Current National Champion and Launceston based gymnast, Aidan Collins, competed in the Under 17 Men's Double-Mini event. Although Collins performed strong routines in the preliminary round of competition, he unfortunately landed awkwardly on his second routine costing him a berth in the final round. Kelly acknowledges Collins as a strong competitor with the potential to represent Australia at the Senior Open level in the next 2-years. His result in Birmingham was unlucky and out of character for Collins.

Australian Team Manager and Launceston coach, Jo Penny has described the event as the most successful World Age Championships for Australia in quite some time. Over 10 gymnasts from the Australian Age Team made finals with the stand out performance being Western Australian gymnast, Evie Kierath, who was crowned Under 19 Women's Individual Trampoline World Champion. This is a great result for Australia and our first World Age Champion in well over 10 years.

For more information regarding this event, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0414477346 or [benakelly@yahoo.com](mailto:benakelly@yahoo.com)