

Tasmanian Golden Duo at the Trampoline National Championships



Aidan Collins and Hugh McConnell

Ben Kelly, Wednesday, 5 October 2011

TIS Elite Development Program members have lead the Tasmanian Team to victory...

TIS Elite Development Program members, Aidan Collins and Hugh McConnell have lead the Tasmanian Team to victory by winning gold at the Australian National Championships which has concluded in Adelaide.

Collins successfully defended his age Double-Mini title by winning the Under 17 Men's competition. State Coach, Ben Kelly, was impressed with Collins performances, saying he was the strongest and most convincing gymnast in his age group. Collins has now won four consecutive National Double-Mini titles and will be acknowledged by Gymnastics Australia for his efforts with a 3-year annual award. Collins also picked up a bronze in the synchronised event, teaming up with Hobart's Damien Axelsen in the 17 years and over men's competition. Collins and Axelsen qualified in 1st position but had to settle for the bronze medal after a few mistakes in the final round. Axelsen also placed 3rd in the 17 and over Men's Individual Trampoline.

In the Under 15 men's events, Hugh McConnell was crowned national champion in the synchronised division. McConnell teamed up with Curtis Booth from WA to convincingly win the competition. Kelly was surprised at McConnell and Booth as they are a new pairing, having never trained together at previous competitions. The pairing was developed after Gymnastics Australia named them as a synchronised pair for the upcoming World Age Championships. McConnell also placed 2nd in the Individual Trampoline and 2nd in the Double-Mini Trampoline event. Collins and McConnell will now commence preparations for the World Age Championships being held in England next month.

Other notable performances from Tasmanian gymnasts included Patrick Schluter (Under 11), Makonnen Brown (Under 15), Ryan Williams (Under 15), Rose Bowerman (Under17), and Matthew Gough (17+ years) who all qualified for the final round in their respective age divisions.