

Indo-Pacific Trampoline Championships



Ben Kelly, Wednesday, 29 August 2012

Tasmanian's Jump at the Chance to Represent Australia

Seven Tasmanian Trampoline Gymnasts have been chosen to represent Australia at the Indo-Pacific Championships being held at Sydney Olympic Park in October. Five nations have confirmed attendance at this event, including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Thailand.

This will be the fifth Indo-Pacific competition for TIS Scholarship holder and Olympic Squad Member, Jack Penny who has won a total of four gold medals so far at Indo-Pacific events. Penny has been selected to compete in the Senior International Men's Individual Trampoline, alongside Olympian, Blake Gaudry. Penny will also compete in the Synchronized Trampoline event with long term synchronized partner, Jarrod Spear from Queensland. Penny and Spear are current National Synchronized Champions and won the silver medal 2-years ago in Japan. State Coach, Ben Kelly, believes the pair has the potential for gold this time around, but will need to work hard to beat the Japanese who are world leaders in Synchronized events.

National Junior Men's Champions, Hugh McConnell and Aidan Collins have also been selected to compete at these Championships. Both men will compete in the Under 17 Men's Individual Trampoline and Double-Mini Tramp, before teaming up for the Synchronised event. McConnell and Collins also won the silver medal in the Under 15 Men's Synchronised Trampoline, 2-years ago in Japan and will be aiming for one better this time in Sydney. McConnell is the current National Champion for both Junior and Under 17 Men's Trampoline, while Collins holds the National crowns for the Double-Mini Tramp.

Damien Axelsen will also join the Australian contingent after a four year absence from international competition. Axelsen has battled a recurring knee condition which has left him unable to compete internationally in recent years; however, Axelsen's near flawless performances at the recent Indo-Pacific trial in Brisbane he has shown his current competition readiness to compete in the 17+ Men's events in Sydney.

Tasmania has had a long and successful history of Australian representation at the Indo-Pacific Championships, with the competition providing a stepping stone to World Championships for our gymnasts. Newcomers to the team, Makonnen Brown (Under 15), Matthew French (U13), and Ryan Williams (Under 17) will make their Australian debut in Sydney. Kelly says that this is the first time three Tasmanian clubs have been represented on an Australian Team. Tasmanian clubs are working hard in developing strong junior athletes which is important leading into the next two Olympic cycles.

