

Australian Youth Olympic Festival January 2013



Australian team

Jo Penny, Wednesday, 23 January 2013

Great results from Tasmanian Trampoline Gymnasts...

The Australian Youth Olympic Festival concluded on Sunday 21st January, with some great results from Tasmanian Trampoline Gymnasts. Launceston's Aidan Collins secured a Silver Medal with partner Dominic Clarke (NSW) in the Synchronised Trampoline Event. He also performed three steady routines to finish 6th in the Individual Trampoline event, competing against athletes from China, New Zealand and Great Britain. Hobart based, Hugh McConnell unfortunately fell from the trampoline in his second routine leaving him out of the final round.

State Coach, Ben Kelly, who was part of the coaching team for this event said both Aidan and Hugh prepared well for the event. Both boys attended a pre-departure training camp in Hobart, before taking part in the 5-day national team training camp at Castle Hill leading into the competition.

Although, this was not the desired result in the Individual Event for the Tasmanian duo, Kelly believes this event has provided invaluable pre-Olympic experience for these talented youngsters. McConnell is the current Junior National Champion for Trampoline, while Collins is the Junior National Champion for Double-mini. Kelly believes the future for these two Trampoline Gymnasts is positive with many good reports being fed back from the Australian coaching staff and selectors during the camp.

To cap off their Youth Olympic experience, Hugh and Aidan were very excited to bump into Olympic gold medallist Matthew Mitchum at the athlete village during their stay. Matt competed in the AYOF for trampoline in 2003 before turning his focus to diving. Matt was a great inspiration to the boys showing off his Olympic and Commonwealth Games medals and signing Hugh's copy of *Twists & Turns*.

Both Collins and McConnell have recently been named on the



Ben, Aidan & Hugh



Medal Presentation - Synchronised



Aidan and Hugh with Matthew Mitchum

Gymnastics Australia 2013 Junior National Squad for both Individual Trampoline and Double-mini Trampoline, along with Makonnen Brown who has been named on the Double-mini squad. Senior representative and TIS scholarship holder, Jack Penny, has also been named on the Gymnastics Australia National Senior Squad for 2013.