

## **Three Oakland Gymnasts Qualify to compete at the Karolyi Olympic Ranch in Texas**

Tara Walsh, Anna Iaquaniello and Brooke Loechli, from Oakland Gymnastics Training Center in Commerce Twp., MI, qualified for the 2010 USA Gymnastics National TOPs Testing, which will take place October 1-3, in Houston, Texas at the Women's National Team Training Center located at the Bela Karolyi Gymnastics Camp.

TOPs is a Talent Opportunity Program for female gymnasts ages 7-11 and their coaches. During the summer, gymnasts are evaluated on strength, flexibility and physical abilities. From the more than 2,700 participants, approximately 350 gymnasts qualify to participate at the National TOPs testing.

Approximately 60 of the 8-11 year olds will then qualify to the TOPs National Team and will be invited to attend a training camp this December, at the Karolyi Ranch, home of well-known gymnastics coaches Bela and Martha Karolyi. The Karolyi's coached Nadia Comaneci, Mary Lou Retton, Kim Zmeskal, Kerri Strug and many other World and Olympic champions.

Savannah Miller qualified to the 2010 TOP National Diamond Team. To achieve this status, her regional testing scores placed her in the top 15 seven year old gymnasts in the nation. "We're very proud of Savannah's achievement. She is amazingly dedicated and focused." stated Oakland TOP coach Ruth Miller.

Miller added, "We're so pleased to have three girls qualify to National Testing. Most of our TOPs athletes train 20-26 hours per week while managing school. It just shows that hard work pays off. They are dedicated kids, extremely motivated to succeed. We're thrilled to have three gymnasts recognized for this most prestigious event. I'm very proud of our hard working staff and gymnasts."

Brooke, 10, was a TOP National Team member in 2009. Tara, 8, and Anna, 9, will be making their first appearance at the National TOPs Test. In photo, from left to right are Brooke, Savannah, Tara and Anna.

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