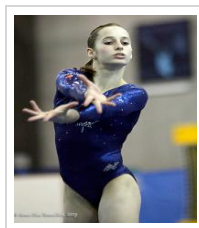




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Vaculik seals comeback with two more medals at Elite Canada

Posted Sunday, December 13, 2009

OAKVILLE, Ont., -- Flashing the form that made her one of Canada's top female gymnasts until sidelined by an injury more than a year ago, Kristina Vaculik of Whitby, Ont., capped a highly successful return to national competition on Sunday, winning gold on floor and uneven bars in the senior event finals at Elite Canada.

Vaculik, who narrowly missed winning a spot on the 2008 Olympic team, said she is now back on track after elbow surgery last December and focussed on helping Canada qualify a full women's squad for the 2012 Summer Games in London.

"It went really well and it's just great to be back and competing again," said Vaculik, who also finished second on Friday in the senior all around competition.

"Coming back from the injury was hard and it was frustrating at times, but I just stayed positive and took the right amount of time to recover."

Other winners in the event finals were Brittany Rogers of Coquitlam, B.C., on vault, Madeline Gardiner of Cambridge, Ont., on beam, and Dominique Pegg of Sarnia, Ont., who tied with Vaculik on floor.

In the junior event finals, Briannah Tsang of Coquitlam, B.C., followed up her surprising third-place finish on Saturday in the all around with victories on vault and floor.

"I'm pretty excited right now, this is the best I've ever done," said Tsang, moments after the concluding medal ceremony.

Tsang said she was more focussed than at other competitions and also a little nervous when she unveiled two new vaults en route to the gold medal.

"The second vault was harder in some ways even though it had less difficulty because it was the first time I used a front handspring on the entry and it was pretty scary," said Tsang.

In other event finals Riley Cholod of Bowmanville, Ont., who won the all around title on Saturday, took the gold on uneven bars, and Stefanie Merkle of Waterloo, Ont., topped the field on beam.

[Results](#)