

# All Around News

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## Elite and TOPS Report

**TOPS Program:** The new TOPS testing schedule is ready and available at the Region 8 Website and included in this Newsletter. It has also been emailed to the State Chairmen and will be posted on the websites of each State. Please note that we are offering a variety of sites and dates this season. This will allow clubs to test more often and hopefully make it more convenient to attend a testing with their athletes. **Clubs may select a site and date that works for them and send their paperwork directly to the site that they would like to attend.** The host club will be directly responsible for the running of the event so please direct any questions for times, maps, etc to the Test Host. The staff to test the athletes will be selected from attending clubs, area gyms and the host gym based on number needed. If you are interested in participating as a staff member, please indicate this on your entry form.

Most of the other regions in the USA offer multiple sites and dates and this will bring us in line with what other regions do. I know there is some concern over the consistency from test to test however; the benefit of more sites with less travel was a trade off that I felt was important. It is really no different than our State meets that qualify athletes to the regional competition. Some states may be judged a little harder or a little easier however, once the athletes get to regionals the athletes are all judged the same. It is no different with this - No matter how it goes, the National testing site will offer a consistent staff and it will be at this test that everyone will be tested by the same staff. We will look very closely at test scores from each of our sites and compare them with the National test scores. If we notice that one of our regional testing sites was way out of line with the National scores we will consider not using that staff again for a regional test. We will encourage all staff to take their job seriously and to do the most consistent job that they can.

**New TOPS Coordinator:** We have postponed appointing a new TOPS coordinator for our region. At this time, anyone who applied for the position has been requested to host a testing. We will use the evaluations in our selection of our regional TOPS coordinator. We hope to appoint someone by the fall.

**TOPS Clinic:** Since we were offering so many sites for the TOPS testing, we decided not to offer a clinic this summer, as we did not want to select one of the sites to host the clinic with the test. Instead we will offer a **TOPS clinic September 11-12 at Gymnastics Academy of Atlanta for all athletes that have qualified to Nationals.** In addition, we will offer a **TOPS clinic with the Elite clinic in December.** This clinic will be open to all TOPS athletes and any club that is interested in learning more about TOPS. The elite athletes will also be there and this will give the athletes the opportunity to see what the elite program is all about. The clinic will be held at **American Twisters** in Coconut Creek, Florida (Fort Lauderdale area) on **December 18 & 19th, 2004.**

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## Elite-News

*Gary Anderson, National Elite Committee Chairman*

Just a brief note to let you know of a recent motion that our National Elite Committee **has passed.** It affects those gymnasts who are **TOP "age eligible" for the 2004 TOPS season and participate in the 2004 American or US Challenge**

**Background:** The athletes participating in the TOP and Child PreElite divisions at a Challenge must do the entire compulsory routines and the Elite physical abilities test. They are judged by the national coaching staff and the top elite judges. Doing both of these things at a high proficiency level is obviously more difficult than doing

just the TOP physical abilities test at our regional testing. After studying the past two years of qualifying scores to the National TOP Testing and then studying both the compulsory routine scores and physical abilities scores from both Challenge meets last year, we have come up with and **PASSED Feb.23, 2004,** the following proposal.

**PROPOSAL:** *"When participating in the American or US Challenge meets in 2004, any age eligible (for the 2004 TOP program) athlete that scores 58.00 in the All Around, with a minimum score of 32.00 in compulsories and a 24.00 adjusted score in physical abilities (this is a 6.0 average per test although a minimum of 6.0 is NOT needed in each test), will receive a waiver from 2004 TOP regional testing and be invited directly to the 2004 National TOP Test."*

# All Around News

## Elite Results

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The Elite athletes from our region have been busy in March and April with Classic and International assignments. We have four Elite USA National Team athletes in our region at this time. They are:

<b>Melanie Sinclair</b>	<i>Orlando Metro</i>
<b>Shayla Worley</b>	<i>Orlando Metro</i>
<b>Kassi Price</b>	<i>Orlando Metro</i>
<b>Jana Bieger</b>	<i>American Twisters</i>

Below are results:

### Cottbus World Cup in Germany

<b>Melanie Sinclair</b>	3rd	Vault, Beam
	4th	Bars

Coach in attendance - *Jeff Wood*

### Pacific Alliance Championships in Hawaii

#### JUNIOR TEAM: WON GOLD

<b>Shayla Worley</b> (Metro)	4th AA	36.832
<b>Jana Bieger</b> (Amer. Twist.)	2nd AA	37.365

#### EVENT FINALS

<b>Jana Bieger</b> (Amer. Twist.)	1st V	9.387
	2nd BB	9.575

Alternate Gymnast: **Kassi Price** (Metro)

Coaches in attendance - *Tim Rand* (American Twisters)  
*Jeff Wood & Christy Barineau* (Orlando Metro)

### Classic Results - Junior International

<b>Jana Bieger</b> (Amer. Twist.)	2nd	AA	36.950
	1st	V	9.325
	2nd	UB	9.125
	2nd	BB	9.300
	2nd	FX	9.200
<b>Kassi Price</b> (Metro)	3rd	AA	35.625
	2nd	V	9.250
	3rd	Fx	8.975
<b>Shayla Worley</b> (Metro)	4th	AA	35.325
	3rd	UB	8.850

### Classic Results - Senior All Around Standings

#### Grace Taylor (Aiken) 16th

#### Regional Qualifier: held April 16 & 17th in Tampa

Unfortunately we did not have any athletes qualify to the Classic competition at this meet. A few of the athletes did obtain the score to allow them to attend the Challenge competition, which is held in conjunction with the Classic. They are:

<b>Brittany Emmons</b>	<i>First City - FL</i>
<b>Gloria Johnson</b>	<i>Elite - LA</i>
<b>Hailey Bodenheimer</b>	<i>GymCats - NC</i>
<b>Tatjana Thuener Rego</b>	<i>Universal - FL</i>
<b>Devin Mann</b>	<i>Cartersville - GA</i>

These athletes are still considered JO athletes and may attend both JO Nationals as well as the Challenge.

### American Classic Pre-Elite Optional

<b>Tatjana Thuener-Rego</b> (Universal - FL)	8T	AA
<b>Vanessa Rodriguez</b> (Universal - FL)	10	AA
<b>Brittany Emmons</b> (First City - FL)	19	AA

I have a meeting in May at the US classic. I will email a report after the meeting to all clubs on the Elite/TOPS list. The region will host our Elite clinic at **American Twisters on December 18 & 19, 2004**. By then we should have all new information and changes on the *Code of Points* for FIG.

Competition calendar for elites will be set after we know the dates and sites of the National qualifiers.

