



## 2009-2010 New Ulm Eagles Girls' Gymnastics Season in Review As Gathered by New Ulm Sports Central

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*Articles published on websites of New Ulm Daily Journal or occasionally in other newspapers.*

### Eagles take fourth at sections

*POSTED: February 21, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

NEW PRAGUE - The New Ulm gymnastics team finished in fourth place at the Section 2A meet in New Prague.

New Prague won the title with 143 points, followed by Waconia with 133.45 and Mankato East with 132.3. New Ulm had 130.025.

The top performer was New Prague's Jessica Hoffman with a 36.425. New Ulm's top scorer was Michaela Otterstatter, who finished fifth with a 33.425. She just missed out on qualifying for state as the top four individuals advance. Kirsi Hauhia was just behind her with a score of 33.2.

Otterstatter was 10th in the vault with an 8.8 and ninth on the beam with an 8.425. Hauhia was sixth on the bars with an 8.55 and eighth on the beam with an 8.5.

### Eagle gymnasts finish third at SCC meet

*POSTED: February 13, 2010 NEW ULM JOURNAL*

WINNEBAGO - The New Ulm gymnastics team finished third at the South Central Conference gymnastics meet Friday.

Martin County Academy won the meet with 144.625 points and Blue Earth Area had 134.55 points. New Ulm finished with 134.425 points and Waseca was next with 132.75 points. St. James was fifth with 126.05 points and St. Peter was sixth with 122.575 points.

In All-Around, New Ulm's Michaela Otterstatter was sixth with a 34.2. MCA's Matraca Steen won with a 37.675.

In vault, Paige Breneman of MCA won with a 9.475 and Otterstatter was New Ulm's top performer with a 8.95.

In the uneven bars, New Ulm's Kirsi Hauhia was third with an 8.625 and Shyranda Hornick was fifth with an 8.55.

On beam, MCA's Steen took first with a score of 9.45. Hornick led the Eagles with a score of 8.3 and Otterstatter finished with an 8.2.

Steen won the floor with a 9.6 and Otterstatter led New Ulm with a score of 8.75. Hornick was second for New Ulm with an 8.45.

#### **2010 SCC Gymnastics Meet - At Winnebago**

##### **Team Standings:**

1. Martin County Area 144.625; 2. Blue Earth Area 134.55; 3. New Ulm 134.425; 4. Waseca 132.75; 5. St. James 126.05; 6. St. Peter 122.575.

##### **Individual Results**

**All-Around:** 1. Matraca Steen (MCA) 37.675; 2. Linnea Erickson (MCA) 36.9; 3. Julia Meyer (BEA) 34.75; 4. Rebecca Steen (MCA) 34.6; 5. Kiley Harguth (Waseca) 34.275; 6. Michaela Otterstatter (New Ulm) 34.2. *Other New Ulm scores: Shyranda Hornick 34.05; Kirsi Hauhia 32.85; Jatie Traulich 32.275.*

**Vault:** 1. Paige Breneman (MCA) 9.475; 2. Erickson (MCA) 9.4; 3. M. Steen (MCA) 9.375; 4. R. Steen (MCA) 9.15; 5. C. Thompson (BEA) 9.15; 6. Marissa Romsdahl (SJ) 9.075. *New Ulm scores: Otterstatter 8.95; Hornick 8.75; Emily Gulden 8.55; Traulich 8.5; Hauhia 8.3.*

**Uneven Parallel Bars:** 1. M. Steen (MCA) 9.25; 2. Erickson (MCA) 9.1; 3. Hauhia (NU) 8.625; 4. Harguth (W) 8.55; 5. Hornick (NU) 8.55; 6. R. Steen (MCA) 8.425. Other New Ulm scores: Otterstatter 8.3; Kim Berg 8.025; Traulich 7.35.

**Balance Beam:** 1. M. Steen (MCA) 9.45; 2. Erickson (MCA) 9.05; 3. Breneman (MCA) 8.725; 4. Meyer (BEA) 8.65; 5. Harguth (Waseca) 8.5; 6. C. Thompson (BEA) 8.4. New Ulm scores: Hornick 8.3; Otterstatter 8.2; Traulich 8.0; Hauhia 7.95; Stephanie Oliver 7.1.

**Floor Exercise:** 1. M. Steen (MCA) 9.6; 2. Erickson (MCA) 9.35; 3. R. Steen (MCA) 9.075; 4. Johnson (MCA) 8.9; 5. Romsdahl (SJ) 8.825; 6. (tie) Meyer (BEA) and Breneman (MCA) 8.8s. New Ulm scores: Otterstatter 8.75; Hornick 8.45; Traulich 8.425; Oliver 8.1; Hauhia 7.975.

## Too much Magic

*POSTED: February 5, 2010*



**Staff photo by Mary Roufs**

New Ulm gymnast Jatia Traulich performs her routine on the high beam at the meet against Martin County Area on Thursday in New Ulm.

For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

Toni Tweten, Journal Sport Writer

NEW ULM- The Martin County Area Magic girls gymnastics team raised the bar in South Central Conference competition Thursday night, with several gymnasts scoring in the nines.

The New Ulm Eagles couldn't match the numbers and the Magic defeated the Eagles 142.2-133.975.

"One of our keys to success this season has been the girls getting along," MCA mentor LeeAnn Steen said. "It's been a transition putting these two teams together, but the girls enjoy each other. We have strong senior leaders from both Fairmont and Martin County."

The Magic showed that strength on the vault, with Paige Breneman placing first with 9.375. Linnea Erickson took second with 9.3 and Becca Steen placed third with 9.075.

On bars, Matraca Steen took first with a 9.1, Erickson placed second with 8.8, and New Ulm's Shyranda Hornick took third with 8.7.

The Magic also shined on beam, with Breneman placing first with 9.275. Erickson placed second with 8.9, and Matraca Steen took third with 8.525.

"Beam can make or break a team," Eagles assistant coach Ariel McFarland said. "And beam is a killer for us. It drags us down. It's time for the girls to start getting into the eights. I know they have so much talent."

Matraca Steen placed first on the floor routine with 9.425. Erickson took second with 8.9 and Andrea Johnson placed third with 8.925.

For all-around, Erickson placed first with 36.325 and Matraca Steen took second with 36.125. The Eagles Michaela Otterstatter placed third with 34.3.

"The girls did well tonight," said Steen. "Now we're going to focus on consistency and keeping healthy. We're not going to get lost in the tension with the conference and sectional meets coming up. We'll still have some fun."

The Eagles are also thinking ahead.

"I'm proud of the work the girls did tonight," McFarland said. "We still have time before sectionals and we'll keep working on our skills. Even tonight, the girls worked new skills into their routine. I'm just so impressed with their growth over the season. "

## JCC tops New Ulm

By Toni Tweten, Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: January 6, 2010

*(JV Results Included in Jackson County Pilot article which follows)*

NEW ULM - Wobbles led to the New Ulm Eagles gymnastics team fall to Jackson County Central Tuesday night, with JCC winning 137.15-131.95.

"We need to go back to beam this week," assistant coach Ariel McFarland said. "Usually the girls stick better and score higher."

However, the Eagles did shake things up a bit, and displayed new additions to their floor routines.

"They have been improving and adding new skills to their routines," McFarland said. "I'm really proud of them. The younger girls are picking up the slack and really shining in their performances."

Despite an injury to a key gymnast early in the evening, JCC dominated in the rankings, allowing only two Eagle girls in the top three.

On vault, Courtney Donnelly took first with 9.1, Adriane Rentschler placed second with 9.0, and New Ulm's Michaela Otterstatter took third with 8.775.

On bars, Brandi Sether-Hassing placed first with 8.85, the Eagle's Shyranda Hornick took second with 8.4, and Rentschler took third with 8.35.

On beam, Sether-Hassing took first with 9.15, Rentschler placed second with 8.675, and Donnelly was third with 8.425.

On floor, Donnelly took first with 8.95, Morgan Halverson placed second with 8.9, and Rentschler took third with 8.65

In the all-around, Sether-Hassing took first with 35.125, Rentschler placed second with 34.625, and Donnelly finished third with 34.2.

## GYM: Huskies win on 'crazy night'

POSTED JAN. 7, 2009 Jackson County Pilot

*Note: Results of Junior Varsity reported in this article.*

Despite competing without two gymnasts, the Jackson County Central gymnastics team beat New Ulm 136.95 to 131.95 Tuesday night in New Ulm to improve to 3-0 on the season.

The Huskies entered the meet without Sydnee Donnelly, who hurt her wrist in practice, and then lost Briel Hendricksen to an ankle injury during warm-ups. As if that wasn't enough, Hannah Fraser got hurt during the meet, giving the Huskies just four gymnasts on the floor exercise.

Even with the injuries, something head coach Tammy Handevitd called "bad luck", the Huskies had the top three finishers in all-around and had the individual champion in each event.



**Staff photo by Mary Roufs**  
New Ulm's Cassie Forst concentrates as she performs a routine on the balance beam at the match on Tuesday night in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

Brandi Sether-Hassing had three first-place finishes, including in all-around, which she won with a score of 35.125. She also finished first on bars (8.85) and balance beam (9.15). Sether-Hassing added scores of 8.725 on the vault and 8.4 on the floor.

Adriane Rentschler finished second in all-around, putting together a score of 34.325. She was second on the beam with a score of 8.625 and was third on floor (8.65) and bars (8.35). Rentschler also scored 8.7 on vault.

Courtney Donnelly finished just behind Rentschler in all-around, posting a score of 34.2 to finish third.

She won the floor exercise (8.95) and vault (9.1) and was third on beam (8.425). Donnelly also scored 7.725 on the bars.

Morgan Halverson finished second on the vault (8.8) and floor (8.9). She also scored 7.925 on the bars and 7.675 on the beam.

Hailey Timko scored 6.85 on the bars and 5.4 on the beam. Fraser scored 8.45 on vault before suffering her injury.

“It was kind of a crazy night,” Handevitd said. “We had a lot of changes and were trying to switch things up.”

Through it all, Handevitd said she was pleased with the way her team looked.

“We had some good things happen,” Handevitd said.

### Junior varsity

The junior varsity team also won, beating New Ulm 116.35 to 112.8. Riley Schneekloth won vault (8.3) and floor (7.35) and Michaela Vancura won beam (7.55). Bailey Schneekloth scored 28.5 to finish second all-around and Megan Anderson was third with 27.75.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello  
New Ulm's Michaela Otterstatter competes on the vault during New Ulm's home meet against St. James Thursday. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

## Eagles vault by St. James

Toni Tweten, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: December 18, 2009*

NEW ULM - The New Ulm gymnastics team had their first taste of South Central Conference competition Thursday and the victory was sweet.

The Eagles won over the St. James Saints 132.3-124.45.

"I was very impressed with the girl's performance tonight," assistant coach Ariel McFarland said. "The younger girls are stepping up and filling in. We are working hard and seeing improvement."

Eagle ninth-grader Michaela Otterstatter was also thinking about improvements. "I am trying to get more solid on beam," Otterstatter said. We're working on that as a team as well. But I could feel it come together on the floor tonight. Floor was my best event."

The judges thought so as well, and Otterstatter placed first in the floor event and first all around.

On vault, St. James' Marissa Romsdahl took first with an 8.9, Shyranda Hornick placed second with an 8.75 while Otterstatter and St. James' Erin Hurley tied for third with an 8.7.

On bars, Hornick took first place with an 8.65, Romsdahl placed second with an 8.55 and Otterstatter took third with 8.4.

On beam, the Eagles' Cassie Forst took first with an 8.675, Otterstatter placed second with an 8.25 and Jatia Traulich took third with an 8.175.

On floor, Otterstatter took first place with an 8.55, Hornick placed second with an 8.525 and Traulich took third with an 8.425.

In all-around, Otterstatter placed first with a 33.7, Hornick took second with 32.925, and Traulich placed third with 32.9.

The Eagles are now 2-1.

## New Ulm wins East Invitational

*POSTED: December 13, 2009*

MANKATO - The New Ulm gymnastics team won the Mankato East Invitational Saturday with a total of 132.200.

The Eagles were led by Michaela Otterstatter, who was second in the all-around with a 33.525. Otterstatter was second in the vault with an 8.625, fourth in the bars with an 8.4 and was second in the beam with an 8.2.

Shyranda Hornick was third overall with a 33.150. She tied for first in the bars with a 8.65 and was third in the vault with a 8.525. Kirsi Hauhia finished fourth in the all-around for New Ulm.

The overall champ was Marshall's Nikki McNair with a 36.275.

The New Ulm JV also took first with a 109.800

## Redwood Valley Gymnastics Defeats New Ulm

*POSTED: December 5, 2009*

Redwood Valley 130.35 New Ulm 129.6

REDWOOD FALLS -Shyranda Hornick of New Ulm won the All-Around title with a score of 33.35 but Redwood Valley defeated New Ulm 130.35-129.6 in gymnastics Friday.

Michaela Otterstatter was second in the vault with a score of 8.95 and Hornick was third with 8.55.

Hornick was second in bars with a score of 8.3 and Otterstatter was third with 7.8.

Cassie Forst won the balance beam for New Ulm with a score of 8.55.

In JV action New Ulm defeated Redwood Valley 108.8-51.9.

## **Eagles hoping for SCC Title**

By Toni Tweten, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: November 24, 2009*

NEW ULM - The New Ulm gymnastics team is balancing a lot of change this season, and it is making it look easy.

"It's going to be an exciting year," head coach Meredith Nordby said. "We're experiencing some changes this season and one of them is we are co-oped with Minnesota Valley Lutheran. We have a team total of 15 girls who all have gymnastics experience.

Another change is that Nordby is having senior moments; five in fact.

"Last year we were senior-less, this year we have three returning varsity seniors, senior Jenny Peterson joining us from MVL, and a senior exchange student."

Shyranda Hornick, Rachel Enwright and Kelsey Gulden are the senior team captains, and are carrying last The SCC is a tough conference," Nordby said. "Our goal this year is to compete against these top teams. The girls have high hopes. It's been a while since New Ulm has sent a competitor to state and we hope to change that this year."

The captains are kindling those hopes amongst the team.

year's one-point loss and the South Central Conference championship to Blue Earth Area.

I'm going all out this year," Hornick said. "This is it. I'm already learning new skills in the first week of practice."



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**  
New Ulm senior captains for the New Ulm gymnastics team pictured from left Kelsey Gulden, Rachel Enwright and Shyranda Hornick.

" Nordby was also impressed with the team's preparation.

"This is our first week of practice and the team is fit, strong, and ready to go," Nordby said.

"Now our goal is to come together as a team," Nordby added. "When you bring three different schools together, sometimes it can be difficult for team bonding. They haven't had a problem with that. Already in this first week, they're there to support and push each other and are building that team dynamic we're looking for."

Other returning New Ulm gymnasts are sophomores Jatia Traulich, Kassie Forst, Bailey Peterson and freshman Michaela Otterstatter.

When asked about possible setbacks this season, Nordby had a surprising response: fear.

"Gymnastics is a different sport. You have to deal with the aspect of fear. These girls to show up everyday for practice and work hard, are strong athletes, and overcome their fear of certain events.

Even the veterans aren't immune to fear.

"I'm looking forward to conquering my fears on every apparatus," said Hornick, who placed third overall last year in the SCC.

"Individually, I'm working hard to push myself and learn new tricks," Enwright said. "As a team, I think we have a lot of talent, can go far and have fun doing it. Gymnastics takes a lot of discipline, taking risks and setting goals. It's taught me a lot."

"We'll try our hardest, work hard and see where we go," added Gulden.

The New Ulm gymnastics team opens its season at Redwood Valley December 4.