

Junior sport

Young star: Newport girl's delight at Wales call-up

Life's not gray for marvellous Macey



HIGH FLYER: Seven-year-old Macey Chapman – who only took up gymnastics just over 12 months ago – is making real progress. The Newport girl, pictured above, has just been called into the Welsh squad. The Gaer Juniors' School pupil is a member of Newport Girls' Gymnastics Club. She began at the beginners' class and after just a few sessions, her coach Danielle Huggins, pictured left, spotted her potential. After many hours of hard work with Danielle, Macey is starting to reap the rewards. She won gold and silver medals in her first competitions and was selected for the East Wales squad in January. Macey passed her Grade 14 in February, before being called up for the Welsh squad this month.

Rugby

NEWPORT HSOB Under-9s rounded off an excellent season with their own tournament and in a very competitive six-team competition finished runners-up, being beaten only by an outstanding Bridgend Athletic who have won every tournament they have entered this season.

In their first game against Tondu, NHSOB started slowly with the away team applying the early pressure and were rewarded when they scored the first try.

This spurred NHSOB into action and they came back to totally dominate the second half scoring tries through Aneurin Owen (2) and Peter Davies to record a 3-1 victory, with other notable contributions from Connor Louth and Callum Oliver.

NHSOB's second game was against RTB Ebbw Vale and they rotated their squad to ensure all players were used and in an excellent performance, beat a very physical RTB side 3-0.

Ethan Clayden scored two excellent individual tries and the other was scored by the impressive Peter Davies, with excellent performances from Dan Holcombe, Josh Farmer and James Mundy.

Their third game against Rhydyfelin was probably NHSOB's best performance of the day.

Again the coaches rotated players, but NHSOB played exceptionally well throughout to gain an impressive 5-2 victory with excellent performances from Callum Price, Lewis Everett and Joseph Perry.

Tries were scored through the excellent Aneurin Owen, Connor Louth, Nick Williams, Peter Davies and Rhodri Chapman.

The next game against Bridgend Athletic was the tournament decider and despite a valiant effort with all the players putting in sterling performances, NHSOB came up short.

They lost 3-1 in tries to the well drilled Bridgend Athletic side, despite a well taken touchdown by the elusive Ethan Clayden.

NHSOB needed to win their final encounter against St Julians to keep the pressure on Bridgend and to ensure finishing at least runners-up.

And they didn't disappoint with some superb work from Taylor Kidd, Callum Rossitter and Sam Steed who looked like scoring an excellent individual try, only to be tackled into touch, just short of the line.

NHSOB ran out 4-0 winners with Aneurin Owen (2) and Peter Davies (2) again the try getters.

NHSOB Under 9s can be really proud of their achievements this season, especially their play in the end of season tournaments and on tour. And thanks for this must go to the coaching team of Mark Perry, Marc Chapman, Rob Owen, Sonny Wall and team managers Cath Owen and Kim Perry for their excellent work and effort they have put in.

Youngsters kick on at top event

A TEAM of 22 fighters from Newport's Martial Arts and Fitness Centre in Maindee recently took part in the Devon Open Tae Kwon Do Championships in Devon.

Everyone gave it their very best and had a great day.

The students came away with a total of 12 medals: Chanelle Frayling (Gold), Ethan Frayling (Gold), Mathew Benford (Gold), Jack Powell (Gold), Mark Sharwood (Gold), Alan Wilkinson (Gold), Camron Griffiths (Gold), James Shaw (Gold), Louis Gowing (Silver), Jack Heybyrne (Silver), Ayrton Mullins (Bronze) and Shannon Frayling (Bronze).

Team coach Leanne Gassor-Jones said: "On behalf of the Martial Arts and Fitness Centre we would like to say well done to all our students, we are very proud of you.

"Also, a special thank you to all team members who competed in the Devon Open Championships and to the parents and families for their continuous support"

The Martial Arts and Fitness Centre tournament team are looking to raise funds for tournaments both and home abroad.

If you would like to sponsor the MAFC tournament team go online at www.mafcmartialarts.com or call 01633 222260.



WHAT A BELTER: Front row (Left to right): Tomos Sharwood, Luke Fernandes, Samuel Taylor, Ayrton Mullins, Lewis Hatchard, Connor Sweeting, Dana McAvoy and Alex Gould. Middle row: Emma Bird, Jack Heybyrne, James Shaw, Louis Gowing, Jack Powell, Camron Griffiths, Emma Peart, Chanelle Frayling and Ethan Frayling. Back Row: Christopher Thomas (assistant coach), Tony Fernandes, Mark Sharwood, Mathew Benford, Alan Wilkinson, Karl Nielsen, Shannon Frayling and Leanne Gassor-Jones (team coach)