

NORTHERN EUROPEAN
ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
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PRESS RELEASE - 12/9/07
EUROPE'S BEST BOUNCE INTO DUBLIN

On Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th October 2007 Irish Gymnastics will host one of the most unique sporting events of the year – the 2007 Northern European Gymnastics Championships. Approx 120 of the best male & female gymnasts in Europe will descend on our Capital city for one of the most prestigious events in the international gymnastics calendar. World medalists and Olympic finalists will battle it out for the Men's & Women's Team, Individual & Apparatus titles in Dublin City University Sports Club over what will prove to be a weekend of superb competition.

Only 3 weeks after the World Championships in Stuttgart, and with the teams on the Olympic path to Beijing in 2008 the 11 participating nations have named their final teams for the championships.

Former World High-Bar Champion Jani Tanskanen from Finland & past Northern European Women's Champion Veronica Wagner of Sweden are down on the start list – and are just 2 of the big names that will give the audience in DCU a truly daring display of elite international gymnastics. Irish stars Wayne Healy & Geoff Rellis on the Men's side and Grainne Johnston & Sarah Wedel on the Women's side will be vying for coveted places in the apparatus finals on Sunday - with the prospect of medals high the Irish team will be taking advantage of the home crowd to spur them on.

Attending the press launch today, Jim O'Leary (President, Irish Gymnastics) commented...

"Gymnastics is growing in popularity in Ireland, we hope this event will give the sport much needed coverage in the media that we will hope will encourage children throughout the country to take up our fabulous sport".

Tony Preston, the Managing Director of Cuan na Ri (the major event private sector sponsor for the championships) stated...

"As the major private sector event sponsor we are delighted to be involved in offering the Irish public & sports community in general a rare chance to see some of Europe's best male and female gymnasts first hand. Gymnastics looks stunning and breathtaking on the television, we can be sure that it is even more so in person".

Also present on the panel at the press launch was the CEO of the Irish Sports Council, Mr John Treacy. The ISC have heavily invested in the event and Mr Treacy commented...

"The Irish Sports Council is delighted to be associated with the Northern European Championships. The Championships is the first major gymnastics championships to be held in Ireland and as such represent a milestone for Irish Gymnastics".

Competition kicks off on Saturday 6th October with the Team & Individual Championships followed with the apparatus finals on Sunday 7th.

For more information on the event and ticket sales visit www.irishgymnastics.ie

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