

MEDIA RELEASE

Synchro Swim Manitoba

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winnipeg Young Women Impress at National Championships

WINNIPEG – Four Winnipeg youth recently returned from 2008 Synchronized Swimming National Championships with best-ever finishing. Brittany Mueller, Marlene Desaulniers- Bernard, Jillian Byman and Megan Rutherford represented Winnipeg’s own Winnipeg Synchro Club and Synchro Swim Manitoba at the Championships.

Mueller and Desaulniers-Bernard (both 18 years of age) competed at the Canadian Open Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec in May. Brittany Mueller impressed judging with her international quality flexibility. Her performance in the figure event earned her a 16th place finish and qualified her to compete in the Jr. National Team Trials. Both Mueller & Desaulniers-Bernard competed in the Senior National Team Trials. This was a first for the two athletes. They had great performances and learned valuable skills to advance them onto the National Team next season. Full results for the Open Championships can be found at www.synchro.ca.

Jillian Byman and Megan Rutherford, the youngest of the Winnipeg squad, competed in the Espoir National Championships in Edmonton this past weekend. Both athletes finished with their personal best performances: Byman – 42nd and Rutherford – 80th place out of 200 athletes from across Canada. Both athletes were vying for a spot on the 13-15 National Team. Byman narrowly missed the cut off for the Team Trials – as only the top 25 athletes advance. Full results for Espoir can be found at www.synchro.ca.

Their coach is Khadija Cutcher, who recently won the Gold medal as an athlete herself at the FINA World Master Championship’s in Perth, Australia. This former U.S. National Team member knows just what it takes to land a spot on a National Team. “It is extremely difficult to make the [National] team. However these athletes have the determination to enhance their individual skills so that nothing will stop them. I’m so very proud of each of the girls for staying mentally strong through the trials process,” says Cutcher.

These four athletes are a part of a team of eight for Winnipeg Synchro and are the reigning Provincial champions and silver medalists in Western Canada.

For more information on Winnipeg Synchro and its programs, please call 204-793-1071 or visit the website www.winnipegsynchro.mb.ca. For information on Synchro Swim Manitoba, please visit www.synchromb.ca or call 204-925-5693.

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