

Sports

Two local gymnasts capture state crown

Hutchinson wins floor exercise, Lauter takes vault in Level 6 boys competition

Ocean Avenue Elementary School's Cullen Hutchinson and Norwood Elementary's Marty Lauter competed at West Point for the Level 6 New York State boys gymnastics championships on Sunday, March 25.

Hutchinson and Lauter train at the Gold Medal Gymnastics Center in Greenlawn and were representing the 8- and 9-year-old age group at this particular level of competition.

And the boys didn't disappoint their hometown. Hutchinson was the first-place finalist on the floor exercise with a score of 9.6, while finishing third in the all-around, second on the high bar, and tied for second on the still rings.

Lauter won his first-place championship on the vault with a score of 9.6 as well. He also finished fourth in the all-around and third on the high bar.

From a team standpoint, Hutchinson and Lauter not only played pivotal roles in bringing home the Level 6 first place team championship for the 8- and 11-year olds, but for all Level 6 age groups.

Along with team members Dylan Seale (Greenlawn) and Anthony Stefanelli (Cateruschi), Hutchinson and Lauter are ready to compete in the Level 6 Regional championships in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where qualifying gymnasts from seven states compete for individual and all-around championships on Sunday, April 29.

Hutchinson and Lauter train with coach Jason Graham, who graduated from Northport High School in 2000 and still resides in East Northport. Lauter's twin sister Casey also trains at the local gymnastics center and competes on the girls Level 8 team.



SAVVY SIX-STEER: Cullen Hutchinson (top) and Norwood Elementary's Marty Lauter (inset) placed first on the floor exercise and the vault, respectively, during the Level 6 New York State boys championships on Sunday, March 25. The team coached by Jason Graham (photo right, first from left), a 2000 Northport High School graduate.