

Lakeland, Florida played host to the 2008 AAU State gymnastics championships April 26th & 27th. Brittany Morgan, competing level 7, led the Venice YMCA Goldstar team with 3 first places finishes. Morgan placed 1st on beam (8.80), 1st on floor (9.225) and 1st all-around (35.40). Morgan is a sophomore at Pineview high school and also assists as a gymnastics instructor at the YMCA. Other Level 7 team members competing include: Carissa Davis, 2nd on beam (8.80), 2nd on floor (9.125) and all-around of (34.375), Olivia Kinney, 2nd on Vault (8.70) and 2nd on Floor (9.00) and all-around of (34.25), and Alyssa Freeman with an All-Around of (33.40). The level 7 gymnasts are coached by Dinko Dinev, Cherie Chambers and Tasha Scott.

Tanner Gauthier, competing level 5, also excelled taking first place in the all-around (34.65), 1st on bars (8.55) and 1st of floor (9.15). Other team members competing include: Delaney Chambers 2nd on beam (8.425) and 2nd all-around (33.475), Mariah Gostischa 2nd on vault (8.425) and 2nd all-around (31.75), Rachel South 1st on bars (8.75) and 2nd all-Around (34.05), Casey Williamson 1st on vault (8.90) and 1st on floor (8.75) with an all-around score of (32.60), Kourtney Pomante all-around (32.225), Ashley Bunton all-around (32.15), and Marissa Beyer all-around (33.975). Level 5 gymnasts are coached by Whitney Carter.

Level 3 gymnasts Carissa Kendrick tumbled to the occasion in her first State meet taking a 1st place in the all-around (34.675) and 1st on vault (9.15). Other Level 3 team members are: Frannie Fletcher 1st on bars (9.0), 2nd on floor (9.00) and 2nd all-around (35.45), Abby Vansickle 1st on floor (9.35) and 1st all-around (34.175), Sammie Spedaliere 2nd on vault (9.35), 2nd on bars (8.70) and 2nd all-around (34.80), Hannah Jenkins 1st on bars (9.50) and 1st all-around (36.45), Tiara Dinka all-around (34.30), Madison Hodges all-around (33.775), Savanna Barnes all-around (35.775), and Alliyah Pascucci-Vecchione all-around (35.275). The level 3 gymnasts are coached by Natalia Gaipo and Emily Daniels.

In the division modified optional, several gymnasts earned first and second place event finishes. Olivia Smith placed 2nd on floor (9.30) with an all-around (34.85), Deanna Martinez placed 2nd on vault (8.65) and 2nd on bars (8.35) and All-Around score of (33.925), Emily Manlove had a 1st on Beam (9.05) and 2nd on vault (8.525) and All-around of (33.475), Danielle Pilcher placed 1st on floor (9.375) and 2nd on beam (9.00) and All-Around (33.675), Kera Frost placed 1st on floor (9.075) with an All-Around score of (33.775), Megan Johnson placed 2nd on floor (8.85) and all-around of (33.50), Jenny Mooney all-around score of (35.95), and Shana Sandborn all-around of (35.725).

The Level 4 team also had many state champions who include: Samantha Kelly 1st on vault (9.25) and 1st on beam (8.70) and 2nd all-around (34.75), Bailey Hosey 2nd on bars (8.20) and all-around (34.40), Julia Dorset 2nd on vault (8.80) and all-around (32.425), Gabby DeVries 1st on vault (9.475) and 1st on bars (8.65) and all-around (34.925), Sydney Holmes 1st on bars (9.45), 2nd on vault 9.15, 2nd all-around (35.425), Anna Smith 1st on vault (9.50), 2nd on floor (8.90) and all-around (34.40), Katie Sarnowski 2nd on vault (9.50), 2nd on bars (8.775), 2nd all-around (35.475), Summer Johanneson 1st on vault (9.50), 2nd on beam (9.05) and all-around (35.575), Christine Watson all-around (34.25), Rachel Nowak all-around (31.35), Caroline Hobson all-around (32.85). The level 4 gymnasts are coached by Christina Gebel and Amanda Chappel.

The South County Family YMCA is the proud host of a 55 member gymnastics team that train 3 days a week at the Venice Branch located on center road. The YMCA is currently accepting registration for summer camp at www.southcountyfamilyymca.org or call the gymnastics department directly at (941) 375-9121.