

Written by Admin

Saturday, 10 November 2007 14:11

Great Britain is bringing out both its best and its untested for the annual Glasgow Grand Prix, which begins Friday.



Marissa King

The British field in Glasgow includes superstar **Beth Tweddle** and fellow world medalist **Louis Smith**

but also new under-18 national champion

Kristian Thomas

and newcomer

Kayleigh Cooke

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Training took place Thursday at Kelvin Hall.

Romania's **Steliana Nistor** was in top form on uneven bars and has added a new combination of Maloney, shoot 1/2 to handstand, Stalder shoot to high, a sequence which takes her A score to 7.0 if she performs full difficulty. Uneven bars was the highlight apparatus this afternoon with Tweddle, **Zhou Zhuoru** (China) and **Kristina Palesova** (Czech Republic) setting the pace.

On beam, **Sanne Wevers** from the Netherlands performed an exceptional double turn with leg at horizontal, while Russian **Lyudmila Yezhova** worked through difficult combinations (Onodi, free walkover, side somersault) with ease and aplomb. Her husband, fellow 2004 Olympian **Georgy Grebenkov**, is on hand as a coach.

China's **Fan Ye** made a welcome return after her recent success at the 2007 University Games. Performing full difficulty, Ye showed that she is back and keen to fight for her position on the 2008 Olympic squad.

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American newcomer **Darlene Hill** excelled on floor exercise. She performed double pikes and tucked double Arabians alongside a routine which projected artistry and expression - a definite one to watch in the competition.

The men took a much more relaxed approach to the training today, warming up skills rather than working full routines. The highlight was **Krisztian Berki's** exceptional scissors work, one of which he took right to the handstand before continuing with the sequence.

2007 Glasgow Grand Prix Participants

Nov. 9-11, Glasgow

Austria: Marco Baldauf, Marco Mayr

Belgium: Donna-Donny Truyens, Koen van Damme

Canada: Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs, Nansy Damianova

Chile: Tomas Gonzalez Sepulveda

China: Fan Ye, Zhang Nan, Zhou Zhuoru; Du Wei, Feng Zhe, Lu Bin

Croatia: Tina Erceg; Tomislav Markovic, Robert Seligman, Filip Ude

Cyprus: Giorgalas Iriodotos, Aristotelous Constantinos, Spanos Georgios

Czech Republic: Kristina Palesova, Jana Sikulova, Nicole Pechancova

Spain: Arkaitz Garcia, Christian Guillen, Javier Gomez

Finland: Annika Urntho; Jani Tanskaneen, Tomi Tunha, Olli Torkkel

France: Johan Mounard; Danny Rodrigues, Raphael Wignanitz

Great Britain: Hannah Clowes, Kayleigh Cooke, Marissa King, Beth Tweddle; Adam Cox, Luke Folwell, Stephen Jehu, Daniel Keatings, Louis Smith, Kristian Thomas

Germany: Jenny Brunner, Kim Bui, Julia Hanel; Brian Gladow, Robert Weber

Greece: Eleftherios Kosmidis, Barmpakis Khonstantionos

Hungary: Eniko Korcsmaros; Krisztian Berki, Vid Hidvegi

Israel: Valeria Maksyuta

Japan: Takehito Mori, Eiichi Sekiguchi

Latvia: Yevgeny Saproneko, Dmitry Trefilovs

Luxembourg: Sascha Palgen

Netherlands: Verona van de Leur, Sanne Wevers; Yuri van Gelder, Jeffrey Wammes, Epke Zonderland

Norway: Espen Jansen

Poland: Paula Plichta; Kamil Hulbuj

Romania: Steliana Nistor, Daniela Druncea; Cosmin Popescu, Daniel Popescu, Robert Stanescu

Russia: Lyudmila Yezhova Grebenkova, Daria Yelizarova; Alexander Balandin, Dmitry Gogotov, Sergei Khorokhordin, Konstantin Pluzhnikov, Anatoly Vasilyev

Slovenia: Adela Sajin; Mitja Petkovsek, Aljaz Pegan, Saso Bertoneelj, Sebastijan Straus, Ziga

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Slovakia: Alexander Benko, Samuel Piasecky

Tunisia: Wajdi Bouallegue

Ukraine: Marina Kostyuchenko, Marina Sergiyenko, Daria Zgoba; Vadim Kuvakin, Vitaly Nakonechny, Alexander Suprun

United States: Darlene Hill, Natasha Kelly

Venezuela: Regulo Carmona