

Athlete Focus

Fifteen-year-old Hollie Vise is from Dallas, Texas, and trains at World Olympic Gymnastics Academy. She is coached by Evgeny Marchenko, Natasha Boyarskaya, and Tatiana Schegolkova.

Hollie, who won the junior uneven bars and balance beam titles at Championships a year ago, proved she can do it at the senior level as well. She won the beam title with a meet-high mark of 9.725, finished tied for second on the bars at 9.500 and tied for second in the all-around with 2002 National Champion Tasha Schwikert. They both scored 74.725 to Courtney Kupets' 74.950.



In fact, Hollie led the 2003 U.S. Championships competition until the last rotation but Kupets pulled ahead. Hollie said she was pleased with the results. "I couldn't ask for anything else," Vise said. "My goal was to make the top three. I'm pretty happy."

By finishing in second place at Championships, she earned a spot on the 2003 World Championships team. Hollie commented on staying focused at the competition by saying, "I try not to think about anything else. On beam, I tell myself, 'It's just me and the beam.'"

Hollie began the sport in 1991, the same year that Kim Zmeskal won the all-around at the World Championships and the U.S. women's team won the silver medal. Her favorite event is the uneven bars.

She will be a 10th-grade student in the fall and is enrolled in a home school program. Hollie lives with her parents and has two older brothers and one younger brother. Her grandfather is an actor who appeared in "Blazing Saddles," "Fletch," "Back to the Future III" and "Honeymoon in Vegas." He is also known as the Pace Picante man.

In her spare time, Vise enjoys shopping, going to movies and bike riding.