



Canadian rhythmic gymnasts complete gold medal sweep in group event at Pan Am Championships

Canadian rhythmic gymnasts collected their third straight gold medal in as many days on Sunday at the Pan American Championships, winning the second of two event finals in the group competition to complement their all around gold from the first day of competition on Friday.

Members of the winning Canadian squad were Rose Cossar and Alexandra Lukashova, both of Toronto, Karah Klodt of Burlington, Ont., Alexandra Landry of Ajax, Ont., and Kelsey Titmarsh of Thornhill, Ont. with coaches Svetlana Joukova and Zdravka Tchonkova.

In the group competition five competitors compete at the same time, working together as they perform their routine.

In Sunday's event final, the competition featured three ribbons and two ropes and on Saturday, all five competitors performed with the hoop as the sole apparatus.

The top five countries in the group event qualified for next year's Pan American Games at the same venue.

Brazil, Venezuela, the United States and Cuba finished in the top five behind Canada and also earned their place in the group event at next year's Games.

In the individual event finals, Mariam Chamilova of Maple, Ont., was the top Canadian, winning a bronze medal in the hoop final.

Chamilova also finished fifth and eighth in the rope and ball finals and teammate Anastasia Muntyanu of Toronto finished 7th in both the hoop and ball final.

In addition to qualifying for the group event at the 2011 Pan Am Games, Canada also qualified two gymnasts in the individual competition by placing in the top six in the team rankings.

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