



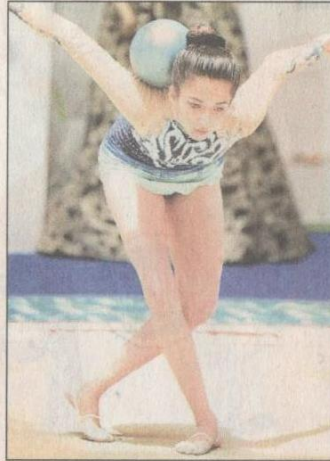
City girl wins state gymnastics title, eyes Olympics

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Gurgaon: Fifteen-year-old Lavanya Jain from Gurgaon's South City 2 dreams to emulate Dipa Karmakar's Produnova vault successfully in front of a live audience at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

She won the school state rhythmic gymnastic championship at Bhiwani last week and has now set her sights on the Olympics. Lavanya has also been selected for the national-level championship, which is due to take place next week.

According to Lavanya, gymnastics happened to her by chance. It was just another co-curricular activity for her till she was selected for nationals when she was in class VII. A student of class XI in Suncity School, Sector 54, she gives all the credit to her school and school's gymnastic te-



Lavanya Jain won the school state rhythmic gymnastic championship

acher Abhishek, who spotted her talent and encouraged her to take up the sport.

"My school deserves all the credit for supporting me in accomplishing my dreams. Often, I am allowed half-a-day's leave from school so that I can practice ahead of major tournaments," said Lavanya. She also than-



ked her father, who has been a professional badminton player and her mother, for their constant support.

Lavanya is among the top 10 rhythmic gymnasts in the country and is aiming to qualify for the Asian Games to be held in Indonesia in 2018.

Apart from India's Dipa Karmakar, Lavanya idolises Russian gymnast Margarita Mamum. According

to her, it was Mamum's videos on YouTube which helped her set her routine. She was fortunate to meet Mamum during the tournament at Dubai where she even got the opportunity to train with her for two days. "The important skill I imbibed from her was the need to stay focussed and work as a team," she said.

Lavanya's coach Nidhi Mathur was all praise not only for her student but also for her parents. "Lavanya is a very passionate person. Not only her but her parents are equally passionate about her sport. I am sure with her determination and hard work she she will achieve greater heights," said Nidhi.

"Dipa Karmakar's performance in the last Olympic was an inspiration. Perhaps one day I too will be able to successfully pull off a Produnova on the grand stage," said Lavanya.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/city-girl-wins-state-gymnastics-title-eyes-olympics/articleshow/61230827.cms>

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Rohit E Davidl TNN | Oct 26, 2017, 02:20 IST

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