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# Westfield girl golden at Pan Am

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LEON, Mexico – Westfield's Kari Davis she won all three gold medals in the Pan American Weightlifting Championships for ages 15-and-under.

The meet was open to all lifters from North, South, and Central America. Lifters were present from at least nine countries, including the U.S., Mexico, Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Canada, Venezuela, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, and possibly others.

USA Weightlifting, the National Governing Body for the Olympic sport of weightlifting, funded this six-day trip for the four girls and five boys on the team. Davis was the only USA lifter to win overall gold.

Lifting in the over-152-pound class and the representing Charleston Parks and Recreation Department Weightlifting Club, Davis made lifts of 172 pounds in the snatch and 211 pounds in the clean and jerk. Davis made all six of her lifts, and was the only American lifter to do so.

She won the gold medal in the snatch, clean and jerk and total.

"I have competed in track and softball many times, but representing the United States in international competition is the biggest thrill I have had in sport," Davis said. "To stand on the victory platform and have the gold medal placed around my neck and hear the Star Spangled Banner play is something that one only dreams about. I am very honored and want to thank everyone who helped me get there, and especially all of the people in Westfield who have supported me. I hope I can have the honor of representing the United States again in the future."

Davis made a personal competition record of 78 kilograms or 167 pounds in the snatch rather easily. In the clean and jerk, she made 95 kilos on her second attempt and clinched the overall gold.

On her third attempt, Marty Schnorf, Davis' personal coach and coach of the USA girls' team said: "I told her and her father that she could take 96 kilos to win the gold in the clean-and-jerk or take 100 or 101 kilos to equal or exceed her personal best. She decided she wanted the 96, which was her best lift of the meet and which clinched the gold for her in the clean-and-jerk."

Mark Davis, Kari's father and asst. coach of the Charleston WL Club, who assisted with Kari at the meet, said: "Kari put aside personal goals to try and win golds for the USA team. It was clear she had more in her on this day, even after a lengthy trip. I was proud of her lifting and her composure under pressure."

Davis beat a lifter from Mexico for the gold in the clean-and-jerk by one kilogram and won the overall by nine kilograms.

"One of the things which made me happy," said Schnorf, "was that she went over and hugged and congratulated the Mexican girl whom she had just beaten and who was crying after losing to Kari. We try to teach lifters to win and lose graciously and never to gloat or showboat. Kari represented the United States, the Charleston WL Club, and Westfield, Illinois very well on and off the platform. Representing your school is always an honor, but wearing your country's uniform and winning gold on foreign soil is something one never forgets."

Joe Micela, of Arizona, the USA's delegation leader, said: "Kari looked like a 10-year veteran on and off the platform. She was clearly a leader of the USA team and performed extremely well. I was both happy and impressed with her."

Davis, a Casey-Westfield High School sophomore, is 15 years old and has been lifting for about two years.

Her next major meet is the American Open in December in Birmingham, Ala.

The Charleston Parks and Recreation Weightlifting Club is open to anyone, male or female. For more information, e-mail [charlestonweightliftingclub@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestonweightliftingclub@yahoo.com), or contact the rec department or see the club's Web site at [charlestonweightliftingclub.com](http://charlestonweightliftingclub.com). There is no cost to join.