

Westfield's Davis ninth in national weightlifting meet

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- Westfield's Kari Davis recently returned from the second most prestigious weightlifting meet in the country, the American Open Weightlifting Championships where she placed ninth in the over 75-kilogram class.

Davis was 5 years younger than any other lifter in her class, and was one of only two 14 year olds (male or female) in the whole meet at Birmingham, Ala.

Davis made a personal best of 74 kilos. (163 lbs.) in the snatch and 89 kilograms. (196 pounds.) in the clean and jerk. She actually cleaned 207 lbs., but was unable to jerk it over her head. Her total of 163 kilograms. was a personal record. Kari's snatch and total were the highest ever made by a female from the local club.

The American Open is open to lifters of any age who have made the high qualifying totals. It is second only to the Senior National Championships.

Davis has been lifting for less than a year and a half. Kari represents the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department Club, and is a freshman at Casey High School.

At this meet, Ma Jianping, who formerly coached in China, and is now the resident coach at Northern Michigan University, which offers WL scholarships, was coaching right next to Kari in the warm-up room. He said to her and her father, "You come to Northern Michigan University. We will pay for everything."

Davis said she was pleased to make personal records, but really wanted to make her last clean and jerk. "My main goal is to be the No. 1 ranked 15-and-under girl next year and make the team which will represent the United States in the 15 and under Pan American Championships in Mexico next summer.

Davis is the defending champion.) Also, I want to return to the Olympic Training Center for the training camp again next summer for girls 15 and under. I really had a good time at the Olympic Training Center this past year."

Both the camp and the Mexico trip are to be fully paid by USA Weightlifting with money provided in part by the United States Olympic Committee.

Marty Schnorf, who coaches the local team, said the club has a busy schedule ahead. In January the club goes to Chicago, then to Indiana in February then to the Arnold (Schwarzenegger) Classic in Columbus, Ohio, in March, then other local meets, plus national championships in Indiana, Chicago, and Springfield, Mo., plus the trip to Mexico and the Olympic training Center (hopefully) for Kari next summer.

The club is open to all persons of any age. There is no charge to join, The club trains about 4 times per week at the high school in Charleston. For more information, contact the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department, or e-mail charlestonweightliftingclub@yahoo.com You can also see some of the lifters at the club's website at www.charlestonweightliftingclub.com.

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