



**HEAD FIRST:** Canberra City's Elise Wright in action at the AIS yesterday.

## Canberra crowned as Wright goes out on a high

By Julia Whyte  
Gymnastics

Canberra teenager Elise Wright finished her gymnastics career with a stellar performance on the floor to help Canberra City win the Australian Club Championships at the highest level yesterday afternoon.

Wright completed level 10 with the highest honour in club competition after Canberra City claimed third on the vault, second on the beam and floor and first on the bars.

The team of four outperformed some of Australia's top artistic gymnasts at the AIS Arena to win the overall competition.

Wright, 17, said it was a fantastic

way to end the years of hard work.

"It was really great to do so well, it's a really big competition and there were heaps of competitors from all over Australia here," she said.

"I've been doing gymnastics for 11 years, I really enjoy doing well and just having fun competing, but level 10 is the highest you can go in national and it's a massive step up to the elite level from there, so a lot of people stop after level 10.

"I've decided to stop there, but I know I'm going really miss it."

Yesterday's competition was part of a two-week long event which has attracted 70 clubs including some from Singapore and New Zealand.

Earlier this week Australia's Olym-

pic hopefuls had their first chance to impress selectors at a trial for the national squad to travel to Beijing next year.

The women's competition ends on Sunday with level 4 and 5 finals.

The men's five-day competition starts on Sunday afternoon, including a selection trial for the Pacific Alliance Competition which starts at 6.30pm on day one. The apparatus finals take place on Monday evening.

It is the first time the men's competition has combined with the women's junior and senior competition, making it the largest artistic gymnastics competition ever to be conducted in Australia.

Spectators are welcome to the club

championships free of charge. Entry to the men's selection trials is \$10 for adults and \$2 for children.

Meanwhile, star Canberra gymnast Philippe Rizzo will help launch the AIS' new How Do You Measure Up? display today as part of the institute's revamped interactive sports exhibit, Sportex. The display will allow visitors to compare their own physical attributes such as height and arm span with life-size images of athletes like Rizzo.

### ■ AUSTRALIAN GYMNASTICS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's competition continues until Sunday, while the men's event begins on Sunday. Both at the AIS Arena.