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***ACTION SHOTS ATTACHED/PHOTO CREDITS: Pan American Gymnastics Union ([PAGU)](https://www.instagram.com/upagpagu/)***

         **N.J. Gymnast Fresh Off of World Artistic Gymnastics Championships**

**BOONTON, N.J. (Nov. 14, 2022) —** Olivia Kelly of Mahwah, N.J. became the first gymnast to represent the island nation of Barbados on the international stage at the [2022 FIG World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Liverpool, England](https://www.british-gymnastics.org/news-and-events/international-events/artistic-gymnastics-world-championships) earlier this month. She also is the first elite gymnast from North Stars Gymnastics Academy in Boonton, N.J. to compete at this annual global competition.

Up next for Kelly, 16, is the upcoming USA Women’s Development Program Level 10 season, which will keep her in top shape as she continues to train for elite competitions including the Pan American Championships in Medellin, Colombia in May 2023.

“To be able to coach an athlete at Worlds is a gift in itself. All the athletes are so driven, talented and poised. Olivia definitely fits in and belongs on the international stage,” said Ashley Umberger,  CEO, head team coach and part owner of North Stars Gymnastics Academy. “She had a beautiful debut at Worlds and as her coach, I couldn't be more proud!”

Kelly is a highly-ranked USA Women’s Development Program Level 10 gymnast. Among her most recent big wins:

•   First place all-around at the 2022 Jamaica Gymnastics Classic, an International Gymnastics Federation ([FIG](https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/about.php)) meet.

•   Bronze medalist on balance beam at the 2022 [USA Women's Development Program Level 10 Nationals in Mesa, Ariz](https://www.usagym.org/PDFs/Results/2022/w_22dev_jre.pdf).

The former Bronx, N.Y. resident relocated with her family to New Jersey to train at North Stars Gymnastics Academy with Umberger, a former two-time U.S.A. Women’s National Gymnastics Team member. Kelly also is under the guidance of the Barbados Gymnastics Association President Alison Jackson of [The Barbados Olympic Association Inc.](https://olympic.org.bb/)

Her main goal is to compete again at [Worlds next year in Antwerp, Belgium](https://usagym.org/pages/post.html?PostID=23798) behalf of Barbados, where she maintains a dual citizenship by way of her paternal grandfather, Tony Hinds of the Bronx, N.Y., and to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Kelly will graduate from her homeschool high school academic program in 2024 and intends to pursue a Division 1 NCAA gymnastics athletic scholarship.

“Worlds was an amazing experience that I will remember forever. I’m so grateful that I got an opportunity to compete at this level for a country that I care so much about,” said Kelly.

**Follow her journey** The Bergen County resident is documenting her progress on her personal webpages, [www.OliviaStormKelly.com](http://www.oliviastormkelly.com/), and on her social media Instagram platform, [@olivia.storm.kelly](https://www.instagram.com/olivia.storm.kelly/) and [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVvFEAs1v1S5qfwgND0IkpQ). She also has a [fundraising page](https://givebutter.com/3QfgZe) to help her family cover the exorbitant costs associated with international travel competitions.

[North Stars Gymnastics Academy](https://www.northstarsgymnastics.com/) **i**s a powerhouse national training center in Morris County with athletes earning placements and awards at the state, regional, national and international levels. It boasts medalists in U.S. Olympic Trials, USA Championships, Goodwill Games, Pan American Games, Pacific Alliance Bulgaria, Colombia and more. North Stars prides itself on its ability to train athletes to build the necessary skills to secure athletic and academic [college scholarships.](https://www.northstarsgymnastics.com/scholarships)

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