

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Bloomfield Ballroom Studio Tops National Competition

Posted by [Evan Mountain](#) February 22, 2011

A tiny Michigan contingent of three Fred Astaire Dance Studio ballroom dancers took top honors at the California Open DanceSport Championships in Los Angeles this weekend.

The dancers - students Elaine Fieldman and Charlene Proctor with instructor Blake Kish - won TOP SMALL STUDIO overall after a weekend filled with high-level smooth and rhythm competition. All dance at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills. The "small studio" designation is based on the number of students competing, not the size of the studio itself. That the small Michigan group made such a big impact is "fantastic," said studio owner Evan Mountain.

"It's great that that our students can go to California – a hotbed of ballroom dancing – and do so well," Mountain said.

Proctor, who just started dancing five months ago – took 4th Place in the Overall Top Student award. She ascribed her success to hard work with the right instructor. Dancing together 20+hours a week means they're "up in each other's grill" quite a bit, Proctor said.

"You have to make laughter part of the learning process," Proctor said. "We have a standing agreement: if either one of us has spinach in our teeth after lunch and needs a breath mint, then we get to say so."

Fieldman also made the finals in all her dance categories. Both women are in their fifties, but competed against dancers their own age and in the younger age bracket.

"What is so amazing about competition is that there are so many terrific dancers of all age levels," Fieldman said. "Dancing is something you can do to express yourself and feel good about yourself at any age."

The Bloomfield studio also received national recognition last week for having the most new student enrollees in 2010 out of over 140 Fred Astaire Dance Studio franchises across the country.

