

entirely

CHEER



A FRENCH TUMBLER AT CHEERSPORT NATIONALS

Seventeen year old Florent Mishima has lived his wildest dream, thanks to the organizers of **CHEERSPORT ATLANTA 2011** who made an exception this year to allow his participation to the **So You Think You Can Tumble** contest. Being the very first French (or even European) competitor to take part to this competition and not belonging to



any team competing at Cheersport, he was on his own attending this giant and magnificent event at the Georgia World Congress Center of Atlanta, on February 18-20, 2011.



The French cheerleading organization **FASC** (*Fédération All Star Cheerleading*) had organized the trip and program for him, having their Vice President, *Florence Beaudon*, a resident of Atlanta, able to guide and help him.

Before the competition, he had another huge surprise waiting for him: attending a practice at the **Georgia Allstars'** prestigious gym, where the staff and cheerleaders were so kind and welcoming, even offering him a small private class of tumbling with Tony.



Despite his excitement, Florent became very ill on performance day. Knowing he had the support of all of France, he stayed strong and gave everything he could for this unique opportunity. Pale and barely standing, Florent executed his tumbling pass on the spring floor. He was amazed by the kindness of the audience and the other participants and sealed his performance waving a giant kiss to everyone.

Even though we all know that Florent is a much better performer when in good health, he made France extremely proud to be able to complete his performance, to introduce France to Cheersport, and hopefully to open a door for other French competitors in the years to come.

Florent was a passionate tumbler, but his interest in cheerleading came through a friend, Ozell Williams. Florent joined **Cheer Express** in Paris and has fully embraced the lessons of cheerleading such as sportsmanship, teamwork, and friendship. This was Florent's first visit to the United States, but it won't be his last! His cheerleading team from Paris, **Cheer Excess**, has received a Bid for the

2011 Cheerleading Worlds in Orlando, Florida, and will be the very first French team to compete in ICU and USASF. We wish them good luck and to also live their dreams!