

**TEAM FLORIDA GYMNASTICS
STAR USA SPORT DANCE AND CHEER
NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2002, JANUARY, 2003
WWW.TEAMFLORIDAGYMNASTICS.COM**

THE PREZ SEZ.....

I have held off on publishing a newsletter as there were some very important items coming up, and I decided to wait for the information before I did the newsletter. Please read over this issue carefully, as there is some important info in it!

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and relaxing (?) holiday season. Please take time to do non-work related things. Remember that family and friends are so very important and it seems that we just don't give them enough of our attention, so now is a great time to make special plans to spend some much needed time with them. I myself have the most awesome light display in my front yard! It took many hours over the Thanksgiving break but it was a lot of fun to do. I am going to challenge the Osborne lights at Disney!

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEAM FLORIDA BOARD MEMBERS

The following Team Florida board members ran unopposed for their respective positions:

President: Kathy Stuenkel
Vice - President: Arnold Gwinn
Secretary: Heather Wolf-Erickson
Treasurer: Louise Wynn

These people have done an outstanding job for many years and look forward to continuing to serve the Florida AAU Gymnastics community for the next two years.

The Web Master position will continue to be filled by Eric Wibert. A big thank you to Eric for all his work on our website.

ELECTIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS

The following people are running for representative positions. All ACTIVE registered coaches are eligible to vote. Please read over the information regarding these individuals and vote for the THREE (3) candidates of your choice. Each coach must send in one ballot per person. A club may not send in one ballot with all votes. Please fax to Kathy Stuenkel at 941-627-3907 or mail to: 716 Clearview Drive, Port Charlotte, Fl. 33953. Must be received by December 31, 2002. The results will be published in the next newsletter.

CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE 2003-2005

SHELLY PAULL (incumbent)

Owner of Horizon Gymnastics and Dance Academy, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Gymnastics coach for nearly 20 years, coaching local, state and national champions.

Founding member of Florida AAU Gymnastics league and board member since it's inception in 1993.

AAU Gymnastics National Committee member for 8 years, holding the office of secretary.

Current AAU National Cheerleading Chairperson.

Recipient of the National AAU President's Leadership award, 2002.

Current Florida USAG Board member

USAG Trampoline & Tumbling Region 5 director

I have had the opportunity and satisfaction of being part of the Florida AAU Gymnastics program since Mr. Gene Stowe presented the idea to the group of us back in 1993. To see this program grow from a few clubs to the huge organization is today really shows what a great thing we have achieved. I would like to opportunity to continue to serve on the board to provide a positive, rewarding experience for all of our athletes.

TIM KECKLER (incumbent)

Owner/president of Lightning City Gymnastics, Tampa, Florida.

Owner/president of Lightning City Gymnastics Equipment rental and sales.

Coach of numerous AAU gymnasts at the local to national level.

Meet director and host for the Gasparilla Classic, as well as many local, state, regional and national meets, both AAU and USAG.

Helped start the Gene Stowe Athlete scholarship fund and contributed every year to this fund.

Involved in Florida AAU gymnastics since it's start.

I would like to continue to help educate new and current clubs concerning the Florida AAU, and continue to be involved in the growth and operation of the Florida AAU.

I would like to provide my numerous years of experience as a coach, gym owner, meet director and equipment supplier to the Florida AAU participating clubs.

CINDY GWINN (incumbent)

Co-owner of Suncoast Gymnastics Academy, New Port Richey, Florida.

Florida AAU Gymnastics Board member for 9 years.

Founder and co-director of the Florida AAU Gymnastics annual summer camp with over 100 athletes participating.

Has supported the Florida AAU gymnastics program since it's beginning through Suncoast's competitive teams.

Has judged at the AAU Age Group National Championships for the last several years, as well as local and state competitions.

As a representative of the AAU in the state of Florida, it has been enjoyable to watch the AAU grow and to be part of a successful program for children. I have been active in helping gyms across Florida receive information and education in becoming part of the Florida AAU gymnastics program. My focus is to help all potential participants get the most accurate and updated AAU information available, as well as providing clubs with any other pertinent changes. I have enjoyed serving in my position largely due to the communication between clubs and look forward to continuing to help inspire new clubs to join the family of the AAU Gymnastics League.

MARK JOHNSON

Head coach/owner of Orlando Gymnastics, Orlando, Florida.

USAG, AAU, USAIGC member

YMCA League president 1993-94.

Head coach of Sunfire Gymnastics 1995.

Coordinator for volunteers for the 2002 AAU Age Group National Championships.

Wife, Debbie; son, Bryan.

I've been coaching in the AAU of Florida for many years. Having been involved during this time and with all the changes that we have seen, I believe that those experiences can be an asset to the board and to AAU as a whole. The AAU league is a much-needed alternative to other leagues. As well as self-esteem building impact on all gymnasts. I look forward to serving the coaches and the gymnasts that make up AAU.

SPRING MEET DATES AND SITES ANNOUNCED

Please note on your calender these dates and sites:

(Please remember each club must attend TWO qualifiers and each gymnast must attend at least ONE meet to be eligible for state and nationals. Don't skip meets, thinking your gymnast can go to the last one only; she may be sick or injured and then she's out of luck, as invites don't count. This happened to several gymnasts this season! There are three opportunities to attend a qualifier).

1ST QUALIFIER, JANUARY 18-19, 2003:

CENTRAL: Temple Terrace Gymnastics, Temple Terrace

NORTH: First City, Pensacola

SOUTH: Horizon, Port Charlotte.

2nd QUALIFIER, FEBRUARY 8-9, 2003:

CENTRAL: Broadway, Oviedo

NORTH: Gym Force

SOUTH: Tampa Gym and Dance, Tampa

3rd Qualifier, March 8-9, 2003:

CENTRAL: Gymnastics Etc., Lakeland

NORTH: Suncoast, New Port Richey

SOUTH: Venice YMCA, Venice

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, APRIL 26-27:

Disney's Wide World of Sports, Lake Buena Vista, run by Team Florida Board

AGE GROUP NATIONALS QUALIFIER, MAY 11-12, 2003;

NORTH: Gymnastics Plus, Panama City

SOUTH/CENTRAL: Horizon, Port Charlotte

(Age Group Nationals will be held June 25-29, 2003 in Des Moines, Iowa. Clubs may choose either meet to attend to qualify to national age group).

JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES NATIONAL QUALIFIER

ALL DIVISIONS: Horizon, Port Charlotte.

(Junior Olympic Games will be held in Detroit, Michigan July 28-August 1st, 2003 in the Silverdome)

Information for 1st qualifier should be out shortly. If you do not receive information one month before the meet date, CALL THE HOST CLUB! Send your entries in; don't wait. Entry fees are \$28.00.

SPORT DANCE TO DEBUT IN JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES 2003!

It's official! Sport Dance has been added to the J. O. Games for 2003! Because it is now under the umbrella of gymnastics, Sport Dance will be known as TEAM PERFORMANCE GYMNASTICS at the J. O. Games.

Team Performance Gymnastics will be contested in the same arena in the same time frame as artistic gymnastics, utilizing the floor ex mat. This will give an opportunity for coaches to bring team performance groups to a national championship and not have to travel to another venue if they have artistic gymnasts competing or have your artistic gymnasts compete in Team Performance as well. Now is the time to get on the bandwagon and develop a Sport Dance/Team Performance Gymnastics program in your gym. It is easy, fun and profitable for your club. Rules went out in the information packet for the Princess Classic. If you need rules or info, call Kathy Stuenkel at 941-629-6967 or 941-627-5342 or Brenda Rossiter at Tampa Gym and Dance.

CHEERLEADING IN JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES 2003!

Shelly Paull, AAU national Cheerleading chair, has announced the addition of Cheerleading in the 2003 JO Games in Detroit. Competition will be held July 29th in the Silver Dome. For both Sport Dance and Cheerleading, the Star USA State Championships, to be held March 29-30, will also be the National Qualifier for JO Games. This is a great opportunity to take your all star cheer squads to an awesome National competition, or start an all star squad in your gym. All squads in both the Star USA program and JO Games receive individual awards and squad size can be small (12 or less) to large. All age/grade, novice and advanced divisions are welcomed. Contact Shelly at 941-627-5342 or e-mail at Tumbleathorizon@aol.com or contact Marci Schneider or Chad Payne, Star USA Cheerleading Coordinators at 386-454-1779, for rules and info.

NEW TEAM FLORIDA GYMNASTICS MANUAL COMING SOON

The 2003 manual will be mailed to all registered clubs in January. It is being retyped by Louise Wynn. She sends her apologies for getting this out late, but unfortunately, she has experienced some health problems and had to go back on kidney dialysis. This setback put her out of commission for about a month and set her back on her duties. She is doing much better and will get out the new books asap. In the meantime, please make note of the following important items:

A. MUSIC FOR LEVEL 2 AND 3: Beginning January, all level 2's and 3's must use music accompanying their routines. However, there will be no rhythm deduction for the athlete. It was felt that floor exercise includes the use of music, therefore, even level 2's and 3's should get used to it.

B. LEVEL 2, 3 AND 4 VAULT: Get only ONE VAULT, unless they do not get over or there is some strange circumstance that the judge feels another vault should be given. PLEASE NOTE: THIS RULE HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE SEPTEMBER, BUT SOME JUDGES AND COACHES HAVE BEEN CONFUSED. AT THE DECEMBER 2002 STATE MEET, ONLY ONE VAULT WILL BE ALLOWED.

C. The sequence of skills within a routine CANNOT be changed. You may reverse A SINGLE skill to a right or left skill. Coaches have been changing the order of skills of the level 2, 3 and 4 bar routine. This is not allowed.

D. Judges may not deduct more than the value of the skill within a routine, and even this should be tempered, as the deduction for deliberately omitting a skill is only the value of the element. Judges should attempt to give at least some credit for a gymnast attempting a skill if it is recognized as such.

E. There will be no timing on beam for any level of routines.

A BIG THANK YOU.....

To Brandon Suntwisters, Broadway, North Central Florida YMCA and Horizon for hosting terrific qualifiers. Thanks for making a great meet experience for all those involved.

Also, a thank you goes out to St. Cloud Gymnastics for hosting the state meet. There were some unavoidable circumstances regarding this meet and the result was that the information for meet times were not able to be sent out as quickly as planned. This was no one's fault, it just happened. It is a huge undertaking to run a state competition with hundreds of gymnasts involved and try as you might, everything can't be perfect. I know that St. Cloud has done everything possible to make this event a wonderful experience for the kids, coaches and parents.

BALLOT FOR TEAM FLORIDA GYMNASTICS REPRESENTATIVES

PLEASE VOTE FOR THREE (3) CHOICES:

SHELLY PAULL _____

TIM KECKLER _____

CINDY GWINN _____

MARK JOHNSON _____

Name _____

AAU# _____

Please fax to 941-627-3907, attention Kathy Stuenkel, president, or mail to:

716 Clearview Drive
Port Charlotte, Fl. 33953

To be counted, your ballot must be received by Dec. 31st, 2002.