

TEAM FLORIDA
GYMNASTICS/STAR USA SPORT DANCE
NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2002
WWW.TEAMFLORIDAGYMNASTICS.COM

THE PREZ SEZ.....

It used to be in the "old days", that once the state meet was over, the season was over until the fall. Not so anymore. Having two National championships over the summer months is hectic but I feel keeps kids in the gym a little longer during the summer months and gives them a goal to work for. Please, however, don't forget to make some time for YOU, maybe away from the sport and with your family and friends.

AGE GROUP NATIONALS WAS SUPER!!!!

With over 1,800 athletes competing, the 2002 Age Group Nationals at Disney's Wide World of Sports was the largest in the history of the event. We had teams from California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Nebraska, Ohio, Georgia, and other states that I can't remember, as well as the BIG TEAM FLORIDA MACHINE!! Of course, Team Florida made it's presence known on the awards stand, but there were many other outstanding teams as well. Next year's meet will be held in Des Moines, Iowa the last week in June. If you have not yet participated in the Age Group National meet, you are missing one of the most outstanding meets anywhere. Congratulations to all of our Team Florida athletes who performed so outstandingly well in the meet and made us so proud!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ORLANDO GYMNASTICS

For supplying all the wonderful volunteers for Age Group Nationals. To come and volunteer all those hours (on Monday and Tuesday, as well as Saturday and Sunday) was just awesome. The volunteers did an excellent job and their hard work was greatly appreciated by the National Gymnastics committee. A big thank you goes to Mark and Debbie Johnson.

THANK YOU, LIGHTNING CITY GYMNASTICS

For hosting the State Championships. It was a wonderful event for all the kids, coaches, spectators and judges. The extra touches for the kids were greatly appreciated!

THEY'VE GOT SPIRIT, YES THEY DO!!!!

The idea of having a "best show of patriotism" contest at the state meet was a super one! The coaches and teams had great fun coming up with costumes, props, etc., demonstrating their team spirit and patriotism. The winners of the equipment gift certificates donated by Lightning City were:

1st place (3 way tie): Horizon Gymnastics and Dance, Florida Flips and Top Contenders

2nd place (2 way tie): Jax Heights, Suncoast

3rd place: North Florida

GYMNASTS HELPING OTHERS

was what resulted when the competitors at the state meet, donated the two "gym dollars" that Lightning City Gymnastics gave each gymnast to donate to the charity of her choice. The following was what was raised for the charities:

TAMPA FIRE DEPARTMENT:	\$218.00
METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES	\$697.00
THE HUMANE SOCIETY	\$309.00
THE JOSHUA HOUSE	\$868.00
SHRINER'S HOSPITAL	\$487.00
TOTAL	\$2,579.00

THANKS TO HORIZON GYMNASTICS AND DANCE

For hosting the Team Florida qualifiers. The meet was efficient and well run. The kids had a great time, as did parents and judges.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUNIOR OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

The best gymnasts in the Florida AAU program turned out for the chance to qualify for a spot on Team Florida for the 2002 Junior Olympic Games to be held in Knoxville, Tennessee August 7-10th. Though the competition was fierce, it was friendly and all the gymnasts cheered each other on. The following athletes were named to the teams:

8-11 year old group:

TEAM 1

Kyra Platt-Coast Elite
Carly Crosby-Horizon
Tiffany Brodbeck-Stars & Stripes
Allia Lachhman-Coast Elite
Ginger McCollum-Gym Plus
Kaylyn Oaks-Horizon

TEAM 2

Shauna DeZutter-Brandon Suntwisters
Kelsey Moran-First City
Brianna Santiago-First City
Natasha Jufko-Stars & Stripes
Briana Stiles-Medalist
Dalila Lenezan-Medalist

ALTERNATES

Carmen Lundell-Naples Progressive
Carson Lawrence-Gym Plus
Kiersten Miller-Coast Elite

ALL STARS

Emily Reichert-Naples Progressive
Jade Parry-Moore's
Brooke Mootz-Horizon
Jessica Soros-Brandon Suntwisters
Mackenzie Moses-Moore's

12-13 year old group:

TEAM 1

Brittney Emmons-First City
Karlyann Santiago-Coast Elite
Haley Long-First City

TEAM 2

Meghan Cochran-Gym Plus
Lauren Hampton-Gym Plus
Kelsey Vadelund-Brandon Suntwisters

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12-13 years Team 1 cont.
Sara Sprehn-Coast Elite
Molly Clinard-First City
Lauren Pacetti-Tampa Gym&Dance

ALTERNATES

Marissa Bragg-Medalist
Sasha Sadez-Naples Progressive
Kristen Woodberry-Brandon Suntwisters

14-15 year old age group:

TEAM 1

Ashley Ford-Gym Plus
Rachel Hamilton-Coast Elite
Danielle Beuerlein-Coast Elite
Jenny Harrington-Gym Plus
Maalika Moore-Tampa Gym&Dance
Katrina Harvester-Tampa Gym&Dance

ALTERNATES

Amanda Crane-Medalist
Kendall Steinmetz-Coast Elite
Tirzah Bailey-Medalist

16-19 year old age group:

TEAM 1

Kelly Haggerty-Lightning City
Mandy Daugherty-Gym Plus
Bianca Nemes-Top Contenders
Michelle Bourque-Horizon
Marissa DeZutter-Brandon Suntwisters
Ryann Matthews-Medalist

ALTERNATES

Christina Clark-Intense
Melissa Berley-Brandon Suntwisters

12-13 years Team 2 cont.
Krista Beuerlein-Coast Elite
Jamie Oakes-Medalist
Christine Sayler-Medalist

ALL STARS

Heather Tirpak-Horizon
Jenna Joslyn-Coast Elite

TEAM 2

Megan Ryan-Top Contenders
Stephanie Mooney-Coast Elite
Ashley Marchman-Flip Factory
Gabrielle Garcia-Tampa Gym&Dance
Jeniece Rahn-Medalist
Mindy Zavesky-Top Contenders

ALL STARS

Ashleigh Flatt-Tampa Gym&Dance
Stacey Ostmund-Medalist
Brianna Conde-Horizon
Claire Ferrari-Medalist

TEAM 2

Angela Esposito-Stars&Stripes
LeiAnn Arceneaux-Gym Plus
Charlynn Fornaro-Coast Elite
Addie Jackson-Moore's
Laura Wilson-Coast Elite
Corey O'Berry-Tampa Gym&Dance

Good luck to all of our Team Florida members. We are behind you 100%!!!

THE TEAM FLORIDA GENE STOWE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

went to our 6 graduating seniors, and what deserving athletes they were. Each girl was awarded a \$400.00 scholarship that was donated by Lightning City and Horizon (who, by the way,

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challenges ALL AAU clubs who host a meet to donate a portion of their profits to the scholarship fund). We congratulate our seniors on their dedication to the sport and wish them the very best in their future endeavors:

Kelly Haggerty-Lightning City
Brook Hurst-Academy of Olympic
Courtney Fisher-Horizon Gym & Dance
Tamara Spann-Venice Goldstars
Joyce Sposito-Top Contenders
Michelle Bourque-Horizon Gym & Dance

All of these young ladies will be continuing their education in college, and Joyce and Michelle will continue their gymnastics career in college. We are certainly fortunate to have such great role models for the younger kids!

MEET SCHEDULE FOR FALL SEASON, 2002

FIRST QUALIFIER, SEPTEMBER 28 & 29:

North Section: Fit Club, Orange City

South Section: Medalist, Pinellas Park

SECOND QUALIFIER, OCTOBER 26 & 27:

North Section: Broadway, Oviedo

South Section: Brandon Suntwisters

THIRD QUALIFIER, NOVEMBER 23 & 24 (NOT THANKSGIVING WEEKEND):

North Section: N. Central Fl. YMCA, Gainesville

South Section: Horizon, Port Charlotte

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, DECEMBER 14 & 15TH:

St. Cloud Gymnastics, to be held at the Kissimmee Convention Center

You should get info from these clubs at least 6 weeks before meet date. If you do not, call the gym, but do not wait to send in your entries. The excuse that you didn't get an entry form will not allow you late entry into the meet, sorry! Remember, all clubs must be in attendance at 2 meets to be eligible for entry into the state meet.

REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR THE FALL SEASON

All memberships will expire August 31st. I strongly suggest that you register online (AAUsports.org) By doing so, you will eliminate not getting your cards, having checks misplaced, etc. This happened this past year to the clubs that registered with the Association office, so be aware of potential problems if you don't register online.

LOOK FOR OUR WEBSITE

At www.teamfloridagymnastics.com. This has meet schedules, current and past newsletters & important news and changes. If you wish to place a classified ad, it is free, just e-mail to webmaster@teamfloridagymnastics.com. Many questions can be answered simply by going to

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the website, rather than calling me. So check it out before making that call.

TEAM FLORIDA HAS A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

It is: teamfloridaTT@aol.com.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHELLY PAULL

For becoming the new owner of Horizon Gymnastics and Dance. The "old" owner, namely me, is not retiring from coaching, but my long hours in the gym have been reduced, along with the responsibilities that go along with being a gym owner. The 18 years I owned Horizon were very rewarding, but I think it's time the young "whipper- snapper" has a shot at it.

**ANOTHER REMINDER OF THE STATE MEET DATE TO ALL
COACHES AND JUDGES**

The AAU state meet will be held on the same weekend that the USAG level 4 state meet is scheduled. It is a situation that could not be remedied. Judges, we hope you will consider judging our meet, but of course, this is your decision. If you would like to judge the AAU meet, just make a note to the judging assignor when turning in your availability form, or drop her a line if you have already turned in your form.

NEW CHANGE IN JUDGING EVENTS AT QUALIFIERS

In an effort to help all judges gain more experience judging different events, keeping judges minds refreshed, and helping newer judges get experience working with different higher rated officials, beginning in September, at the qualifiers, judges will rotate on the second day of the competition the following way:

Chief judges will rotate in Olympic order one event down the second day: acting (assistant) judges will rotate reverse Olympic order one event up the second day. Example; chief judge on vault on day 1 will rotate to bars on day 2; her assistant judge will rotate from vault on day 1 to floor on day 2.

This will only take place in meets that have no team competition. All gymnasts from the same age group and ability division (novice, advanced, etc.) will be judged by the same judges, maintaining consistency. However, a different age group or ability within a level could have a different set of judges, but all gymnasts within that group will be judged by the same judges. If a meet has a single judge on each event, they will rotate in Olympic order, one event up, on day 2. No rotating will take place in one day meets.

IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHANGES FOR COMPULSORY/OPTIONAL LEVELS!!!!!!!!

A meeting of the AAU National Gymnastics Committee was held at Age Group Nationals and the following changes/modifications were decided upon. Please read over the following information very carefully. These changes/modifications are effective as of August 1, 2002.

LEVEL 2

Vault: The only change is that the gymnast must now finish in a straight lying position. The hollow body position has been eliminated. The deduction for finishing in a hollow or arched position will be up to .30.

BARS, BEAM AND FLOOR: No changes.

LEVEL 3

Vault: Same change as in Level 2.

BARS, BEAM AND FLOOR: No changes.

LEVEL 4

VAULT: The handspring vault has been eliminated. The official "vault" will be: From a run, jump from a spring board or aero board to a handstand and WITH REPULSION, arrive in a straight lying position to stacked mats that are to be a minimum of 32" to a maximum of 48". Deduction for lack of repulsion: up to .50. Further, the gymnast's run WILL NOT be judged; there will be no landing zone marked on the mat's surface. All deductions that are listed in the USAG manual will be used that apply. Deductions for the run, landing zone and landing on the feet first will not apply. Clubs hosting meets do not have to provide a "porta-pit", just a series of stacked mats that a coach can use to arrive at the desired height. The mats must be a minimum of 12' in length and they must be secured with extra matting on the end to prevent them from sliding. Only ONE vault will be allowed, unless gymnast does not do a complete vault. Examples; gymnast runs and jumps off the board, gets to vertical and falls back onto the board; gymnast runs, jumps off the board and twists in the air and lands on her side instead of her back. The coach may ask for a second vault, but the chief judge will make the determination as to whether the gymnast may vault a second time. The gymnast will have a maximum of two attempts. The vault has a 10.00 start value. Note: The gymnast is NOT allowed to land on her feet. If she does, she will be allowed to take a second vault. If she lands on her feet a second time, she will receive a void (zero score).

BARS, BEAM, FLOOR: no changes.

LEVELS 5, 6, 7, MODIFIED OPTIONAL, AND 8:

VAULT: The vaulting horse has been eliminated. AAU has adopted the vault table as the only acceptable apparatus for vaulting. The height setting of the table can be anywhere the coach decides, regardless of age of gymnast. Either a spring board or aero board can be used.

LEVELS 9 AND 10:

VAULT: The vaulting horse has been eliminated. AAU has adopted the vault table as the only acceptable apparatus for vaulting. The height setting of the table can be anywhere the coach decides, regardless of age of gymnast. Use of an aero board is not allowed at these levels. Round off entry vaults are allowed, as per USAG rules.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS CHANGE WILL NOT AFFECT THOSE ATHLETES AT THE 2002 JO GAMES. BOTH THE HORSE AND TABLE WILL BE AVAILABLE.)

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LEVEL 7 VAULT VALUES:

In order to encourage and reward gymnasts who are performing more difficult vaults, the following vault values have been assigned:

Handspring or ½ on-handspring off: 9.4

Handspring on-1/2 off or ½ on, ½ off: 9.6

½ on, 1/1 off: 9.8

Handspring on, 1/1 off: 10.00

Please read the preceding info extremely well, as there are some major changes that have taken place. These decisions were not taken lightly and all areas of the country were taken into consideration. Many clubs expressed how difficult it has been to switch out the horse and the table and we know the horse will be obsolete in the next year or so. It was felt that the level 4 stacked mat vault is more progressive and there was concern about small level 4's having difficulty getting over the table.

There was concern that not all clubs have a table, however, the committee felt that the majority of clubs that have level 5 athletes and above do have one or will be getting one in the near future.

All clubs hosting qualifiers and invites that are sanctioned AAU or that will use AAU rules, as of August 1st must have a vault table. (A horse WILL NOT be allowed to be used).

SPRING 2003 CALENDER ALREADY SET!!!!

Talk about efficient! Here are the dates for qualifiers and state for 2003:

FIRST QUALIFIER, JANUARY 18 & 19

SECOND QUALIFIER, FEBRUARY 8 & 9

THIRD QUALIFIER, MARCH 8 & 9

STATE, APRIL 26 & 27:

Disney's Wide World of Sports

(Invites of interest - Princess Classic, hosted by Horizon Gym & Dance, Port Charlotte, February 15 & 16; and Gasparilla Classic, hosted by Lightning City, Tampa, Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 2. Contact Kathy Stuenkel, meet director for the Princess Classic and Tim Keckler, meet director for the Gasparilla Classic for information. Anyone else with an invite, send info and I will print it.)