

WMGBC NEWS

Mid-Season Report

By Mark Russo, Head Coach

The 1993-94 season was a great success for the Huskies. The team continued to demonstrate that the University of Washington is the leader in Men's Collegiate Club gymnastics. School records were broken, national titles were won, and a home meet against a PAC-10 school was hosted for the first time in the club's history this past year.

The season started out in November at the Rocky Mountain Open hosted by the US Air Force Academy. In December the team traveled to College Park, Pennsylvania where the team competed against Penn State, Michigan, and Kent State.

The season continued in early 1994 at the Windy City Invitational hosted by University of Illinois, Chicago. The team pulled together for an excellent meet and beat out the varsity program from Iowa State. Two weeks later, **Mike Williams** and **Mark Oliver** competed in the Winter Cup at the Olympic Training Center. Both Mike and Mark had outstanding meets narrowly missing making the US Senior Elite Development team.

Following the Winter Cup, the team traveled down to UC Berkeley where they competed in a triangular meet against UCB and UCSB.

One of the season's many highlights came a week later with the club's first home meet against a PAC -10 school. The newly

formed club team (consisting of scholarship athletes) from Arizona State came up from Phoenix to compete against the Huskies in a dual meet. The capacity crowd of over 500 people packed the Pavilion Annex to watch an exciting competition. Outstanding performances were turned in by the entire squad to bring the Huskies within striking distance of the new club team from Arizona State.



Ignacio Morales comes back out of nowhere!

Two months later at USA Gymnastics Collegiate Club Championships near Dallas, Texas, the club put in another great performance. The Huskies improved their team total by 18 points over last year for a season high of 258.9. This score put the Huskies second to Arizona State and well ahead.

1998 MEET SCHEDULE

Meet	Date & Time	Location
Washington Open	January 4, 10:30am and 2:30pm	UW – Seattle, WA
Blackjack Invitational	February 6, 7:30pm	UNLV – Las Vegas, NV
Winter Cup Challenge	February 13 & 14, 7:00pm	Houston, TX
ASU Invitational	February 28, 7:00pm	ASU – Tempe, AZ
Lobo Invitational	March 7, 7:00pm	UNM – Albuquerque, NM
UW Invitational	March 28, 7:00pm	UW – Seattle, WA
USAG Club Nationals	April 9–11, Times TBD	Hartford, CT

For more details please contact Mark Russo at (206) 524-9480

LETTERS

Dear Friends of Husky Gymnastics,

My interest in gymnastics began several decades ago when I entered my high school gymnasium and saw these amazing guys swinging on the bars and flying through the air. Today I continue to swing on the bars, although much more conservatively. I have been interested in and a supporter of Men's Gymnastics at the UW for 12 years. Currently I am the treasurer of the WMGBC.

Gymnasts of my era tumbled on wooden floors (and on pavement in parades, Ouch!), climbed rope for speed, wore primitive hand guards without dowels and landed on mats of dubious composition. Yet we knew the joys of gymnastics. We survived and even prospered while learning about dedication, perseverance, commitment, and teamwork. These accomplishments took place through sweat, blisters, sore muscles, and dreams of glory. I don't think the important things in gymnastics have changed.

Dr. Hughes, founder of men's gymnastics at the UW and current Booster Club board member, mentioned in his last letter that interest in gymnastics remains strong in the Pacific Northwest (we had a record turnout of over 265 gymnasts at the Washington Open on January 5th), and the dreams continue. But not only dreams. We have three National Champions on our current team and the prospects of a very successful season upon us (come see us perform at the upcoming meets). These guys indeed work hard! Besides studying, and working out, they earn money for the team by ushering at football and basketball games, and by moving equipment for women's gymnastics meets.

The Booster Club's goal is not only to fund the team from year to year, but also to build the financial infrastructure that will enable this program to become self-sufficient. That means paying a coach a reasonable salary and being able to travel to away meets. We are raising monies through personal and corporate donations, grant funding, hosting competitions, selling merchandise, ushering, and moving equipment. But we need your help. Many of you sent generous donations over the last few weeks for which we say, THANK YOU! You people are wonderful. Perhaps others forgot, misplaced our last newsletter, or are waiting for the next few dollars to come in. Make that donation today to enable these young gymnasts to have the collegiate gymnastics experience. If you were a gymnast, I'm sure you remember...

If you have not already, I hope you will make a contribution to the WMGBC by completing the enclosed slip. Remember, 100% of your contributions go to the support of the team. "I guarantee it!"

We look forward to both your financial support and to seeing you at our home meet with Arizona State University on March 28th at 7:30PM in the Hec Ed Pavilion Addition. Multiple flips and twists will be performed throughout the competition. Come, bring the family and enjoy the infectious gymnastics spirit. Additionally, I invite you to share in the knowledge that you too helped make it all possible.



Cameron S. Oliva
Former Gymnast and Treasurer, WMGBC

Maybe meet schedule here if Mid Season Report is too long on first page. Otherwise, another letter, or what?

Señor Jeff Johnson

By Peter Sawyer, Board Member



WMGBC

The Washington Men's Gymnastics Booster Club is a non-profit organization created to assist the Huskies with non-university affiliated fundraising. The WMGBC Board of Directors consists of the following members:

Sean Clapshaw – President, UW Gymnastics alumnus

David Pearlstein – Vice President, former gymnast

Linda Luna – Secretary, former gymnast

Cameron Oliva – Treasurer, former gymnast

Dr. Eric Hughes – former head coach and founder of UW Men's Gymnastics

Jeff Johnson – Team Liaison; current UW gymnast

Torrie Kuwana – friend of gymnastics

Daniel Luna – UW gymnastics alumnus

Alysa Rees – friend of gymnastics

Peter Sawyer – former gymnast

For more information, or if you'd like to help us out in any way, we may be contacted at:

Washington Men's Gymnastics Booster Club
5529 27th N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115

Or call Mark Russo at (206) 524-9480

