
WMGF News

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March 12, 2021

Mid-Season Update

by Head Coach Jeff Crockett

Greetings Husky friends and family! It is with a deep sense of humility that I am writing to you for the first time as the Head Coach of Washington Men's Gymnastics.

This program, this team, has had such a strong influence in my life for the past 20 years. From the first time I worked out with the team on my recruiting trip in the summer of 2000, to this very moment, I have felt like my teammates, coach Mark Russo, and everyone that has ever been on the WMGF Board have been my home away from home.

I have known since the day I retired from my competitive career as a Husky almost 11 years ago that I wanted to be involved with this amazing organization for the rest of my life in some way. I am grateful and excited that the WMGF has allowed me this opportunity to step in and lead this team.

We were able to resume training about four weeks ago after another two-month shutdown. During this time, the guys stayed in shape by conditioning at home via Zoom. These home workouts were crucial and



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The Washington Men's Gymnastics Foundation is a non-profit organization that exists to assist the Men's Gymnastics Team at the University of Washington.



Head Coach Jeff Crockett

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made it much easier for the guys to come back into the gym and get back on the equipment with confidence and physical preparedness.

The guys have been working extremely hard to get back on track. However, due to the recent shutdowns and reduced hours that we can be in the gym, we made the difficult decision to withdraw from this season's Sundevil Classic.

Our first competition is now going to be our home meet on Monday, March 15th, in the Alaska Airlines Arena vs. ASU (time TBD). Spectators are not allowed due to local health department guidelines, but we will be live streaming! Check in on our website for updates on when and where you can watch.

Despite everything this team has been through, they are healthier, hungrier, and more determined than I have ever seen them. I am blown away by their resilience and positivity. Our one main goal right now is to compete at least once this season, barring any COVID-19 complications or setbacks.

I wish that all of you out there are safe and healthy, and GO DAWGS!!!



Changing of the Guard

by Mark Russo

After three years at the helm, Head Coach Giancarlo Mora has made the difficult decision to move on from Washington Men’s Gymnastics. Giancarlo joined the Husky Gymnastics family in 2015 as Assistant Coach, at the time offering very welcome help to spread the workload of managing a growing team. Two years later he seamlessly stepped up to lead the team as Head Coach, keeping the Husky tradition going strong with Assistant Coach Jeff Crockett by his side.

The Washington Men’s Gymnastics Foundation is extremely grateful for Giancarlo’s commitment and contributions to the team. Under his leadership, we achieved three second-place team finishes at USA Gymnastics Collegiate Nationals and produced multiple All-American athletes. Additionally, he led two athletes to the USA Gymnastics Winter Cup National ranking event. Giancarlo’s impact was especially pronounced on the team’s weakest events – pommel horse and high bar – where he increased our collegiate national ranking by

two places, on both. He also oversaw a period of significant team growth by continuing our coordinated recruiting efforts, fielding teams with greater depth than we've had in the history of our program's self-funded era. In 2019, Giancarlo continued what has become a biennial tradition of giving the team an international gymnastics experience, leveraging his network to coordinate a training camp in the United Kingdom. He coached true to his values and has been a great asset to our program. We wish him success in his future endeavors and are thankful for his years with us coaching, recruiting, promoting, and making this team his number one priority!

As noted in his first Season Update on page one, former Assistant Coach Jeff Crockett is now stepping up to lead the team, joining an elite few to become the sixth Head Coach in our program’s 70-year history. Jeff is steeped in Husky gymnastics tradition, and we look forward to continuing success under his leadership!

A bit of history

Washington Men’s Gymnastics Head Coaches

<i>Varsity Era:</i>	Dr. Eric Hughes	1950 - 1978	<i>Self-funded Era:</i>	Jim Holt	1980 - 1989
	Dick Foxal	1978 - 1980		Mark Russo	1989 - 2017
				Giancarlo Mora	2017 - 2021
				Jeff Crockett	2021 -

THANK YOU GIANCARLO

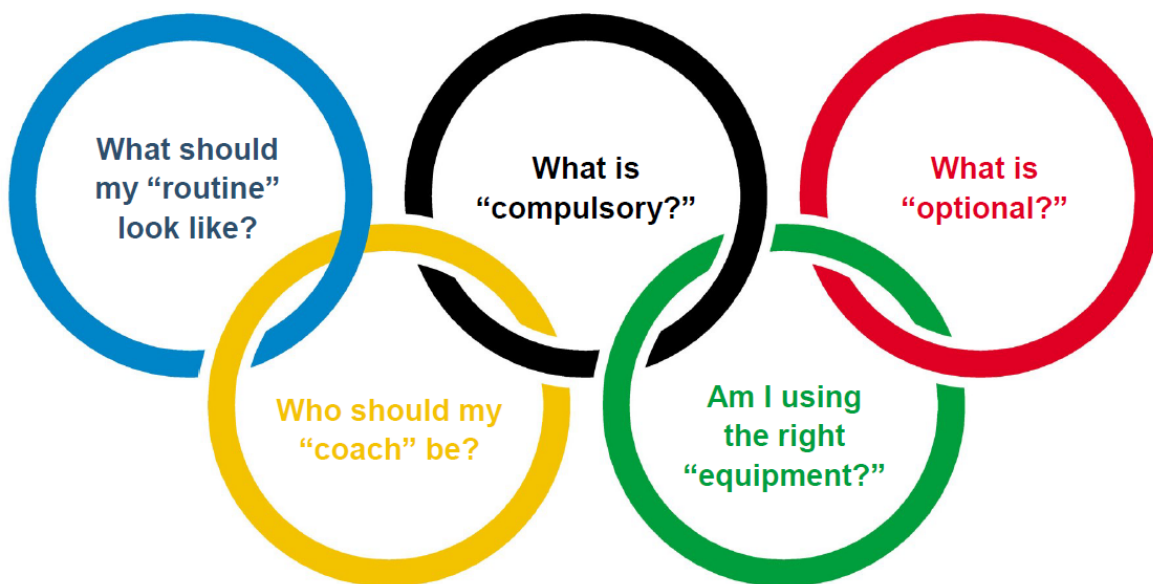


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Mark K. Oliver
President & Founder - Senior Wealth Advisor
Former UW Men’s Gymnastics Team Captain

Where Are They Now? An Update on Husky alum **Bruce Richardson**

by Mark Russo and Bruce Richardson

Last summer, I had the pleasure of really meeting Husky alumnus Bruce Richardson (1959-61) at the home he shares with his wife Mindy on Lopez island. No surprise as I drove up the driveway that Bruce was busy sculpting a soon-to-be turtle out of stone! To my mind, Bruce lives in an idyllic setting; one that he created mostly with his own two hands. Beautiful Pacific Northwest Native American art, perfectly proportioned animal sculptures, and other works of creative craftsmanship abound in their home. I was more than impressed by the many artworks that decorate and give their home a spiritual feel. I got the feeling that Bruce is truly in his element there. He really is an amazing artist and again, another amazing Husky gymnast! Please take a minute to read his interesting journey through life.

In 1955, Shoreline High School opened in North Seattle and I was in the first graduating class. The boys PE teacher had done gymnastics in college and wanted gymnastics to be taught in PE. With all the equipment he also started a gymnastics team, and I signed up as a complete novice except for some play on a trampoline at the local YMCA. At that time, the only experience anyone in the Northwest had with gymnastics was watching the halftime show at UW basketball games.

I still remember Coach Hughes, Bill Crow, Charlie Denny, Jim Lang, and Jimmy David doing amazing things on the trampoline, flying rings, and the rest of today's modern gym equipment. When I started at the UW in 1959, my dream was to be on the team so I went down to the old Hec Edmundson Pavilion and signed up to join. I worked out on all the equipment, but competed mostly on parallel bars, tumbling, trampoline, vault, and rope climb. In those days we competed with University of British Columbia, WSU, Eastern Washington University, and once a year at a conference meet.

Going to Stanford for the conference meet in 1961 in two big vans was a highlight, and when we stopped halfway in Angwin, California to put on a show at a Seventh Day Adventist school I remember having my first vegetarian dinner. What a surprise; no meat was no big deal!

Coach Hughes was like a second father to everyone, working hard to motivate us, teach us new routines, and make sure we kept up academically. He even saw to get-

ting us jobs setting up the field for football games and taking care of the gym for basketball games if we needed some extra income. He also shared his passion for canoeing with stories of marathon canoe trips and even training for the Olympics. Once, thirty years after graduating, I was staying at the campground at Vantage, on the Columbia River, and went to use the bathroom in the early morning and there was Coach Hughes, launching his canoe (and full of stories about my old teammates.)

At the end of my junior year in 1961, I joined the Peace Corps and was part of the very first group working on rural community development in Colombia for two years. That experience motivated me to finish my BA in economics and go to grad school. I taught economics at Western in Bellingham, was a Fulbright Professor in Monterrey, Mexico, and worked for the United Nations in Argentina. Later, I worked at various occupations in the Seattle area and later even taught third grade until retiring.

My wife and I live on Lopez Island where I divide my time between gardening and sculpting, rocks in the summer and wood in the winter. Hiking in the mountains in the summer is still a passion, and travel to interesting parts of the world is still on the to-do list. Three days a week at our local gym doing a circuit class keeps me honest; and I have learned the hard way, after taking my granddaughter to a trampoline center, that an hour of bouncing is not so much fun the next day. There is still the last resort, a diving board with a guaranteed soft landing, and I still do a few flips and twists from time to time.

Over the years I have been impressed with the way UW Men's Gymnastics thrived and later how it was reborn after losing university support. It means a lot to me and the rest of the past team members to see how people have pitched in to keep it alive and thriving. When I see what current team members do in their routines, compared to my early days, it is truly mind boggling!



Bruce and Mindy after raising the totem pole



Bruce and one of his creations

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In Memoriam: Chris Peterson, 1999-2002 UW Team

We are sorry to relay the news of the passing of one of our Huskies. Below is a reprint of his obituary, from https://www.hawaiianmemorialparkmortuary.com/obituaries/Christopher-Peterson-4/#!/Obituary. Please visit that website if you'd like to leave a note.



It is with extremely heavy hearts that we share the passing of Christopher Jon Peterson. Chris, a loving husband, father, son, and friend, passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at the age of 41. Chris was known for his infectious smile, carefree attitude, and his HUGE heart. He was willing to give anyone the shirt off his back—even a homeless man his favorite hat and slippers. Chris had such a positive energy that it, in turn, energized others around him. He had the gift of instantly making you feel at ease, as if you were a dear friend.

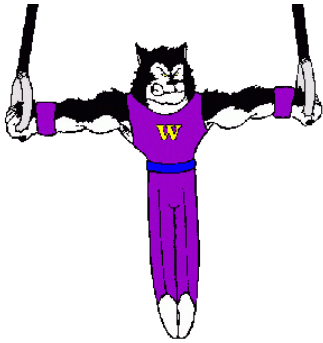
Chris and his twin brother Matt were born on March 5, 1979! in St. Paul, MN to Jon and Sharon Peterson. They lived in St. Paul for a few years before moving to Colorado. They then moved to Seattle where Chris discovered his love for the ocean and participated in numer-

ous activities including competitive gymnastics. In college, he met the love of his life, Niccole (Lee) Peterson. After graduation, Chris and Niccole relocated to O'ahu, Hawai'i. They were married on July, 8, 2006, in a fantastic celebration that few can remember the details of, thanks to some heavy-handed pouring of drinks!

He briefly worked in car sales prior to joining the Navy in January of 2007. That was a big year for Chris because, not only did he join the Navy, that is the year he became a daddy. Victoria, was born on July 30. Being a husband and father was Chris' ultimate pride and joy. Audrey, Niccole and Chris' second daughter, was born on March 21, 2012 and completed their family.

Chris was a man who many would say was a "Jack of all Trades" and a "Mr.Fix-It." There was no job that he wouldn't tackle, and he always gave it 100%. From his time in the Navy as an EOD member, to his brief stint with the Honolulu Police Department, Chris always had a smile on his face and worked hard to provide for his family. He eventually found his work home at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard as a ShipFitter. He would put in many hours of overtime and still have a cheerful disposition. Chris was adored and loved by all who knew him.

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March 12, 2021

Washington Men's Gymnastics 2020-2021 Meet Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Competition</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>December 12</i>	<i>Purple vs. Gold Intrasquad</i>	<i>CANCELED</i>
<i>January 9</i>	<i>Washington Open</i>	<i>CANCELED</i>
<i>January 16</i>	<i>West Point Open</i>	<i>CANCELED</i>
<i>January 30</i>	<i>PAC-12 Invitational</i>	<i>CANCELED</i>
<i>February 27</i>	<i>Sun Devil Classic</i>	<i>WITHDRAWN</i>
March 15	Home Meet	Hec Ed Pavilion, Seattle, WA
<i>March 27</i>	<i>vs. SoCal United</i>	<i>Virtual</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>vs. NorCal United</i>	<i>Virtual</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Collegiate Nationals</i>	<i>Daytona Beach, FL</i>



Please check online for updates and streaming details. No spectators allowed at this year's home meet due to COVID-19 restrictions.
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