

# WMGF News

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December 30, 2021

## Season Preview

by Head Coach Jeff Crockett

Hello Husky Fans!

The Dawgs have been hard at work the past few months, getting ready for what is shaping up to be another amazing season. I can't tell you how great it is for these athletes to be back in the gym on a much more consistent training schedule. We are all so excited for the season ahead.

This year we have eight new Huskies joining the Pack, making this the largest recruiting class and team (20 total) we've had in decades! These freshmen come from all over the world with talent and character that will drive this team for the next 4-5 years. These freshmen are Carter Hawthorne from Wasilla AK, Murun Jamiyankhuu from Chicago IL (Mongolian Citizen), Xander Agate from Bothell WA, Julian Mui from Hong Kong, Trevor Ruggeri from Santa Cruz CA, Bradley Stroud from Auburn WA, Oscar Coromina-Pujol from Barcelona Spain, and Galen Henriquez from Olympia WA.

These freshmen are welcomed by our three team captains: Senior Perry Lightfoot from Huntington Beach CA, Senior Oscar Hemmert from Seattle WA, and Junior Brody Lusk from Spokane WA. These three individuals have their own unique qualities that make for a leadership team that has already proven to help keep this team organized and motivated.

Along with the Captains, the other returning huskies are: Senior Con-

### WMGF

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.



Sophomore Andrew Layman

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nor Pattison from Melbourne Australia, Juniors Parker Calomiris from Petaluma Ca, Adam Kerwin from Renton WA, Jameel Ali from Burlington ON Canada, and Joseph Mischke from Brooklyn Park MN, and Sophomores Andrew Layman from Wasilla AK, David Roane from Shakopee MN, Sebastian Barquero from Austin Texas (Costa Rican Citizen), and Riley Sutton from Petaluma CA.

This year the WMGF also welcomes two new assistant coaches, Bob Young from Olympia WA and recent Husky alum Ben Bloom from Mill Valley CA, and team trainer Michael Sloat. These incredibly knowledgeable and talented individuals are a HUGE addition to our program, and I am thrilled to have them by my side to take on such an incredible year.

This year the Dawgs have a robust competition schedule with three home meets. The meet schedule is as follows: Dec 18 Purple and Gold Intrasquad (Mountlake Terrace, WA), Jan 8 WA Open (Seattle, WA), Feb 4 Pac12 Open (Seattle, WA), Feb 26 Sundevil Classic (Tempe, AZ), Mar 11 vs. Iowa (Seattle, WA), Mar 25-26 Collegiate Nationals (Annapolis, MD), Apr 2 MPSF's (Stanford, CA), and May 14 GymACT Nationals (Mesa, AZ). Depending on our performance in the GymACT West Conference bracket this year, we may be defending our GymACT West Championship Title sometime in mid-April.

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# Season Preview

*(Continued from page 1)*

Even with all that has happened in the past year, this team has only gotten bigger, stronger, more talented, and determined to reach new heights. I can't wait for you all to see this Pack of Dawgs in action this year!

Thank you all for your continued support! GO DAWGS!!!



*Happy Holidays  
from This Year's Huskies!*



## THE WASHINGTON MEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM 2021-2022



*Back row: Oscar Coromina Pujol, Oscar Hemmert, Sebastian Barquero, Julian Mui Feng, Jameel Ali  
Middle row: Galen Henriquez, Adam Kerwin, Brody Lusk, Trevor Ruggeri, Connor Pattison, Perry Lightfoot, Murun Jamiyankhuu, Riley Sutton, David Roane, Carter Hawthorne  
Front row: Xander Agate, Luka Sisauri, Andrew Layman, Joseph Mischke, Bradley Stroud, Parker Calomiris*

*Photo credit: CHRIS BURCH photography*

## *Where Are They Now?* An Update on Husky Alum **Jim David**

by Mark Russo

*I recently caught up with one of our early Huskies, Jim David. Jim was there and an integral part of the teams that brought the University of Washington Men's Team to national prominence in the early- to mid-60's. It is great to read of the humble beginnings of the Husky gym team and what they did to get the program rolling. Jim found his sport and leader in Coach Eric Hughes and as the say, the rest is quite literally... history. Enjoy this perspective and look back with Husky Hall of Famer Jim David!*

### **First off, tell us how you came to know of the team and how you were recruited.**

Seems impossible, but my entry into gymnastics began 70 years ago when Eric Hughes arrived at the UW and opened gymnastics "extension" classes for kids. At seven years old, I was one of those kids. My path in gymnastics, from then on, was tied to my relationship with Eric. There was no gymnastics team then, nor would there be for some time. Later, I was invited to assist Eric in teaching those classes. This gave me free lessons and more time in the gym. As I progressed, Eric invited me to join his men's gymnastics club workouts during weeknights.

With Bill Crow, Eric, and Goldie Wager, we formed gymnastics shows and gave dozens and dozens of performances over the years. We even went to small county fairs in the summers – towing a trailer with a trampoline, mats, and equipment for our performances. We were intent on promoting gymnastics at every turn. We performed at high school assemblies, social clubs, halftime of basketball and football games – wherever we had a chance to bring gymnastics to the public. Later, Eric Hughes and George Lewis formed the Seattle Gymnastics Club and continued to schedule performances. George was a women's coach at the Seattle YMCA and later sent three of his athletes to the Olympics. It was an age of promoting our sport.

### **What was your impression of the team and what were your goals as a gymnast?**

I had never been on a team before I became part of UW gymnastics. I had performed in AAU and high school state championships as a solo member of Blanchet High School – I was the team. We took 5th in the state my senior year. I usually placed or won my specialties in floor, trampoline, and tumbling – they were

all NCAA events in those days. I won all-around one year, as I remember. I competed in my first nationals at age 14. But these were solo events for me.

By the time I entered the UW, gymnastics was a varsity sport. I was awarded a scholarship. Being a "Husky" was always a goal of mine, as was being part of a team. Another goal was to continue to progress to the national level in my events, and as a team. My father graduated from the UW and we always followed and attended Husky sports. Now I could actually be part of a Husky team.

Twice our team won the Conference and Western US team championships. In the NCAA Championships we finished 9th in 1963, then 5th in 1964. In 1965 we

placed second as a team, even though our number two all-around performer and our ring specialist were ineligible. With them, we likely would have won the NCAA title in 1965. Had we won we would have been the first UW varsity team ever to win a national title, in any sport. To this day, that possibility haunts me.

Later, after graduation, Eric formed a travelling group that competed in the New Zealand and Australian national championships. We won the team title and many individual

awards. We also gave clinics and gym shows there, and in Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand. These were special times for me with my teammates. I had never been outside the US and Canada. These memories I will cherish forever.

### **Who did you look up to on the team, and how was your relationship with the coach, Dr. Hughes?**

All my heroes have always been Huskies. I looked up to the early "pioneers" of gymnastics at the U: Bill Crow, Jim Lang, Pat McGunnigle, Charlie Denny, Les Driscoll, Terry Hildebrand, and others. They set the stage for what became varsity and now club gymnastics at Washington.

I knew Eric Hughes over a period of 65 years – from his arrival at the UW until his passing. He was coach, confidant, counselor, and family to me. I accompanied him and his wife Jean on their honeymoon; he walked my wife down the aisle at our wedding; I vacationed with him. He was part of the David family.



*Jim demonstrating some serious shoulder flexibility*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Where Are They Now?

*(Continued from page 3)*

***What was the highlight of your gymnastics career, and a memorable story that gives us a feel for how the team was then?***

My first highlight was simply being a Husky, and then being part of a team. Bringing honor to the UW through our team results and recognition was a highlight. In addition, two particular events stood out:

In 1960's the Associated Men's Students awarded an "Athlete of the Year" award to one athlete each year. I was nominated for gymnastics in 1964 along with a representative of every other varsity sport. With the three most important men in my life attending – my father, uncle, and of course Eric Hughes – I was selected for that title at a public banquet. It was Eric that made my nominating speech and presented me that award. For those three men, cornerstones of my life, and my gymnastics family – this award was as much for them, for all their support throughout my life. And just imagine, a gymnast, winning over all other varsity nominees – what an honor for our sport!

Then in 1987, Eric Hughes came to visit me at work with the assistant athletic director to announce that I had been voted into the UW Husky Hall of Fame. This recognition was totally unexpected, especially since it was 20 years beyond my gymnastics career. And once more, for gymnastics, and with my family present, this award brought recognition to our sport and to the many men who had built it.

***Tell us about your current life, and how being on the team has impacted it.***

After my undergraduate days I served a term in the Air Force, then went back to complete a master's degree in business. I retired from a 35-year career in executive business management in 2005 – operating in six different companies who were undergoing either startup or restart operations.

My wife Patricia and I have three children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. We have been involved in our church in various ministry, staff, and management capacities over the years. We also support a local tent city with meals and many of their other needs. We maintain an active exercise program – no, not gymnastics at age 77 and after three hip surgeries. We love to travel and are involved in a group that does an annual touring event. We have especially enjoyed Italy, Greece, and South America – Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands.

I look back at my gymnastics years with pride and fulfillment for being a part of the effort to bring a non-existent sport from infancy to prominence. Being part of a team and supporting one another was a practice I employed as a manager later in life – a teamwork approach. Then there is a certain confidence that has come from achievement that has carried over to my life's journey.

Finally, the discipline learned in gymnastics has informed my life's pursuits from business to even my personal fitness program.

***How do you feel about the team now? What are your hopes for the team?***

Frankly, I am amazed and pleased at the dedication and work that has been put into the program over the past decades, especially without school funding. The work has included not only recruiting and coaching, but also fundraising and management. These achievements are commendable in continuing the legacy of gymnastics at Washington. I am proud of all of you who have contributed to this success and proud to have played a part in the early years. My hopes for the team are continuity of the program, continued success, and personal pride for each gymnast in being a Husky team member.

***As a consistent and generous donor, how do you see alumni and their gifts to the current team as a means for this collegiate team to grow and prosper in a time when much of college athletics funding is declining?***

I would encourage all alumni to continue and, if possible, increase their gifts to ensure the future success of the program. The greater the giving, the greater the results will be in recruiting, coaching, and therefore performance of the team. When I give, it's a recognition, and a way to give back, for all that I received from my Husky experience.

***Any sage words of advice for those on the team now?***

I would encourage each gymnast to set high standards and stretch goals – then to share your goals with a close few so that you can be supported and held accountable to them. These years will fly by – enjoy the ride, the work, your teammates, and the progress you will undoubtedly make over the coming years. Your time in this program, on your team, will become a lifetime memory – cherish it.

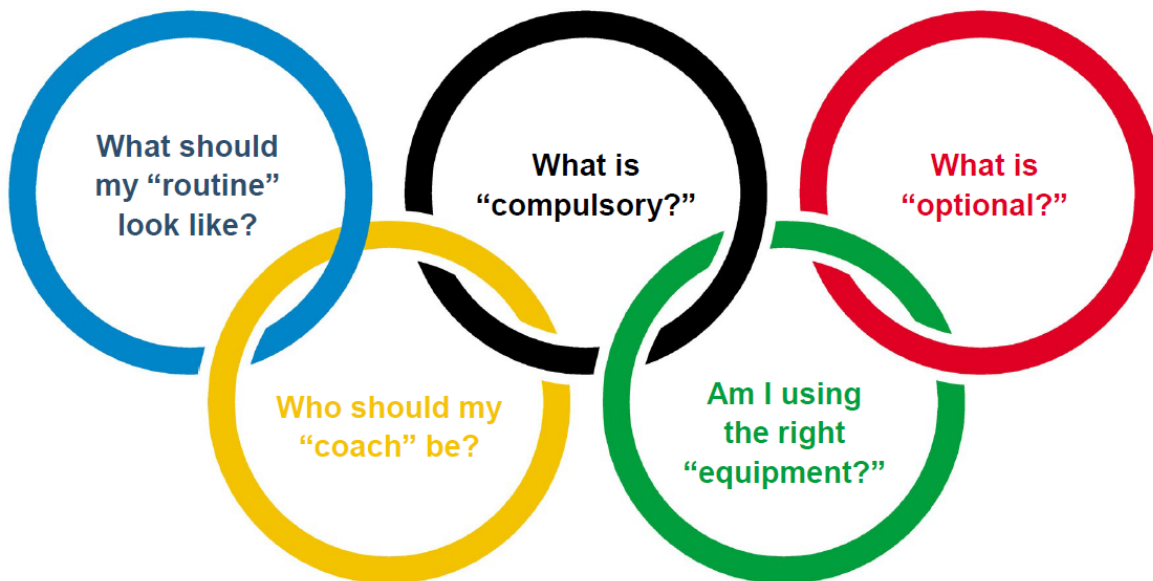


*Jim with teammate Bob Hall*



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**Mark K. Oliver**  
President & Founder - Senior Wealth Advisor  
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*Support the Team and  
Get your **HUSKY STRONG** calendar!*



Our *first ever* **HUSKY STRONG** two-year calendar (2022-2023) is now available for purchase!  
All proceeds go directly to the team!

This calendar highlights each of our 2021-2022 Washington Men's Gymnastics Team athletes, showcasing their character and strength, brought to print by the talent of CHRIS BURCH photography.

*Purchase now from our website: [www.wmgf.us](http://www.wmgf.us)*

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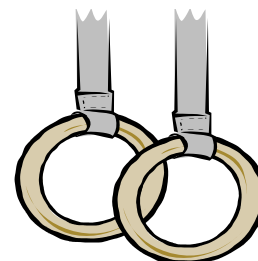
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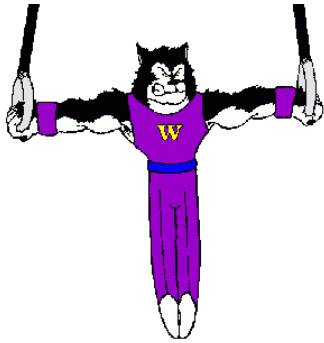
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December 30, 2021

# Washington Men's Gymnastics

## 2021-2022 Meet Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Competition</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>December 18</i>	<i>Purple vs. Gold Intrasquad</i>	<i>Cascade Elite Gymnastics Mountlake Terrace, WA</i>
<i>January 8</i>	<i>Washington Open vs. Boise Eagles</i>	<i>Alaska Airlines Arena Seattle, WA</i>
<i>February 4</i>	<i>Pac-12 Open vs. ASU, Cal, Stanford</i>	<i>Alaska Airlines Arena Seattle, WA</i>
<i>February 26</i>	<i>Sun Devil Classic vs. ASU, Rocky Mountain Pride</i>	<i>Chandler, AZ</i>
<i>March 11</i>	<i>Co-ed Dual Home Meet vs. Iowa</i>	<i>Alaska Airlines Arena Seattle, WA</i>
<i>March 25-26</i>	<i>USA Gymnastics Collegiate Nationals</i>	<i>Annapolis, MD</i>
<i>April 2</i>	<i>Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship vs. Stanford, ASU</i>	<i>Stanford, CA</i>
<i>April TBD</i>	<i>GymACT West Conference Championship</i>	<i>Virtual</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>GymACT Nationals</i>	<i>Mesa, AZ</i>

*Home meets in bold. Please check online for updates: [www.wmgf.us](http://www.wmgf.us)*