
◊ WMGF News ◊

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October 26, 2004

Season Preview

by Mark Russo

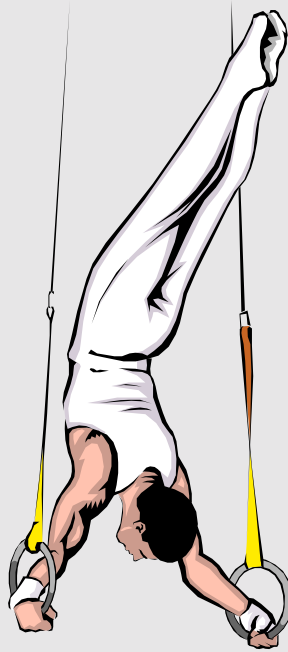
Here comes another year of Husky Gymnastics, and this year's team looks like one of the best we've had! I say this is because of our two new freshmen and the return of Jeff Crockett (13th All-Around at Winter Cup 2003.) Crockett returns after a one-year hiatus, healthy and rejuvenated. He brings a work ethic and skill level with him that can carry the team and lead it to higher levels. With skills like a full-twisting laid-out Jaeger (front layout re-grasp) on High Bar, a double-twisting Yurchenko on Vault, and great combination tumbling on Floor, a healthy Jeff Crockett is hard to beat. He will be "the Man" on this year's team.

The two freshmen are Kevin Perkins and Scott Hodgson, both from Metro Gymnastics in Portland, Oregon. They will hit the ground running as their gymnastics is already at a high level. Scott has excellent tumbling and swing basics, and great lines. He naturally looks good doing gymnastics. Kevin is the most explosive gymnast I've seen. He is incredibly strong (3rd place on Rings at JO Nationals 2004.) I've never seen such vault blocking power! WOW! Wait till you see this guy vault! On top of that, his floor is awesome as well – great speed with tremendous punch power. World Class!

Taking the leadership role on this year's team is Graham Gordon. This will be his third year on the team and his consistent performances in the All-Around are much needed. Graham has improved continually and methodically. His desire for the team to do its best shows daily in his interactions with other team members and his own outstanding work ethic, which often makes him the last person to leave the gym at night. He is an excellent communicator who holds

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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.



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us all together.

Returning from last year is sophomore Sean Liner. Sean was our number-two All-Arounder last year and improved dramatically throughout the season. His excellent air sense is now helping him learn new skills in the gym, and with his performances with the Sonics Dunk Squad outside the gym as well.

Joe Zhou is a junior from China studying engineering at the UW and has been training with the team for the last 18 months. Joe is learning the basics and helping with all fundraising activities. Joe has good lines and power, and with more practice he will compete for the team. His dedicated work ethic is inspiring to us all.

Joel Hennig, grad student, and Ben MacColl, fifth-year senior, continue to train and maintain their ancient gymnastic bodies to help the team on the specific events their bodies will allow. Their experience is a very important ingredient to our team's success.

This team has the highest standards of integrity, truth, work ethic, perseverance, dedication, desire, and reciprocity. They work well together, sharing each other's struggles and accomplishments. I look forward to seeing our competitive results this season. I truly believe that we are the best Collegiate Club team in the US this year and that our meet scores will show it.

Our team saying: Chalk on, Rock on!!



Meet the Freshmen

We asked the incoming freshmen to provide brief bios to introduce themselves to their Husky Gymnastics fans. Here are profiles of the two latest additions to the team.

Kevin Perkins

My name is Kevin Perkins. I am deaf and was born in Portland, Oregon. I'm 19 years old. I started gymnastics when I was three years old, and have been doing it ever since. My favorite events are Rings and Floor. I placed third on Rings at J.O. Nationals this past year. My goal is to compete in the Olympics on Rings to get gold!

Scott Hodgson

My name is Scott Hodgson. I am also known as "The Hodg." The members of the team dubbed me this when I arrived so they could separate me and Scott Provence. I have been doing gymnastics for nine years. I started at Creative Gymnastics in a home school class when I was ten. My first few seasons I was coached by Tim Cox, but I have also been coached by Dimitri Bilozertchev, Vladimir Artemev,

and Ivan Ivanov. After I moved to Metro Gymnastics in 2001, I was coached by Dave Klein, Ryan Fleck, and Luke Cartmill. Wow, I've had a lot of coaches!!! I was Oregon State Champion four out of the last five years, and have received multiple awards as a result of gymnastics. A few examples are Most Inspirational Gymnast (from the coaches in the state of Oregon), three Academic All American Awards, and Most Valuable Gymnast (from the coaches and teammates at Metro Gymnastics Center.)

Outside of the gym, I love to play paintball, work on my computer, and ride my longboard. I have played paintball on several different sponsored tournament teams in the Portland, Oregon area. I have played in several tournaments including a national tournament with teams from all over the country.

As far as academics go, I am a freshman at the UW. My intended major is Mechanical Engineering. In addition to schooling at the University, I am a member of the UW Naval ROTC Program, which means that I will be a Naval Officer upon graduation from the University.



Your 2004-2005 Husky Men's Gymnastics Team

*Back row, left - right: Jeff Crockett, Jeff Fausz, Joel Hennig, Stu Renz, Scott Provence, Scott Hodgson, Joe Zhou.
Front Row: Sean Liner, Ben MacColl, Graham Gordon, Kevin Perkins*

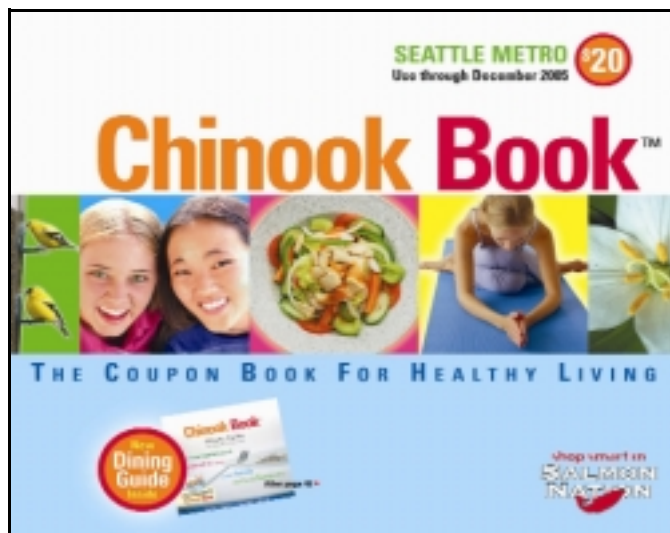
JOIN YOUR WMGF BOARD

We would like to increase the size of our Board of Directors. The Board's main purpose is to help raise funds to support the team. We also provide the coach with a sounding board for major decision-making and approve the expenditure of funds. We meet the second Tuesday of each month. If any of you receiving this newsletter are interested in contributing in this way, please phone Coach Hughes, 206-632-2151, or Coach Russo, 206-524-9480.

Anyone with an interest in helping the team is welcome!



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For every book sold up to 50% is donated to the Washington Men's Gymnastics Foundation. Please order yours today for just \$20 (plus \$3 S&H) and help raise funds for our gymnasts!

To order: Please send a check to WMGF at 1222 San Francisco Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98506-4136
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The Pendulum Swings

by Coach Eric Hughes

At our September WMGF Board meeting, the topic of travel clothing came up. I mentioned that for one road trip many years ago, a team member showed up without a tie. He was told he would be left at home unless he could get one in the next five to ten minutes. Apparently there were a few extras in the equipment room and he was able to go on the trip. Mark, our present coach, immediately replied, "If one of my gymnasts showed up WITH a tie I would leave him at home." I think he was joking...but knowing Mark, maybe he wasn't! At any rate, this conversation started me reminiscing about the many enjoyable years I had traveling with my teams. Gymnasts only had four years (at the most) of these experiences; I had twenty-eight. One thing that came to mind was how the pendulum had swung over the years regarding acceptable travel clothing. Very roughly, I can divide my coaching years into three eras as far as travel clothing is concerned.

1. The 50's when we started as a club and later were raised to "minor sport" status. Our budget was small and we did without many things that gymnasts take for granted today. In these years gymnasts were told to dress neatly for trips and they actually knew what that meant. Every one would show up in sport shirts and slacks, maybe a sport jacket, and occasionally a tie.

2. In the late 50's some of the richer teams (football, basketball, etc.) were provided with blazers and school ties. My guys kept pleading, "Coach, why can't we have traveling blazers and ties too?" Finally, I got these items into our budget, and for most of the 60's and maybe early 70's (I can't remember for sure) we dressed almost exactly the same. We had great team spirit during this period and I have to believe that looking like a team while traveling had something to do with it.
3. Then came the rebellious 70's and the "me" era. Gymnasts rejected authority and regimentation, and that included blazers and ties. I resisted for a while, but then thought why not leave this expensive item out of our budget and spend the money on something else? It was still a school regulation, however, that traveling teams look neat. This meant we were back to the sport shirt and slacks dress code with some of the guys wearing a sport jacket, but never a tie (except me).

Now, Mark tells me, we have a new era with jeans and t-shirts for travel. I don't know when this era began but it was definitely after my time. Maybe Dick Foyal or Jim Holt or Mark Russo can come up with this date. What will be next? What comes around goes around. Maybe the next group of young guys will want blazers and ties again. If so, I have a gold one, a purple one, a

black one, and a royal blue one that I'll sell pretty cheap.



A very smartly-dressed 1965 UW Gymnastics Team
 Back row, left-right: Mike Flansaas, Ike Flaathen, Bo Bennett, Bob Hall
 Front: Mike Lovell, Gunter Bohrmann, Coach Hughes, Jim David, Gary Finne

THANK YOU!

If you'd like to contribute, please clip and send this portion of the newsletter to:

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Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution* to WMGF in the amount of:

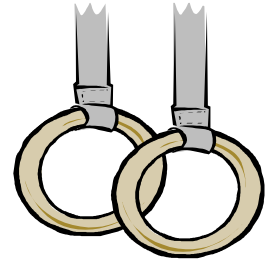
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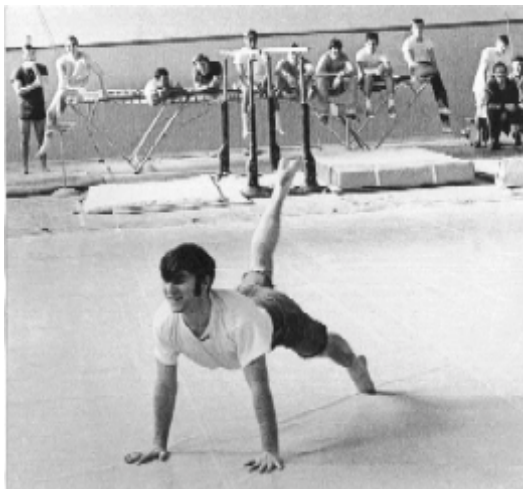
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Who Are These Guys?

These two photos are just a couple of many from our historical Husky Gymnastics files that no one seems to be able to identify. If you know who they are, please let us know! You can see them (and many more) with better resolution in the "multimedia" section of our web site: www.wmgf.us

If you can identify them, please send a note to our webmaster at: kovacs@olywa.net



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October 26, 2004

Washington Men's Gymnastics

2004 Meet Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Competition</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>January 8</i>	<i>Washington Open, University of Washington</i>	<i>Hec -Ed Pavilion Addition, Seattle, WA</i>
<i>January 14, 15</i>	<i>Rocky Mountain Open, US Air Force Academy</i>	<i>Colorado Springs, CO</i>
<i>February 4, 5, 6</i>	<i>Winter Cup/Black Jack Invitational</i>	<i>Las Vegas, NV</i>
<i>February 18</i>	<i>Pacific Coast Classic</i>	<i>Oakland, CA</i>
<i>February 25</i>	<i>Universal Invitational</i>	<i>Miami, FL</i>
<i>March 3</i>	<i>Peter Vidmar Invitational</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>March 5</i>	<i>Southwest Cup</i>	<i>Tempe, AZ</i>
<i>March 26</i>	<i>Arizona State University vs. University of Washington</i>	<i>Hec -Ed Pavilion Addition, Seattle, WA</i>
<i>April 16</i>	<i>Collegiate Nationals</i>	<i>Ithaca, NY</i>
<i>July 9</i>	<i>USA Qualifier</i>	<i>Colorado Springs, CO</i>

Please contact Mark Russo for any updates: 206-524-9480 or ossurkram@hotmail.com