

# WORLD ACROBATICS NEWSLETTER

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*Enhancing Communication Between the Friends of Acrobatics Worldwide*

## TRAMPOLINE TO BE PART OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME IN SYDNEY 2000

### IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD MAKES HISTORIC DECISION

#### URGENT

From: Gilbert Felli, IOC Sports Director  
To: Bruno Grandi, President, FIG  
September 1, 1997

In response to your wish to include trampoline in the programme of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000, at the request of SOCOG, we have pleasure in informing you that, at its meeting on 30th and 31st August and 1st September 1997 in Lausanne, the IOC Executive Board took the following decision:

Trampoline will be included on the programme of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, with a men's individual event and a women's individual event, within the total quota of 304 athletes allocated to gymnastics.

We congratulate you on the entry of this discipline to the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney.

**We're on the road to Sydney.  
Let's Party!!**





## VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-by Charlie Pond, WA First Vice President

### World Acrobatics Members:

What could the Board of Directors say that would influence "You'All" out there to react to the words of your Editor of this Newsletter to get those not yet members of our Acrobatic freedom movement to our next effort. What next effort?

Never mind for the moment! Lani Loken-Dahle is that pillar of dynamic strength and purpose whose example MUST be followed until that time we have members of our every Acrobatic rotators from all nations. Acrobatics are the base of all power and movement—No? Watch football games and watch how they somersault and spin over, through and under the maze of bodies attempting to thwart the ball carrier.

With President Hobie's permission, I charge each of you members of World Acrobatics to just do 9.99% of Lani's 199.99% How? Oh...now to that next effort!

Your mission, if you decide World Acrobatics is worth your ability, Mr. World Acrobatics member...and remember that Lani Loken-Dahle does not have time to be lollygagging with the Newsletter Editor, Program Director of events, Operations Director for Speaker Place and Time—such as encouraging Danny Millman, Jerry George, Bill Clinton and others to share their expertise with our group - so let's let Lani's place be our Editor and for the plus or minus 100 new members she has obtained—Each of us direct our efforts to that 9.99% part of her 100 members. I will obtain before Feb. 5, 1998 at least a dozen new members (more'n 9.99%) so each of you pledge to do likewise. Question—Is that all? No, dadburn it! Each of you get that dozen ACROBATS to Don Spencer's World Class Event—the 1998 Las Vegas Go For It Classic (gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling), the first week in February, 1998. Should they not like World Class Performers such as we viewed in Atlanta, then the show girls abound, the crap tables call, ROB BOLLINGER, World Acrobatics Board of Director member, invites you to the newest greatest show on Earth—the Cirque du Soleil with not only Rob, but his charming and talented Acrobat wife Nathalie to startle and charm you. President Hobie Billingsley said if I failed to get each of you current 100 members to recruit one measly dozen new members/or visitors, then he will impeach me! So persuade your friends and enemies to come to Vegas and have a good time with World Acrobatics for then they will surely desire to become life members. "Yep, Charlie, you blow this assignment and I'll personally place you in the middle of your 'Look-In' circles and make sure you land face down watching the center line of the trampoline bed."

## MEMBERSHIP ALERT!!!

Membership renewal time is here. Within this newsletter is a WA application form. Please complete the form fully, as some information may need updating in the membership record database.

## 39TH ANNUAL NISSEN CUP

"What the Davis Cup is to tennis, or the UEFA Cup to soccer, the Nissen Cup is to Trampolining. The difference is that the man who started it all, is still around to share it: George Nissen. At the recently finished 39th annual competition, George was not only present to hand out the trophies...he even took a bounce or two before demonstrating his now famous handstand, all at the ripe young age of 83, going on infinity. To say the crowd was pleased is putting it mildly. It was during this competition, or shortly thereafter we found out Trampoline will be an official event within Gymnastics at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. He may not be competing, but I'll bet George will be there, handstand and all. He's worked much of his life for this and helped make it happen. Not many people can say that." —Frank LaDue (World Acrobatics member)



George Nissen at the Nissen Cup

Over 130 athletes from 12 countries competed in the 39th Annual Nissen Cup in Switzerland held August 29-30, 1997. The ski resort of Savognin, Switzerland, an idyllic town located in the scenic Swiss Alps, was the sight of this competition that

drew world class trampolinists from all over Europe.

The competition consisted of an A and B group for men's and women's individual trampoline competition, as well as for synchronized trampoline. The level of competition was very impressive. David Martin of France won the "A" group men's individual trampoline competition with a degree of difficulty of 12.8 and a total score of 103.10. Anna Dogonadze-Lilkendey of the Georgian Gymnastic Federation edged out Stephanie Pallanche of France with a degree of difficulty of 10.6 and total score of 98.80 in the Women's "A" individual trampoline division. France dominated the Synchronized trampoline competition by capturing gold medals in both the men's and women's events. At the end of the finals competition, to the crowd's delight, several teams put on a spectacular demonstration of synchronized trampolining using four athletes, on four trampolines, performing identical routines set to music!

The Swiss Gymnastics Federation and the Organizing Committee in Savognin did a superb job in staging this large event. The Competition Director, Eva Graf, always organized and congenial, ran an excellent meet and was a delightful master of ceremony. Organizing Committee President, Rolf Marti, and the other volunteers from Savognin ensured the meet ran smoothly from start to finish.

Always scheduled for the last weekend in August, at a chosen host city in Switzerland, the Nissen Cup is the longest running annual international trampoline competition in the world. Nearly all federations of the FIT (Federation of International Trampoline) have had athletes compete in the Nissen Cup.

Next year's Nissen Cup will be more exciting than ever! Plans are already underway for the 40th Annual Nissen Cup. It is tentatively scheduled to take place once again in Savognin, Switzerland on August 22, 1998, where the townfolk are friendly, sports knowledgeable, and supportive of the competition. Not only will this be an anniversary year for the competition, but it will take place in conjunction with the 1998 FIT World Cup Competition.

-by Dian Nissen-Ramirez



## WAKEBOARDING FUNDAMENTALS

Wakeboarding is an exciting new sport that has grown tremendously since its creation over ten years ago. It combines some of the best aspects of surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding and trampolining. Wakeboarding is all about big tricks, big air, speed, and success.

The sport of wakeboarding has a unique set of equipment. A rider is secured to a specially designed board with a pair of bindings. The rider holds on to a 50-75 foot line behind the boat. The line is made of a non-stretch material such as spectra. This is in contrast to a normal slalom skiing line which is usually made of

polypropylene and can stretch several inches. The non-stretch line used in wakeboarding is crucial for "loading the line," a technique that will be discussed later.

Horizontal distance and vertical height are critical factors in achieving wakeboarding skills. Horizontal distance is achieved by the speed of entry to the wake, similar to a tumbling pass. Speed of entry is controlled by the arc of the turn. The harder a board is

carved away from the boat, as well as the farther away from the wake the turn is started, the more speed that will be generated.

Vertical height is created through releasing line tension. The greater the amount of tension that is built up in the line, the higher the board will go once it has left the wake. One end of the line is attached to the pylon in the boat, the other end is attached to the handle, held by the wakeboarder. By setting the wakeboard on edge, the rider is resisting the pull of the boat. The greater the edge, the more force that is built up in the line. This is called "loading the line." Depending upon the trick to be performed, the board's edge can be set anywhere from 180 degrees (flat on the water, or no edge) through 90 degrees, which is perpendicular to the water's

surface (this is extreme). As the rider loads the line, tension must be kept through the rider's body to properly resist the tension being built in the line. Body tension must also be kept to resist the force of hitting the wake. As the



**Sean hoping to land a front flip**  
the boat, as well as the farther away from the wake the turn is started, the more speed that will be generated.



**View of an "S-Bend" (an inverted 360)**



**Above, Sean Greeley performs a "Melancholy Grab"**



**Below, Sean exhibiting a "Backside Roll"**

rider reaches the wake, the maximum load in the line should be reached to get the most lift. Once the board's edge is released from the wake, the line tension is released, sending the rider skyward.

Many tricks in wakeboarding require different amounts of horizontal distance and vertical height, similar to tumbling. Tricks such as the air raley (where the legs go up behind the body in a Superman position) are better if they achieve a large amount of horizontal distance. A tantrum (back somersault over the wake) looks better if it achieves maximum vertical height.

These are basic concepts that underlie the fundamentals of any trick performed on a wakeboard. I guarantee that when you try wakeboarding for the first time and feel the sensation of the water rushing under your board and the sweet spray against your skin as you cut and carve, you'll be hooked!

*-by Sean Greeley*

*Sean Greeley is a sophomore at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. An avid wakeboarder, Sean works at a wakeboard school called "O'Town." Sean plans on competing at the Wakeboard Nationals in the Men's I Division.*



**Throwing a "Tantrum" (a back somersault over the wake)**

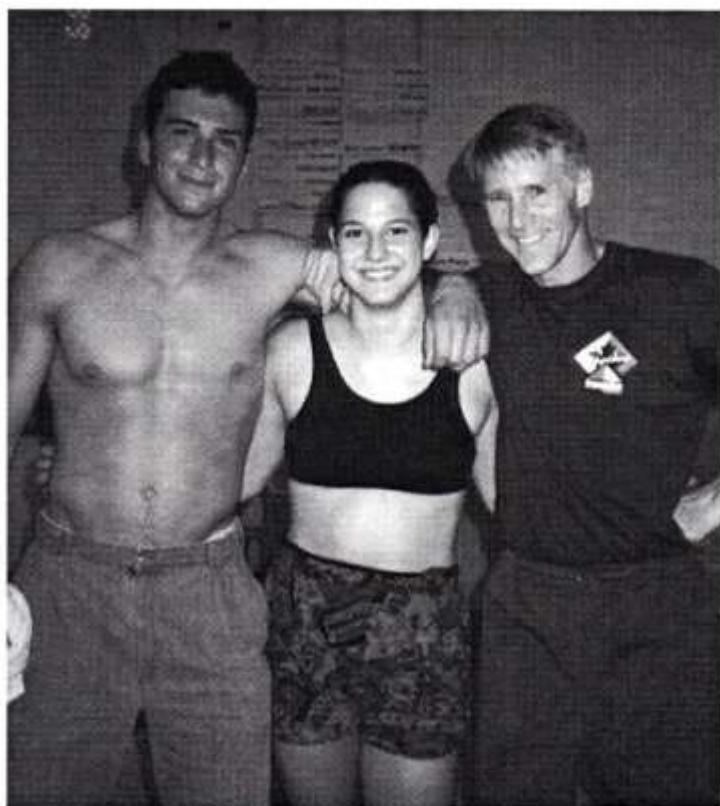


## Events Schedule

### November 3rd—February 8th

Nov. 3-7	Golden Spin Fig. Skate	Zagreb, Croatia
Nov. 5-9	Czech Skate, Josef Dedec Memorial Fig. Skate	Ostrava, Czech Republic
Nov. 6-9	Skate Canada Fig. Skate	Halifax, N.S., Canada
Nov. 7	Allegria (Cirque du Soleil)	Düsseldorf, Germany
Nov. 7-9	Sofia Cup (juniors) Fig. Skate	Sofia, Bulgaria
Nov. 12	GER vs. RUS Trampoline	Aschendorf, Germany
Nov. 13-16	Trophy Lalique Fig. Skate	Paris, France
Nov. 14-16	Piruetten (men, ladies/junior, senior) Fig. Skate	Hamar, Norway
Nov. 15	FIT 3rd World Cup Final Trampoline and Tumbling Trampoline/Tumbling	Dessau, Germany
Nov. 15	FIT 3rd World Cup Final Trampoline/Tumbling	Dessau, Germany
Nov. 19-23	Cup of Russia Fig. Skate	St. Petersburg, Russia
Nov. 20	Quidam (Cirque du Soleil)	Houston, TX
Nov. 22	Salto-Cup, Trampoline	Limbourg, Belgium
Nov. 27-30	NHK Trophy Fig. Skate	Nagano, Japan
Nov. 30	1998 World Junior Figure Skating Championships	?
Nov. 30-Dec. 6	1998 Pacific Coast Sectional Fig. Skate	Seattle, WA
Dec. 1-6	1998 Midwestern Sectional Fig. Skate	Dallas, TX
Dec. 2-6	1998 Eastern Sectional Fig. Skate	Charter Oak, CO
Dec. 4-7	W, National TOP Training Camp Gymnastics	Tulsa, OK
Dec. 4-7	Golden Bear (men, ladies/juniors) Fig. Skate	Zagreb, Croatia
Dec. 5-7	Dual moguls, Moguls, Aerials, Acro Freestyle Skiing	Tignes, France
Dec. 6	Litomerice Cup Trampoline/Gymnastics	Litomerice, Czechoslovakia
Dec. 7	Fig. Skate	New Brunswick, Canada
Dec. 12	Aerials Freestyle Skiing	Kirchberg, Austria
Dec. 13	Haslev Traef and Scandinavian Open	Haslev, Denmark
Dec. 17	Aerials Freestyle Skiing	Piancavallo, Italy
Dec. 17-21	Idel Prize (men, ladies/junior, seniors) Fig. Skate	Kazan, Russia

*continued on page 13*



**World-class trampolinists Matthieu Turgeon  
and Lydia Zanon, with coach Dave Ross**

## THE CRAFTSMAN AT WORK

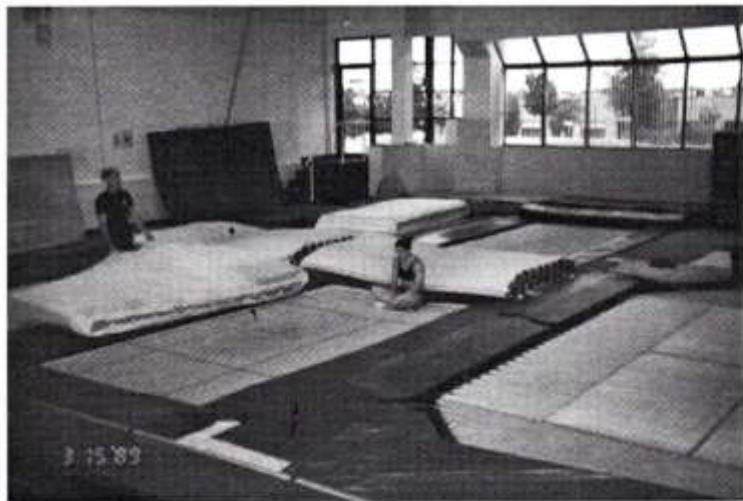
A young man stepped onto the trampoline and within a few bounces he was as high as the rafters. He grabbed hold of one of the rafters, and swung playfully 24 feet in the air. Dropping to the bed of the trampoline, he threw his body into all sorts of somersaults, twists, and turns. He stopped momentarily, declared that he was warmed up, and was ready for his training session on the famed "Super Tramp."

The Super Tramp is 13 feet wide by 20 feet long (a normal competitive trampoline is 7 feet by 14 feet). Created by Dave Ross, you can see it and maybe even bounce on it in Ross' custom built "Skyriders Trampoline Place" in Toronto, Canada. The hand-woven string bed for this Super Tramp has "960,000 holes," according to Ross.

For the past nine years, Ross has created some of the finest trampoline beds in the world. The majority of them have been made to meet the standards of the International Federation of Trampoline and Tumbling. These competitive level beds have been used in many national and international competitions.

The idea of making his own trampoline bed came to mind in 1981, when he was coaching trampoline in Kingston, Ontario. A self-taught trampolinist, Ross' own competitive trampoline career began in 1972 while attending Queen's University. He finished second in the Canadian National Trampoline Championships, and eventually put his experience to work coaching an age-group program. When Ross told his trampoline students that he was going to make his own trampoline bed, they thought he was crazy. According to Ross, their response was, "Dave, you don't make beds, you buy them." But Ross was used to listening to his own mind. He created a crude loom using wooden boards attached to a trampoline frame. On this loom, Ross wove his first braided string trampoline bed.





**Skyriders Trampoline Place in Toronto, Canada**

During the next seven years, Ross researched material and design concepts. His Honors Degree in Physics, from Queen's University, provided him with insightful knowledge as he developed hundreds of computer designs and samples. One day, when he ripped right through a bed, he ascertained the exact breaking strength of the material by studying the strings around the break. He learned which materials hold up the best over constant use, and which materials will fail.

Ross was creative, yet practical when developing his beds. He wanted to create a bed with more stability and rebounding capacity, yet one that was not excessively different from the ones made in other parts of the world and used in international competitions.

In 1988, Ross went into trampoline bed production. A workshop, at the back of his rental property in Kingston, Ontario became his official production site. The space is just 19 feet wide, 26 feet long, and 11 feet high. Sitting at a large loom you will find one of his employees meticulously weaving strands of string, then pushing them together to form a closely interwoven surface. Hundreds of his high-performance beds have been created here. His double mini-tramp and mini-tramp beds are hand-woven in his basement workshop by another employee, Chris Mitruck (1996 World Double Mini-Tramp Champion).

A craftsman at heart, Ross remembers his beginning philosophy: "I should only sell something which I would be happy with myself." Ross' philosophy seems to have worked. His standard for excellence has made his products among the most highly desired in the world, presently selling faster than he can make them.

Ross has toyed with the idea of automating, yet it still seems to be a vague, faraway thought. His stitch-free, seamless trampoline beds are unmatched in their longevity. Although unable to keep up with demand, Ross hesitates to change his high-quality approach for the sake of greater production.

Ross' marketing plan typifies this low-key, high quality approach. He believes that his product should be good enough to sell without the typical advertising means. "The best sales technique is word-of-mouth, from satisfied customers," says Ross. Ross' products speak for themselves—there is no name imprinted on them for advertising purposes. Even the shipping boxes are void of any company signature.

Ross' full product line includes beds, springs and frames for trampolines, double mini-tramps, and mini-tramps. His beds are in high demand, with a current production of approximately 60 trampoline beds, 20 double mini-tramp beds, and 50 mini-tramp beds per year. His springs, which he first designed in 1980, sell at

over 1,000 each month. And, in 1995, he began making frames. He is presently working on a competitive trampoline frame that meets FIT specifications, yet is reasonably priced. As Ross says, "I want to get the sticker price down on the basic frame." With that in mind, he is developing a standard, single-sided trampoline frame with options available at an additional cost. An example of such an option is an attachable double-sided frame.

Ross' company, Rebound Products Inc., has seen rapid growth and recognition. He now has dealers around the world. Fifty percent of his business is in the United States, with the remainder being in Europe and Canada. Besides weaving competitive level beds, Ross creates "hotter," customized beds for professional shows. The trampoline used in Cirque du Soleil's "Mystere," in Las Vegas, Nevada was woven by Ross. In it's upcoming production with Disney World, Cirque du Soleil has again chosen Ross to create a trampoline bed for them—this time a Super Tramp made to their specifications.

As demand increases, we may yet see Ross move toward automated production. But, be assured that if he does it will be at his own time and in his own unique way. In the meantime, Ross will continue with the process he knows best. A process which provides a unique spirit to each trampoline bed he makes.

Besides creating high quality equipment, Ross is the owner of Canada's first custom-built trampoline facility called Skyriders' Trampoline Place. It is home to 35 competitive and 250 recreational trampolinists. Equipped with five trampolines, including four competitive sized ones and the Super Tramp, many of the top trampolinists in the world train there. Ross, himself, maintains a trim physique by regular workouts of weight training, trampolining, and dancing. Although he retired from competitive trampolining for the fifth time at the age of 43, you sense that he may be ready for another comeback. In the meantime, as Ross coaches many fine trampolinists, you can't help but notice his easy, relaxed style as smiles brighten his face.

The young man, Matthieu Turgeon, who bounced on Ross' Super Tramp and played in the rafters, holds the highest degree of difficulty in the world on the trampoline. He has the confidence and ability to go higher and higher. Those same qualities are present in Ross, who many years ago passed beyond the rafters. A "sky rider" all the way, the only direction Ross knows is up. Air time for him is unlimited.

*-by Lani Loken-Dahle*



**Matthieu Turgeon just hangin' out**



# DID YOU KNOW...

## USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1997 U.S.T.A. National Championships were held at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex from June 26-29, 1997. This was the largest competition held at the Sports Complex since its opening. 3,400 athletes from over 140 clubs competed in tumbling, trampoline, and double-mini. They ranged in age from 4-25 years. Competition at all levels of tumbling, trampoline, and double-mini were held with trophies being awarded for the top ten places. Beautiful plaques were given to all participants not placing in the top ten.

Jeanne Atkinson, Waterloo, Iowa, was inducted into the U.S.T.A. Hall of Fame. She received this award in recognition of her many years of hard work and dedication to the sports of Trampoline and Tumbling in the A.A.U. Her efforts have helped the U.S.T.A. and A.A.U. form a strong family. The U.S.T.A. became an Allied Body of A.A.U. five years ago and both organizations have grown stronger together.

Mark Griffith from Kristi's Tumbling and Trampoline Club in Hamilton, Ohio, was named the Nissen-Griswold Athlete of the Year. This was the first year the N.T.J.A. (National Trampoline and Tumbling Judges' Association) gave a \$500 scholarship which was awarded to Ann Hanson of Moser's School of Dance in Strawberry Point, Iowa. The two U.S.T.A. Kevin Ballenger \$500 scholarships, which go to graduating high school senior students, were awarded to Michelle Clardy from Paula's Tumbling Tornadoes in Canton, Illinois, and Josh Lindell from the T-N-T Club in Morehead, Kentucky.

Over 114 Team Trophies were presented to the top men and women's teams in each event and each division. The Over-All Team Trophies were won by T-N-T, Morehead, Kentucky (1st); Patti's Gym, Kewanee, Illinois (2nd); and Paula's Tumbling Tornadoes, Canton, Illinois (3rd).

The U.S.T.A. National Team was introduced during the spectacular opening ceremonies which included a laser light show and fireworks. The 25 member team traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 19-26 to promote the sports of trampoline and tumbling. They performed in Honolulu and appeared on television. The U.S.T.A. funded the entire trip (transportation, motel, and entertainment) for six nights and seven days of wonderful fun and excitement. The Hawaiian Sports, Inc., will be submitting a bid for the 1999 U.S.T.A. National Championships at the U.S.T.A. National Congress in September. With a little bit of luck, we will be enjoying their great hospitality during the 1999 Nationals.

The 1998 U.S.T.A. National championships will be hosted by Patti's Gym of Kewanee, Illinois, at The MARK in Moline, Illinois, from June 18-21.

### Trivia Challenge (from Bil Copp)

What is mere trivia to some are important historical facts to others. Here is the opportunity to show what you know. To be fair, we've selected questions from different acrobatic disciplines. Some are easy, some are tough.

#### Gymnastics

- Easy - Who is credited for inventing the "Flair" on pommel horse?
- Easy - Who is the current Olympic Women's All Around Champion?
- Medium - Who was the American gymnast who played Peter Pan on Broadway?
- Hard - What American gymnast became a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle?
- Brainbuster - The Tsukahara vault wasn't first done by Tsukahara but by whom?

#### Tumbling

- Easy - What tumbling skill is called an "Elliott"?
- Easy - The only woman to win both FIT and IFSA World Tumbling Titles is whom?
- Medium - What American woman won nine National Tumbling titles in ten years?
- Hard - The 7-foot barrier wasn't first cleared by a high jumper but a tumbler. Who?

Brainbuster - Who was the Olympic Tumbling Champion in 1932?

#### Trampoline

- Easy - Who was the first World Trampoline Champion?
- Easy - What woman won 5 consecutive World Trampoline Championships?
- Medium - Who invented "straight-arm" twisting?
- Hard - What trampolinist uniquely achieved seven twists in a somersault?
- Brainbuster - Who won two World synchro championships 10 years apart?

Answers can be found on page 16

## TOM MALONEY

Tom Maloney, one of gymnastic's outstanding coaches, died at the age of 83. Following a long period of Alzheimer's Disease, Tom passed away at his home in Sarasota, Florida in 1996.

Tom represented the United States internationally as a two-time Olympic Coach (1952 and 1960), and two-time World Championship team coach (1958 and 1962). In 1964, he was the Olympic Team Manager. That same year, Tom was the first American to complete the International Gymnastics Judges Course.

In his youth, Tom participated in the Turnverein system; specifically the Swiss Gymnastic Society of Hudson County. It was there that many outstanding gymnasts developed, including Eugene Wettstone and Frank Cumiskey.

At the age of 21 years, and with no college education, Tom was appointed to the prestigious position of Head Gymnastics Coach at Westpoint Military Academy. During his coaching career, from 1931-65, he developed many outstanding gymnastics teams. One of his gymnasts, Sears, won an NCAA Championship title in the 1940's. Another one of his gymnast's, O'Quinn, was a member of the 1960 Olympic Team.

Tom continued to make significant contributions to gymnastics, even after his retirement from coaching. In 1974, Westpoint Military Academy selected him as Honor Coach.

Tom was well known for his dynamic, and highly competitive personality. According to Frank Cumiskey (Tom's long-time friend and competitor), "He was a hard worker and brought out the best in a lot of people. He did a lot for Westpoint and a lot for the sport of gymnastics. Tom was a driver."

Tom was one of the founders and the Business Manager of the National Gymnastics Clinic, which took place in the 1950's and 1960's. The clinic was a favorite winter event for gymnasts, coaches and gymnastics supporters. Tom chose to live his final years in Sarasota, the home of the clinic.

(A special thanks to Abie Grossfeld for providing most of the information in this tribute)



# DID YOU KNOW...

## WINTER OLYMPICS UPDATE

More than 300,000 tickets for the XVIII Olympic Games in Nagano went on sale recently, including tickets for prime events such as the opening ceremony and the figure skating competitions. With a total of approximately 3,000 athletes competing in the Games, scheduled for February 7-22, 1998, the host city of Nagano, Japan is rapidly preparing for hosting these games.

In addition to Nagano City, events will be held in Yamanouchi (Shiga Kogen), Hakuba, Karuizawa, and Nozawa Onsen. Figure skating will take place in the "White Ring" in Mashima, which is in the south-east sector of Nagano City. The half-pipe competition in snowboarding will be held at Kanbayashi Snowboard Park in Yamanouchi Town. The freestyle skiing competition will take place on the existing Iizuna Kogen ski slopes in the outskirts of Nagano City.

The competitive format that will be used for the Games is the following:

In figure skating, 30 skaters take part in each of the men's and ladies' singles, 20 couples in the pairs event, 24 ice dance pairs. Only skaters who were aged 15 or over on July 1, 1997, can compete, except for those under that age who had previously competed in a world championship. The competition will take place February 8-20.

In snowboarding, a total of 120 snowboarders will take part in this inaugural Olympic snowboarding competition. Each nation is permitted a maximum of 14 athletes in this sport, including a maximum of eight males and eight females. Each nation may enter four competitors in each of the four events. There is a giant slalom and half-pipe event for men and women. The preliminaries and finals of the half-pipe competition will take place February 12.

In freestyle skiing, a maximum participation total of 135 athletes has been established. Each NOC may enter up to 14 competitors, a maximum of eight males or eight females. Each NOC may only enter four athletes per event. Preliminary rounds for aerials will take place February 16 with finals scheduled for the 20th.

For more information on the Games, check out the following websites:

Olympic Website: <http://www.olympic.org>

1998 Olympic Games Website: <http://www.olympic.org/games/nagano>

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE UNITED STATES PROFESSIONAL DIVING COACHES ASSOCIATION'S NEW WEBSITE:**  
**[HTTP://WWW.USPDCA.ORG.](http://www.uspdca.org)**

## REDEFINING WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM A SPORTING EVENT

Austin, Texas was host to MTV's "Sports and Music Festival" from October 17-19. The event featured live performances by some of today's best alternative bands, as well as the best alternative sports stars.

Top international athletes from aggressive inline skating, BMX Freestyle, skateboarding and snowboarding competed in a festival setting with great music setting the tone.

In a professional first, the athletes judged each other's performance in each sport by electronic voting. This encouraged athletes to try new moves and demonstrate more creativity.

In another first, MTV built the largest single half pipe ever for the athletes to navigate. Placed on the main stage with live bands such as 311, Sugar Ray and Reel Big Fish, the mood was set for some very exciting action. In addition, the "Big Air" snowboarding competition featured an 80-foot high and 250-foot long snowboard ramp which was filled with snow.

MTV's "Sports and Music Festival" will air on MTV during the weekend of November 7-9.

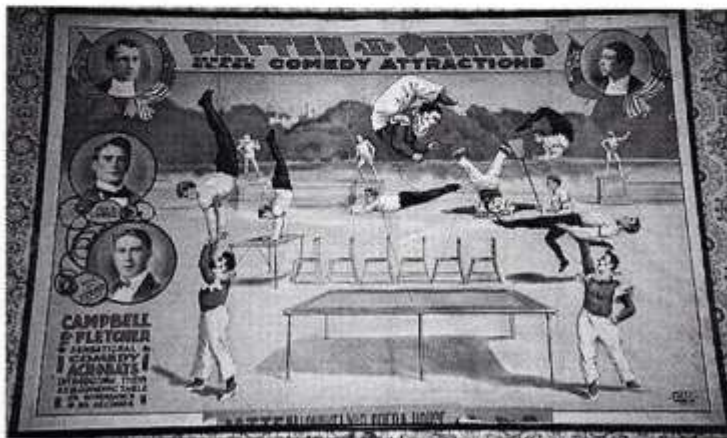
## THE ASA PRO TOUR'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Aggressive Skaters Association (ASA) Pro Tour held its World Championships in Naples, Florida October 11-13. The ASA Pro Tour is the competitive circuit on which the world's top aggressive inline skaters compete. Approximately 80 skaters were invited to compete, based on their final rankings throughout the year.

The athletes competed in two disciplines: vert skating and street course skating. There was both a men's and a women's division. \$30,000 was offered in prize money.

The event attracted over 25,000 spectators. ESPN and espn2 will be televising the event in the form of five (5) one hour shows. It will also be telecast internationally to more than 170 countries around the world.

In addition, the top 70 amateur skaters in North America competed in the ASA's Amateur Championships to determine the individuals to qualify for the 1998 ASA Pro Tour.



A lithograph of a trampolining/acrobatic troupe that dates back to the 1800's. (Photo supplied by Rhys Thomas)





Dropping in on the half-pipe

## "ALL BMXERS REPORT TO EGYPT. ALL BMXERS REPORT TO EGYPT IMMEDIATELY!"

The voice over the microphone echos throughout the pristine hills, which lie at the base of the picturesque mountains of Central Pennsylvania.

A windy, asphalt road serves as passage for those who traverse the region. Among the travelers are Amish community members, riding in their horse-pulled buggies. The air is still, the view is serene.

At the crest of a small hill, the view changes dramatically. In the distance, on acres of gently sloping terrain, are extreme sport and gymnastics facilities unmatched in the world. Woodward Camp is what it's called. If you are a gymnast, inline skater, skateboarder or BMXer, it is the place to be.

The area is dotted with large barn-like structures. Cabins decorate the rise and crest of the hillside, creating an arc-like connection between the larger structures. Countless cement pathways converge upon the campstore/canteen and the large outdoor skate park, the "hub" of the camp. Nestled next to the skate park are the "Taj" dirt jumps, designed by Pro BMXer Taj Mihelich. Adjacent to the canteen is a large swimming pool, with diving boards and a hot tub.

The Woodward Camp extreme sport and gymnastics facilities contain an abundance of equipment and structures: Vert ramps, an in-ground tumble tramp, high bars, indoor bowls, a 100' power tumbling floor, spine ramps, balance

beams, kinked rails, and trampolines everywhere. There is even an outdoor "Aerial Awareness Center," which features three pit-trampolines, each with its own bungee system.

One of the most innovative training stations is in Lot 8, a 19,000 square foot indoor arena which contains three launch ramps, designed specifically with safety and progression in mind. The landing area for the first ramp is a large foam pit, similar to the foam pits used extensively in gymnastics. Under proper supervision inline skaters, skateboarders, and BMXers are able to perform aerial maneuvers, including somersaults, with minimal risk. The second

# WOODWARD

ramp has a resi-pit landing area, with a layer of lexan on top. This landing site provides the athletes with a valuable progression—a cushioned landing, while still being able to ride away from it. Finally, the third ramp has a standard wood landing area which is used by those who have shown competency in the previous stages of learning.

Located on 500 acres, these are the premier facilities in the world for acrobatic activities. But it's what happens inside these facilities that makes Woodward so special. Remember those BMXers ordered to report to Egypt? This large indoor skate park, aptly named "Egypt" due to its pyramid shaped ramps is now full of yelling, screaming, ball-throwing BMXers of all ages, heights and hair color. Lined up on either side of the expansive pyramid shaped center ramp, they are captivated with their favorite recreational activity—dodgeball!

As you make your way along the winding black asphalt path that sprawls throughout the campground, you hear the grating of skateboard wheels as the skaters move from one facility to another. The high pitched sound of the wheels on the asphalt is in contrast to the low level hum that resonates as the skateboarders make their way from coping to coping in the half pipes. The silence, so apparent on the route to Woodward, has been replaced with the sound of activity—constant activity.

Suddenly, campers turn their attention to the buzz of an airplane. Flying quite low, it has some of the campers concerned. "Look out!" they yell as they run to safety. No need to worry though, as this is just another of the typical events at Woodward that keep it exciting. This time the weekly fly-by brings a surprise. Enjoying the tree-top view from the airplane is Dominique Dawes, a member of the 1996 Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team. For the next few days, Dominique will be at Woodward, signing autographs, chatting with campers, and enjoying the activities in which she used to



Hand plant on the half-pipe



Steve Elliot performs for Woodward Campers



Taking the "Taj"



# D RULES!

partake as a Woodward camper.

At 9:00am over a hundred inline skaters await instruction in front of "The School," a 7,200 square foot indoor facility designed specifically for instruction. They meet with an instructor, and other campers of the same ability, to get directions for the day. "Enjoy sitting down now, because I won't let you sit down again until 4:00pm," one of the instructors tells his students. Wary eyes glance back and forth within his group. "We're gonna warm up at the foam pit," another instructor says to his group. This time the eyes are sparkling.

The mid-ability level inliners train in "The School" this period. The first task is to drop in on the ramp, ride up the half-pipe, turn and come down the half-pipe. The next task is to drop in, go up the half-pipe, and come down the half-pipe backwards. Then, the students learn a frontside stall, a frontside stall to fakie, and a backside stall. They work diligently, paying close attention to their instructor.

On the other side of camp, gymnasts also listen closely to their instructor. Vitaly Scherbo, winner of a record-setting six gold medals in Men's Gymnastics in the 1992 Olympic Games, teaches them somersaulting maneuvers from a tumble tramp into a large foam pit. Learning single, double, and multiple twisting somersaults, the campers enjoy the attention of this famous gymnast.

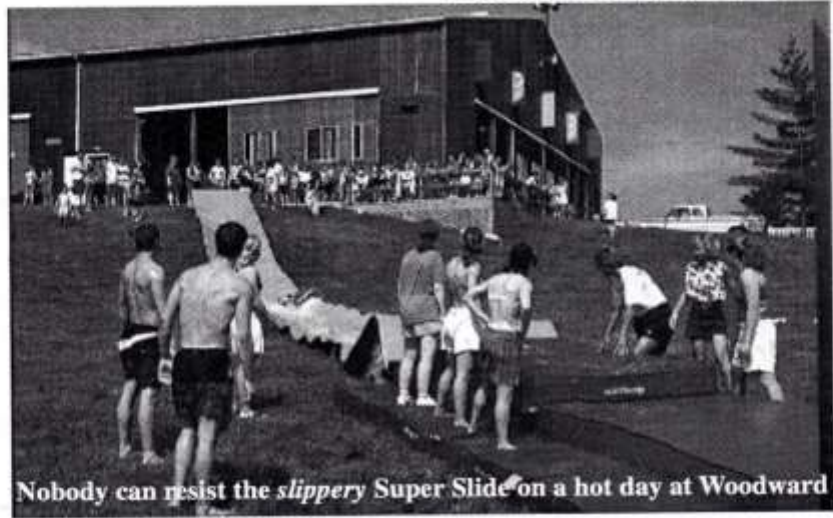
The Woodward canteen is now full of campers. It's a mixing pot of cultures. Gymnasts, inliners, skateboarders, and BMXers blend together



umps in stride

await their turn on the Super Slide - a 40 foot long slide made from mats placed end to end down a hilly terrain. Curved at the sides, it's covered with water and shampoo to make sure it's super slippery! At

the far end the mats are propped up like a ramp—for campers to get lots of air before landing on the pile of thick pads beyond, or in the arms of the notorious "spotters." "Go Helmet Boy!" comes the cry from the campers. Clad in a red helmet and long shorts, Helmet Boy runs and jumps onto his belly like a seal. Arms down by his sides, he picks up speed rapidly. As he approaches the ramp, the question isn't how high he is going to fly, but whether or not he will land on earth. As he flies into the air, screams and laughter emanate from those whose feet are still on the ground. Helmet Boy barely lands on the pads, his body eventually coming to a halt far out in the grass. "Do it again, do it again!" is the response



Nobody can resist the slippery Super Slide on a hot day at Woodward

from the campers.

At 9:00pm, the mini-campers (campers aged 7—9 years) settle into their cabins after a long day of training and recreational activities. The "cabin moms" and "cabin dads" listen as the campers talk about their full day. Four and one-half hours each day are spent in organized instruction, while the rest of the day the campers can choose between training, recreational activities, or a combination of these. Today, several of the campers went horseback riding with R.B., the riding instructor and camp social director. Several other campers spent their recreational time in the gym, getting individual attention from instructors. Now, after an evening bonfire, eyes close, and heads nod off to sleep. A full night's rest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Look Ma, No Hands!



Captivated campers watching a demonstration



will prepare them for the training and events of tomorrow.

On the other side of camp, loud rock music blares out as inliners, BMXers, and skateboarders pump up a storm. At 9:00pm Lot 8 is just beginning to rock. Joining the campers are many of the pros who make Woodward their summer home. Cheers and laughter come from the 12 foot half-pipe as the pros cheer each other on. The list of pros is endless: There's Neal Hendrix, pro skateboarder known for going really high and really fast; Mike Frazier, another pro skateboarder known for his super-hard, technical tricks; Brian Wainright, five-time European Rollerskating Champion who leaves campers and other pros speechless with his insane tricks; Andy Macdonald, famous and fabulous pro skateboarder and winner of the 1996 X-Games in the "Vert" category; Dave Mirra, pro BMXer who won the 1997 X-Games in both the "Vert" and the "Street" categories; and, not to be outdone by the men, there's terrific Donna Vano, pro inline skater, who at the age of 44 is one of the best.

Next to the half-pipe, many BMXers fly high off the ramps. "Hollywood" performs his "Superman Seat Grab." Moments later "Tarantula Head" performs his spectacular "No footed candy bar to cancan to no footer." Pro BMXer, Kenan Harkin, practices his back somersault with one twist, and his double-back somersault (hoping to perfect it for his next competition).

There's motion everywhere. A compact body skates past. Within a flash, the skater has traversed the entire arena, ridden up the vert ramp, and seems to be momentarily suspended on the wall high above. The next instant, he pushes off the wall, rides down the ramp and across the arena, then catches huge air as he jumps from



So... You want me to do what?!

floor exercise mat. For years, Woodward remained strictly a gymnastics camp. But, eight years ago Woodward expanded to include extreme sport facilities. The resultant growth is phenomenal.

Each year new facilities are built to challenge almost 900 campers who attend Woodward weekly. In 1997, "The School," as well as "The Slick Track," a truly Xtreme Go Kart track, became part of the camp facilities. Woodward Lodge, a beautifully designed and decorated guest lodge, was also constructed. The lodge sits on the edge of the campground overlooking the mountains. Available for special guests, and for coaches who bring 20 or more campers to Woodward, the lodge adds a level of distinction and elegance to the rustic camp environment.

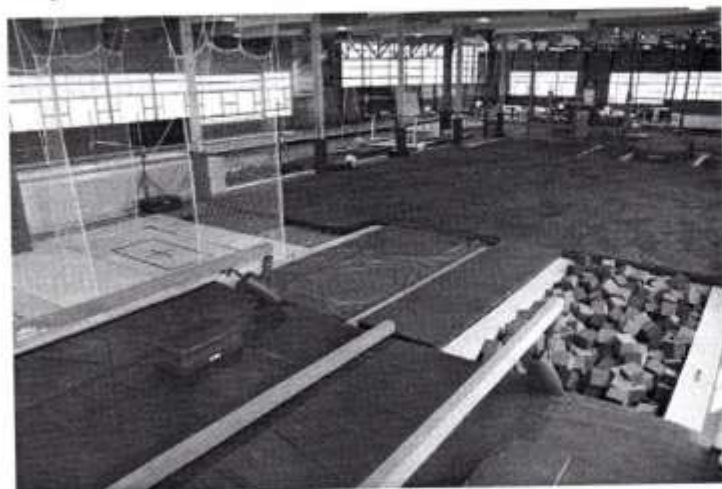
Woodward Camp owners, Ed Isabelle and Gary Reams, live the philosophy that they espouse to their extreme sport campers: "Your sport is extreme. You constantly push things to the edge. It's the only way to learn."

Together, they have pushed Woodward to the edge; the cutting edge for all acrobatic activities. As the pros say, "Woodward Rules!"

—by Lani Loken-Dahle



Pro skateboarder, Andy Macdonald, performs a stylish "Frontside Air" on the half-pipe



Woodward's new 8,256 sq. ft. pit gym addition

one ramp to another. This guy is unbelievable. He's Chris Edwards, the guru of aggressive inline skating.

Twenty-seven years ago when Woodward Camp opened its doors to campers its one and only facility was a large barn. According to the original founder and owner Ed Isabelle, the site was selected because the barn was large enough for a regulation size

For more information contact:

Woodward Camp

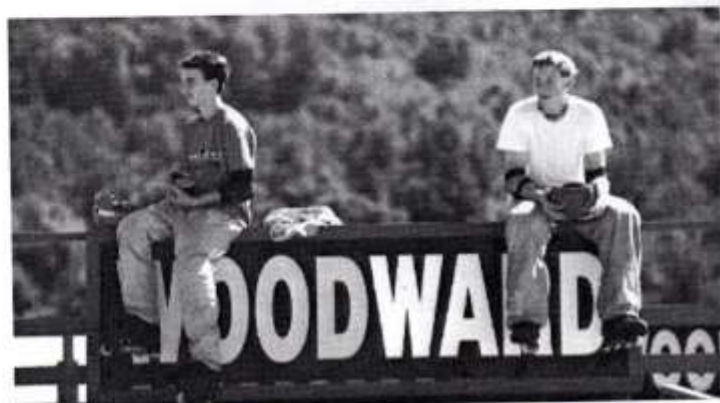
Box 93 Route 45

Woodward, PA 16882

(814) 349-5633 (o); (814) 349-5643 (fax)

email: [office@woodwardcamp.com](mailto:office@woodwardcamp.com)

website: <http://www.woodwardcamp.com>



A photo capturing a rare moment of stillness at Woodward



# THE 1998 WORLD ACROBATICS CONGRESS

The 1998 World Acrobatics Congress has something for everyone. Scheduled for February 6-8, it will take place in the Las Vegas Convention Center, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Held in conjunction with the "Go For It Classic," the nation's largest gymnastics festival with over 1,800 gymnastic, trampoline, and tumbling competitors, the congress is certain to educate, entertain and delight the friends of acrobatics worldwide.

A variety of educational workshops are scheduled throughout the days. Topics to be covered include the following: "Look-In Twisting"; Trampoline Techniques and Progressions for Extreme Sports; Professional Acrobatics - A Path for Your Future; Trampoline in the 2000 Olympics; Safety and Legal Aspects of Acrobatic Sports; USOC/Red Cross Sport Safety Training (a new requirement of all sport coaches of NGB's that receive funding from the USOC); Motivation through Role Modeling; 1997 Sports Acrobatics World Championships; New "Alternative"/Extreme Acrobatic Sports (Free skiing/ Acrobatic Surfing/ Waterskating); Bil Copp's videos, including his famous "Wipe-outs!"; and many other informative topics.

Evening activities will include a champagne bus tour of Las Vegas, dinner at a fine Italian restaurant, Cirque du Soleil's famous show "Mystere," and your choice of the many outstanding Las Vegas attractions.

You will receive a flyer in early December which will provide specific information on housing, transportation, congress site, agenda, and cost. Whether you can join us for the entire three days, or just for an hour, we hope to see you there!



Host Joe Schabacker and guests

Several board members suggested changing the name because of negative feedback from the acronym usage, W.A.S. It was also suggested that the word "society" was a possible dilemma for the organization, viewed from the intergenerational aspect. Following a great deal of discussion regarding the name change, the board finally decided to drop the somewhat limiting word "society" and hereafter be known simply as World Acrobatics.

Dick Smith, Treasurer, gave his financial report to the group. Bruce Frederick presented the latest version of the constitution and by-laws. Membership renewal was an important issue for the group. A decision was made that membership be handled on an "anniversary of joining basis."



Hal Frey, Glenn Sundby, and Dick Smith

## BOARD CHANGES NAME WITH A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

On Saturday, September 6th, members of the World Acrobatics Board of Directors met in Chandler, Arizona. Board member Joe Schabacker graciously hosted a reception at his home the night before the meeting. Between shuttling people to and from the airport and organizing the meeting, Joe ensured that everything ran according to schedule. Many thanks to Joe for his outstanding contributions and support.

With 11 of the 15 members of the Board of Directors in attendance, it is evident our organization has a dedicated and enthusiastic group to support it. The following Board members were present: Hobie Billingsley, Charlie Pond, Paula Boelsems, Dian Nissen-Ramirez, Dick Smith, Bruce Frederick, Hal Frey, Lani Loken-Dahle, George Nissen, Joe Schabacker and Glenn Sundby. The meeting was also attended by two other World Acrobatics members, Don Robinson and Bronson Janes, who provided very valuable input. Their support and ideas were greatly appreciated by all.



Lani Loken-Dahle, George Nissen and Dian Nissen-Ramirez



Board of Directors working to solidify the future of WA

It was decided that World Acrobatics would benefit from becoming a non-profit organization. The initiation of an application to become a 501(c)(3) needs to be accomplished by the end of 1997. Bruce Frederick is in charge of this project and is currently researching and taking necessary action.

A marketing and public relations committee was formed to promote World Acrobatics. The board agreed that a priority is to reach out to the international acrobatic community.

The next congress is planned for Las Vegas, February 6-8, 1998, in conjunction with the "Go For It Classic."

-by Dian Nissen-Ramirez



## WORK IN PROGRESS

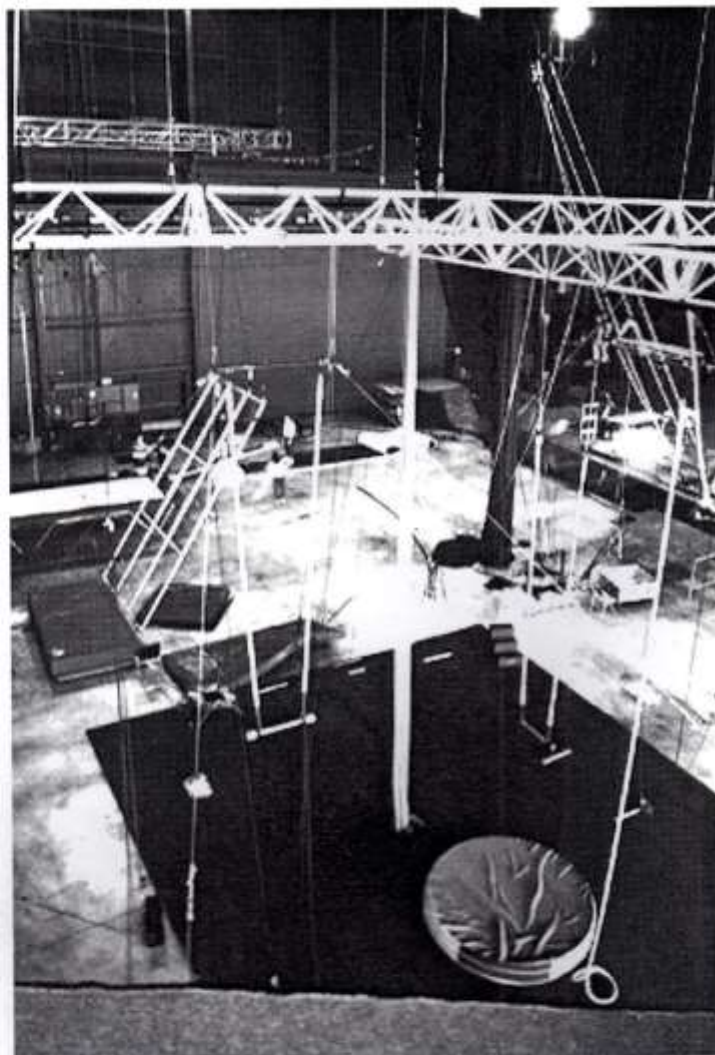
They called themselves the *Club des talons hauts* (the High-Heels Club). They walked on stilts, juggled and ate fire. They entertained young and old, alike, in the riverside town of Baie-Saint-Paul, a haven for artists, art collectors, and tourists. They decided to organize a festival and called it the "Fete Foraine de Baie St-Paul" (the Baie Saint-Paul Fair), an entertainer's festival where street performers could come together to exchange ideas and techniques. The visionaries among them saw an opportunity to reinvent the circus; to entertain using a mixture of circus arts, theatrics, and street entertainment; to "reach beyond the confines of the ordinary and ... project us into the intense liberating realm of the imagination." Cirque du Soleil was born.

In 15 years, Cirque du Soleil has become one of the largest cultural businesses in North America. Over 15 billion spectators have been entertained by over 6,000 performances in more than 123 cities. Sales are in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Growth continues at a rapid pace, and nowhere is this expansion more noticeable than at the site of Cirque's new headquarters in Montreal.

On February 20, 1997, Cirque du Soleil inaugurated the *Studio*, its new headquarters in Montreal. The renowned architect, Dan Hanganu, designed this \$30 million facility. It is a creation and production centre to meet the needs of Cirque du Soleil's many activities. Covering 150,000 square feet of surface area, the *Studio* houses more than 500 employees. It has training and rehearsal studios, costume and construction shops, a large kitchen with adjacent cafeteria, and administrative, creation, production and marketing offices.

Montreal, a veritable hub of Quebec cultural activities, was a natural choice for Cirque du Soleil's headquarters. Cirque also wanted to honor their community of origin. As Daniel Gauthier, Cirque President said: "Because even though we stage our productions worldwide, our origins were here, in Quebec; we therefore felt it was important to keep our centre of operations in Montreal."

Joining hands with the city of Montreal, Cirque is now an important part of a major urban development project, the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex, which is transforming a former quarry into a futuristic urban park. There are three phases of development of this project. The first phase, the *Studio*, is complete. Cultural activities at the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex will revolve around the *Studio*. The



One of the huge training gymnasiums for Cirque performers

second phase, the "public space," will be located at the north end of the *Studio*. This site will be part of a future urban park, serving as a gathering place for community cultural activities, in the true circus tradition. An exterior movie screen is built into the *Studio* wall, and members of the community will have an opportunity to come and enjoy activities held there, year-round. The final phase will be the "Village," located at the south end of the site. It will house Cirque's many performers and contributors who spend time in Montreal before heading out to the different locations across the globe where Cirque presents its shows.

Seen from afar, the *Studio* presents an austere facade. The exterior metallic facing lies in stark contrast to the life and energy within. Only the small swatches of blue and yellow, symbolic of Cirque's blue-and-yellow Big Top reveal the connection. Upon entering the facility, the starkness remains. Huge cement pillars, wrapped in metal, reach skyward through the full height (four floors) of the building. The wide open spaces are interspersed with exposed pipes and ductwork. Lights hang by cables, reminiscent of lighting in the Big Top.

The architectural theme, "work in progress," depicts Cirque's creative technique. As Gilles Ste-Croix, Director of Creation says: "If there is one quality that most artists chosen for a Cirque du Soleil production must have, it is the



Cirque du Soleil's new *Studio* in Montreal



ability to keep an open mind while a show is being developed.....This form of work in progress calls for everyone involved to adapt easily and be receptive to change.... the resulting openness promotes inclusiveness and individual recognition. New ideas are the ruling force."

Like Cirque's shows, the *Studio* contains a plethora of new ideas. Unpredictable architectural elements are plentiful. The unexpected rules. The emphasis on a constantly evolving facility is demonstrated by the huge boiled fabric mural created by the present artist-in-residence. It originates in the Agora, the very hub of the building, and weaves through the building, connecting to walls and reaching out into the open space. Blues, greens, a slash of red and orange—colors taken from Cirque's shows—are incorporated into the textile element of denim transformed into pulp. The mural lives and grows, embodying change itself.

In September 1997, over 300 newly selected performers arrived in Montreal to train at the new Cirque headquarters. During their many months of training, they will come to know this facility well. They will train hard in one of the huge gymnasiums. They will become acquainted with the technicians who hand equipment and set elements (lighting, pulleys, ropes, etc.) from a spectacular cable grid located 18 meters from the ground. In the main cafeteria, they will choose from an international cuisine. They will eat at stainless steel tables with other performers and the full-time Cirque staff. The sun will shine in through the large expanses of windows and pierce through the countless holes in the stainless steel chairs, adding a playful quality to the space. Returning to training, they may look up to see their lunchtime acquaintance gazing down from an office and into the gym. This visual contact, between interior spaces, reminds people that Cirque du Soleil is about performance.

When these performers leave the Cirque headquarters, they will know that they are part of an amazing team. A team which honors its humble roots as street performers and is determined to return to the community the support given them during their own development; a team whose social commitment reaches deep, especially into the lives of youth around the world; an innovative and interdisciplinary team which bases its decisions on the optimal use and development of human resources; and, a team that is "governed by a single overriding principle: do not treat anything as final, and always strive to adapt to new realities."

-by Lani Loken-Dahle

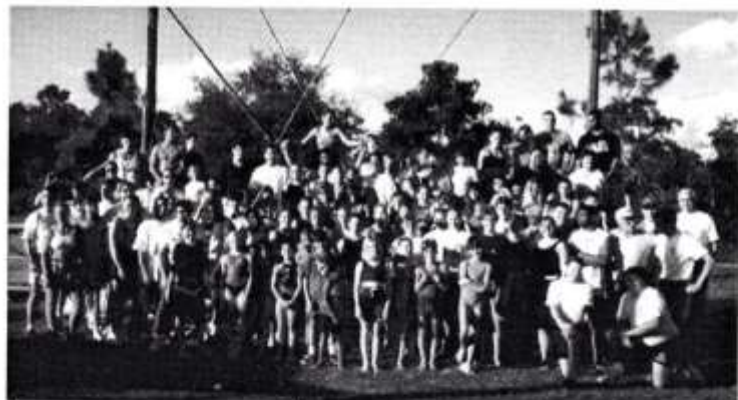
#### Credits\*

1. "Cirque du Soleil," 1996; Brochure created in cooperation with Frenette Monette Communication Inc. and Bazin Larouche Sormany Vigneault, Communication et Affaires publiques.
2. "Cirque du Soleil BIG TOP;" "Searching for the best;" newsletter produced by the Casting Department of Cirque du Soleil, Vol. 2, no 5, April 1997.
3. Cirque du Soleil Public Relations; Press Releases.
4. Cirque du Soleil Website: <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com>

## Events Schedule cont. February 6th—March 8th

Dec. 18-20	2nd Eurocup of Paris	Villepinte, France
Dec. 19-20	Dual Moguls, Moguls Freestyle Skiing	La Plagne, France
Dec. 19-21	Champions Series Final Fig. Skate	Munich, Germany
Dec. 22-23	MWR, USA Gymnastics Board of Directors Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
Dec. 28-30	Sweden Precision International Fig. Skate	Gothenburg, Sweden
<b>—1998—</b>		
Jan. 4-11	1998 U.S. Figure Skating Championships Fig. Skate	Philadelphia, PA
Jan. 7	Allegria (Cirque du Soleil)	London, England
Jan. 11-18	1998 European Championships Fig. Skate	Milan, Italy
Jan. 23-25	Moguls, Acro, Aerials Freestyle Skiing	Blackcomb, BC
Jan. 28-Feb. 1	1998 Eastern Precision Sectional Fig. Skate	Fischburg, MA
Jan. 29-31	1998 Pacific Coast Precision Sectional Fig. Skate	Lakewood, CA
Jan. 30-Feb. 1	Acro, Moguls, Aerials Freestyle Skiing	Breckenridge, CO
Jan. 30-Feb. 1	Dan Precision Team Skating Cup Fig. Skate	Copenhagen, Denmark
<b>FEB. 6-8 WORLD ACROBATICS CONGRESS</b>		<b>LAS VEGAS, NV</b>
Feb. 6-8	French Precision Team Skating Cup Fig. Skate	Rouen, France
<b>FEB. 7-22 1998 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES</b>		<b>NAGANO, JAPAN</b>
Feb. 7-22	I.S.U. Winter Council Meeting Fig. Skate	Nagano, Japan
Feb. 11	Quidam (Cirque du Soleil)	Dallas, TX
Feb. 12-15	Spring Precision Team Skating Cup Fig. Skate	Milano, Italy
Feb. 14-15	Rhythmic Challenge Gymnastics	Colo. Spgs., CO
Feb. 14-16	Paekdusan Prize, Pyongyang Fig. Skate	Korea DPR
Feb. 24	Aerials Freestyle Skiing	Muja, KOR
Feb. 26-Mar. 1	Budapest Trophy Fig. Skate	Budapest, Hungary
Feb. 27-	Polish Trophy (pairs, dance/seniors; ladies, dance/juniors)	
Feb. 27-	Nordic International Competition (ladies, men/seniors, juniors)	
Mar. 1	Tumbling World Cup	Lille, France
Mar. 7-8	Trampoline and Tumbling World Cup	Poznan, Poland





## CELEBRATE WITH US!

It's the 50th anniversary of competitive trampolining and the year of Olympic acceptance for the sport. Celebration of these two milestones will take place at the 5th annual FLORIDA WORK-OUT in Naples, Florida on December 27-30. Trampoline champions and living legends from around the world will be on hand for the event.

Even without the celebration, Florida Workout is a unique event. It's not a competition. It's not a clinic. It's a Trampoline and Tumbling HAPPENING! There's nothing like it anywhere else in the world.



The very best athletes and coaches from today and yesteryear come together to practice, socialize and learn from each other and help beginners learn about our sport under the warm Florida sun. World Champions from as many as 14 countries come every year along with many pioneers and living legends in the sport.

Days are spent (mostly outdoors) at our two special sites: Naples Progressive Gym Complex and lush Lowdermilk Park on the beautiful Gulf of Mexico.

Evenings are filled with social events for everyone including the now legendary "Wing Ding." This year's highlight is Trampoline's 50th Anniversary Party & Olympic Acceptance Celebration. There's also the annual Trampoline & Tumbling story telling contest with prizes for the winners. **BOOK YOUR FLIGHT EARLY!** December is VERY busy in Florida and airline flights are full by November. In 1996, some had difficulty getting flights because they waited too long.

The best airports are 1-Naples 2-Fort Myers 3-Miami 4-Sarasota 5-Fort Lauderdale 6-West Palm Beach. There are also major airports in Tampa and Orlando but the drive to Naples is 2 and 3 hours respectively.



For more hotel, schedule and registration information contact: Carole Smith-Telephone 1-941-598-3700

FAX 1-941-598-9594 or Bil Copp- Telephone 1-941-426-0631 (e-mail Triffis@AOL.com.)

## SURFING CYBERSPACE



All right, you've gone out and purchased everything you need to get on-line, and you are ready to get started. So, what do you do now?

How about a little surfing.

That's right, surfing. That's what it's called when you go on-line on the World Wide Web and start looking for information. The best way to learn how to surf is to practice, as is the case with anything. But, like anything else, you have to start somewhere.

First, get your program up and running. Some people might use America On-Line (AOL), others may have CompuServe. Some people simply use Netscape. Any web browsing software will work.

The next step is to figure out what it is you want to look for. If you don't already have the address of the web site you want to visit, that's OK. Usually, you won't. That's where the browser comes in handy. If you do know where you want to go, there should be a place for you to write the address. Probably just a wide, skinny window that will show a cursor when you click in it. There may be an address already shown when the screen comes up. If so, it will look something like this—<http://www.blahblah.com>

For those of us who don't know the address for what we want, but we have an idea of what we're looking for, or maybe we don't, there are companies out there that specialize in helping people browse by providing web searchers. A searcher is a program, usually one that is run from a web site, that allows you to type in the category or key words you use to look for sites. The searcher then checks for sites that contain those key words and then tells you the names. You can write down those addresses, or you can just click on them and go there.

Let's say you are interested in trampoline. You would then call up your browser, locate the icon or section titled "Search" or "Net-Search," and then you will be connected with whatever it is that your program has designated. You do not have to use the searcher that your program tends to use. Usually, software companies will work together to promote their business. So, the net-search site that your browser has may not be the best one for your purposes. In general, however, most people seem to use "Yahoo". There are many others, and they are easily found, as you will soon find out.

OK, you have your searcher up in front of you. There will usually be a number of possible ways for searching, but the easiest is by just clicking the cursor in the box next to the word "search". When the cursor is blinking, you can type whatever key words or phrases you think will tell you what you need to know. In this case, you would type "Trampoline", and then hit return.

Now you'll see a new list of options. It should have a bunch of possible web sites, and a brief description of them, or an excerpt from them. If the list is too long, with lots of stuff listed that you are not interested in, you can go back to the searcher, and type something more specific. Let's say you type "Trampolines+Germany", or "Trampolines+Sydney+Olympics". Now you will get a list that has sites listed that include the information specified.

This method can be used to look for anything. If it's on the net, a good searcher can find it.

With this medium, the best thing for newcomers to do is play. You will learn more from making mistakes than if you are told everything to do. Who knows, you may even find something you didn't even know you were looking for.

-by Christopher Harley





## DONNA VANO

"Fit" Magazine's September/October issue featured "the women behind the hottest new sport: aggressive skating." Among those featured was Donna Vano, who, at the age of 44 is one of the top aggressive inline skaters in the world. An interview with this phenomenal woman, who broke through barriers and paved the road for women in aggressive inline skating, will be in a future issue of "World Acrobatics Newsletter."



## LOOKING UP TO GRANDPA

George Nissen and his one and one-half year old grandson, Jake, appear in the November 1997 issue of National Geographic Magazine. In an article on "Aging," Nissen is pictured performing his trademark "handstand," while grandson Jake looks on. Be sure to pick up a copy!

## ABIE GROSSFELD - JUST HANGIN' AROUND!

So what does the United States famous men's gymnastics coach and admirable ambassador of gymnastics, Abie Grossfeld, do in his spare time? In *Gymnastics Balancing Acts*, a recently published book written by Christina Lessa, Abie hangs one-handed from a high bar. That in itself is nothing special, but the fact that he does so while holding several large trophies and dressed in a trenchcoat with sweater and ascot beneath, makes for a very unique and engaging image.

This beautiful book captures accomplished gymnasts and coaches in artistically designed photographs. Some photographs reinforce media-inspired beliefs; others indulge in contemplative or playful antitheses of these beliefs.

The richness of this book lies in the creative balancing acts of photographs and accompanying words. Whether it's Abie talking about "your personal power," or Mary Lou Retton discussing risks and challenges being "dangerous to your comfort zone," these rare glimpses into the physical and emotional strengths of some of our finest acrobatic performers make this truly an inspirational book.

## ROB BOLLINGER

Congratulations to Rob Bollinger! He recently accepted a new position with Cirque du Soleil. After many years performing in *Mystere*, Cirque du Soleil's permanent show in Las Vegas, Bollinger has been promoted to head coach and trainer for the Bellagio project. The Bellagio project is a second permanent show Cirque du Soleil will stage in Las Vegas, beginning in 1998. Performed in the theatre of a new five-star hotel, the Bellagio, this will be Cirque's first aquatic show ever.



## JOHN DEININGER

At the recent U.S. Aquatics National Convention in San Francisco, California, John Deininger was selected as National Nominating Committee Chairperson for US Diving.

Congratulations John!



## RON MUNN

Congratulations to World Acrobatics member, Ron Munn. Munn has recently been hired as head of International Sales by Body Masters Sports Industries, Inc.

Munn is a former outstanding trampoline champion. According to his former coach Newt Loken, "Ronnie was an outstanding trampolinist, having received his early training from superb coach Nard Cazell of Amarillo, Texas. He continued his high level of performance while at the University of Michigan by winning the 1959 National AAU Trampoline Title. He was a truly great performer."

Munn began his sales experience with the Nissen Corporation. For the past 25 years he has been head of International Sales for Universal Equipment.

Body Masters Sports Industries, Inc. is a company that specializes in high quality fitness equipment; specifically selectorized and free weights for medical rehabilitation, professional sports teams and fitness centers. Started in 1976, it is based in Rayne, Louisiana.

Munn's responsibilities include setting up and coordinating a worldwide sales network for distribution of equipment.

At Body Masters, Munn joins two other well-known professionals with extensive gymnastics backgrounds: Fred Martinez, Vice President of Marketing & Sales, and Jerry George, Director of Research & Development.

## DAN MILLMAN

Dan Millman has just completed his new book, *Everyday Enlightenment: Opening the Twelve Gateways to Personal Growth*. Published by Time-Warner, it is due to be released in April. In addition, Warner Bros. has just completed negotiations for film production of Millman's famous "Way of the Peaceful Warrior" book series. Many congratulations to our first World Trampoline Champion!



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

"World Acrobatics Newsletter" is reaching an international audience. Here Emmanuel Durand, "Manu," of the French national trampoline team, enjoys his first copy, hand delivered by Dian Nissen-Ramirez at the 39th Annual "Nissen Cup." A few days later, Manu performed before the Olympic Committee in Lausanne. His excellent performance may be one of the reasons Trampoline will be an official Olympic event in the Sydney Games of 2000.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In regards to the topic of twisting—teaching techniques—in 1932 my father, Dell Bedard, also my coach, taught twisting at Seward Park in Chicago, Ill. He drew a chalk pie shape on the mat and RO, FF, sommies to bullseye in the pie. Then, "Look" to each quarter turn. He stood at the "Look" point, and caught stray action mid air. Verbal cue "Go." With each additional twist, the sommie was taken higher. Once, twice and three twists. He never dropped me.

Forward twisting began with tins/tigna/tins/tigna/barani, to bullseye in the pie. Same progression, "Look" to barani 1/2, full, twice. All landings were to rebound so another trick could follow (later, front out, etc.). To begin tumbling in two directions in one pass.

Dad used the cue "Look" until I was 6, and then went to "Go," as I got into elementary school.

—Irv Bedard

That was just simply a great tribute to Larry Griswold. I was really proud to read it. Thanks for your kindness and thoughtful insight to a very personable yet complicated person. I know Larry would be smiling down. I am sure that your article has given a lot to people who weren't able to touch Larry and yet now they have some idea of him.

—Don, Robin, and Chris Dunfield

The WAS magazine keeps getting better. Most informative. And I was glad to read the Larry Griswold story. Years ago, when Frank Bare Sr., Glenn Sundby, George Hery, Fred Saunders, and myself were touring Europe with our little trampoline team for the USGF, we stopped by the Moulin Rouge to see Larry Griswold's act.

I, being a 16-year old kid, didn't have a coat or tie with me—required for admission—so Larry G. sent me his coat and tie to wear so we could get in and see his act. That's the kind of guy he was. Hilarious and an awe-inspiring act."

—Dan Millman

Thank you very much for the Fall, 1997 issue #2 of your Newsletter. I have just finished reading your lead story on Mr. Larry Griswold and have enjoyed it very much. The photographs were well chosen and very interesting. It was a nicely done piece and gave the reader a real appreciation of the scope of Mr. Griswold's accomplishments.

I have and prize highly an autographed copy of Mr. Griswold's book on trampolining. It remains one of my favorite books on the subject because it is so lucid and straightforward.

Although your first issue was good, this second issue is yet even better. The halftones, writing, and layout are all improved. Thank you again for sending me a sample.

Very truly yours,  
Michael Nelson  
Astraea, Inc.

I just received your Fall newsletter. The issue looks great and thanks for saying so many great things about the fieldhouse and the rest of the complex. (I especially liked the pictures you were able to get of the facility!)

—Bill Hofheimer  
Walt Disney World Sports

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Lydia Podokayeva, Kathy  
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Tumbling: Triple twisting  
Double Back - Straight,  
Chrystel Robert, Barb  
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Trampoline: Dan Millman,  
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