

# WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3/Issue 2

Spring 1998

*Enhancing Communication Between the Friends of Acrobatics Worldwide*

## ....PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE....

### LEGENDS BANQUET



Frank Bare Sr.

On Saturday, March 14, 1998, nearly 300 people gathered in Eugene, Oregon to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics. The celebration was in tribute to Dick and Linda Mulvihill, founders/owners of the academy, the many Olympians who had trained at the academy, and some of the outstanding legends in gymnastics history in the United States.

Gymnastics legends in attendance included: Bill Strauss, Muriel Grossfeld, Tracee



Bill Strauss & Muriel Grossfeld

Talavera, Jackie & Larry Fie, Frank Bare Sr., Ed Knepper, Hal Halvorson, and Scott Crouse. Humorous speeches dotted the evening, as guests enjoyed a delicious banquet dinner. Beautiful awards were given to each of the legends. The glass pyramid shaped awards depicted a foundation of strength, and a peak of beauty and courage.

A beautiful video, composed of 25 years of pictures of training sessions at the academy and gymnastics competitions throughout the world, was shown at the conclusion of this memorable gathering. The video captured the attention of the young and the old alike, bridging the transition between past, present and future.



Jackie Fie



The Mulvihill Family:

Back row, from left: JoJo, Dick, David, Linda. Front row: Matthew





## ACTING PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-by Charlie Pond,  
World Acrobatics Society  
First Vice President

### World Acrobatics Society Members:

At the Board of Directors meeting on February 5, 1998 held at the Sahara Hotel the night prior to the World Acrobatics Society's annual congress, President Hobie Billingsley resigned his position. His obligations to many national and international organizations demanded his frequent absence from the USA. These demands made upon him did not allow him sufficient time to fulfill his duties as President of the World Acrobatics Society, as he would have wished. Reluctantly, the Board of Directors accepted his resignation.

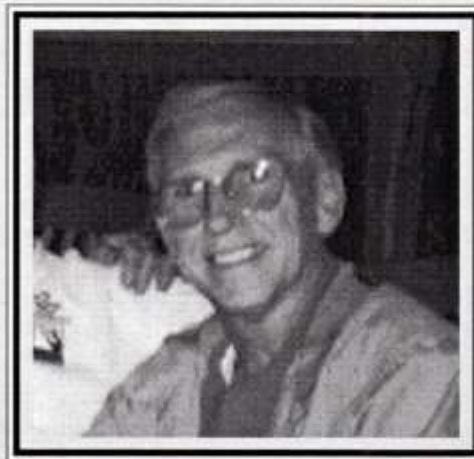
As Acting President, I immediately appointed a search committee consisting of Paula Boelsems, Dick Smith and Dr. Bruce Frederick, who acted as Chairman. The candidates selected by this search committee to fulfill the unexpired term as President were Bil Copp, John Deininger, and Don Leas.

The result of the ballot by the Board of Directors tabulated a majority of votes for Don Leas as President of the World Acrobatics Society until February 2000. Congratulations Don!

It has been an enlightening, interesting, humbling, dynamic and fruitful three months since February of 1998. By serving as the Acting President, I observed and evaluated the actors and actresses as they passed in review. Some of you, though you are in the minority, would like your judgments to override. The brilliant, energetic, knowledgeable and functioning members of the Board of Directors of the World Acrobatics Society give me this warm feeling about our future. Some of you are going to help propel our star of success. Those of you that ride out our "Los Ninos" threats will praise the day that Bob Bollinger came up with this momentous idea for this greatest of all sports groups or Societies - and it is surviving and growing more powerful as it enters its adolescent stage of development. Thank you for putting up with me for these exciting three months. I shall enjoy being the observer - yet - I note one of my duties as First Vice President is that of Parliamentarian. I shall consult with Attorney Ed Danser for detailed information of that responsibility in order to best serve the Society.

Don Leas, former diver, trampolinist and gymnast at Michigan State University under George Szypula, has a background history which should serve him well as our President. He often exults, "I beat Abie Grossfeld at the Big 10 Gymnastics Championships in the 50's." To Abie's query as to how?, Don stated that yes, Abie had won both the Big 10 and the NCAA All-Around title, but that he (Don) had gained more team points for Michigan State than had Grossfeld for Illinois! Don Leas' record is outstanding. Not only did he coach his women's diving teams to national championships, but many of his women won national diving titles including representing the USA in diving at the Olym-

pic Games. At the Olympic Games, held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1996, Don was responsible for the diving venue and the organization of the diving event. We are most fortunate to have such a leader for the next two years. A more detailed report of President Don Leas will be in the next issue of the World Acrobatics Society Newsletter. Buena Suerte, Senor Presidente Don Leas, Vaya con Dios...Carlos de la Gunita (Charlie Pond).



**DON LEAS, NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF  
THE WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY**

### ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.

Join other World Acrobatics Society members in a special fund raising for your organization. A long-time acrobatics enthusiast has offered to match funds donated to the World Acrobatics Society. **Every dollar that you donate will be matched by this donor**, who wishes to remain anonymous. Send your donation, large or small, to Dick Smith, Treasurer; World Acrobatics Society; 5511 N. Quail Run Rd.; Scottsdale, AZ 85252; USA. Make checks payable to World Acrobatics Society.

### VIDEOS OF CONGRESS PRESENTATIONS FOR SALE!

Videos of many of the presentations at the 1998 World Acrobatics Congress are available.

These include presentations by Dan Millman, Jerry George, Don Robinson, Joe Schabacker, and John Deininger. For purchase information contact

Lani Loken-Dahle at

541-342-8633; email: lloken@oregon.uoregon.edu



# MEMBER'S FORUM

*An Opportunity for Members to Speak Out*

*This issue: An article by Bob Bollinger*

## THE EVOLUTION OF COMPETITIVE TRAMPOLINING AND DIVING: IS THERE A DISPARITY BETWEEN THE TWO?

Within the course of the past 60 years, I have been heavily involved in both competitive trampolining and competitive diving. During this time period I have witnessed and studied the natural evolution of these sports both in terms of skill progression and aesthetic style of performance. As a result of this interest and study, I have come to one major conclusion: TRAMPOLINING has, indeed, progressed geometrically, whereas DIVING has lagged far behind arithmetically.

Let me provide some concrete examples to support this conclusion. In the 51 years since Charlie Pond held the world's first competitive trampoline competition in Dallas, Texas, the sport of trampolining has not only evolved, it has been greatly refined. The difficult skills such as a 'Double Twisting Triple Back' (Barani-in Rudy Out Fliffus-out) are not only being done, they are executed by competitors today with a new style of twisting (straight arms-straight legs) that was thought impossible and 'poo-pooed' two decades ago. Improvement in equipment, the introduction of the 'Axial-Rotation' system of difficulty evaluation and bold experimentation have added many new and intricate skills to the realm of trampolining.

### WHAT ABOUT DIVING?

Unfortunately we have not witnessed the same evolutionary progress in the sport of competitive diving. To be sure, there have been added to the diver's repertoire some new dives such as the inward, backward and reverse 3-1/2 somersaults, and the double twisting forward 2-1/2, but, for the most part, competitive diving has lagged far behind competitive trampolining and divers are still utilizing the same twist initiation methods that they were using 40 years ago!

### CAN DIVING BE BROUGHT UP TO PAR?

The question here is: "What can be done to improve and refine competitive diving so it is no longer a 'boring' spectator sport where virtually every competitor executes the same list of dives?"

### HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

Eighteen years ago, Hobie Billingsley, Dick Kimball, Steve McFarland, Dick Smith and myself traveled to the national AAU Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1979 and 1980, I had been asked by US Diving to apply the 'Axial-Rotation' research I had done 20 years earlier for the sport of trampolining to the sport of diving. During those two years, US Diving sent me around the United States to confer with diving coaches and competitors on the feasibility of using this system to more objectively evaluate the 'difficulty' of those dives that were, at that time, in the book. Not only did this research involve American diving coaches, but Europeans as well, including diving authorities from both East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Using 'Pearson Product-Moment Correlations' to validate my research, I developed an Axial-Rotation System for competitive diving that, with few modifications, is used today. This research broke the 3.0 difficulty ceiling for optional dives and allowed such dives as the forward 2-1/2 with 2 twists and the inward, backward, and reverse 3-1/2 somersaults to be entered into the books.

At the AAU Convention in Las Vegas, I passed out a book I

had written on the research entitled: Concepts of Difficulty in Competitive Diving. In this book I stated that at least 40 NEW dives could be added to the menu of competitive dives that would not only make the entire sport more unique and challenging, but would reveal new vistas of experimentation for both coaches and competitors.

In spite of the fact that many of the 40 new dives suggested had been successfully and well executed by two of the nation's top divers at that time, less than a half dozen new dives were actually entered into the book. My son, Rob (1980 Big Ten & NCAA 3-Meter Springboard Champion) had upon many occasions, skillfully executed both the 1-1/2 twisting backward and reverse 2-1/2 somersaults from the 3-meter board. Performing as a professional at Sea World of Ohio, Ron Merriott (1984 Olympic Bronze Medalist) performed a full-twisting reverse 2-1/2 somersaults layout from 3 meters that would have drawn 9's and 10's from any panel of judges! Most of the other 40 dives in the suggested list were also performed well and aesthetically. Where was the diving world while all this was transpiring? One thing is for certain: They were not involved in any bold experimentation and as a result, I believe the sport of competitive diving has suffered.

### STRAIGHT ARM-STRAIGHT LEG TWISTING

Competitive trampolinists and freestyle skiers today can safely and skillfully execute triple twisting triple somersaults with straight arms and straight legs. This method of 'twisting,' first proposed by former Nissen Educational Director, Dick Zuber many years ago, was put into practical application by Britain's Paul Luxon at the 1972 World F.I.T. Trampoline Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. Today, all trampoline competitors (both male and female) employ this method of twisting which adds greatly to the aesthetic quality of their performance. The world of competitive diving needs to adopt this method of twisting and the sooner the better!

### CATCHING UP!

It is my firm belief that if the diving world would adopt new measures of concern and experimentation that the sport, as a whole, could attain the same level of aesthetic refinement and skill opportunities that are presently being enjoyed by the sport of competitive trampolining and freestyle skiing.

*We invite all members to express their viewpoints on this subject. Member's Forum is dedicated to offering opportunities for members to discuss their views on a variety of subjects. Statements and opinions expressed in the Member's Forum are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the members of the World Acrobatics Society, its Committees, or the Editor or Editorial Advising Board of the World Acrobatics Society Newsletter. Articles should be sent to the World Acrobatics Society Editor, or submitted via email to: lloken@oregon.uoregon.edu*

## Events Schedule May 1—August 22

May 1	USA Gymnastics Executive Committee Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
May 2-3	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Charleston, SC
May 2-3	USA Gymnastics Board of Directors Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
May 7-10	FINA/USA Diving Grand Prix	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
May 3-7	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	New York, NY
May 8-10	Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships	Sevilla, ESP
May 14-17	Torneo Internacional de Clavados	
	Diving Grand Prix	Juarez City, MEX
May 16-17	Wakeboard Master's Qualifier	Okahumpka, FL
May 15-17	Canadian Gymnastrada	Ottawa, ONT
May 17-25	FIG Congress	Vilamoura, POR
May 22-24	2nd USA Team Trampoline Trial (USATT)	Greensboro, North Carolina
May 22-June 7	Allegria (Cirque du Soleil)	Hamburg, GER
May 23-24	Wakeboard Masters	Pine Mountain, GA
May 29-31	Wakeboard Vans Triple Crown	Orlando, FL
May 31-		
June 14	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	Montreal, CA
June 5-7	U.S. Rhythmic Gymnastics National Championships	Colorado Springs, CO
June 6-7	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Austin, TX
June 7-11	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	Hamburg, GER
June 13-14	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Shreveport, LA
June 19-21	International Youth Diving Meet	Waldkraiburg, GER
June 20-28	X-Games	San Diego, CA
June 24-29	USSA Invitational International Meet & USA	
	Team Trials in Sports Acrobatics	Riverside, CA
June 26-28	Hungarian Diving Grand Prix	Budapest, HUN
June 27-28	Wakeboard World Cup	Germany
July 1-9	USA National Trampoline Championships (USATT)	St. Paul, MN
July 3-5	Volksbank Diving Grand Prix	Vienna, AUT
July 4-5	Wakeboard World Cup	Sweden
July 8-10	Swedish Cup	Ronneby, SWE
July 11-12	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Hartford, CT
July 13-15	Internazionali de Roma	Rome, ITA
July 19-26	Goodwill Games (Gymnastics)	New York, NY
July 22-Aug 9	Allegria (Cirque du Soleil)	Antwerp, Belgium
July 22-Aug 23	Quidam (Cirque du Soleil)	Chicago, IL
July 23-27	Goodwill Games (Diving)	New York, NY
July 25-26	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Vancouver, CA
Aug (TBA)	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 1-2	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Portland, OR
Aug 4-9	USSA National Championships in Sports Acrobatics	Fairborn, OH
Aug 4-9	Speedo National Junior Diving Championships	Largo, FL
Aug 8-9	Wakeboard Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA
Aug 11-16	U.S. Summer National Diving Championships	Atlanta, GA
Aug 15-16	Wakeboard Jet Jam	Anaheim, CA
Aug 19-22	John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships	Indianapolis, IN

continued on page 13

## NCAA GYMNASTICS HONOR COACH

The NCAA Gymnastics Honor Coach Award is presented annually to a men's gymnastics coach, in recognition of an outstanding coaching record and contributions to the development of gymnastics for over twenty-five years. The recipient is selected by secret ballot of his fellow coaches. This year, two coaches were awarded this prestigious honor: Francis Allen, University of Nebraska Men's Gymnastics Coach and Fred Roethlisberger, University of Minnesota Men's Gymnastics Coach. They were honored at the College Coaches Association's annual banquet held at this year's NCAA Championships at Penn State University, April 16-18. The following discussions summarize their notable contributions to gymnastics.

### FRANCIS ALLEN

Francis Allen just completed his twenty-ninth year as head coach of the University of Nebraska Men's Gymnastics Team. His teams have won twelve Big Eight Conference Titles, and eight NCAA Championships, including an unprecedented five consecutive NCAA team titles. Nine Nebraska gymnasts have represented the USA in Olympic competition. Allen has coached 33 gymnasts to 146 All-American Awards and Nebraska gymnasts have won 35 national titles. Three gymnasts have won the Nissen Award given annually to the nation's best senior gymnast.

The 55-year old Nebraska native has been named Midwest Region Coach of the Year four times, and National Coach of the Year eight times. He was also named USA Olympic Coach for the 1980 Olympic Games, which were boycotted by the USA. He served as coach of the USA team at the pre-Olympics in Barcelona and the World Championships. Three Nebraska gymnasts were on the 1984 Gold Medal Gymnastics Team in Los Angeles.

Allen competed on the University of Nebraska Men's Gymnastics Team under the coaching of Jake Geier. He was a conference champion on parallel bars, was co-captain of the 1965 team, and was a NCAA All-American on parallel bars and horizontal bar. While in high school, Allen competed for Phil Sprague's Lincoln High Links.

Coach Allen has assisted in the development of the Junior Olympic program and has served on many national and international committees at the senior level.

### FRED ROETHLISBERGER

Following graduation from the University of Wisconsin, Fred Roethlisberger began coaching at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in 1968. He then moved to the University of Minnesota in 1971 where he continues coaching today. His teams at Minnesota have been Big Ten Champions 11 times, and his gymnasts have captured 48 individual Big Ten Titles. He has coached two Nissen Award winners.

Roethlisberger was named Big Ten Coach of the Year four times, and Midwest Region Coach of the Year five times. The United States Gymnastics Federation selected him as Coach of the Year four times. He served as head coach of the USA Team at the World Championships in Dortmund, Germany in 1994. He has served as President of the Elite Coaches Association, and served on the United States Gymnastics Federation Board of Directors. He was inducted into the USAG National Gymnastics Hall of Fame and the University of Wisconsin Sports Hall of Fame. He was Athlete of the Year at the University of Wisconsin.

continued on page 13



## THE WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

The World Acrobatics Society is actively seeking financial contributions in order to make it the best that it can be at promoting acrobatic activities around the world. A long-time acrobatics enthusiast has offered to match funds donated to the World Acrobatics Society. **Every dollar that you donate will be matched by this donor**, who wishes to remain anonymous. Send your donation, large or small, to Dick Smith, Treasurer; World Acrobatics Society; 5511 N. Quail Run Rd.; Scottsdale, AZ 85252. Make checks payable to World Acrobatics Society.

At the World Acrobatics Congress, held February 6-8 in Las Vegas, Nevada, several fund-raising events took place. These included the following:

1) A raffle in which the prizes consisted of several of the official Olympic Commemorative Coins, for the 2000 Olympics. The raffle was a joint fund-raiser for the World Acrobatics Society and the Go For The Gold Booster Club. These coins were originally purchased by Charlie and Pamela Pond at the Olympic Store in Sydney, where they were selling like "hotcakes." A special thanks go to the Ponds for donating these for fund-raising purposes.

2) A donation of a percentage of sales of Dan Millman's books. Following Dan Millman's presentation, Border's Bookstore sold many copies of Dan's books to his audience. A percentage of total sales was donated to the World Acrobatics Society.



World Acrobatics Society members gather at a recent special Executive Board meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Left to right: Hal Boelsems, Paula Boelsems, Lani Loken-Dahle, Charlie Pond, Pamela Pond, Dick Smith, Helen Smith, Joe Schabacker (front).

## THE AUSTRALIAN ACROBATIC SPORTS GROUP - SHARING IDEAS ACROSS ALL ACROBATIC SPORTS

The Australian Acrobatic Sports Group was formed by Peter Spence of the Victorian Institute of Sport in Australia to share ideas and techniques fundamental to acrobatic sports. These sports all have a unique role to play in understanding how to use our body in space relating to force and time. This is what makes gymnastics, trampolining, tumbling, sports acrobatics, ski jumping and other aerial sports so exciting to learn and at times complicated. Sharing concepts, new ideas and techniques across all sports can only improve our coaching and in turn improve the performance of our athletes.

Sport is becoming more and more competitive and new ideas are constantly being trialed to produce results. Putting our heads together here in Australia has assisted us in sharing ideas across all sports. What is even more exciting is the sharing of ideas on an international basis.

In November 1997, Charlie and Pamela Pond hit Australia just like the movie TWISTER. "Making an Impact," Charlie's presentation, "Look-in Twisting," was well received by the Acrobatic Sports Group. In his presentation he used two divers who had never twisted. In 15 minutes he had the divers learning about twisting step by step. They were smiling ear to ear as they started to grasp the concept. In attending this session three things impressed me; Charlie's attention to basics, his excellent manner with children, and the immediate success of the look-in twisting technique. What a concept; being able to see where you are while you are twisting. Make's sense to me!

It is great to see people like Charlie and Pamela forging ahead at such a delicate young age. Proving that:

- An old dog can teach young dogs new tricks.
- The look in twisting technique has many applications and is simple to teach and learn.
- Sharing information across the world will improve our teaching technique and therefore aid athletes to achieve more!

As Charlie said, our job is to stand away from the ego and say "Hey, what do you think about this concept?"

The idea is to "Have a Go!" as they say downunder.

Thanks, again, Charlie and Pamela Pond.

-by Lisa Shuck

Lisa's company "Kidskills Australia" delivers gymnastic-based programs in primary schools. Their motto is "Building foundations for movement". They also work at the other end of the spectrum teaching high level athletes how to use their bodies in space in regard to landings, injury prevention and increased performance.

Lisa can be contacted at [lisa@kidskills.com.au](mailto:lisa@kidskills.com.au)



# DID YOU KNOW...

## THE 1998 NCAA MEN'S GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1998 NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships were held in the new Bryce Jordan Convention Center, at Penn State University. University of California, Berkeley won the team title for the second consecutive time, and the fourth time in school history.

In the team preliminaries, California immediately secured a small lead and continued building its lead to finish in first place, two and one-half points ahead of second place, Iowa. Going into the last two events, Illinois was second, Oklahoma was third and Iowa was fourth. In the last rotation of events, Iowa moved up to second, and Illinois to third. Since only the top three teams advance to team finals, Oklahoma was eliminated.

California secured a small lead at the beginning of the team finals, and maintained it throughout the first four events. In the fifth event, parallel bars, Cal appeared to falter. Iowa closed the gap to 1.2 points. However, then the Cal Bears moved to horizontal bar, a strong event for them. Cal presented five solid routines which increased their lead and won them the team championship. Iowa finished second and Illinois finished third.

This competition was the finale for Cal's remarkable turnaround since Coach Barry Weiner's arrival there seven years ago. They finished the season undefeated in dual season competition. They won the Mt. Pacific Sports Federation Championship and the West Region NCAA Championships. And finally, triumphantly finished the season by winning the team preliminaries and finals at the NCAA Championships.

Many individuals provided excellent competition in all of the events. Temple's Robert Gerlach won the Floor Exercise title with an outstanding routine. He displayed an excellent mixture of front and back tumbling.

In the pommel horse, four individuals challenged for the gold. Josh Birckelbaw of Cal competed his optional routine flawlessly

to win this event with a difficult routine and excellent form. Marshall Nelson of Nebraska placed a close second.

There were many routines with good strength and swing skills in the still ring competition. Dan Fink of Oklahoma won the event, unanimously, from all the judges. He showed good holds, beautiful swing, and stuck his dismount.

In vaulting, Travel Romangoli, from Illinois, won the event by using a Kasamatsu with a 1/2 twist for his vault. Placing second was Josh Birckelbaw of California who used a Kasamatsu with a full twist.

In parallel bars many gymnasts had small misses. Defending champion Marshall Nelson, of Nebraska, completed his routine with only minor errors and repeated as NCAA Champion.

The horizontal bar was exciting with many excellent routines performed. Todd Bishop, of Oklahoma,

executed an outstanding routine which will be remembered for years. His routine included back giants, to a stoop in to back circle, to double German Giants, to stoop in, to lift out to regular giants, to a reverse double flyaway with 1/2 twist. He landed with no movement and received a 9.9 average score. Every person in the gymnasium stood up to cheer this outstanding routine.

California, Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Penn State all had many excellent gymnasts in the competition which indicated the strength and depth of their programs. Brigham Young University also competed well and gave evidence of future power in the NCAA meet. The University of Michigan had a solid team and with promising new recruits, Michigan plans to be represented as a team in the future NCAA Championships.

The Penn State Athletic Department hosted a reunion of Penn State Alumni Gymnasts. Many fans and friends attended this reunion which honored Penn State gymnasts from 1940 through 1997.

-by Hal Frey



UC, Berkeley wins 1998 NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships

## WORLD CUP TUMBLING AND TRAMPOLINE

Results of the 3rd FIT Tumbling World Cup & 1st FIT Trampoline World Cup held in Poznan, Poland, March 7-8:

### Women's Tumbling:

1. Wiktorja Weselak (Poland)
2. Erin Maguire (USA)
3. Marlene Bayet (France)

### Men's Tumbling:

1. Brad Davis (USA)
2. Stephan Bayol (France)
3. Adrian Sienkiewicz (Poland)

### Women's Individual Trampoline:

1. Irina Karawiewa (Russia)
2. Tatiana Kowalewa (Russia)
3. Oxana Tsyguleva (Ukraine)

### Men's Individual Trampoline:

1. Eugeni Beliaew (Belarus)
2. Dawid Martin (France)
3. German Knyrchew (Russia)

### Women's Synchronized Trampoline:

1. Irina Karawiewa/Irina Slonowa (Russia)
2. Claire Wright/Kirsten Lawton (Great Britain)
3. Natalia Karpekowa/Galina Lebedewa (Belarus)

### Men's Synchronized Trampoline:

1. German Knyrchew/Sergiej Iachev (Russia)
2. Jeremy Brock/Michel Greene (Canada)
3. Wieslaw Haczekiewicz/Krystian Sawicki (Poland)

# DID YOU KNOW...

## TRAMPOLINE TIME LINE

Now that trampoline is an official Olympic event, changes in the administrative scheme are taking place. On the USA national level, discussions are taking place with USA Gymnastics (USAG) about budgets, Olympic selection procedures, bylaws, insurance, the registration process and the overall transition. On the national and international level, the following time line is expected (provided the membership of each federation votes in favor of the merger):

1. The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) will take a final vote on the merger with the International Trampoline Federation (FIT); (May 1998)
2. FIT will vote on the merger with FIG (October 1998)
3. USATT will vote on the merger with USAG (November 1998)
4. FIT and FIG will officially merge.  
USATT and USAG will officially merge (January 1999)

(from "Technical Connection,"  
2nd Quarter 1997-98;  
a publication of USATT)



USSAF Director  
Glenn Sundby  
doing a photo  
pose with  
partner George  
Wayne (1950)

## GREAT YEAR FOR AGGRESSIVE INLINE SKATERS

1998 is a great year for skaters competing in ASA events. The ASA Pro Tour features 13 events including eight stand alone events and the World Championships, produced by ASA Properties. The other four events include two "X Trials" and two "B3" events staged by the X Games group at ESPN. All ASA Pro Tour events will be broadcast on ESPN and espn2 and will be distributed in about 170 countries outside of North America.

The ASA Amateur Circuit spreads to five global geographies in 1998. These include: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

ASA Membership will be reopened in an exciting way in March. Changes to the program include: A lower membership fee, insurance included in all memberships and non-photo ID cards, replacing the former photo ID cards. All skaters who compete on the ASA Amateur Circuit will need to join the Association.

(<http://www.aggro skate.com/news.html>)

## GYMNASTICS EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The only performance standards that currently exist for gymnastics equipment are those addressing equipment used for international competition. There are presently no performance and safety requirements for training equipment and domestic competition. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is seeking interested parties to participate in the development of standards which will help manufacturers produce safe equipment, inform gym owners about what equipment they should buy, and make gyms safer for gymnasts.

The proposed standards are: 1) A classification for landing mats which will classify mats according to their hardness (or shock attenuating characteristics); 2) A standard for above ground and inground landing pits which will address the correct way to build or specify such pits; 3) Preventive maintenance and inspection procedures for gymnastics apparatus; 4) A standard for floor exercise surfaces which will be similar to the landing mats classification.

For additional information, contact Martha Nichols-Ketchum, (515) 386-3125, ext. 205

email: [mnicholske@americanathletic.com](mailto:mnicholske@americanathletic.com)

(from ASTM Standardization News; May 1998)

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." -Winston Churchill

## GYMNASTICS LEGENDS CHALLENGE

(BY BRUCE FREDERICK)

\*Match the Legend with the Description

1. Marcia Frederick Blanchette
2. Dominique Dawes
3. Muriel Davis Grossfeld
4. Kathy Johnson-Clarke
5. Newt Loken
6. Cathy Rigby McCoy
7. George Nissen
8. John Roethlisberger
9. Glenn M. Sundby
10. Peter Vidmar
11. Eugene Wettstone
12. Leopold F. Zwarg

1. "We're Not Doormats Anymore!"
2. Dean of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches
3. America's Tenacious Gymnastics Swan
4. Rebounding All Over the World
5. A Magazine and a Dream
6. From Peanut to Peter Pan
7. Backbone of the "Mag Seven"
8. Golden Captain from California
9. Historic gold and a Toe-On Takachev
10. Gymnastics Historian and Author
11. "What Else Is There?"
12. Give a Cheer for this Author

Answers can be found on page 16



Frank Bare II is one of the world's foremost experts when it comes to Aerial Skiing. Much of what that sport is today is due to him. Both as an athlete and a coach, he has excelled. But this winter, in Nagano Japan, as coach of three of Australia's top aerial skiers (two of which were overall medal favorites), he suffered an unexpected loss when the women failed to qualify in the semi finals. We were fortunate to speak with Mr. Bare about this upsetting loss, as well as his plans for the future, and his personal interests.

*Let's start at the beginning. You were exposed to acrobatics at a young age. When, exactly, did you begin taking a more serious interest in acrobatics, and did that interest turn into a desire to be the best?*

My father started the United States Gymnastics Federation, which is now known as USA Gymnastics, and ran it for twenty-two years. During that time, as I was growing up, I was exposed to some of the great gymnasts and gymnastic coaches of the time. They came over to the house and threw me around on the trampoline and just kind of showed me what fun gymnastics and acrobatics is. I competed on the gymnastics team in high school for four years, and never really took it seriously. It was always something fun to do—I enjoyed the process more than the competition.

When I graduated—I graduated early from high school—I moved up here to Salt Lake City and started working for the great Charlie Pond. I saw that he had a freestyle program. He had a bunch of skiers that wanted to learn how to flip. I was intrigued by these people, and got into their program with them. We'd go out skiing, and I wasn't a very good skier, but I loved to get big air. In gymnastics, in high school, high bar was my favorite event because you could launch off it and get as much air as possible. So I got into doing these snow jumps, and started doing flips on snow. It gave a whole new meaning to big air.

Later that same year I won the first three World Cups on the tour, never took less than third place in any of the rest, and won the overall World Cup Grand Prix title. So, everything just kind of happened in a short period of time; but, all of it was based on having a good time and enjoying the essence of the acrobatics rather than the competitive aspect of it.

Basically, acrobatics just built on itself instead of me thinking, "Oh, I want to set a world record," or be a world champion or anything like that. I wanted to test my acrobatic limits and push those, and I wanted to test the boundaries of the sport of freestyle aerial skiing, which was still a very young sport at that time.

*After winning everything there was to be won—*

(Frank laughs) Well, everything except for an Olympics, which is too bad. But the sport was so young, it didn't even qualify for amateur status until 1980.

*But, you eventually made the transition from athlete to coach, and again you achieved success. Your reputation in the sport is one of respect and renown, and your athletes have always held their own at the highest levels. Did you translate the idea of keeping it fun to your coaching, and if so, do you think that has been an important factor in your success as a coach?*

Well, I try to keep things fun; but with acrobatics being such a learned sport, you can't ignore the equation of the harder you work the better you get. There is a tremendous amount of work involved in getting up to quad twisting triples. But that hard work doesn't have to mean that the athlete's having a bad time, just that he or she needs dedication. You have to really want to get to that elite level, and many people don't get there, but the ones who do start out with the belief that they can. So, as a coach, you take that belief and you build on it, and reinforce it, and the next step is just going through the learning process, and the training. Then, sequence up through a few seasons and pretty soon, the athlete's probably where he or she wants to be.

I have been very happy with my results as a coach, and I attribute that to being around some of the greats as I grew up. Just watching them, the men and the women, and watching their temperament, how they work with people. A lot of the times, you're so

young, you're not even perceptive to some of the things you're picking up. A lot of the knowledge of coaching, and traits that I have now, I recall seeing in some of those gymnastic coaches.

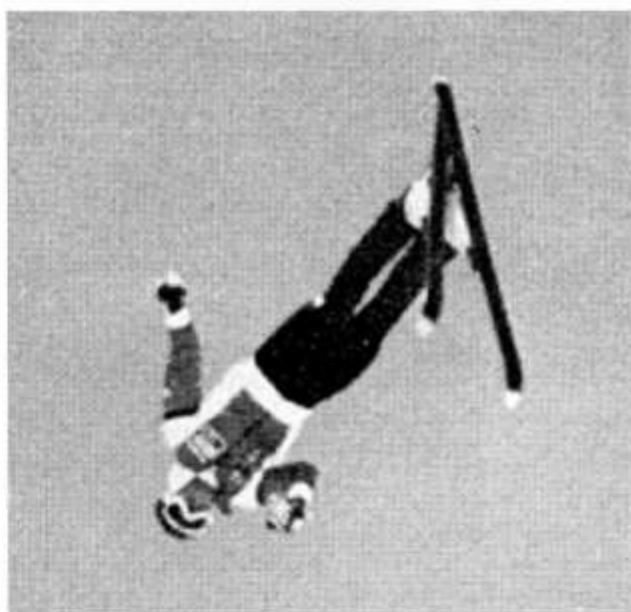
It's kind of fun. I've learned as I go. Each year is a tremendous learning process. You try to keep an open mind and pick up knowledge from new experiences and other coaches, and channel that into a mixture with past experiences and things you learned long before, and grow as you go. Each year is different.

*When coaching at the elite level, the athletes you deal with have already learned so much of the mechanics of the sport—not that you don't always have to work on fundamentals—but that aspect of coaching has changed. It has been said that*

*coaches at that level are more like psychologists. Do you find that you deal more with training the athlete's minds and their preparedness mentally than you do the physical skills?*

Well, it's a twofold experience. It's very difficult to work with the mental aspect of it. In this day and age, it's such a science to achieve success at the elite level. So, a lot of times I bring in people from outside, like sports psychologists, when there is something there that maybe someone else can do better. Whether or not that works sort of remains to be seen. Sometimes yes, but not always.

At the Olympics we did everything we possibly could to prepare, but we certainly cut ourselves short by means of too much pressure. Sports in general have that aspect of chance, and you can't do anything about that. But yes, there is a lot of psychology involved, because there is a lot more expectation. There are a lot



7 Time World Aerial Ski Champion



# PION, COACH, STUNTMAN, ACTOR

more stress factors involved in loading up an athlete's expectation.

Sure they're going to be great, but when push comes to shove and they're out there, a lot of things start to come out. The first thing is fear: Fear of failure, fear of injury. In any high risk sport, there is always that underlying fear. But that's part of the excitement too. So you just try to control that fear.

In the summer I concentrate primarily on physical aspects and training; setting up schedules, working on skills, increasing fitness and strength. Then in the winter, during competition time, I work more on just trying to maintain their focus. A lot of times, that is the biggest factor, just finding a way to keep the athletes focused, or trying to get them focused again after they lose it. There are also lots of times where there's nothing you can do. The athlete just decides what is important and what's not, it's up to them. They are adults in this sport, the age range is from about eighteen to thirty. So, there is a different psychology involved than in a sport like gymnastics where the athletes can be very young.

**You mentioned the Olympics. How did it affect you as a coach to see your athletes go through all of that? Also, how did it make you feel to find out that they still wanted you as their coach, both the athletes and the Australian Olympic committee?**

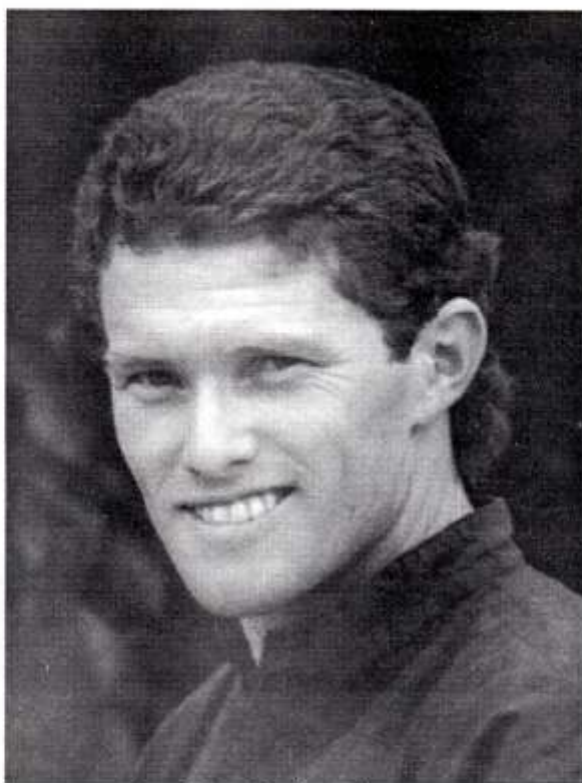
I've been coaching at the elite level since '87, and it was the first time that I've either gone to a world championship event or an Olympic event, and not taken home at least one medal, if not more. And, I had done everything that I thought was possible to prepare my three athletes. All indicators during the World Cup events leading up to the Olympics showed some signs of struggle, but the potential was there. Each athlete had gotten on the podium at least once during the season, and one of the women had won the Breckenridge World Cup that had occurred right before the Olympics.



Frank featured in a Nikon advertisement

the fact that being a new team, that had never really had an opportunity to win a big event as a group, put too much pressure on them.

It was devastating to see years of work fall apart by means of



Frank Bare II • Actor/Stuntman

of them to recognize my effort and not just throw all that out. Lots of organizations tend to just put the coach in the wash when things don't work out perfectly. But in my case, we had won in the World Cup going into the Olympics, of course we failed at the Olympics, but there were three more World Cup events after the Olympics, and we won all of those. And, my women finished second and third at the Grand Prix. So the overall success was good, but there was just one of those times that you wish didn't happen. So, that was at least not ignored. We're in negotiations right now to decide if I'll go for another four years, but the jury is still out.

**What are your plans for the future? Do you want to stick with coaching at the elite level, or are there other desires and aspirations?**

Right now, my desire is to make amends for not succeeding at the Olympics, by dominating the sport for the next few years—whether that's coaching for a team or individually, I don't know.

One thing that I get a big kick out of is stuntwork. My passion is very strong towards the movie industry, so I would like to do more of that. But I also like to coach too.

As far as the fun going out of it, sure there are times when you just want to throw your hands up and quit. Because at the elite level, the athletes emotions and intensity is so high, and your emotions and intensity are so high, it can be very frustrating. The connection between the coach and athlete is very strong, and their success and failure are yours too. So, sometimes it isn't very much fun, and you think, "Well, maybe I'll go do something new and exciting." And I think if that is really genuine, that you should do just that, but that time will come. Until then, I want to stick with coaching in some capacity, and I plan to do so for many, many years, be it at the elite level or at a more developmental stage.

*continued on page 12*



# REUNIONS, REUNIONS, ...

## UC, BERKELEY'S 1968 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM REUNITES

The University of California, Berkeley's 1968 NCAA Championship team returned to the Berkeley campus to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their outstanding season. During that season, the team won the Pac-Eight Conference Championship and the NCAA Team Championship. The team invited all gymnasts from the Sixties Decade to join them. Many gymnasts returned to campus to reunite with their teammates and join in the festivities.

The gymnastics teams at Berkeley were the premier sport teams



L to R: Phil Rockwell, Jean Bruce, Don Allin, Don Bruce

on campus during the sixties. In addition to winning the 1968 NCAA title, the teams won six conference championships, and had an eight year streak of 89 wins in dual meets. Two gymnasts competed in the Olympic Games in 1964 and 1968, and one gymnast was World Champion on the trampoline. The teams also had strong support from their fans, as the average attendance at competitions grew to 4,000 and several international competitions were sold out.

1968 team member, Tom Bruce, hosted many of the returning Cal alumni at his home in the Berkeley Hills on Friday, March 13th. Team pictures and action shots of gymnasts in the sixties were on display. Everyone had a great time viewing videos of competitions during the sixties which included many of the Cal gymnasts.

That evening the Cal alumni were guests at a gymnastics meet between Cal, the University of Massachusetts, Temple University and Stanford. It was an exciting competition and the defending NCAA Champions, California, easily won the competition by four points over the second place team, University of Massachusetts. The Alumni were delighted to see a home meet and to observe the difference between their gymnastics and the current gymnastics performed by the 1998 team. The 1968 team members were introduced to the audience.

On Saturday, March 14th, the Cal Alumni met at the Radisson on the Berkeley Marina for a luncheon reception. 46 people attended the luncheon where pictures were on display. Each alumnus received a copy of the "History of Gymnastics in the Sixties." The luncheon was followed by speeches. Josh Landau, a member of the 1997-98 team, spoke about the current season, the upcoming competitions, and the budget problems that affect the men's

team at Berkeley. Dan Millman, World Champion and NCAA Champion, and now a famous author, spoke about his memories and relationships with Cal gymnastics. Millman pledged \$1,000 to the Cal program and challenged other alumni to match it. Roy Davis and Ben Solomon, team members in 1959 and 1960, commented on their gymnastics experiences at Cal. Former Assistant Coach Geoffrey Elliott spoke on the wonderful experiences he had working with the 1968 team and the many fine individuals with which he worked. Geoffrey also coached the 1969 National Collegiate Championship team in Canada. Art Shurlock, 1964 Olympian and one of Cal's greatest gymnasts, spoke about his experiences in that era. Coach Hal Frey commented on how he enjoyed working with the fine individuals that were on each of his teams. He mentioned the hardships of training in Room 109 Harmon, and he was delighted to promote gymnastics on campus and have Harmon Arena packed with standing room many times.

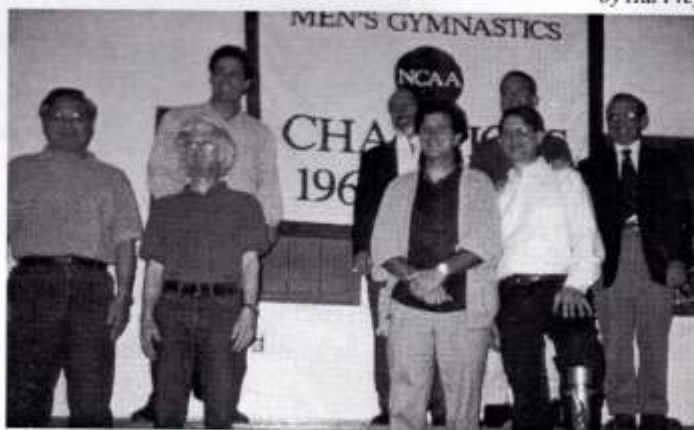
Following the luncheon, many of the Alumni returned to Tom Bruce's home for an evening of social activities and much reminiscing about Cal gymnastics. It was a fine experience for all the alumni and friends of Cal Gymnastics.

It appears that the 1968 team was not only an outstanding athletic team, by virtue of winning the NCAA Team Championship, but during the following years they established themselves as outstanding people with many accomplishments. Among the ten members of the team, five of them have doctoral or medical degrees; one member was Vice-President of Bank of America; one is an Attorney at Law; one is a financial manager with Kemper Securities; one is a successful business owner in Berkeley; and one team member is a famous author with four books on the top seller list, and one book which has been published in ten languages, and read by millions of people. It is very interesting to note that this team was successful on the Berkeley campus at a time when the campus was ravaged with strikes, sit-ins, riots, and all types of student revolts.

-by Hal Frey



L to R: Roy Davis (1959 Team Captain), Mr & Mrs Ben Solomon, Art Shurlock (Olympian)



L to R: Wm. Fujimoto, Tom Bruce, Dr Eric Courchesne, Dr Sidney Freudenstein, Dr Dennis Rowe, Dan Millman, Dr Paul Orecchia, Dr Hal Frey (Coach)



## ...REUNIONS, REUNIONS

### REUNION OF 51 YEARS OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN GYMNASTS

On March 20-21, 1998, the University of Michigan Men's Gymnastics Team hosted the 90th Annual Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Championships. The competition was outstanding, with the University of Iowa (coached by Tom Dunn, head coach, and assistants Alex Kolyvanov, and Dmitri Trouch), winning the Team Championship. Other teams competing for the title were: University of Illinois (Head Coach, Yoshi Hayasaki), University of Michigan (Head Coach, Kurt Golder), Michigan State University (Head Coach, Rick Atkinson), University of Minnesota (Head Coach, Fred Roethlisberger), Ohio State University (Head Coach, Miles Avery), and Penn State University (Head Coach, Randy Jepson).



L-R: Wally Nieman, Dave Lake, Gordy Levenson (1950's)

It was a great meet; however, "The Event" of the weekend was a reunion of the members of the University of Michigan's

gymnastics teams for the years 1947 through 1998!

Michigan's head coach, Kurt Golder, assisted by Coach Emeritus, Newt Loken, hosted over 100 former Michigan gymnasts and their wives/families. The setting was the highly attractive Schembechler Building Commons. Gymnasts were present for each of the following decades: 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. World Acrobatics Society Membership Chairperson, Edsel "Tex" Buchanan, was one of the alumni from the 40's and 50's. Scrapbooks and team and individual photo albums for all teams from 1947 through 1998 were available for review by all. Many former gymnasts had the opportunity to visit with teammates who many had not seen for 20 years or more.

Captain Ed Ledgard expressed his gratitude to the coaching staff and the athletic department for his years at Michigan. Then, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Keith Molin, welcomed the alumni and introduced Coach Emeritus, Newt Loken. Loken's address was punctuated with anecdotes involving gymnasts from all decades.

The gathering featured a sumptuous buffet for all present.



L-R: Bob Darden, Ray Gura, Richard Bigras, Jerry Poynton, Kurt Golder, Joe Neuswander, Charles Stillerman. Front: Dick Kaziny (1970's)



L-R: Jim Hynds, Rich Blanton, Newt Loken, Bill Skinner, Bob Harris, Barry Feinberg (1960's)

Those present followed the reunion by attending the Big Ten Individual Championships at Michigan's Crisler Arena.

The reunion was outstanding in all respects. Attendees were universal in their praise of the event and were resounding in their desire for another reunion in the not too distant future. Reunions such as this renew old friendships and are great socialization events.

-by Edsel Buchanan



L-R: Tony Miele, Duncan Erley, Jim Hynds, Bill Skinner, Ed (Tex) Buchanan, Norm Neidermeier (1950's & early 1960's)

Newt Loken "spotting" Jim Hynds while Rich Blanton, Bill Skinner, Bob Harris, and Barry Feinberg watch! (1960's)



**\*\*World Acrobatics Society members are encouraged to submit articles and photos of reunions and/or special events/celebrations. Send these to the newsletter editor, Lani Loken-Dahle.**



## FRANK BARE II (CONT)

There's something very satisfying in training someone and taking them to another level. But, it's a tough question.

If I don't renew my contract with Australia, I'll still coach part-time, privately, and do more stuntwork. So, it's nice to have options. I think if you don't have options, it's easy to feel bogged down and constrained.

**When did you start doing the stuntwork?**

Well, I pretty much found out about this audition for a movie. They needed someone with acrobatic ability, who could do fights and fly through the air and stuff like that. So I went to the audition and was hired for the job. It was supposed to last ten days but I ended up staying four weeks.

Since then, I've sort of been in and out of the industry for about fifteen years. I was able to sequence myself in a little smoother than most beginning stuntmen. But the industry is very intriguing, and also loads of fun. I'll probably be getting more involved as time goes on, and switch over to doing more stuntwork than coaching.

**What kind of advice would you give to an aspiring stunt man?**

Get started. You need to get your head-shot and resume going, and you need to go make the calls. Go on set and try to meet the coordinator, try to get into the pre-production office and turn in your resume. It's getting harder and harder to get into the business, but if you have a good acrobatic base, as well as a good diversity of activities you can perform well at, then there's no reason why you can't create a living from stuntwork. It's tough to get in, but you pay your dues, you persevere and are diligent in your efforts, and the next thing you know you're working and having tons of fun too.

**What do you do in your off time? Do you try to stay in shape or just relax?**

I love to rock climb and mountain bike. I try to do trampoline at least three or four times a week. That's just for the pleasure of it, and I do it all as much as I can. Even when I'm coaching I do as much as is allowable.

Living here in Salt Lake City is great, because there's so many great places to go. There's some of the best mountain biking and skiing around. It's beautiful. If you enjoy the wilderness and any type of activity that takes you out of doors, this is a great place. It's pretty phenomenal, really. You can go climbing in Northern Utah and three hours later be riding like a maniac in the desert in the South.

**Do you still go off the ski ramps?**

No, I really don't. I just don't see the need. If something came around for a stunt or something, I'd probably just go fire off a few jumps and do whatever was needed. I'd probably go up to a triple triple, but anything else... well, money talks.

I'd rather go take some nice turns on the slopes, than slap on my little skis and flip around a little. I've been there and done that.

**Been there and done it all!**

As much as I can (he laughs).

**Who has had the greatest impact on your acrobatics and your philosophy?**

Wow, there's really so many. I'd have to say that there is both past and present. Charlie Pond, has had a big influence, both in philosophy and methodology. He's still a phenomenal technical coach. He isn't always very articulate about what he knows, but once he gets through to you, it's amazing what he knows and shares.

There's my father, of course. And Ed Isabelle, one of the owners of Woodward Camp. Steve Elliot is always an inspiration. Whatever sport he's doing, he's an amazing athlete and coach, and it's always fun to hang out with him.

**What is Frank Bare Jr.'s personal philosophy?**

Basically, try to get as much out of life as you can. Make the most of every situation. 'Win win' is the motto: Take a negative situation and turn it into a positive. The key is to try to be healthy, happy, and wise and from there it's a breeze. It's pretty simple, I mean, just be happy and have fun and go for the most for success. It's all about effort. There's a little luck involved in all success, but a lot has to do with how you look at life. Just try to be positive.

-by Christopher Harley



Australian Olympic Aerial Ski Coach

## ....A LOVE OF AIR AND SKY AND FLYING....

(This is a quote by Charles Lindberg, the first person to fly from New York to Paris, solo, non-stop)

I watched him strap on his harness and helmet, climb into the cockpit and, minutes later, a black dot falls off the wing two thousand feet above our field. At almost the same instant, a white streak behind him flowered out into the delicate wavering muslim of a parachute - a few gossamer yards grasping onto air and suspending below them, with invisible threads, a human life, and man who by stitches, cloth, and cord, had made himself a god of the sky for those immortal moments.

A day or two later, when I decided that I too must pass through the experience of a parachute jump, life rose to a higher level, to a sort of exhilarated calmness. The thought of crawling out onto the struts and wires hundreds of feet above the earth, and then giving up even that tenuous hold of safety and of substance, left me a feeling of anticipation mixed with dread, of confidence restrained

by caution, of courage salted through with fear. How tightly should one hold onto life? How loosely give it rein? What gain was there for such a risk? I would have to pay in money for hurling my body into space. There would be no crowd to watch and applaud my landing. Nor was there any scientific objective to be gained. No, there was deeper reason for wanting to jump, a desire I could not explain. It was that quality that led me into aviation in the first place - it was a love of the air and sky and flying, the lure of adventure, the appreciation of beauty. It lay beyond the descriptive words of man - where immortality is touched through danger, where life meets death on equal plane; where man is more than man, and existence both supreme and valueless at the same instant.

-by Charles A. Lindberg

<http://www.frc.ri.cmu.edu/~belboz/skydive/lindberg.html>



## ACROGYMNASTICS LEGEND:

This article is in special tribute to the very first NCAA Floor Exercise Champion, Eddie Danser. Ed won the gold medal at the University of Chicago in 1941; the inaugural competition at the college level for what was then known as Calisthenics. His tumbling ability and balancing skills, together with the tutoring of his Philadelphia Turners coach Gus Heinemann, resulted in a routine



Ed Danser

which earned him that title....on a bare basketball floor no less - how about that!!

Ed was my teammate at Temple University, 1939-41. During those competition years, his collegiate record included not only the Floor Exercise medal referred to above, but also such other championships as Eastern Intercollegiate Side Horse Champion, All-Around Champion, and medal winner in other events including Tumbling and Parallel Bars. By the

way, his performances at Chicago in 1941 also earned him NCAA honors with second on Side Horse, third in Parallel Bars, and fourth All-Around.

Ed was not only a Temple University gymnast, but in earlier years was also a star performer for the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, Germantown High School and the Germantown YMCA. In representing those Philadelphia gymnastics institutions, he won many gold, silver and bronze medals in high school, local, regional and national competitions, including numerous AAU events. Were it not for the postponement of the Olympic Games during the World War II timeframe, Ed would have been a member of the US Olympic Gymnastics Team.

Mr. Danser served in the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia immediately following his graduation from Temple. During the war years, he rose in rank from Drill Instructor to Army Air Corps Captain with assignments that included Flight Instructor and Fighter Pilot. These latter duties caused him to become a Glider Pilot and Instructor in Pennsylvania after the war. When he moved to Arizona after retiring as a successful attorney in 1981, Ed treated me to my first (and only) glider flight experience. I marveled at the skills which he had developing in flying an airship with no motors. He was awesome!

One interesting aspect of Ed's career as a gymnast is the way in which his admiring father supported Ed and his brother Dave in their embryo years as athletes. Dad Danser built an outdoor neighborhood gymnasium for the two of them and their local buddies to enjoy convenient practice sessions. This familial love and dedication resulted in both boys (and some of their pals) becoming successful gymnastics performers.

Mr. Danser earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, with the honor of being the top student in his class. For more than thirty years, he ran a respected law practice in Easton, Pennsylvania. In addition to his professional career as an attorney, Mr. Danser served in various volunteer roles. He taught a night

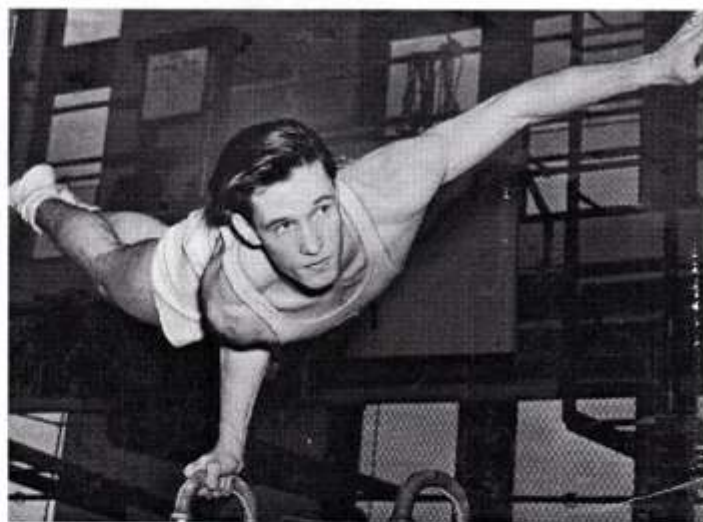
## Events Schedule cont. August 20 - September 27

Aug 20-22	USA Gymnastics National Congress	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 22-23	AWSA Wakeboard Classic	Houston, TX
Aug 29	3rd Trampoline World Cup	Switzerland
Aug 29-30	Wakeboard Nationals (Vans Triple Crown)	Denver, CO
Sept 5	4th Trampoline World Cup	Antibes, FR
Sept ?	Wakeboard - Boardstock '98	Lake Shasta, CA
Sept 17-Oct 4	Quidam (Cirque du Soleil)	Washington D.C.
Sept 17-Oct 4	Allegria (Cirque du Soleil)	Zurich, SW
Sept 26-27	Wakeboard Expo	Orlando, FL

course at his alma mater, Temple, he served as a gymnastics judge, he was the legal advisor and head judge in the early years of the United States Sports Acrobatics Federation, and offered numerous "pro-bono publicum" lectures on legal topics over the years.

To top off all of such a successful life in the law, in gymnastics, and in public service, Ed Danser was honored by Temple University. On January 28, 1997, Ed was installed as a member of the Temple University Athletic Hall of Fame. On that occasion, thirty four of his family and friends traveled to Philadelphia to share that honor with him. Congratulations Ed!

-by Joe Schabacker



Ed Danser competing on the pommel horse

## NCAA GYMNASTICS HONOR COACH (CONT.)

Roethlisberger competed in the 1968 Olympic Games. He was captain of the 1967 Pan American team and won gold medals in All-Around, Horizontal Bar, and Parallel Bars. Roethlisberger's daughter, Marie, was on the 1984 Olympic team and the 1985 World Championship team. His son, John, competed in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games and is currently a top ranked gymnast in the USA. Roethlisberger is married to Connie Foster, Women's Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. They have a nine year-old son, Gus.

-by Hal Frey



# THE GREAT ARIZONA GYMNASTICS PICNIC

On April 5, 1998 "The Great Arizona Gymnastics Picnic" took place in Phoenix, Arizona. The picnic was a fund raiser for the Arizona State University Men's Gymnastics Team. Held at the spacious home of Scott Gould, a former Minnesota gymnast and



Coaches, gymnasts, and Sparky, the Sun Devil's mascot

family fun, and an exhibition by the ASU team.

The exhibition included tumbling, mini-tramp, still rings, pommel horse, and the tumbling table. NCAA All American and three-time National Champion Rob Kjar, demonstrated his expertise on the pommel horse. Seven year-old Riley Barclay (coach Scott Barclay's son) amazed the audience with his circles on the mushroom. Performing team members included: Randy Sooter, Jon Portillo, Peter Weiging, Adam Timm, Josh Otero, Damon Smyers, David Bender, Rob Davis, Rob Survick, Bryan Rowe and Ami Schorr.



ASU gymnasts, Ami and Jon, teaching kids

to the non-stop activity which made this an unforgettably great time!

One of the highlights was the craziness brought on by the karioki singing (thanks to former US National Team Member Jason Brown for his donation). As fun as it was, the ASU team's talent still lies in doing gymnastics!

The presence of Sparky, the Sun Devil's mascot and a part of the team tradition, provided a real "spark" to the gathering. He



That wonderful Karoki!

a gymnast and aspires to follow in the footsteps of other former team members who have gone on to make...GREAT NBA MAS-

current board member of the ASU Men's Gymnastics Booster Club, the Camelback Mountain site was the scene of food, music

Following the exhibition, the ASU team members provided gymnastics instruction for the many children who were present. Frisbee football and basketball added

joined in with the team show and played fun games with the children. This Sparky (as former ones) is also

COTS : Phoenix Suns (the Gorilla), Houston Rockets (High Impact Squad), Golden State Warriors, Indiana Pacers, Charlotte Hornets, Atlanta Hawks, and the Seattle Sonics. We're proud of all of them!



ASU Alumni gymnasts: Dave Martin, Steve Isham, Mike Naddour, John Price, Rob Kjar, Steve Economides, Chris Evans, Jim Nelson, and Scott Barclay

Several ASU Gymnastics Team Alumni were present to provide their support and, in some cases, their muscle! Not to be outdone by the talented current team were Chris Evans (first ASU National Champion); Steve Isham (All American); Rob Kjar (three-time National Pommel Horse Champion); Dave Martin; John Price (first assistant coach); Make Naddour; Steve Economides; Jim Nelson; and Scott Barclay.

Saving the best for last, the team capped off the picnic by "stacking the table." A traditional mark of ASU exhibitions for over 20 years, the gymnast runs and does a front flip off the mini tramp onto a 2x4 foot table. The world record is 27 gymnasts stacked on the table (set by ASU in Switzerland in 1983)! Although they didn't quite reach that goal on this day, the ASU team was able to get 16 stacked on the table, including some very happy kids who did something they had never tried before (and for that matter, had never even thought of!)

"The Great Arizona Gymnastics Picnic" was a fun and successful event.



Damon Smyers performing on the pommel horse

The ASU team received numerous donations which enabled them to travel to the USA Collegiate National Championships at Southern Connecticut University. A special thanks goes to some very generous friends: John Cachran (Forte Homes); Mike & Crystal Dwire; Gary Hinkle (Valley First Community Bank); and Dan Sager (Insight) and his wife Jodi.

-by Don R. Robinson, Coach Emeritus (25 years)

**\*\*Note:** The ASU Men's Gymnastics Team won the USA Collegiate National Championships, held at Southern Connecticut University, April 2-4. Team member, Randy Sooter (sophomore) won the All Around Title, and the team garnered 10 All Americans. This was a GREAT finish for a **GREAT TEAM!!**



## TRAPEZE GREAT STILL FLYING

At the age of 61, master trapeze flier, Tony Steele, is just as involved as ever in the art of flying. Teaming up with another great flier, Tito Gaona, Tony teaches flying trapeze master classes at Sam Keen's Sonoma Ranch during the summer.



Master trapeze flier,  
Tony Steele

Keen is the author of the 1991 best seller, *Fire in the Belly*, which encouraged brigades of men to explore their wilder side. Now, he is writing a book about flying trapeze, in which he suggests that men and women, willing to swing from a bar 25 feet above ground, can become "connoisseurs of fear." And who better from whom to learn the art of flying than the first trapeze flier to ever perform a 3 1/2 somersault - Tony Steele!

A trapeze performer all of his life, Steele performed before the heads of state and kings and queens all over the world. On September 29, 1962 Tony performed the incredible 3 1/2 somersault with his catcher, Lee Stath Marilees. It happened in Durango, Mexico.

Steele now lives in Reno and works out with the Flying Pages & Tobares, as well as with the fabulous Flying Cranes, at Circus Circus. There, he is engaged in the show "Aireus," as a stage technician. He says that "my reward comes each night as I see them appear on the stage."

We welcome Tony as a new member in the World Acrobatics Society, and salute his dedication to acrobatics.

## BILL BALLESTER - THE ETERNAL COACH

Bill Ballester, former University of Oregon Men's Gymnastics Coach and two-time NCAA Coach of the Year, now coaches business leaders to create winning teams. After 20 years of coaching gymnastics and with a lifetime winning percentage of 88%, Ballester took his knowledge and skills into the business environment. He spent 5 years interviewing more than 100 of the nation's top coaches. From his research he developed a model which business leaders could use to create highly productive world class winning teams.



Coach Ballester

A nationally known speaker and leader in the field of Team Building, Ballester worked with the U.S. Dept of Transportation as their national spokesman for team building. His clients have included the U.S. Postal System, the U.S. Forest Service, American Dental Association, the American Family Life Assurance Co., Weyerhaeuser and Kaiser Permanente.

According to Ballester, he has created a lifestyle that "gives me energy, excitement, enthusiasm, makes me want to learn and grow, and gives me an opportunity to help others and live a life balanced between work and play." He now spends six months a year in beautiful Cabo San Lucas, Baja, Mexico, and the other six months in the beautiful Willamette Valley in Eugene, Oregon.

We congratulate Ballester on his continued coaching success. His life story demonstrates what another famous speaker and acrobatic specialist, Dan Millman, says: "Everything I ever needed to know I learned in the gym!" Welcome, Bill, to the World Acrobatics Society!

(For more information on Ballester and his Team Building success, check out his website: <http://www.ballester.com>)

## NARD CAZZELL INDUCTED INTO THE TEXAS PANHANDLE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

On February 1, 1998, Nard Cazzell of Amarillo, Texas was formally inducted into the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame.

At the age of 84, Cazzell remains a sharp and witty individual with an enduring passion for trampolining, tumbling, and gymnastics for children and youth. Dave Henry, of the Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News Newspaper had the following to say regarding Cazzell's induction:



Young Nard

"The colorful Cazzell is a Life Member of the Texas Gymnastics Association Hall of Fame and opened Nard's Gymnastics School with his wife in 1954, teaching tumbling and gymnastics to area youth for more than 30 years. Cazzell mastered the trampoline and taught such students as Ronnie Munn, a national AAU trampoline champion who became president of the U.S. Trampoline Association, and Dave Jacobs, a two-time NCAA, and two-time world trampoline champion. Cazzell was also represented by Edsel Buchanan, who was a protege of Cazzell's who won three NCAA trampoline championships (1949, '50, '51) while a gymnast at the University of Michigan. Buchanan stated that he was lucky that he happened to be the first of a long line of exceptional trampolinists and tumblers who came from Nard's tutelage."



Nard Cazzell being honored

Nard Cazzell was instrumental in bringing trampolining to Texas. The city of Amarillo is the home of more trampoline champions, national and international, than any other city in America. Nard Cazzell continues to reside in Amarillo, adjacent to the school which he and his wife, Sis, started some 44 years ago. Tim Hall, of Amarillo, continues the school under the name, All American Gymnastics School.

-by Edsel Buchanan

## FROM EDITOR TO EDITOR

Dave Shatkowski, Director of Communications for U.S. Diving and Editor of "Inside USA Diving," the official publication of U.S. Diving, Inc. has accepted a new position. Beginning this April, Dave became the director of communications for the Indiana CPA Society. Although the subject matter changed from diving to accounting, Dave continues to work with the media and manage publications.

Dave began work with U.S. Diving in 1989, and launched "Inside USA Diving" in 1993. This publication has become known as one of the finest publications of the national governing bodies of sport in the U.S.A.

From editor to editor - Dave, your help has been invaluable! Thanks, and the very best to you!



## Letters to the Editor

Thank you so much for your sending two copies of the "World Acrobatics Newsletter" (fall & winter). Really enjoyed reading through them and actually recognised several familiar faces of persons that I've admired for years: Charlie Pond, who probably manufactured the very first twisting belt; George Nissen, original creator of the modern day trampoline and had his name for years on most gymnasium equipment; George Heri, World Professional Trampoline Champion, 1964, whom I just recently met right here in Reno, Nevada; Marco Canestrelli, the seven twister who was so kind in obtaining for me the fantastic, wonderful & delightful videotape "Two Centuries of Trampoline" (which is the greatest thing I have ever seen).

I even passed most of the trivia questions on pages 6 & 7 with flying colors (of which I am proud). I know of all these wonderful people - Newt Loken, and Bil Copp (who did a magnificent job in producing such a fine documentary on that incredible trampoline videotape. I know almost all of the names of personnel who attended the 1998

World Acrobatics Congress.

Again, thank you for your most interesting magazine. I loved it.

-Tony Steele  
(61 year old master  
trapeze flier)

The newsletters arrived in fine shape. BOY, what a super good edition! I knew that we had had a great congress and the newsletter is proof of that. Again, I commend you on your exceptional quality performance!!

-Edsel Buchanan

I just got my newsletter and always appreciate your enclosed personal "sticky" notes. I considered joining you guys in Vegas but didn't have the time. It sounds like it was fun. Besides the majority of my life no longer centers around acrobatics/gymnastics, unfortunately.

You're doing a great job as "steward" of our acrobatic heritage. That is just what we need.

Thanks again for the note and excellent newsletter.

-Jon Dubin

### Contributors to the Newsletter (Articles, Info. and/or Photos)

Bill Ballester	Internet
Scott Barclay	Newt Loken
Frank Bare II	Lani Loken-Dahle
Hobie Billingsley	Charlie Pond
Bob Bollinger	Don Robinson
Edsel Buchanan	Joe Schabacker
Bruce Frederick	Lisa Schuck
Hal Frey	Tony Steele
Kurt Golder	USATT
Christopher Harley	

Editor: Lani Loken-Dahle

### World Acrobatics Society Board of Directors

#### Executive Board:

Leo, Don  
(President)  
Pond, Charlie  
(First Vice-President)  
Boelsens, Paula  
(Second Vice-President)  
Frey, Hal  
(Secretary)  
Smith, Dick  
(Treasurer)

#### Other Board Members:

Bollinger, Rob  
Buchanan, Edsel  
(Membership Chair)  
Copp, Bill  
(Education Committee  
Chair)  
Frederick, Bruce  
(Historian/Archivist)  
Schabacker, Joe  
(Senior Advisor)  
Spence, Peter  
Sundby, Glenn

Executive Director:  
Lani Loken-Dahle

### ANSWERS TO GYMNASTICS LEGENDS CHALLENGE ON P. 7:

- 1 - 9
- 2 - 7
- 3 - 11
- 4 - 3
- 5 - 12
- 6 - 6
- 7 - 4
- 8 - 1
- 9 - 5
- 10 - 8
- 11 - 2
- 12 - 10

World Acrobatics Society  
Newsletter  
c/o Lani Loken-Dahle  
1063 East 21st Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
USA



World Acrobatics Society Newsletter is published quarterly in winter, spring, summer and fall. It is the official publication of the World Acrobatics Society; c/o Hal Frey, Secretary; 5720 Olinda Rd.; El Sobrante, CA 94803; (510) 223-3427; halfrey@uclink.berkeley.edu. All members of the World Acrobatics Society receive the Newsletter as a membership benefit. All editorial and advertising material, or questions, should be directed to: The Editor, World Acrobatics Society Newsletter; Lani Loken-Dahle; 1063 East 21st Ave. Eugene, Oregon 97405; USA; (541) 342-8633; lloken@oregon.uoregon.edu