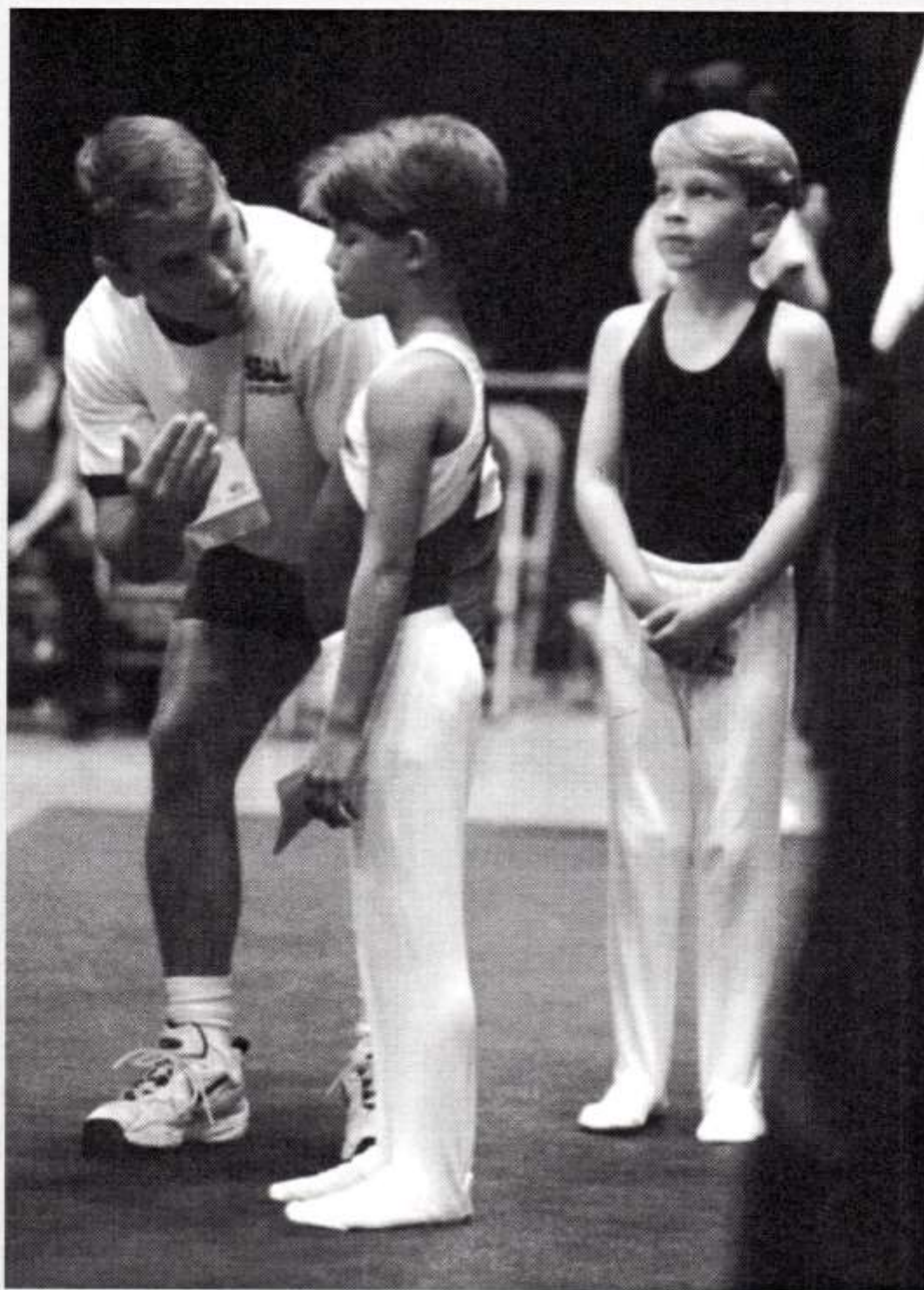


WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

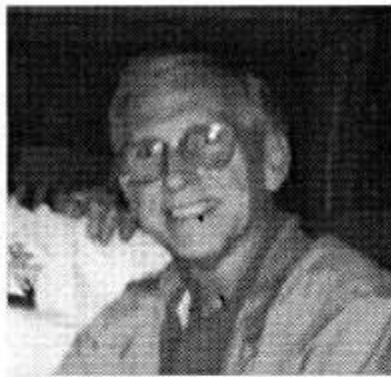
Vol. 3 Issue 3

Summer 1998

Enhancing Communication Between the Friends of Acrobatics Worldwide



That very special "teachable moment."



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*-by Don Leas
World Acrobatics Society
President*

World Acrobatics Society Members:

Those of you who had the opportunity to read the Spring 1998 issue of our newsletter learned that I had been elected President of the World Acrobatics Society. I feel very honored to be recognized by the outstanding members of our Board of Directors and hope that I can fulfill their expectations.

To follow in the footsteps of my longtime friend and fellow diving coach, Hobie Billingsley, and Charlie Pond, whom I coached with at the University of Illinois for many years, is a daunting task. I have the utmost respect for their exceptional success in their respective sports.

I want to thank Charlie for the outstanding job he did as Interim President of the World Acrobatics Society. All of us on the Board of Directors were relieved and excited when he picked up the ball and tumbled with it for the five months since our meeting in February. His leadership was inspiring and his love for the World Acrobatics Society is unending.

We, on the Board, are extremely pleased with the job Lani is doing as Executive Director and her assignment as Editor of the Newsletter. These are unbelievably difficult and time consuming tasks. In order to prepare this newsletter you are now reading, she carted her computer, monitor, and printer (not a laptop) across the country from Oregon to Woodward Camp in Pennsylvania. There, she set up her own workstation, with her personal phone line, email and fax so that she could stay on top of the job and stay in contact with the people who are contributing articles, or need information. All of this has been at her own expense and is just a small indication of her dedication and love for the World Acrobatics Society. If you like what you have read in this or other issues of the newsletter, please let her know personally through email, a phone call, or a short letter.

Many thanks to you who have recruited new members to our Society. We are especially happy with Pam and Charlie Pond, who brought us over a dozen new members from their trip to Australia last winter, where Charlie lectured on his favorite subject of Look-In Twisting. We also want to recognize Lani for the innumerable members that she has recruited. Everyone she meets becomes excited about the World Acrobatics Society, just by her enthusiasm.

On another note, I'd like you all to join me in con-

gratulating Bil Copp on his recent marriage to Deborah McLaughlin. Bil and Debbie are living at 9400 Myakka Drive, Venice, Florida 34292. Their email address is triffis@aol.com.

As we look to the future of the World Acrobatics Society, we need to keep in mind that with growth there is a need for increased financial support. Please submit your membership renewals in a timely manner and make an effort to bring in just one new member. Also, if any of you have any contacts with a philanthropic organization that would be interested in supporting the purposes of our Society, please make the appropriate contact yourself or let us know whom to talk to. If you know anyone who has won a lottery, make a pitch for our Society. Remember that we are a charitable and educational organization incorporated under the Internal Revenue Code. This makes contributions a taxable deduction.

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please remember to submit your membership renewals in a timely manner. The enclosed application should be used. Keep us informed of address or other changes. Also, help your organization grow by bringing in new members.

Cover Photo:

Robert Wade, gymnastics coach at Seal Gymnastics in Brownwood, Texas, with his young tumbler, Caleb Reigle (age 10), and another young tumbler at the USA Trampoline & Tumbling National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 1998. Photo taken by Steve Sarafian.

DON LEAS: WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY'S NEW PRESIDENT

The World Acrobatics Society's new president, Don Leas, was the architect of Clarion University's nationally recognized men's and women's diving program. Leas had a 24-year career that was unequaled by any coach in the nation. His divers won 36 individual national collegiate championships and posted 235 All-American placings. The NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 1984, he was also selected NCAA Division II Diving Coach of the Year in 1988 and 1989. Two of his women divers went on to make the US Olympic Team (Barbara Schaefer Nejman and Chris Seufert), with Seufert winning a bronze medal in 1984. Named in 1991 to the NCAA's Team of the Decade coaching staff celebrating its 10 years of offering

women's championships, he continues to be active in diving on an international scale. He was in charge of the 1996 Olympic Diving competition in Atlanta and has been International Chairman of Diving

for the World University Games since 1981.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and 1953 graduate of Northeast High School where he competed in swimming and diving, track, cross country, and gymnastics, he was a diver and Big Ten Flying Rings Champion and Captain of the 1956 Gymnastics Team at Michigan State University. He was Assistant Gymnastics Coach and Diving Coach at Southern Illinois University from 1957 to 1959, Head Swimming Coach and Cross Country Coach at East Aurora High School in Illinois from 1959 to 1961, Assistant Gymnastics Coach and Diving Coach at the University of Illinois from 1961 to 1965, and Head Swimming Coach at St. Cloud University from 1965 to 1966. He then moved to Clarion University where he served as Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education, Bowling Coach, and Diving Coach. Don retired from Clarion in 1997 and is presently preparing to move to the Phoenix area to live near his children, Michael and Barbara, and his four grandchildren.

Extensively involved in the administration of diving in the United States, Don was the last Chairman of Women's Diving in the former AAU, has served as chairman of the rules committee for 15 of the last 23 years, is Chairman of the Safety Certification Committee and the Membership Committee, and has been responsible for the conduct of numerous national and international diving meets sponsored by United States Diving. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the AIAW Swimming and Diving Rules Committee, and been a member of the NCAA Diving Rules Subcommittee and of the AAU and US Swimming Rules Committees. He has been the editor of 15 national rule books for diving and swimming and has produced four movies/video tapes for diving.

World Acrobatics Society's President, Don Leas (left), and First Vice-President, Charlie Pond (right)

ACROBATS OF ALL KINDS ENJOY THE BUNGEE AT WOODWARD CAMP



Swedish National Trampoline Team members during bungee practice.



Aggressive Inline Skating Pro, Matt Butterly, enjoys flying.



Aggressive Inline Skaters, Skateboarders, and BMXers surround "Bahama Bill" during bungee practice.



Chad Grout, Aggressive Inline Skating Pro, practices a grab.



Swedish National Trampoline Champion, Martin v Stedingk, resting in the bungee.



Young gymnasts surround USA National Gymnastics Champion, Christy Powell.

Events Schedule July 22 -September 27

July 22-Aug 9	<i>Allegria</i> (Cirque du Soleil)	Antwerp, BEL
July 22-Aug 23	<i>Quidam</i> (Cirque du Soleil)	Chicago, IL
Aug 1-2	Wakeboarding Pro Tour	Portland, OR
Aug 4-9	Speedo U.S. National Junior Diving Championships	Largo, FL
Aug 5-7	USA Gymnastics National GymFest	Austin, TX
Aug 8-9	Wakeboarding Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA
Aug 9-10	Aggressive Skaters Association Pro Tour	Stockholm, SW
Aug 11-16	U.S. Summer National Diving Championships	Atlanta, GA
Aug 14-15	European Wakeboard Tour	Goteborg, SW
Aug 15	FIT 1st Trampoline World Cup Competition	Antibes, FR
Aug 15-16	Wakeboarding Jet Jam	Anaheim, CA
Aug 15-16	Aggressive Skaters Association Pro Tour	St. Jean Cap Ferat, FR
Aug 19-20	John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 20-22	USA Gymnastics National Congress (MWR)	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 20-23	XIIth Can-Am-Mex Age-Group Championships	TBD
Aug 20-30	MAX-AIR Productions	Kentucky State Fair, KY
Aug 21-23	U.S. Masters Outdoor Championships	Santa Clara, CA
Aug 22	FIT 2nd Trampoline World Cup Competition (Nissen Cup)	Vevey, SUI
Aug 22-23	AWSA Wakeboard Classic	Houston, TX
Aug 22-23	European Wakeboard Tour Schedule	London, GB
Aug 26-30	WWA US Wakeboard Nationals	Denver, CO
Aug 27		
Sept 27	MAX-AIR Productions	New York State Fair, NY
Aug 28-30	Aggressive Skaters Association Pro Tour	Seal Beach, CA
Aug 29-30	Wakeboard Nationals (Van's Triple Crown)	Denver, CO
Aug 29-Sept 7	MAX-AIR Productions	DuQuoin State Fair, IL
Sept 3-7	Aggressive Skaters Association Pro Tour	Toronto, Ontario, CA
Sept ?	Boardstock '98 (Wakeboard)	Lake Shasta, CA
Sept 8-13	United States Ski & Snowboard Association Convention	Park City, UT
Sept ?	7th World Championships in Canopy Formation (Skydiving)	England?
Sept ?	24th World Championships in Style & Accuracy (Skydiving)	Vrsar, Croatia
Sept 11-19	MAX-AIR Productions	Permian Basin Fair, TX
Sept 11-13	FIT 16th European Championships (Tramp, Tumble, Double Mini)	Dessau, GER
Sept 17-Oct 4	<i>Quidam</i> (Cirque du Soleil)	Washington, D.C.
Sept 17-Oct 11	<i>Allegria</i> (Cirque du Soleil)	Zurich, SUI
Sept 17-Nov 29	<i>Allegria</i> (Cirque du Soleil)	Frankfurt, GER
Sept 19-27	World Cup & 3rd European Championships in Formation Skydiving	Evora, Portugal

continued on page 13

1998 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA DIVERS

The 1998 High School All-America Divers have been selected by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America (NISCA) All-America Diving Selection Committee. Recognized for outstanding achievement, these divers were chosen from 295 qualified applicants from across the country.

In order to be eligible, the divers must have met the qualifying standards, including the following: 1) Applicants must be in high school, grades 9, 10, 11, 12; 2) Applicants must compete for an interscholastic team; 3) Only 1-meter will be considered; 4) All diving performances must be done in a regularly scheduled interscholastic 11 dive championship format meet; 5) Boys must score a minimum of 415 points and degree of difficulty of optional dives 14.0 or higher and girls must score a minimum of 400 points and degree of difficulty of optional dives 13.3 or higher.

Each applicant submitted videotapes of up to two diving competitions. The NISCA All-America Diving Selection Committee reviewed a total of 431 videotapes.

The committee consisted of 12 members, in addition to NISCA Diving Chairperson, Dan Murphy. These 12 members were divided into two judging panels, each panel judging applicants entire events so that the judging for each event would remain consistent. This was the first year that a two-panel system was used. In the past, one panel judged all applicants during the three-day selection process. The two-panel system was determined to be highly favorable.

Divers were selected for All-America status in four categories: Boys Public Schools, Girls Public Schools, Boys Independent Schools, and Girls Independent Schools. Following are the selection results:

Boys Public Schools

1. Troy Dumais; Ventura, CA
2. Mark Ruiz; Orlando, FL
3. Ray Vincent; Lake Forest, CA

Girls Public Schools

1. Heather Mattingly; Houston, TX
2. Tammy Crystal; Overland Park, KS
3. Katie Beth Bryant; Moultrie, GA

Boys Independent Schools

1. Thatcher Carr; Shaker Heights, OH
2. Matthew Bricker; Winter Park, FL
3. Kevin Coogan; Delran, NJ

Girls Independent Schools

1. Jillian Cicione; Plantation, FL
2. Cady Kashner; Ft. Lauderdale, FL
3. Kristin Bussler; Holland, MI



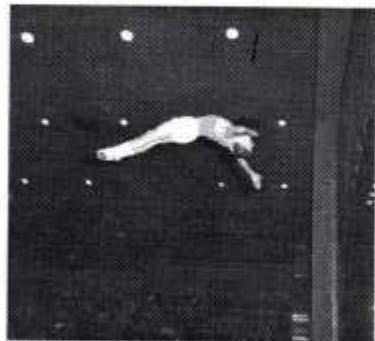
NISCA Selection Committee (Bk row, lf to rt): Bob Kersch, Sally Hansell, Dave Nielsen, Lani Loken-Dahle, Don Mason, David Moreau, Jodi Janssen, Bill Chappo; (Fr row, lf to rt): Larry Brennan, Jo Heckel, Dan Murphy, Trey Collins, Rich Ballard.

-by Lani Loken-Dahle

STEVE JOHNSON

The gymnastics, tumbling and trampoline world lost one of its gold medal champions when Steve Johnson died in Denver, Colorado on October 2, 1997. Johnson was Big Ten and NCAA Trampoline Champion in 1962, representing Michigan State University. His roommate at MSU was gymnastics author Dr. Gerald George.

Steve's professional career took him as a coach to the University of California, Santa Barbara and to Colorado State University, where he developed more than two dozen gymnasts who went on



Steve Johnson performing on the trampoline.

to careers in gymnastics as top competitors and coaches. He is remembered by all who knew him as a talented and a fun-loving individual. When he graduated from North High School in Denver, he had the honor of being its most decorated athlete, lettering in three sports. A memorial service was held for Johnson at Lake's Gymnastics Academy in

Wheat Ridge, Colorado on October 12, 1997.

George Szypula, Johnson's college coach at Michigan State University, gave honor to Johnson's memory in these words:

"Steve Johnson was a great contributor to the sport of gymnastics as a performer, teacher and coach. Steve was one of the most polished performers I had ever had in tumbling and trampolining at Michigan State. His style and execution were impeccable. His excellent performances carried him to the NCAA Trampoline Title in 1962, and the NAAU Tumbling Title the same year.

"Johnson did one of the finest double backs in tumbling I have ever seen. His style of performance reminded me of Bob Sullivan, former All-Arounder and tumbler at the University of Illinois under Coach Pond. Sullivan coached Johnson in his adolescent years in Colorado.

"Johnson had an excellent coaching and teaching career at the University of California at Santa Barbara. At that institution, he brought in top foreign gymnastics teams. His impresario skills helped attract thousands to these exhibitions. His actions did much to promote our sport.

"We're going to miss a great coach, performer, teacher and individual."

-by Joe Schabacker



Steve Johnson receiving his award at the 1962 NCAA Trampoline competition.

EARL CLARK

Former Ohio State diver, Earl Clark, passed away in August, 1997. He was at the height of his diving career, when the 1940 and '44 Games were canceled.

Clark was a great Ohio State diver from 1938-41. Clark won a total of 12 major titles including Big Ten Conference, NCAA and AAU crowns. His AAU titles came on both springboard and platform at both the indoor and outdoor nationals. Clark was perhaps best known for his development of a unique and spectacular technique for performing a 5132D.

-by Hobie Billingsley

Proposed FIT/FIG Merger

At the Federation Internationale de Trampoline (FIT) Congress to be held in October, the decision will be made about whether or not to dissolve the FIT and merge with the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG). An agreement has been signed between the FIT and FIG describing how things will work, if 3/4 or more of those federations present at the FIT Congress vote in favour of a merger. Following are the main effects of this agreement, from the athletes point of view:

1. Trampoline would be an Olympic event in Sydney, with 12 athletes competing in a men's event and 12 in a women's event.
2. World and Continental Championships would continue, organized by the FIG. Synchronized trampoline, tumbling and possibly double mini would be events in the World Games, but individual trampoline would not.
3. Many more nations would start to participate in trampolining, and possibly also in tumbling and double mini-tramp. The FIG has more than 120 member nations, whereas the FIT currently has 44.
4. The FIG would be committed to continue promoting and developing these disciplines, just as they do the disciplines already under their control.
5. These sports would be run by a much larger international body. This has some advantages, such as powerful promotion commissions and expert medical commissions. It also would mean that these sports would not be entirely the responsibility of specialists. There would be a Trampoline Commission set up that would make proposals as to how to deal with trampoline, tumbling and double mini issues. These proposals would have to be approved by a higher FIG board. Initially, this commission would include two people nominated by the FIG, and seven people elected by the FIT Congress.
6. The organization of trampoline sports in each country would probably change. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIG will only deal with one federation per nation, but trampoline sports could stay separate within a nation as long as the gymnastics body and the sports council in that nation are happy with this situation. In this case, only minor administrative changes would be required. It is the gymnastics body that the FIG and IOC will deal with/through.

The next Technical Committee and Board meeting is August 13-15. If you have any suggestions, opinions or desires you would like to be considered before these meetings, or presented at these meetings, please contact Sue Challis, FIT Athlete Representative, as soon as possible.

Sue Challis, FIT Athlete Representative; 206 Oakley Drive; State College, PA 16803; USA;
+1-814-237-2144(home); +1-814-863-3675(work); +1-814-865-2440(fax); email: sue-challis@psu.edu

DID YOU KNOW...

THE INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

The International Gymnastics Hall of Fame held its second induction ceremony on June 26, 1998. Seven former great gymnasts were honored at the ceremony. The 1998 inductees included: Vera Caslavskia (Czechoslovakia), Savino Guglielmetti (Italy), Larissa Latynina (Soviet Union), Takashi Ono (Japan), Cathy Rigby (USA), Ludmilla Tourischeva (Soviet Union), and Peter Vidmar (USA).

Rigby, who in 1970 became the first American to win a World Championship medal (silver on balance beam), was unable to attend the ceremony as she was touring the country in the musical "Peter Pan."

Caslavskia, who led Czechoslovakia to three team silver medals in Olympic competition and owns more Olympic gold medals (7) than any other female athlete was also unable to attend as she is battling a long-term illness. *-from The Daily Oklahoman*



International Gymnastics Hall of Fame Executive Director, Frank Bare, and Founder, Glenn Sundby



International Gymnastics Hall of Fame Inductees (lf to rt): Savino Guglielmetti, Ludmilla Tourischeva, Peter Vidmar, Larissa Latynina and Takashi Ono

THE INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION PURSUES PLACE ON THE OLYMPIC PROGRAM FOR SKYDIVING

The International Parachuting Commission (IPC) committed itself to the promotion of skydiving on television, in pursuit of achieving a place on the Olympic program. At its annual session held February 7, 1998, the IPC awarded the 1999 World Formation Skydiving Championships to Australia. The IPC also decided to hold the year 2000 IPC meeting in Canberra, shortly before the Sydney Olympic Games.

In opening remarks at the IPC annual session, the national and international emergence of skydiving as an adventurous activity gaining significant interest with the population was noted. Skydiving was described as "a spectacular and high-emotion sport that draws the attention of millions all over the world."

(http://www.fai.org/press_releases/)

TEST YOUR SKATEBOARDING VOCABULARY.....

- Air:** Whenever all four wheels are off of the ground at the same time.
- Carve:** To make a long, curving arc while skating.
- Coping:** A rounded lip at the top of a ramp or obstacle, usually made of metal, cement or PVC pipe.
- Goofy-foot:** To ride with the right foot forward.
- Grind:** To scrape one or both axles on coping or an obstacle.
- Half pipe:** A type of ramp that is shaped like a "U."
- Hip:** The spot where a ramp or obstacle comes to a point. Tricks are done while flying over or off of it.
- Lip:** The top or upper edge of a ramp or obstacle.
- Railslide:** To slide on an obstacle or lip with the contact point being the underside of the board.
- Regular foot:** To ride with the left foot forward.
- Run:** A series of tricks in a sequence.
- Session:** A period of skating.
- Tailslide:** Sliding on tail of board.

(http://ESPN.SportsZone.com/xgames/summerx97/skateboard/glossary-z.html)

ASA AND N2INLINE.COM FORM PARTNERSHIP

The Aggressive Skaters Association (ASA) has formed a new partnership with N2Inline.com. N2Inline.com is a virtual inline skate community created by WeKruz Productions to promote and enhance the sport of inline skating. It provides comprehensive and completely current information about inline skating events and community members worldwide. It also provides participants and spectators with a place to network and communicate with other inline skating enthusiasts. It will soon become the source for ASA Amateur Circuit and Pro Tour event information.

(http://www.aggro skate.com)

(http://data.wekruz.com)

"THE HISTORY OF TRAMPOLINE" PROJECT

USA Trampoline & Tumbling has appointed Mary Swafford as project coordinator for "The History of Trampoline." Swafford is gathering photographs, results, anecdotes, equipment development information, biographies and anything else related to the history of this sport. Please send any information you may have to: Mary Swafford; 2805 S.W. 14th St.; Lees Summit, Missouri 64081; (816) 763-6964.

"COURAGE IS FEAR HOLDING ON
A MINUTE LONGER."

-Author Unknown

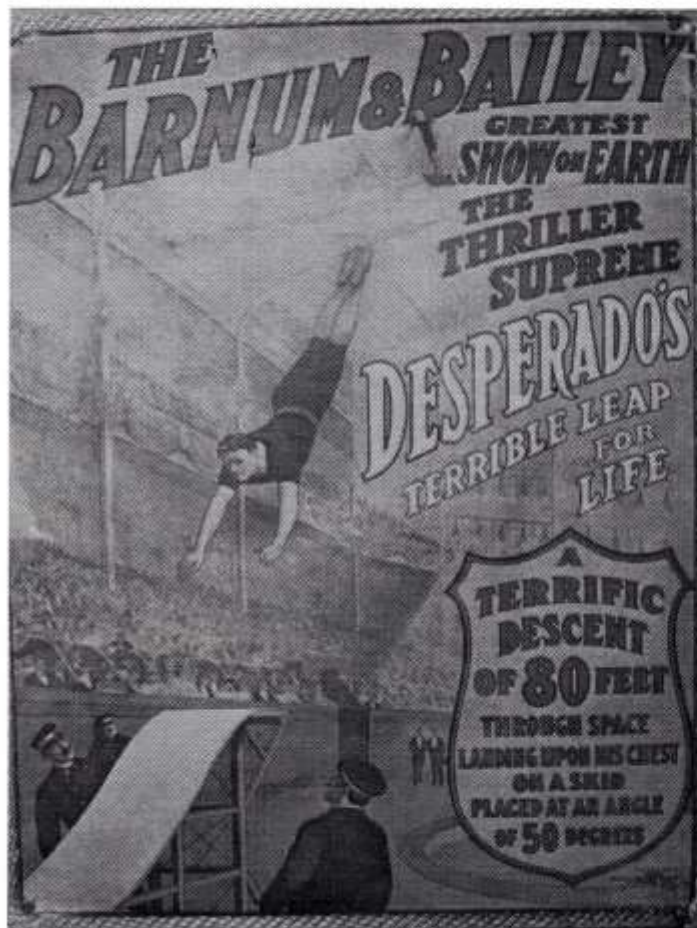
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DID YOU KNOW...

"How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something, but to be someone."

- Coco Chanel



A 1908 lithograph depicting a truly "extreme" sport!

SNOWBOARD COMPETITIONS REMAIN OPEN AND "BIG AIR" ADDED

At the 1998 FIS Congress in Prague, a U.S. proposal was accepted to adopt appropriate rules for the emerging sport of snowboard, and to keep its competitions open. The U.S. led this initiative two years ago, resulting in a totally open FIS World Cup structure. The new U.S. initiative essentially makes snowboard an open competition in the FIS ensuring that all riders, regardless of background, can compete in an open environment. Also, the FIS Snowboard Committee approved "Big Air" as a non-scored FIS event. Rules and specifications were approved.

(Summary Notes, FIS Congress in Prague, 5/98)

RISE IN PARTICIPATION IN AGGRESSIVE INLINE SKATING

Participation in aggressive inline skating has increased 643% during the last seven years.

(<http://data.wekru.com>)

AMATEUR CIRCUIT ORGANIZED FOR AGGRESSIVE INLINE SKATERS

The biggest thing to happen in aggressive inline skating during 1997-98 was the introduction of the amateur circuit. Organized by Aggressive Skaters Association (ASA), this circuit marked the first time skaters had a clearly defined path to follow toward becoming a professional skater. "Before, it was who you knew," said Todd Shays, executive director of ASA. "Now, it clearly has more to do with how you do in competition."

Jason Roy, an inline competitive judge agrees. "The amateur circuit has increased the enthusiasm among skaters, especially the younger ones. Now there's an organized way to find success. The competitive stepping stones go from local contests to regional and on to national. Skaters who can follow that path not only have more competition confidence and experience, but they also know where they stand in the big picture. It's much more clear."

(<http://ESPN.SportsZone.com/xgames/summerx98/inline/xplained.html>)

TRAMPOLINE OLYMPIC TRIALS

The Olympic Trials for Trampoline will be held next August in South Africa. A unique method of selection has been tentatively designated by the Federation Internationale de Trampoline (FIT). The top placing person from each country, up to 10 countries, will be selected to compete in the 2000 Olympics. In addition, two "wild card" placements will be made, making a total of 12 male and 12 female competitors.

GYMNASTICS LEGENDS CHALLENGE

(BY BRUCE FREDERICK)

*Match the Legend with the Description

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Frank Bares | 1. First Private Club for Girls |
| 2. Doris Fuchs Brause | 2. Unique Sweep (not Dominique!) |
| 3. Jim Hartung | 3. First Executive Director of USAG |
| 4. Mary Lou Retton Kelley | 4. Golden Girl of the National Academy |
| 5. Clayton "Bud" Marquette | 5. Coined the term, "Spotting" |
| 6. Roy E. Moore | 6. Golden Moment and a Wheaties Box |
| 7. Hartley Price | 7. First Collegiate Scholarship for a Woman |
| 8. Makoto Sakamoto | 8. Swinging Bars into the Future |
| 9. George Szypula | 9. Founder of the National Gymnastics Clinic |
| 10. Ernestine Russell Weaver | 10. Pride of Nebraska |
| 11. Lyle Welser | 11. Father of American Gymnastics |
| 12. Julianne McNamara Zeile | 12. Tumbling Champion and Coach for Fifty Years |

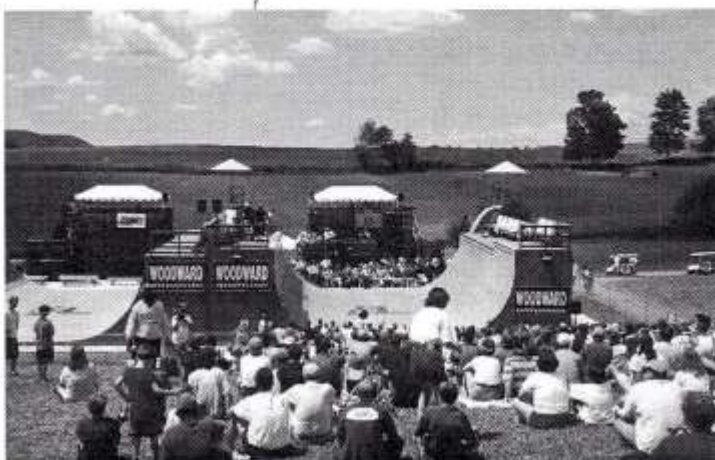
Answers can be found on page 16

BIKES, BOARDS & BLADES - THE B3 COMPETITION

ESPN's B3 competition was held July 24-26 at Woodward Camp in Woodward, Pennsylvania. The three-day alternative sport competition featured bicycle stunt, skateboarding and aggressive inline skating: **Bikes, boards and blades.**

More than 200 of the world's best alternative sport athletes competed for medals and more than \$70,000 in prize money in the men's and women's events.

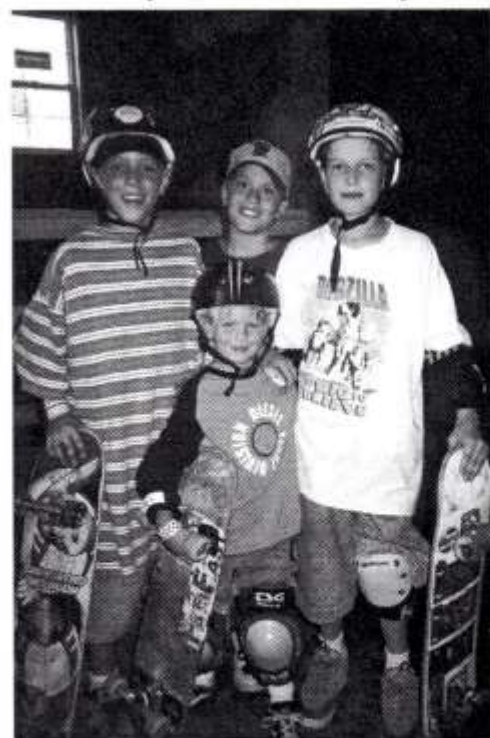
The B3 series will also take place August 28-30 at a West Coast site to be determined. Last year, B3 stops included New York, NY and Seal Beach, CA.



Beautiful new vert ramps at Woodward Camp.

The 1998 ESPN B3 competition will be telecast over a 15 day period, beginning Saturday, August 15 and ending Wednesday, September 9. For specific times, consult your television guide.

The Bicycle Stunt Flatland competition took place on the first day. In this event,



While dad was busy winning the skateboarding competition, Riley Hawk, age 5 (front) was dropping in on the half pipe with friends (lf to rt): Trevor Swope, Nickolaus Scherlacher, and Zoe Simon.

the athletes perform intricate acrobatic maneuvers while balancing on their bikes. Walking the wheel, jumping post to post, high speed spins, jumps from one part of the bike to another, were some of the typical moves demonstrated.

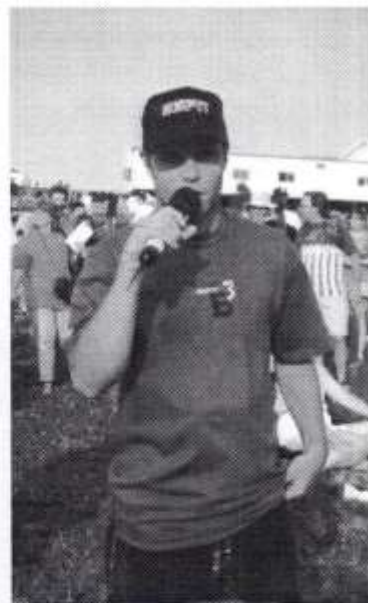
The bicycle stunt flatland athletes are highly respected for their dedication to their sport. According to many alternative sport athletes, they spend more time practicing than any of the other alternative sport athletes.

In many ways,

this event is similar to the pommel horse, in gymnastics competition. It requires a great deal of balance and agility. The athlete traverses the entire bike, using jumps, spins, and swings to move from one end to the other. Rather than pommels, they are in frequent contact with the grips, using quick-touch braking movements to maintain balance with the bike.

As in the other alternative sports, the Bicycle Stunt Flatland discipline has created its own unique vocabulary. Some of the skills demonstrated included "Pinky Squeaks," the "Funky Dragon," the "Spinning Chair," the "Maggot," and the "Weed Wacker."

Finals consisted of two 90 second runs. The judges scored on overall impression, and the scores for both runs were averaged to determine the winner. The first place winner was Trevor Meyer, who recently won the 1998 X Games.



Chris Edwards, the guru of Aggressive Inline Skating, announcing the competition.



Trevor Meyer on his way to first place.

The Bicycle Stunt Street competition, as well as the other street competitions, took place in "The Cage," a newly completed street course at Woodward. Designed by the pros, this challenging course gave the athletes a fine opportunity to test their skills. Many somersaulting movements were performed, including a no-handed back somersault by Jay Miron and a full-twisting back somersault by Kenan Harkin. Seeing was believing!!

The Skateboarding Vert competition took place in the other newly completed facility at Woodward. Two halfpipes—back to back—one for aggressive inline and skateboarding and the other for bicycle stunt, were built at the bottom of a large grassy slope, which was a perfect seating arena for spectators.

In the Skateboarding Vert Finals, the skateboarders were judged on three 45-second runs. The winner was determined by averaging

the scores of all three runs. Tony Hawk, performed a beautiful Variable McTwist, and a Fakie 720, giving him the first place title. Second place finisher, Bucky Laseck, performed a very high regular McTwist, a Fakie McTwist, and some extremely technical lip tricks. The third place finisher, Andy MacDonald, put together a series of very intricate moves. Using few grinds, he instead performed many air tricks using diverse grabs, switch feet moves, and kick-flip tricks. Andy's skills took the skateboarding vert to a new level.

The Bicycle Stunt Vert competition, was an awesome display of high-flying aerals and sheer determination. Big 540's were the norm, as well as huge no-footed can cans. Ryan Nyquist performed a one footed 540, while Pat Miller attempted and almost landed a 900. In his final run, Jay Miron performed a no-footed can can, a high 540, a big tail whip, and a huge superman tail whip, securing him the first place title.

But the real excitement was seeing the determination with which these athletes performed. They pushed the limits. Their breath-taking falls displayed their invincibility. John Parker fell on his double tail whip resulting in a flat tire. But that didn't keep him from finishing his run. After a fall which broke the chain on his bike, top pro Dave Mirra completed the remainder of his run with no chain at all. The crowd vacillated between awe, admiration and disbelief, as these bikers demonstrated their aggressive acrobatics!

Results:

- Bicycle Stunt Flatland (M): 1) Trevor Meyer 2) Chad Degroot 3) Jason Brown
 Aggressive Inline Skating Street (W): 1) Fabiola da Silva 2) Robin Miller 3) Salima Sanga
 Aggressive Inline Skating Street (M): 1) Aaron Feinberg 2) Blake Dennis 3) Weston Kramer
 Skateboarding Street (M): 1) Tony Hawk 2) Andy MacDonald 3) Brian Patch
 Bicycle Stunt Street (M): 1) Dave Mirra 2) Taj Mihelich 3) Dave Osato
 Aggressive Inline Skating Vert (W): 1) Fabiola da Silva 2) Katie Brown 3) Michelle Scott
 Aggressive Inline Skating Vert (M): 1) Eitan Kramer 2) Ceasar Mora 3) Tinu Kuntz
 Skateboarding Vert (M): 1) Tony Hawk 2) Bucky Lasek 3) Andy MacDonald
 Bicycle Stunt Vert (M): 1) Jay Miron 2) Jamie Bestwick 3) Dennis McCoy

-by Lani Loken-Dahle



Trevor Meyer, Bicycle Stunt Flatland Champion.

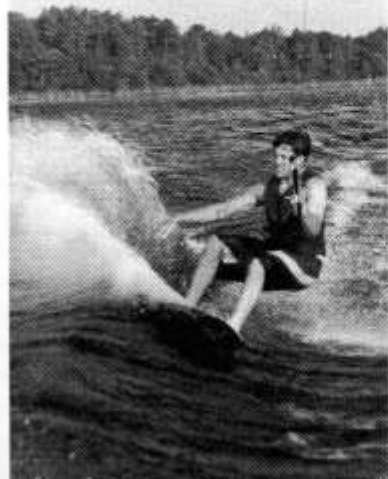
THE NEWS IN WAKEBOARDING: FOCUS ON STYLE AND WAKESKATING

As the year progresses, tremendous changes continue to be made within the wakeboarding community. The focus is now on style more now than ever before. Riders favor spins, grabs, and double-ups over single inverted tricks. Skateboarding and snowboarding are starting to have huge effects on the wakeboard industry.

Wakeboard designs and styles are changing to fit the new breed of riders taking over the sport today. Wakeboards are shorter and wider than they used to be. These boards are allowing the rider to maintain surface area and achieve "pop."

The riders can spin faster for rotational tricks, due to the shorter radius.

The difference between long and short boards is like taking the training wheels off of your bike. There is less room for error, but you can do a lot more with it. With a wide wakeboard, tricks are performed with more vertical height. Less speed and horizontal distance is used. Riders are landing their tricks wake to wake, rather than out "in the flats" (beyond the bubble trail of the boat's wake).



Sean Greeley surfing the wake.

Wakeskating is an exciting development that has happened in wakeboarding. Riders are using small boards without bindings. Skateboarding tricks are now seen performed off the wake. Shuvit 180's and shuvit 360's are the rage. Kickflips are soon to come.

Everyone is enjoying the freedom that wakeskating is bringing back to wakeboarding. Having calm water is not necessary. In fact, having stray rollers (waves) from other boats allows more of a sense of freeriding. The wakeskater constantly makes adjustments to the uncoming water surface, and uses everything to his/her advantage. This brings a feeling of freedom that is present in other boardsports like snowboarding, skateboarding, and surfing. "FUN" is the key word. This new extension of wakeboarding allows more and more people to get interested in "going behind the boat!"

-by Sean Greeley

justments to the uncoming water surface, and uses everything to his/her advantage. This brings a feeling of freedom that is present in other boardsports like snowboarding, skateboarding, and surfing. "FUN" is the key word. This new extension of wakeboarding allows more and more people to get interested in "going behind the boat!"

-by Sean Greeley



Sean Greeley performing a power carve.

ALTERNATIVE ABDOMINAL CONDITIONING

Abdominal muscles have received considerable media attention in recent years. Although much of the attention has been in the pursuit of the "six pack" (the indentations of the abdominal muscles due to the tendon intersections between the segments of the rectus abdominus) and for cosmetic purposes in reducing the size of a "pot belly," there are important reasons to condition the trunk flexors. In acrobatic sports the abdominal muscles assist trunk stability and hold the shape of the body through acrobatic movements (3, 10, 11). Due to the nature of acrobatic skills, forces must be applied to the body while the body is in particular shapes. The athlete's body also applies forces to the apparatus, board, floor, and so forth, and the body must adopt a particular shape while applying the force. Failure to shape the body appropriately results in less efficiency in the transfer of force and momentum and therefore a decrease in the magnitude and the direction of the applied force and resulting momentum (4). The inappropriate shape of a body is often seen when the athlete attempts a back somersault by "throwing the head back," and arching (hyperextending) the spine. The excessively arched body shape results in much of the resultant force being directed to rotation rather than height resulting in fast somersaulting but less time in the air to complete a difficult maneuver (4).

Gymnasts and divers require extra strong abdominal muscles and trunk flexors to avoid the problem described above when somersaulting backward. The traditional approach to training trunk flexors has been to perform an exercise affectionately referred to as a "crunch"

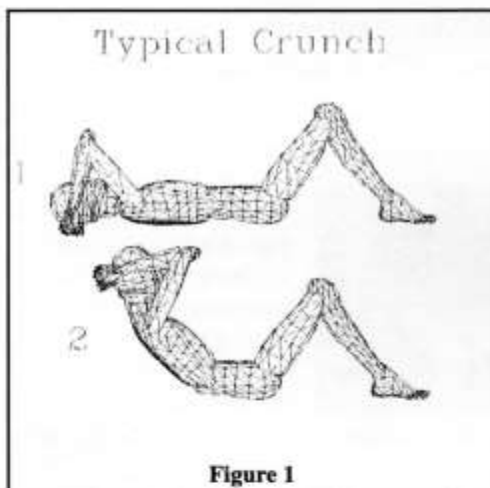


Figure 1

(Figure 1). The crunch exercise is usually performed on the floor. The arm position has been frequently discussed with some argument as to whether the athlete should grasp the head. Although grasping the head and pulling with the arms is probably not a safe method of performing this exercise, by placing the arms near the head the resistance is increased and the crunch exercise is made more difficult. The primary problems with the crunch exercise for high level athletes are the exercise is: (a) too easy, (b) too slow, and (c) uses too little range of motion. All of these problems are due to the special needs of athletes and the principle of specificity (9). It is not uncommon to find fit athletes able to perform hundreds of crunches while their sporting activity may consist of only a few to a few dozen trunk flexion movements. The crunch is performed fairly slowly when compared to even the simplest of acrobatic trunk flexions such as occurs in the beginning of a front somersault, the upswing of a giant swing, or the quickness with which one achieves a tuck. Finally, the crunch exercise moves from a

straight position to a slightly flexed position due to the athlete usually performing the movement on the floor. Rarely do athletes actually perform trunk flexion without beginning a slight arch or hyperextended trunk position. The trunk flexion of an athlete from a slightly arched to a slightly flexed position can be seen in a snap-down in tumbling, the front somersault take off from a front hand-spring, a tap swing on the horizontal bar or uneven bars, and the quick movement from a layout position (i.e., slightly arched) at take off to a pike or tuck position to increase the speed of the somersault (5-7).

The crunch exercise was promoted for a very good reason. When performing the hip flexion phase of a sit up type exercise, a muscle called psoas major serves to flex the hip and pull the lumbar spine (i.e. low back) forward. The psoas major serves a very valuable role in swinging the free leg forward

during walking and running, and is usually very well developed (1,2). If psoas major is the dominant muscle performing the trunk movement during a sit up type exercise, such as a V-Up, then one can usually see the athlete bend the trunk as shown in Figure 2. The crunch exercise was developed to avoid the positions shown in Figure 2. The first means of doing this is to avoid all flexion of the hip. The second means of avoiding the problems contributed by psoas major is to flex only the upper trunk. In circumstances involving people of low fitness, general conditioning, people with a history of back problems, and so forth, the crunch exercise is an appropriate and relatively safe means of conditioning the abdominal muscles and the trunk flexors. However, failing to involve the entire trunk, slow speed, ease of performance, and small range of motion make the crunch exercise less than ideal for acrobatic athletes.

The principle of specificity indicates that exercises should be similar to the demands of the sport skill that one is trying to enhance. Similarity in this case involves: (a) using the entire trunk, (b) higher speeds, (c) larger range of motion, and (d) increased resistance. The entire trunk is used in athletics, not just the upper trunk. Therefore, the entire trunk must be conditioned in movements that are similar to those encountered in the sport. High speed movements must be possible, although one may not always perform the exercises at high speeds. Increasing the speed of an exer-

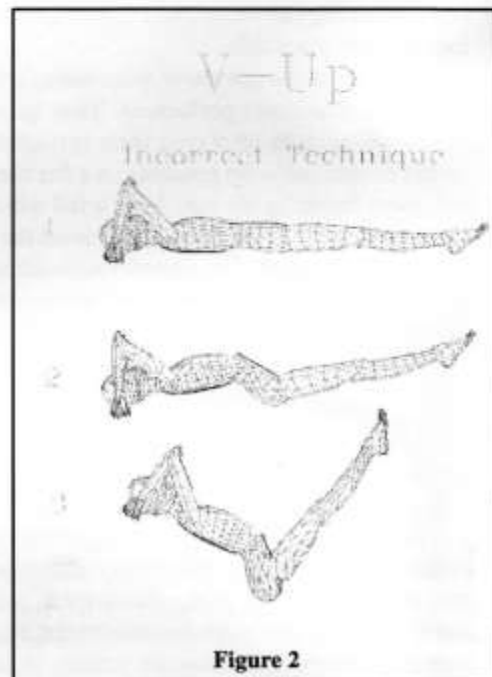


Figure 2

cise usually follows a considerable period of preparatory conditioning that is designed to enhance strength while not emphasizing speed. As the athlete reaches elite status, the speed of exercises becomes paramount and the ability to perform an exercise at high speed is crucial to enhancing sport skill performance at high speeds. Athletes usually begin a trunk flexion movement from a slightly hyperextended or arched trunk position. This can be seen in the "windup" prior to a throw, the movement from an arch to a pike or tuck in somersaulting, and a "tap" swing on the apparatuses. Finally, the resistance of the trunk flexion must be increased so that the athlete is sufficiently challenged that he/she increases strength, speed, power. It is astonishing that exercise prescription for every other muscle group in the body usually ranges from 6-12 repetitions per set. However, the abdominals are usually trained with 100s of repetitions per set. The primary reason for this discrepancy is that the resistance used in a traditional crunch is body weight which is not sufficiently large to cause the athlete to fail in a dozen or less repetitions (8, 12, 13). The crunch resistance can be augmented by holding a weight plate on the chest or behind the head, but this is often awkward, particularly with child athletes, and still may not cause the athlete to fail in a small number of repetitions.

Figure 3 shows three alternative abdominal/trunk flexion ex-

ercises. The mushroom is an apparatus that is often found in male gymnastics training facilities where it is used for pommel horse. The mushroom places the athlete in a slightly arched starting position. The athlete then performs a crunch and a small V-Up only as high as he/she can without placing the lumbar spine in the position shown in Figure 2. The Med Ball abdominal conditioning exercise shows the athlete leaning backward over a medicine ball or other object similarly shaped and performing a crunch while holding a weight plate. The medicine ball helps support the lower back so that the athlete cannot misuse the lumbar spine. Finally, the Table Abs exercise shows the athlete resting on the legs while the trunk is hanging off the table. A partner is necessary for this exercise to prevent the athlete from slipping off the table. The goal of the Table Abs exercise is to touch the elbows to the bottom of the table. The athlete should *not* be allowed to "swing" the trunk during the Table Abs exercise. The Table Abs exercise is quite difficult to do well, and promotes the ability of the athlete to achieve a tight pike position by training the extreme range of motion of the piking action.

Trunk flexion exercises should be a part of every athlete's conditioning program. Before prescribing trunk flexion exercises the coach and athlete should assess the speed, resistance, and range of motion required for the athlete's skills and then prescribe exercises

by exceeding the typical speed, resistance, and range of motion by about 10%. Trunk flexion exercises can be trained every day under the approach of dozens to hundreds of repetitions used in the typical crunch. However, when resistance is increased so that athletes are seriously challenged to complete 10-12 repetitions then trunk flexion exercises can be approached on a hard day - easy day format. Always supervise the athletes during trunk conditioning exercises because as the athletes fatigue they often resort to inappropriate postures and movements. When the athlete fails to hold the proper body position or move with proper technique - the exercise should be halted.

-Wm A Sands, Ph.D.
Motor Behavior Research Laboratory
Department of Exercise & Sport Science
University of Utah

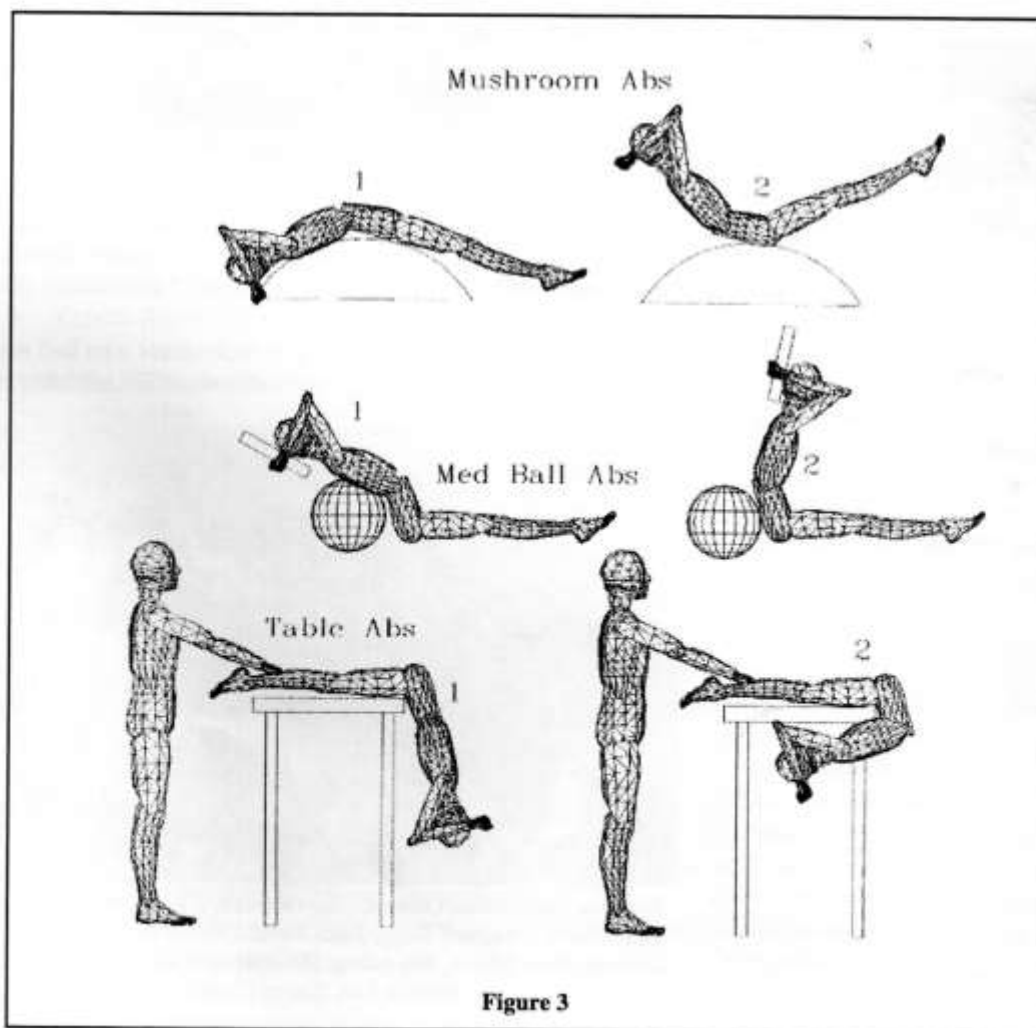


Figure 3

THE USA TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TUMBLING WORLD CUP

The 1998 USA Trampoline & Tumbling National Championships were held in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 1-8. Competition took place in four different events: Individual trampoline, synchronized trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline.

Over 1,200 athletes from thirty states competed in a variety of



World Cup Tumbling Finalists

competitions. These competitions included: 1) Senior Elite Championships; 2) Junior Elite Championships; 3) Junior Olympic National Championships (Level 10); 4) Junior Olympic Invitational (Levels 5-9); and 5) Masters National Championships. The Sr. Elite and Jr. Elite competitions named national champions in all disciplines. The Jr. Olympic National Championships named national champions in six age-groups for all disciplines. The Masters Trampoline National Championships named national champions for adults, age 30 and over.



USATT Judges Preparing for Competition

alternate were selected for each discipline. Their selection was based on their placing in the best two out of three trial competitions.

The FIT Tumbling World Cup was held in conjunction with the national championships. The following countries competed: Canada, France, Poland, Russia, and USA (Men's Competition); Canada, France, Poland, Portugal, and USA (Women's Competition).



Brian Beech (lf) and Ryan Weston from Elite Performance

This was the third, and final trial in all disciplines (trampoline, synchronized trampoline, tumbling and double mini) for the World Championships to be held in Sydney, Australia in October 1998. Four athletes and an alternate

This was one of five competitions in 1998 in the Tumbling World Cup series. The top 10 men and top 10 women from the series will advance to the World Cup Final to be held in early 1999. Only three competitors per country (3 men, 3 women) are al-

lowed in the final. The 1997 men's champion was Rayshine Harris (USA) and the women's champion was Chrystel Robert (France).

In order to participate in the Tumbling World Cup series, athletes must receive an invitation from their country. Athletes are chosen by their international and national ranking and availability to compete.

Each country is limited to 4 men and 4 women competitors in the meets leading up to the final.

Masters competition was held for the second year in a row. Eight men and two women competed. Competition was held in

three levels: Level B (10-skill compulsory routine); Level C (10-skill voluntary routine with maximum difficulty 5.0); Level D (10-skill voluntary routine with maximum difficulty 9.0 for men and 8.0 for women). For further information on Masters competition, contact Larry Gleason; Gleason's Gymnastic School; 3960 Beau D'Rue Drive; Eagan, MN 55122; (612) 454-6203; oldgypsy@aol.com.

Special awards were presented to individuals who had made outstanding contributions in the sports of trampoline, tumbling and



Lf to rt: Jennifer Parilla, Pat Henderson & Ryan Weston



Site of the USATT 1998 National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota



Masters Trampoline Competitors: (Bk row, lf to rt) Paul Armour, Jim Morlan, Kayvon Riggi, John Deville, Chris Eilertsen, Larry Gleason, Paul Seifert, Jim Adrig; (Fr row, lf to rt) Celeste Rekieta, Connie Lee, Karry Clark.



Meet announcer, Bil Copp

double mini-tramp. Following are the awards and the recipients: "The Spirit of a Champion Award" (Karl Heger); "The Bil Copp Advanced Coach of the Year Award" (Jill Milroy and Peggy Rayson); "The James A. Rozanas Memorial Tumbling Coach of the Year Award" (Marilyn Downing); "The Milton B. Davis Trampoline Coach of the Year Award" (Robert Null); "The Master of Sport Award" (Pat Henderson) and "The Distinguished Service Award" (Ann Sims). In addition, two awards were presented by the USOC. "The USOC Athletes of the Year Award" was presented to Erin Maguire and Rayshine Harris. "The USOC Trampoline & Tumbling Team of the Year Award" was presented to Erin Maguire, Kendra Stucki, Daniel Aldea, Rayshine Harris and Jennifer Parilla.

RESULTS

Tumbling World Cup:

Men

1. Rayshine Harris (USA)
2. Adrian Sienkiewicz (Poland)
3. Daniel Avakian (Russia)

Women

1. Chrystel Robert (France)
2. Amanda Lentz (USA)
3. Kendra Stucki (USA)

1998 USATT Nationals:

Trampoline (Men)

1. Ryan Weston (Elite Performance)
2. Brian Beech (Elite Performance)
3. Byron Smith (All-American Gymnastics School)

Trampoline (Women)

1. Jennifer Parilla (Southern California Trampoline)
2. Jennifer Sans (Gleason's Gypsy Flyers)
3. Courtney Smith (J & J Tumbling & Trampoline)

Synchronized Trampoline (Men)

1. Karl Heger (Gymnastic Academy of Rockford) and Byron Smith (All-American Gymnastics School)
2. Brian Beech (Elite Performance) and Ryan Weston (Elite Performance)

Synchronized Trampoline (Women)

1. Nicole Basanda (Southern California Trampoline) and Jennifer Parilla (Southern California Trampoline)
2. Kim Poline (Minnesota Twisters) and Courtney Smith (J & J Tumbling & Trampoline)

Events Schedule cont. September 26 - December 19

Sept 7	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	TBD
Sept 26-27	Wakeboard Expo	Orlando, FL
Sept 27-Oct 4	U.S. Diving Board of Governors Annual Meeting	Cincinnati, Ohio
Oct 7	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	Seattle, WA
Oct 5-11	MAX-AIR Productions	Fiesta Octubre, MX
Oct 6	FIT Congress (Tramp, Tumble, Double Mini)	Sydney, AUS
Oct 9-10	Aggressive Skaters Association Pro Tour & ASA North American Amateur Championships	Las Vegas, NV
Oct 9-11	20th FIT World Championships (Tramp, Tumble, Double Mini)	Sydney, AUS
Oct 14-18	13th FIT World Age-Group Games	Sydney, AUS
Oct 16-18	MTV Sports & Music Festival	TBD
Oct 16-18	Wakeboard Worlds (Vans Triple Crown)	Dallas, TX
Oct 28-Nov 1	IFSA World Championships in Sports Acrobatics	Minsk, Belarus
Oct 29-Nov 29	Quidam (Cirque du Soleil)	Atlanta, GA
Nov 7	Cirque du Soleil Auditions	Montreal, CA
Nov 6-8	USATT Congress & 1st SuperClinic	TBA
Nov 13	USA Gymnastics Executive Committee Meeting (MWR)	Indianapolis, IN
Nov 13-14	USA Gymnastics Board of Directors Meeting (MWR)	Indianapolis, IN
Nov 20-22	USATT 2nd SuperClinic	TBA
TBD	Coaches Workshop (M)	Colorado Springs, CO
Dec 3-7	USATT National Trampoline Training Camp	Colorado Springs, CO
Dec 5-6	National TOP Training Camp (W)	Tulsa, OK
Jan 30	Reese's Gymnastics Cup (MWR)	Phoenix, AZ
Dec 12	3rd Trampoline World Cup	Haslev, Denmark
Dec 19	4th Trampoline World Cup	Antibes, FR

RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Tumbling (Men)

1. Rayshine Harris (Flip City Tumblers)
2. Brian Beech (Elite Performance)
3. Henry Rodriguez (Flip City Tumblers)

Tumbling (Women)

1. Kendra Stucki (Elite Performance)
2. Amanda Lentz (Upsidedowners)
3. LaJeana Davis (Gymnastic Academy of Rockford)

Double Mini-Tramp (Men)

1. Brian Beech (Elite Performance)
2. Karl Heger (Gymnastic Academy of Rockford)
3. Jeremy Brock (Canada)
3. Byron Smith (All-American Gymnastics School)

Double Mini-Tramp (Women)

1. Jennifer Parilla (Southern California Trampoline)
2. Kimberly Sans (Gleason's Gypsy Flyers)
3. Tara Sewell (Upsidedowners)

-by Lani Loken-Dahle

Alegria Has Permanent Home

Alegria, Cirque du Soleil's production which has dazzled audiences on three continents, will have a permanent home at Beau Rivage, the new resort being developed by Mirage Resorts in Biloxi, Mississippi. The show will open in the spring of 1999. This is the fourth joint venture between Cirque du Soleil and Mirage Resorts. The first was the presentation in 1992 of *Nouvelle Experience*, on the grounds of The Mirage. The second is the acclaimed *Mystere*, which has performed at Treasure Island since 1993. The third production will open at Bellagio, the lavish Las Vegas resort set to open in October of 1998.

Series of Children's Books

Cirque du Soleil is in the process of identifying a publishing partner for a series of children's books inspired by its productions. The first book will be an illustrated children's book inspired by its latest show, *Quidam*. Though primarily focused on avant-garde live performances, Cirque du Soleil's activities have quickly grown to include film production, music CD's merchandising/licensing, and many other projects. The development of children's books is in keeping with Cirque du Soleil's effort to create shows and projects that appeal to the child in all of us. In Cirque du Soleil's creative process, ideas always take shape with a child's perspective in mind.

First Permanent Presence in Asia

In January 1998, Cirque du Soleil opened an office in Singapore - it's first permanent presence in Asia. The first project, for the new Singapore office, will be setting up a rotating tour on a three-year cycle, with *Salimbanco* as the debut production. *Salimbanco* will premiere in the fall of 1998 and run through early 2002.

Designs for Clothing & Accessories

Cirque du Soleil will produce a collection of thirty designs for a line of ready-to-wear women's clothing and accessories. Four young designers were selected as winners of the ready-to-wear contest held by Cirque du Soleil. The designs will be based on four of Cirque du Soleil's shows, *Quidam*, *Mystere*, *Salimbanco* and *Alegria*. These designs will be used by Cirque to develop interest among manufacturers and distributors worldwide.

New Partner in Cirque du Monde

Cirque du Monde, an intervention program that uses the circus arts as an alternative teaching method for youth in difficulty, has added a new partner. The new partner, OXFAM-QUEBEC, joins Cirque du Soleil and Jeunesse du Monde in this unique program. Since 1994, Cirque du Monde has held circus workshops throughout the world for young people living on the streets or in poor socioeconomic conditions. The workshops are designed to "introduce participants to the perseverance, discipline, respect and mutual support required by the circus arts, providing new tools that will help them develop and achieve self-fulfillment."

Cirque du Soleil has always attached great importance to youth, and especially youth at risk. Jeunesse du Monde, offers global education programs for young people from very different backgrounds. With the addition of OXFAM-QUEBEC's, whose mission is to support underprivileged populations in developing countries who are fighting for survival, progress, social justice and human rights, the future of Cirque du Monde looks bright indeed.

(<http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/oyeoye/index.html>)

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM KIDS

- **You can be anything** you want to be when you grow up.
- **Nobody can pedal** the bike for you.
- **If you wait until you're really sure**, you'll never take off your training wheels.
- **Nobody notices when your zipper is up**, but everyone notices when your zipper is down.
- **Sometimes you have to take the test** before you've finished studying.
- **If you're going to fight**, use pillows.
- **Before you trade sandwiches**, check between the bread.
- **You have to eat a lot of cereal** before you find the free toy.
- **If you want a kitten**, start out asking for a horse.
- **You don't have to own** a swing to enjoy it.
- **It doesn't matter how fast you're running with the ball** if you're going in the wrong direction.
- **Sometimes the biggest apple** has the biggest worm.
- **Every castle** has a dungeon.
- **A little kiss** can make a big difference.

*-Really Important Stuff My Kids Have Taught Me:
Cynthia Copeland Lewis*

USA GYMNASTICS HAS NEW LEADER

Robert Colarossi has been named the fifth executive director of USA Gymnastics. Colarossi most recently served as president of the Massachusetts Sports Partnership, where he attracted and managed a number of major national sporting events, ranging from the 1996 Olympic Gymnastics Team Trials to the 2001 U.S. Figure Skating National Championships. He is a former competitive gymnast and owner of the Massachusetts Gymnastics Center. He replaces Kathy Scanlan, who resigned to head Seattle's bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

(from USA Today)

GEORGE SZYPULA

George Szypula is still going strong. The former Michigan State University Gymnastics Coach (1947-90) maintains a busy schedule of coaching and judging gymnastics. Volunteering his time as the gymnastics coach at East Lansing High School, his teams have won a state title, as well as several individual state titles. One of his high school gymnasts, Clint Trial, was noted by Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" for winning all twelve events at the Michigan state high school meet in 1992.



George Szypula

The winner of four national tumbling titles, Szypula was also an excellent all-around gymnast at Temple University. In 1942 and 1943, he won the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League (EIGL) all-around title.

During his coaching years at Michigan State University, Szypula garnered 250 dual meet victories, tied for the NCAA title in 1958, and coached Dave Thor, our top Olympian in 1968. He was the sixth President of the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches

(NACGC 1957-58) and founded the United States Gymnastics Hall of Fame (1959). In 1970, Szypula was inducted into this hall of fame.

Besides his coaching and judging abilities, Szypula is known for his excellent piano skills. When not in the gym, he can be found playing a fine tune at the keyboard.

The World Acrobatics Society salutes Szypula and his continuing contributions to acrobatics and to the youth of today.

-by Newt Loken and Bruce Frederick

FROM GYMNASTICS TO THE NBA

Seven former Arizona State University gymnasts have gone on to careers in the NBA - as NBA Mascots! Taking their acrobatic antics onto the court, they have delighted crowds across the country. Best known is the Phoenix Sun's Gorilla. Then, of course, are the mascots for the Houston Rockets, Golden State Warriors, Indiana Pacers, Charlotte Hornets, Atlanta Hawks, and the Seattle Sonics. Way to go, gymnasts!

ACROTHEATRE FOUNDER HONORED

A three-day reunion was held in Miami to honor the founder of the Acrotheatre, Bud Beyer. Beyer, 83 years old, started the Acrotheatre at the University of Chicago in 1944. He combined drama and acrobatics, while focusing on the athletic ability of its young performers. Beginning in 1961, Beyer formed similar groups in New York.

In college, Beyer was captain of the gymnastics team and won four gold medals in NCAA competition. In the 1940's and 1950's, he was the head gymnastics coach and a professor of health and physical education at the University of Chicago. He coached the women's Olympic team in 1948, and served on several national athletic committees.

Beyer retired from the State University of New York in 1985, and has lived in Plattsburg, New York with his wife, Joyce, ever since. He currently serves as a volunteer for Common Cause, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Office of the Aging. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling and fishing.

We welcome Bud as a new member of the World Acrobatics Society!



Bud and Dad Beyer performing in 1940.

DAN MILLMAN'S BOOK NOW AVAILABLE AT BOOKSTORES

Dan Millman's newest book, Everyday Enlightenment: The Twelve Gateways to Personal Growth, is now available at bookstores throughout the world. Make sure to pick up a copy of this excellent book written by our first World Trampoline Champion.

BILL BRAVERMAN HONORED

Bill Braverman, a retired Philadelphia High School Gymnastics Coach was honored on May 3, 1998 at Temple University. An award, in Braverman's name, will be given each year for a selected Philadelphia high school gymnast. The award will be given to a gymnast who has demonstrated tenacity and courage during the gymnastics season.

Braverman was a gymnast at Temple in the early thirties, and won the first gold medal in tumbling in the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League. In addition to coaching, Braverman judged at all levels of gymnastics in the east over the years. Braverman is in his eighties and enjoying an active retirement in Philadelphia.

Letters to the Editor

Great job on the newsletter and thanks for the note. I'm getting more and more busy with gymnastics. Let me know if I can help.

-Bill Sands
(Exercise Physiologist,
University of Utah)

Rec'd the Newsletter today and have 'devoured' it already. Was another excellent production with interesting articles and great pictures throughout. From my viewpoint - an old timer - it is very enjoyable reading about the personnel and doings of so many of those of years ago. Do hope the 'younger ones' enjoy this also. Was so good I almost feel like sending another 'small' stipend for the Australian to 'match.' Just to keep the 'hopper' going! The Frank Bare II article was excellent. He's certainly a presentable and 'likeable' young man. And with all that talent—bravo to him! The Michigan Reunion was great. The pictures covered four decades with lots of smiling faces. Was truly a marvelous gathering and as many said we've got to do 'it agin' in near future.

-Newt Loken
(former University of Michigan Men's Gymnastics Coach)

Thanks for another great newsletter.

-Joe Schabacker
(Honorary Lifetime President,
US Sports Acrobatics)

Thanks for sending me the latest edition of the World Acrobatics Society Newsletter. I enjoyed reading it, and think you do a great job. Keep up the good work.

-John Kuchno
(ASTM Trampoline Committee Chairperson and lawyer)

I do enjoy the newsletter. I particularly enjoyed the interview with Frank Bare whom I knew casually when he was using the 3-meter board at the Cottonwood Spa (where I worked in Salt Lake City) to try his stunts. Please say hello if you see him. Say hello, also, to Newt Loken, Charlie Pond, and any other of the old timers from my era.

-Bob Clotworthy
(1952 Olympic Diving Champion, 3-M Springboard)

The newsletter is exciting. As soon as I get it I try to read everything. I end up reading it several times. I also note that we have had many articles on individuals and they are always so interesting.

-Hal Frey
(former UC, Berkeley Men's Gymnastics Coach)

Thank you for the newsletter, another great one!

-Andre Vallerand
(Cirque du Soleil,
Acrobatics Talent Scout)

Thanks for the WAS Newsletter, which I enjoyed as always. The article on trampolining and diving made sense. I've always believed that diving was more an acrobatic sport than water sport—except for landing in water, and oh yes—swimming out of the pool...

I doubt that adding more difficulty will make much difference - difficulty limited by the lift one gets from a single hurdle on the board (what if trampolinists were allowed only two bounces before beginning a routine?). I'd like to see divers transfer their skills to the trampoline and get with the program! However, I don't expect this evolution to happen anytime soon.

-Dan Millman
(1964 World Trampoline Champion and famous author)

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ANSWERS TO GYMNASTICS LEGENDS CHALLENGE ON P. 7:

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