

# TWISTARS USA GYMNASTICS NEWS

## SENIOR FAREWELL

### Inside this issue:

<i>New Pre-team</i>	2
<i>Calendar of events</i>	3
<i>New Team Members</i>	
<i>Awards Banquet</i>	4
<i>Boys News</i>	4
<i>Overdue Recognition</i>	5
<i>General Information</i>	5
<i>Summer Groups</i>	6

### Special points of interest:

- Graduating Seniors
- Calendar of Events
- New Team and Pre-Team Members
- Boys News
- New Summer Groups
- Coaches Recognition

### Senior Farewell

As Senior classes would have it, the 2007 graduates have to rank up there with the most influential, productive, successful and endearing ever. As this chapter comes to an end one can only look back with a great deal of gratitude, respect and admiration for these remarkable young ladies. Milestones were accomplished, barriers crumbled, and a legacy established that will serve as a template for those to follow in their footsteps.

Emily Ruff will be moving on to Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois, a short western drive from Chicago. Em has been with our program since she shyly walked through the doors at age 7. It took weeks to discover that she actually could talk. The coaching staff called her Gurtrude for the first month or two since she wouldn't tell us her real name. Quiet and shy did not mean unproductive in training by any means. Em worked for everything she ever accomplished and did so without a single complaint, in fact you couldn't work her hard enough. She loved to be challenged. I normally don't like to dwell on injuries, even though they often create defining moments in any athlete's career. Well Emily's, 13 fracture, shat-

tered, jig saw puzzle of an ankle recovery, defines her personality to a T. Most would have hung up their grips but that is just not Emily's style. Oh how I admire that. A national championship and a full ride scholarship later, she certainly has been rewarded for her perseverance but the coolest thing is, Emily would have done it anyway ... without any gold at the end of the rainbow. That is her style.

Taylor Zondervan transferred to Twistars as a level 6 at 8 years old. Talent was apparent from the time she turned her first cartwheel and it grew until landing her full ride scholarship to University of Oklahoma. As driven of an athlete that there has ever been, Taylor always took the position that she could always do better, train harder, accomplish more and that is what she did. Tay has also put to rest any doubt that sprouting past 66 inches means eminent doom for a gymnast ... she has continued to excel in spite of what some would call being vertically challenged. As beautiful on the inside as she is on the out, Tay has created a remarkable resume. She has captured state and regional championship titles, she is a 2 time Region 5 All Star team member earning her international assignments, and a 2006 USA J.O. National Team Member.



Undoubtedly Tay has represented Twistars well over the years and has earned the gratification that her career thus far must provide her.

Mallory Brewer joined us a late in her career as a talented athlete looking for direction in her Freshman year of high school. She found the direction she needed and followed that path to a full ride scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Much can be said about "what if" we would have gotten her earlier in her development. "What if" we had more time. I'd rather think "what if" we never got the opportunity to know her at all. Mal is the powerhouse gymnast that learned artistry and precision. She is a phenomenal competitor and used this as her ace in the hole as she earned an eastern national all around title/vault title in 2004 and later a J.O. National Team spot in 2006.

## Seniors (cont.)



When Mal is remembered outside of her gymnastics accomplishments, it will be for her outstanding personality. As a humorous, supportive, caring, loyal teammate and great friend, Mallory stands alone. Perhaps her greatest accolade however, has been her ability to weather family crisis at home, a 70 minute commute, pressures of school and still write an impressive epilog to the book of Mallory Brewer. This is very respectable.

Kari Pearce has to be the sweetest most unassuming athlete ever to grace the presence of gymnastics. It is so refreshing to coach a gifted child (or any for that matter) that has the ability to remain humble, gracious and genuinely

thankful during an entire career. No matter how great she became as a gymnast (and few have become better) Kari remained grounded. Combine that huggable disposition with extreme talent and you have a coach's dream. Of our four graduates "Pearce" has been at Twistars the shortest amount of time. This nonetheless, does not indicate less of an impact on our program. Kari has etched her place as one of the all time greats, earning 2 consecutive J.O. National Team member births, 3 Region 5 All Star team assignments, and 2 national Vaulting titles (the only J.O. athlete in the USA to compete a double twist TWICE at nationals). These achievements helped secure a life time dream and goal of

being awarded a full ride scholarship to the University of Michigan. Few are more deserving of success.

Saying farewell to outstanding athletes as they enter a new phase of life always leaves an empty hole in the heart. Saying goodbye to such wonderful young ladies makes the hole an abyss. Twistars will miss this fantastic foursome for sure but the Gedderts' may need a few extra hugs this summer as they prepare for life without them. Comfort can be taken from the notion that graduation does not mean disappearing from Earth ... We look forward to watching them conquer the challenges ahead. Best of luck, Em, Tay, Mal, and Kari ... We will miss you!

NEW PRE TEAM MEMBERS WILL WANT TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT TWISTARSUSA.COM

## NEW PRE-TEAM MEMBERS

In addition to our new team members we have a talented crop of new Pre-Team members entering our developmental program. Congratulations to the following.

STAR FIRES- M/W 4:30:

Aimee Chadwick, Jessica Thomashow, Sydney Pangborn, Sammy Vear, Jenna Posedly, Reilly Wegren-Jones, and Natalie Woodland.

STAR FIRES T/Th 6:00:

Alexis Nikoloff, Jill Kammerer, Halle Perry, Abby Mercer, Infinity Tucker, Anna Lloyd, and Angela Ghannam.

STAR FIRES T/Th OUTLET- 5:30:

Sophia Perez, Allison Haller, Erin Boynton, Allisa Weatherford, Morgan Haggerty

Landrie Jennings and Alexia Ivan.

Level 3/4 M/W 6:00- Summit: Reanna Klein, Jennifer Bartotti, Aaliyah Foreman, Emily Berg, Tiger Jackson, Makenna Bartlett, Arynne Wegren-Jones, Frankie Taylor, and Angela Laier.

Level 3-4 T/Th Summit- 5:30: Katie French, Samantha Uschuck, Kaitlyn Stevens, Cara Tucker, Arielle Marinez, Lynea Darling, Alexandra Castillo, Lindsay Jackson and Alex Parks.

:Level 3-4 M/W OUTLET- 5:30: Tristan Brown, Bailey Droste, Megan Dechatlets, Lilli Burns, Stephi Stavros, Brooke Binkley, Aubrey Opphile, Rebecca Seeger, and Alyssa Murphy.

New pre-team times will begin July 2nd. New members will need to make sure they have all appropriate registration materials completed by the first day of classes. This would include registration waiver forms, and team agreement forms .

As things progress there will be the inevitable questions. New members should always feel free to contact our Developmental Director Jamie Kline at gymmommljck@yahoo.com, or owners John or Kathryn Geddert at USATwistar@aol.com with any questions or concerns that your coach can not answer.

We are looking forward to a productive and fun filled summer. Welcome to Pre-team.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is the schedule of events for the upcoming summer months.

June 10– Gym Clean Day– 1-6:00.

June 15– Team Banquet– East Lansing Marriott. 5:30-?

June 18-21– Week 1 Summer Camp.

June 22– Normal Team Training Hours.

June 23– Off

June 25-28– Week 2 Summer Camp

June 29-July 1– Gym Closed

July 2– Summer Hours Begin

July 4– Holiday– Gym Closed.

July 27-28– US Classic– Battle Creek (Elite Nationals)

Aug 3-5– Super Camp– All Level 8-9– and 10s (except

Level 10 National qualifiers). Detroit.

Aug 12-19– Championships of the USA– Elite Nationals. San Jose, California

Aug 27– Start Fall hours for Team

September 4– Start Fall hours for Recreational Classes.



## WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Our annual talent search is now complete and it is quite apparent that the 2007 “newbees” are going to be a great addition to the Twistars TEAM.

The new level 4-5s will train M-T-TH (with W being the option day if they want 4 days) from 1-5:00 or M-T-W-F 9-1:00 (depending on age) . These hours will begin July 2nd.

A boosters club orientation meeting is scheduled for June 11 and 13, 7:00 at the Summit. New members should plan on attending to make sure they get up to speed on boosters club procedures and more importantly fundraising opportunities.

Please welcome Carla Jones, Genevieve Samson, Taylor Stevens, Valarie Webb, Elise Birkle, Rachel Yee, Morgan

Stevens, Emily McClumpha, Madison Slater, Madison Margraves and Mariah Bender.

Also joining our team ranks is this years select group of SILVER STARS. Congrats to the following little future stars. Brooke Hylek, Megan Gilbert, Amanda Mealy, Payton Young, Ali Wheeler, Alexa Alcantara, Delaney Kirnovic, Cydney McKeel, and Delaney Beres.

**NEW TEAM MEMBER  
BOOSTER CLUB  
ORIENTATION  
MEETING :**

## NATIONAL RESULTS

Lots to report from the National Championships and American Classic competitions.

Level 9 Eastern Nationals were held in Kissimmee Florida where 7 Twistars helped Region 5 capture the overall team title. Arielle Dyer was crowned E/N Vault champion and placed 2nd in the AA and Floor, 3rd UB and 8th B. Maya Ketner finished 5th AA and UB, 9th V and 8th Fl. Kristen Scidowski also placed

5th AA and added a 2nd UB. Maci Sump placed 10th on V and Beam. Also competing were Dena Mackenzie, Cici Talcott and Brittany Holmes.

Level 10 Nationals were held in Cincinnati, Ohio where another 7 Twistar athletes helped region 5 dominate the USA by winning the overall regional team title. Elizabeth Mahlich and Kari Pearce both earned USA National Team spots by placing 2nd AA. BB placed 2nd on UB and B while Kari earned

Her second national vault title. Also winning vault titles were Nicole Dayton (her 3rd straight) and Kamerin Moore, who both placed 7th in the AA. Mallory Brewer placed 2nd on Floor and Taylor Medrea and Shonda Clore had great meets.

At the recent American Classic held in Houston, Texas Jordyn Wieber place 1st AA, V, UB and FX and qualified to the Championships of the

USA. Her AA score of 57.7 was good enough to rank her 9th in the country (including all Seniors). Remarkable!

Kami fared very well in her first attempt to qualify to championships. She placed 2nd on beam and 3rd on floor but ended up .7 short of the qualifying score (mostly due to overly harsh judging on bars).

Congratulations to all of our national qualifiers. We are very proud of all of you!

## TWISTARS AWARDS BANQUET



Break out the hankies and the Visine, the senior/team awards banquet is just around the corner. The annual banquet, hosted by the Twistars Booster Club, serves as a celebration for our achievements, recognition for all of our team members and most importantly it serves as a night to honor our graduating seniors. We encourage all team members and their families to attend this wonderful evening.

The program will include team awards at all levels featuring MOST IMPROVED, HARDEST WORKER, HIGHEST AA AVERAGE and the CHELSEA SHERMAN AWARD (MVP).

Sandwiched in between will be a fitting tribute to our four graduating seniors including inspirational and emotional farewell speeches,

and career highlight video presentations (you got to see these great athletes as level 5s... entertaining to say the least). After the program we have a DJ scheduled and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy the evening.

The deadline for dinner tickets is June 5<sup>th</sup> (athletes tickets are covered by Booster Club). Contact Lori Fata or Eva Mahlich for details.

## BOYS TEAM NEWS

We are in the process of finalizing our talent search for new boys team members. Initial results look promising but our final list is not complete at this time.

Those boys that have signed up for the Twistars Summer camp will be pleased to learn that we will have an excellent turnout. We also have secured 2 excellent boys camp coaches. Derrick Croad (Assistant for the University of Michigan's men's team) and Chris Wiess (head coach for Energym in

Dekalb, Illinois. Blaize will also be on hand to assist and to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Boys Camp Schedule will have a 9:00 check in on the 18th and 9:30 for the following 3 days. Lunch break will be from 12:30-1:30 and camp will be dismissed at 4:30 for our nightly activities.

Hats off to Blaize! Filling the shoes of an established na-

tional team coach is not an easy job for any rookie coach, but judging from results and progress, Blaize did a great job. Thanks to the parents for trusting the program and trusting that Blaize could get the job done. On a related note, I received a compliment on our boys program by the State Director who specifically mentioned that he felt Blaize did a wonderful job this year in maintaining the integrity of our program. ATTA BOY!

**FIRE UP TWISTAR  
BOYS SUMMER IS  
A GREAT TIME FOR  
LEARNING**



Parents seeking feedback on your child's progress or simple information on "what's next", will want to sign up for a conference with your level coach. This is a great opportunity to discuss goals and aspirations, strengths and weaknesses, as well as results from this competitive season. Check the

booster bulletin board for the sign up sheets.

Group A/B- John

Group C- Kathryn

Group E/F/G- Daniel

Group G/H/I- Carrie

Group J/L- Mel.

Due to coaching staff time constraints conferences should be kept to 20 minute blocks of time.

## RECOGNITION OVERDUE

Some things are about as futile as trying to run through a brick wall. One of those things would be trying to get our more than deserving, constantly achieving compulsory coaching staff any DUE recognition from our state board of directors. Each year there are male and female coaches of the year awarded for coaches that dedicate their time to the compulsory levels. Each year Twistars ranks as one of the top compulsory programs in the entire USA let alone Michigan. Each year our coaches are overlooked and seemingly under appreciated by the powers that be.

I understand the need to be politically correct in spreading the wealth when it

comes to awards and the need to keep the masses happy. I understand that there can be more to an award than simple meet results. I understand that perhaps a club had a significant year without even winning a state title. I understand this. What I cannot comprehend is that this compulsory coaching staff has received 1 (ONE), award in the past 10 years and that ONE award was a long overdue Male Coach of the Year Award given to Mike Rowe after he was gone to University of Pittsburgh (interesting).

My ramblings here are not to take anything away from any of the former winners of these awards as all are certainly worthy. BUT come

on folks, due diligence would bring you to consider the Twistar staff every year, and common sense would dictate an occasional nod be given to the coaches that are producing champions day in day out, year after year. It is hypocrisy in its purest form to have awards and yet overlook the most deserving potential candidates. What is the award worth if it has no true meaning?

Well Carrie Stout, Daniel McCarty, Mel Gilson and Brett Reighard hang tough. Your efforts are noticed by many on the national front, the parents that support you and certainly by the owners of Twistars. In our opinion you are the COACHES OF THE YEAR!



## GENERAL HODGE PODGE INFO

- 1) Nominations for Booster Club board positions have been collected. The following people have been nominated: Rita Wieber (E), Kristin Moore (E), Shari Margraves (4/5/6/7), Dan Sump (9/10), Candice Rodriguez (5/6), Christie Lemke (9), Ann Allison (6/7), Michelle Hill (8/9), Dave Al-Ashari (8), Wendy Anderson(6), Michelle Bass (5/6), Susie Kirnovic (5/6), Lori Fata (9) and Makisha Castillo (5/6). That is 13 candidates for 9 available board positions.
- 2) Members will vote at the General Membership Meeting scheduled for Thursday June 7th at 7:00. This is an important event. Talk to the candidates and get a feel for what they can bring to the table as potential board members.
- 3) US Classic Tickets– as previously announced the US Classic is coming to Battle Creek July 27-29. This is ELITE NATIONALS and will feature some of the USA's top women gymnasts. Twistars will have to 2 competitors in this competition (Kamerin Moore and Jordyn Wieber) and we want a fantastic support group on hand. I have 3 day passes available for \$30 (basically the cost of a single full day).
- 4) Gym Clean Day– Scheduled for Sunday June 10th from 1-6:00. We are looking for team spirited individuals to help with some booster club projects, gym maintenance and cleaning. Your help is needed.
- 5) These tickets will give you access to training on Friday, the Junior session and Senior session on Saturday and the HOPES division competition on Sunday. See John if you would like to secure advanced tickets.

**IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION:  
PLEASE READ**



2007 **TWISTARS TEAM GROUPS** SUMMER  
**UPDATED 6-4-07**

Group A	B	C	D	E
M-T-W-T-F	M-T-W-T-F	M-T- <b>W</b> -T-F	M-T- <b>W</b> -T-F	M-T-W-Th- <b>F</b>
8-1:00	8-1:00	8-1:00	8-1:00	8-1:00
25 hrs \$360	25 hrs \$360	25 hrs \$360	25 hrs \$360	25 hrs \$360
		20 hrs \$326	20 hrs \$326	20 hrs \$326
Clore	Wieber	Wobma	Bonofiglio	Allison
N.Dayton	Moore	Aben	laghan	C.Wilson
Mahlich	Ciokajlo	K.Wilson	Lemke	Cutler
Medrea	Sump	Todd	Hoffman	McDowell
Ketner	Fata	C.Talcott	Amor	Wood
Dyer	LaBrie	B.Talcott	Lorencen	Milashus
Seidowsk i		Overlund	A.Hill	S. Wood
Holmes		MacKenzie	Al-Ashari	Morgan
			Morgan	
F	G	H	I	J
M-T- <b>Th</b> 1:00-5:30	M-T-W-TH- <b>F(AM)</b>	M-T-W-	M-T-W-	M-T- <b>W-</b>
W-F 8-1:00	1-5:30	TH	TH	TH
	18 hrs \$309	1-5:30	1-5:30	1-5:30
	23 hrs \$346	18 hrs \$309	18 hrs \$309	13.5 hrs \$281
	Olson	Shuptar	Sanford	18 hrs \$309
	Smith	French	Nagel	Stine
	R.Anderson	Kolk	Hoover	Mealy
	Silverthorn	Kline	Hatzopolous	J.Brown
	Thrush	K.Hoffman	Castillo	Peterson
	Dunsmor e	Peltier	Hogan	Loomis
	Mar- graves	Lyon	M.Rodriguez	Phifer
	R.Grant	Daniels	A.Dayton	Gilbert
	Gosselin	Kirinovic	Hosfield	K.Al-Ashari
	Miller			
K	L	M	B2	B3
M-T-W-F	M-T-Th	M-T- <b>W</b> -TH 1-5:00	M-T-W-F 9-1:00	T-Th- 5:30-8:30
9-1:00	10-1:00	12 hrs \$259	16 hrs \$300	6 hrs \$160
16 hrs \$300	9 hrs \$216	16 hrs \$300	12 hrs \$267	
Gruber	Brooke Hylek	Carla Jones	Wilson	
Bancroft	Megan Gilbert	Genevieve Samson	A. Hill	
Rosenbaum	Amanda Mealy	Taylor Stevens	R. Hill	
Dempsey	Payton Young	Valarie Webb	Feckovic	
Grimes	Ali Wheeler	Elise Birkle	Moore	
Anderson	Alexa Alcantara	Rachel Yee	Clark	
	Delaney Kirnovic	Morgan Stevens	Johnson	
	Cydney McKeel	Madison Slater	Moore	
	Delaney Beres	Madison Margraves	Parks	
		Emily McClumpha		
		Mariah Bender		
		Alex Parks		

Tuition is a PROGRAM CHARGE PER MONTH and not to be considered a PER HOUR RATE even though hours are listed.

Groups A and B have flex schedule at the locked "program" rate of \$360

NOTE- **BOLD AND LARGE** Letters indicate the OPTION DAY when a choice is available as to the number of training days

Groups are subject to change and shuffling due to numbers on any given day