

◊ WMGF News ◊

huskies.w3site.com

April 28, 2001

Season Review

by Mark Russo

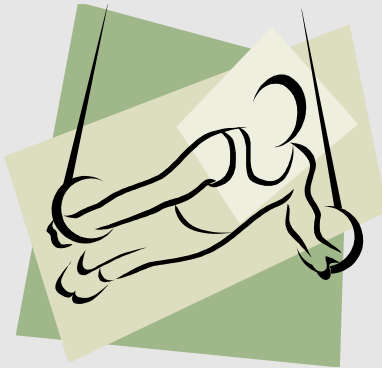
Another season has come and gone with many memorable moments, routines and the development of a strong team for the coming year. We began our season at ASU, our biggest rival and most respected ally, in our battle to keep college gymnastics strong and viable. This meet saw our promising freshman Jeff Crockett (All-Around, Boise, ID) severely sprain his ankle in warm-ups on Floor, causing him to miss this meet. However, his freshman cohort, Jesse Dowell (Boise, ID) picked up the slack and had his best meet of the season leading the Huskies in All-Around. But Jesse's strong effort wasn't enough as the Huskies were tripped-up and lost to ASU.

Las Vegas provided the backdrop for the Huskies' second meet, the Winter Cup Challenge and Blackjack Invitational. Winter Cup (a National Team Qualifying event) provided an opportunity for Huskies Ryan Welborn (Senior, All-Around, Grangeville, ID) and Jeff Johnson (UW Alumni, Ring specialist, Class of 1998), to show their best against the top gymnasts in our country. Ryan placed 52nd in the All-Around while Jeff placed third on Rings. Juniors Lance Bowie and Ben MacColl led the Elite division of the Blackjack Invitational with good All-Around performances.

On February 22nd, the Huskies traveled to Los Angeles for the

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The Washington Men's Gymnastics Foundation is a non-profit organization that exists to assist the Men's Gymnastics Team at the University of Washington.



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UCLA Invitational where we competed with ASU, UC Santa Barbara, Stanford, and Illinois. Coached by former Husky standout Yoshi Hayasaki, Illinois easily won the meet. The Huskies were almost at full strength with Welborn and Crockett competing All-Around. Washington improved its team score by 11 points from their first meet of the season!

Santa Barbara hosted the UCSB Invitational where UCSB, ASU, Illinois, UW and Cal-Berkeley clashed. This time Cal-Berkeley took the meet, narrowly defeating Illinois. Prior to this meet, the Nisqually earthquake injured freshman Jesse Dowell as a light in a classroom fell onto his shoulder. Jesse competed only leg events: Floor and Vault. Matt Coles (Sophomore, West Richland, WA) broke into the lineup on high bar in his first competition as a Husky! Congratulations Matt! The Huskies put together their best overall performance and showed tremendous promise for the future.

USA Gymnastics Collegiate Nationals culminated our season this year, taking place at UC-Davis in Davis, California. Arizona State took the Club Division title for the fourth consecutive year by a score of 201.45 to our 187.30. We were extremely prepared to do well at this meet yet a rough start on pommels could not be overcome. We never regained any momentum after that. Returning to the line-up for the first time this season was Aaron Cole (Sophomore, Colville,

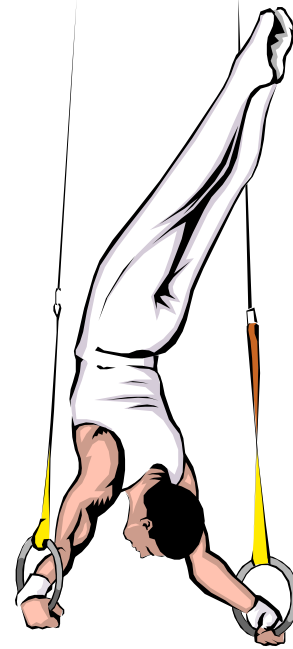
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Season Review

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WA) competing four events. This put us at full strength for the first time this season. Welborn, Crockett and Bowie became All-Americans in the All-Around while Welborn also earned All-American honors on the Rings and Vault.

This meet marked the final team competition for seniors Evan Cabodi and Ryan Welborn. Evan fought through numerous injuries throughout his Husky Gymnastics career to compete. His desire, motivation and work ethic will be missed. Evan also served as Team President coordinating many team related projects and events through the Intramural and Student Activities Organizations. Ryan Welborn has been the backbone of the team for five years. A perennial All-American, Ryan won the Collegiate Club All-Around title two years in a row! His ability to work through the bumps and bruises and maintain such a high level of gymnastics for five years puts him in a class by himself. And if all that wasn't enough, Ryan continues to train in hopes of qualifying to US Nationals this summer. The contributions given to the team and the whole program from Evan and Ryan were immense. Their roles and leadership will be large shoes to fill.



The guys in sunny Santa Barbara after the meet

Husky History: Jim Holt

by Dr. Eric Hughes

I like to think of Jim Holt as the savior of Husky gymnastics. As I said in a previous report in this newsletter, it is remarkable that a WSU graduate would step forward and save U-Dub gymnastics. For some individuals like Jim Holt, the love of the sport overshadows any conflicting personal feelings. Jim has been my favorite Cougar ever since. First, a little on his background.

Jim was born in Tacoma and participated in gymnastics at Tacoma's Lincoln High School during the heyday of high school gymnastics in the state. He competed on rings (his best event), pommel horse, and parallel bars at WSU from 1970-74. In 1972 he placed fourth on the rings in the National AAU meet – the toughest meet in the country in those years. His political philosophy major led him to Lewis and Clark Law School where he received his degree in 1976. A lot of you probably

“I like to think of Jim Holt as the savior of Husky gymnastics.”

remember Jim as that one-legged gymnast (born with only one) who was outstanding on rings. I remember especially his perfect landings from full-twisting and often double back dismounts. Jim's gymnastics

continued to improve after graduation from WSU and he remained active in open and invitational meets well up into his 30s.

Now back to his coaching days at the UofW. He assisted Dick Foxal for two seasons, 1979 and 1980, and took over as head coach of the “Club” team when gymnastics was terminated as an intercollegiate sport in the spring of 1980. He continued in this capacity until 1988 when the present coach, Mark Russo, took over.

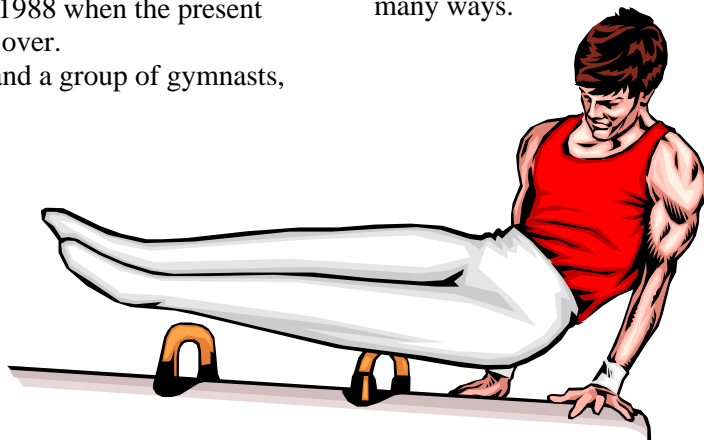
In 1981 Coach Holt and a group of gymnasts,

including John and Mac Smith and Stu Domeier, traveled 3,200 miles by van to finish last in the Pac-10 Championships at Arizona State. As chronicled in *International Gymnast* magazine, “No one from Washington liked finishing last, but there was pride in the program's survival.”

Speaking of survival! There was at one time over 200 intercollegiate gymnastics teams in the US. By 1975 it was down to 155. Today there are 21 funded programs and two club teams – Arizona State and Washington. After 21 years we are still surviving. Those of you who are sending your annual contributions play a major part in keeping us going. Keep your dollars coming!

Gymnasts coached by Jim Holt received many honors both during and after his tenure as UofW coach. Mac Smith qualified for the USA Championships in 1985. In 1990, Washington gymnast Ignacio Morales represented his native Bolivia at the World Gymnastics Championships. Iggy also went on to compete at the '93 Worlds in the United Kingdom and the '94 Worlds in Australia. Huskies Daniel Luna, Eric Huntzicker, and Mark Oliver also had international experience representing the US in the World Club Championships in Chile.

Jim Holt has been involved in gymnastics in some way his entire life: as a competitor, as the UofW coach, as a gymnastic school owner, as a gymnastic writer, as a consultant to developing gymnastic nations and most recently working with his wife, Hannah, as a girls' coach at Roosevelt High School. Jim is truly one of those individuals who has given back to the sport in many, many ways.



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Missing Gymnasts

Where are they now? Try as we might to stay in touch with everyone who has been a part of Husky Gymnastics over the years, we somehow still manage to lose track of a few of you.

If you know how to get in touch with any of the people listed below, please let them know that we'd like to keep them on our list! If they would like to keep up on news about the program, they can send their contact information to us via any of the following:

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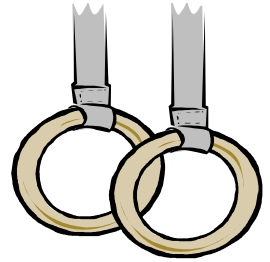
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You're Invited!

Come join us
at our

2001

Washington Men's Gymnastics Team Banquet

When: 2:00pm, Sunday, May 20

- What:**
- A re-cap of our season
 - A look at the future
 - A chance to get together with friends from many eras of Husky Gymnastics
 - Dinner and dessert.

Where: UW Campus—HUB room 310

*If you are able to come, please RSVP to Mark Russo
at (206) 524-9480 or e-mail ossurkram@hotmail.com.*

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Washington Men's Gymnastics

2001 Meet Results

Date	Competition	Team Score
January 27	Arizona State University—Tempe, Arizona	170.60
February 22	UCLA Invitational—Los Angeles, California	181.10
March 10	UCSB Invitational—Santa Barbara, California	182.70
April 12-14	USAG Collegiate and Club Nationals—Davis, California	187.30—2nd Place Club Team