

WMGF News

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September 10, 2007

Season Review

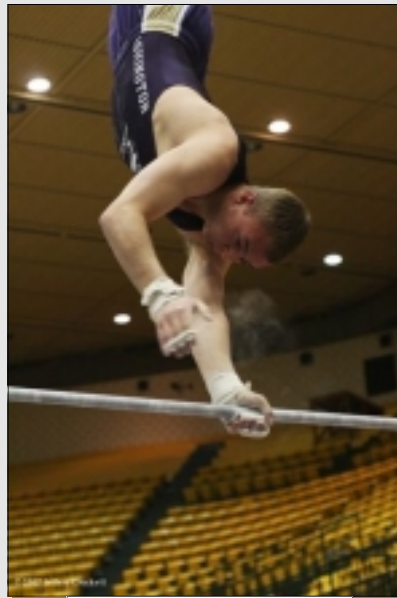
by Mark Russo

Our last competition of 2007 was Collegiate Nationals at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. An interesting thing happened on our way to this interesting place. We were flying through Chicago, to catch a connection to continue on to Richmond, Virginia. We landed in Chicago in the late morning to find that our connecting flight was delayed and then cancelled due to thunderstorms stretching from St. Louis to Detroit. Rather than wait 'indefinitely' for the next flight that could fit all seven of us, we decided to rent a van and drive the remaining 1000 miles. It looked easy on the map – like going from Seattle to San Francisco... but the East is deceiving. After lunch in Chicago we drove through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio (dinner in Cincinnati), Kentucky, West Virginia... and finally arrived in Williamsburg 15 hours later in the early, early morning, happy to finally lie down and sleep.

Later that day we awoke and went to the gym to practice, noting the many "original Americans" walking the streets along with the modern day variety. This Collegiate Nationals was the first without a concurrent women's meet, so the team competition was held Friday night and event finals on Saturday. Since we did not have a full team, we were focused on the All-Around and individual event titles. Our team was led by Senior Sean Liner who finished his gymnastics career with his best

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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.



Sean Liner on High Bar at Nationals

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performance ever. Sean took the All-Around title in the Club Division, joining a select group of gymnasts from Washington to accomplish this (Mike Williams, Jeff Johnson, Ryan Welborn, and Jeff Crockett). In addition, Sean placed highly on floor, vault, and p-bars. He was determined to finish strongly, and that he did. In his four years at Washington, Sean has been an excellent competitor with gifted athleticism. Much to his credit, he is also one of the first to graduate in four years! Amazing considering all he does inside the gym, and outside being one of the Sonics/Storm Dunking Ushers. Sean is truly ready for life beyond college and I thank him for being so coachable, dedicated and good-natured. He brought a lot of fun to the team and will be missed. Thank you and good luck Sean!

Mohamed Ghanem and Joe Zhou also competed and performed admirably on their select events. Mohamed continues to improve while Joe has decided he is done with gymnastics and will focus all his energy on pursuing a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at UW. Joe has been an inspiring team member with his positive attitude and willingness to work with little competitive reward. I always will remember his smile in the face of adversity and his laughter when finally understanding a slang translation.

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Yes, we had a very small competitive team this year, but they did an outstanding job inside the gym and an exceptional job outside with fundraising. Recruiting for the upcoming year's team has gone well and we will have a full competitive team next season! Yahoo!! Look for upcoming good news from your Husky Men's gymnastics team in the coming season.



Your 2006-2007 Husky Gymnastics Team

Left - right: Coach Mark Russo, Jon Chapman, Jeff Crockett, Eugene Burton Breazeal, Sean Liner, Mohamed Ghanem, Kevin Perkins, Jennifer Umemoto

2007 Annual Report

Once again we're on the cusp of another season, looking forward to another year of hard work and fine performances. Before it all begins again, though, we'd also like to take a look back at this past season to remind you why we, the Washington Men's Gymnastics Foundation, exist and to let you know what we've been up to. Keep reading for an overview of the goals we set for the Foundation for this past season, and a summary our finances. Keep an eye on your mailbox for our next newsletter in the near future for a preview of this coming season!

Purpose and Role of the Washington Men's Gymnastics Foundation

Article II of the WMGF bylaws states:

"The purpose of the Foundation is to raise the necessary finances needed to run the Foundation and to foster and promote the competitive sport of men's gymnastics at the University of Washington."

2006-2007 Goals of the Foundation

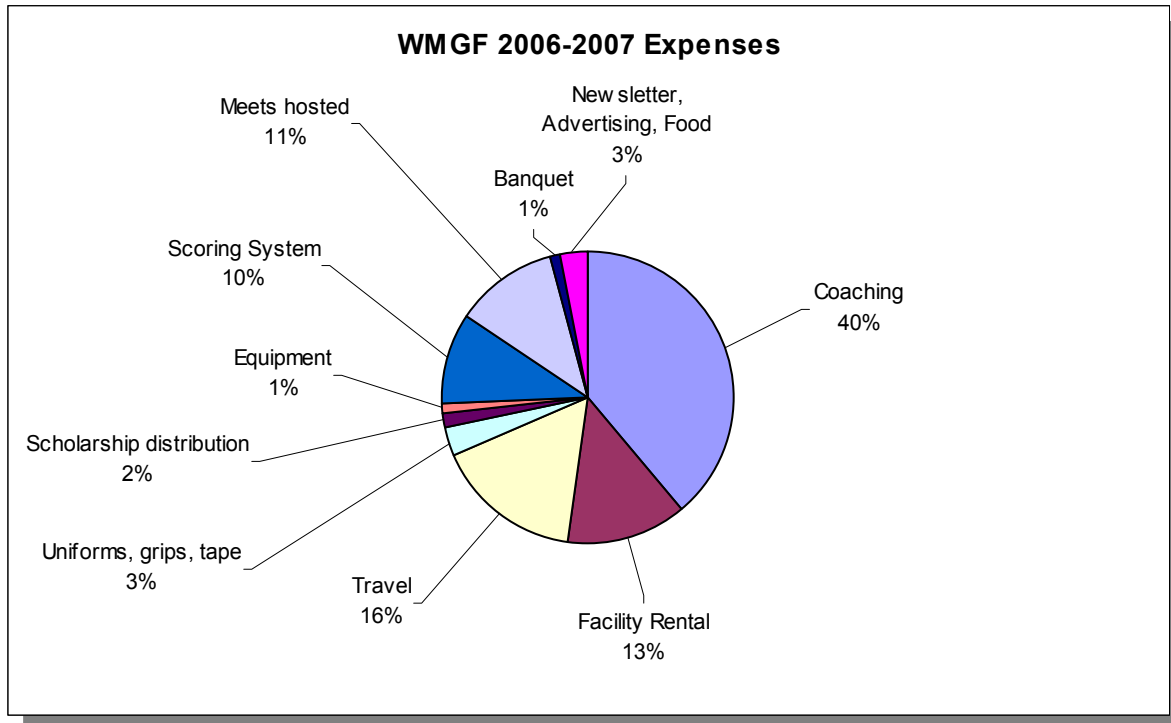
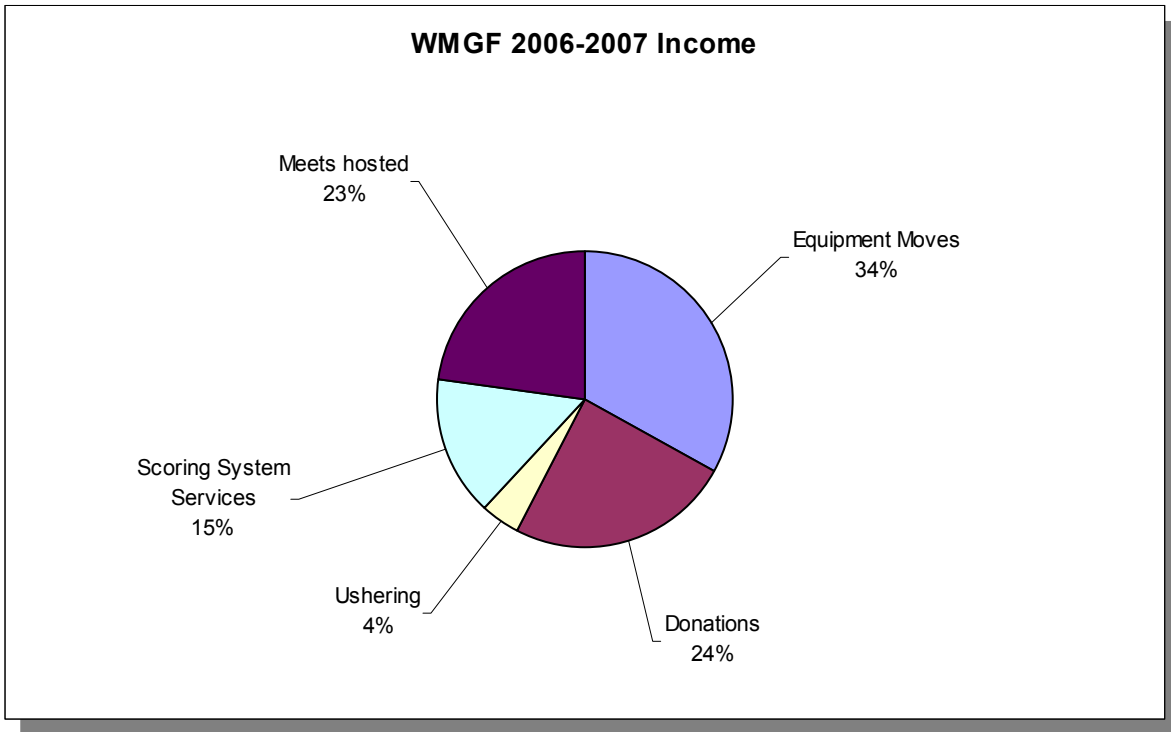
Our goals for 2006-2007 season were as follows:

1. *Fundraise \$94,000.*
2. *Invest \$10,000.*

We set goal #1 lower than we did last year mainly because we had fewer opportunities to host junior-level meets this year. The funds raised by hosting meets are usually significant. However, we ended up significantly surpassing our goal (by over \$20,000) thanks to larger-than-expected funds from almost all of our usual sources. Other than the one meet we hosted this year (Washington Open), our funds came mainly from the following: Equipment-moving by the team for the UW women's meets, Husky Football ushering by the team (and associated work such as setting up and tearing down Fifth Quarter facilities), donations, and local meet scoring services provided by the WMGF. Donations alone were nearly \$9,000 greater than the previous year.

Goal #2 was easily met based on our success with goal #1. Down the road, this goal supports our longer-term objective of setting up a self-sustaining endowment to support the team.

Financial Overview



THANK YOU 2006-2007 DONORS!

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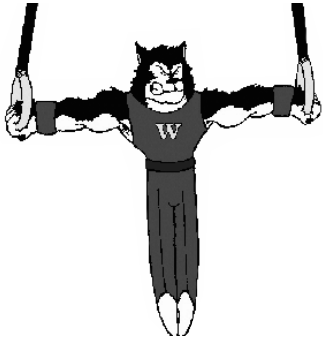
\$200 range

Jeff Bender • Lee Bjella • Dane Boysen • Gary Ackerman & Robin Dearling • Wendland Beezhold
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THANK YOU!

If you'd like to contribute, please clip and send this portion of the newsletter to:

**WMGF
5529 27th Ave. N.E.
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Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution* to WMGF in the amount of:

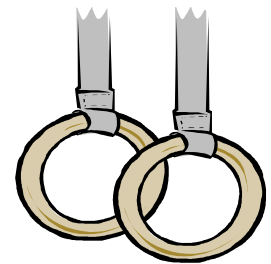
\$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ \$2,000 ___ other _____

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please contact Dr. Hughes at (206) 632-2151 for details.*

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