



# Newsletter

OSU10.0B OOSTERCLUB

Publisher

VolumeNo.2

IssueNo.

DateFebruary2004

## Gymnastics Season Underway

Our much anticipated season has begun. We started our year with such promise and incredible depth for the 2004 year. That depth is now being put to the test. We have all been made aware of the tragic event surrounding the loss of Meghan Jones for our season. We are happy to say that she is responding beautifully to rehab treatment. And we SO enjoy her presence at our home meets!! GOMEGHAN!!! What an electric miles she brings to all of us.

You have undoubtedly found our official Website and/or experienced at the first two home meets, the additional losses of Lindsay Nelson and Daylee Ingalls. They are both out for this season with knee injuries. Lindsay's bright and happy smile, especially during her floor exercise routines, will be truly missed. She was voted the most consistent gymnast on last year's squad competing 52 routines and hitting 49 of them. Daylee was a major contributor on Vault and Beam having become a regular in the lineup in both events. For those of you that may have missed Daylee's playful antics during team introductions, they are great. You will find her picture on the inside cover of the Media Guide, exhibiting a headband and a great smile. While these two team members will be sorely missed in the competitions sense, they are there cheering on their teammates during the meets. You must watch, periodically, during an OSU floor routine and you will find these two HAPPILY following along while their teammates perform.

## First Four meets in the Book

As Boosters, we are sure that you have been following the 2004 Season's meet results. As alluded to earlier, we are missing our three "regulars" but we are heartened by the response of the team left to carry on the torch!! They have responded like the champion they are. We just love the fight these girls have exhibited. They have dug down deep to stay competitive and we love their show of heart!!

Our Booster Club President, Steve Piazza, will comment on the trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, this season open er. You will find his synopsis at the end of the Newsletter.

In Alabama, we competed admirably, especially with the girls having just been advised of the recent losses of two more teammates, Lindsay and Daylee. Additionally, the Storm of 2004 made it an unbelievable challenge just trying to get out of Portland (where most of the away trips originate). The team was driven to a hotel on Tuesday evening for their early Wednesday morning departure. It was eventually made known to the coaches that no flight would be leaving Portland and the team and

MANY travelers were left finding creative ways to reach their destination. When the airport adventure finally ended, the courageous team spent 48 hours getting to their final destination.

Whew! Can you say “jetlag??!!” So, with that very unusual start to our season, the girls stepped onto the competition floor having missed two days of practice and having little time to familiarize themselves with foreign equipment. They may have been disappointed with the team placing 5<sup>th</sup> and final team score, 193.775, but under the circumstances, they did great! One of our new Freshmen, Chelsea Plourde placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the All-around. FANTASTIC!!

On to our next two home meets against Cal State Fullerton on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the University of Washington on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The team starts on vault at regular season home meets and managed, in both, to put themselves in a hole. Remember, three of the gymnasts who are out for the season, Meghan, Lindsay and Daylee were all regulars in last year's vault lineup. The teams came away with a very respectable win of 195.075 in the Cal State Fullerton meet and a 196.050 for a win against UW. And what an exciting meet it was against UW. WOW!! It was a nail-biter all the way through. The scoreboard keeps a running total of the team scores as the meet progresses and, except for the first rotation, where we had a couple of miscues on Vault, the two teams were only tenths apart for the rest of the evening. When all was said and done, OSU persevered and entered our 2<sup>nd</sup> Home team win of the season and set another milestone in the process – Coach Tanya Chaplin's 100<sup>th</sup> win.  
**CONGRATULATIONS COACH CHAPLIN AND THE ENTIRE COACHING STAFF!!!**

Our fourth meet of the season against Cal-Berkeley, on January 30<sup>th</sup> was another test for our team's depth. We now had to add Annie Campbell to the list of the injured and unable to compete for this meet. Even though the girls did not win, they recorded a very respectable

score of 195.550, had three individual event winners and the all-around winner – Chelsea Plourde. GO CHELSEA! She has competed in 4 meets for OSU as an all-arounder. In Alabama she placed 6<sup>th</sup> and then 1<sup>st</sup> in each of the next three meets. I would say we have something great to look forward to from this incredible freshman.

## Mark your Calendars for February 27<sup>th</sup>

As Booster Club members you will get to enjoy some special functions. One of these will be coming upon Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> prior to the Stanford meet in Corvallis. We have reserved the Alumni Center for a “pre-meet” function that will begin approximately 4:30 p.m. and continue until 6:30 p.m. This will give you time to enjoy the hob-knobbing with fellow members and have plenty of time to make it to the meets scheduled for 7:00 p.m. There will be goodies provided by the Booster Club and possibly some entertaining quips from family members of the gymnastic team. It will be great fun so please look for a special invitation to come in the mail as a reminder.

## Captain's Corner

*Throughout the season, co-captains Chrissy Lamun, Christa Piazza and Tanya Riccioli -Hebron will offer their thoughts on the team and the season in an online journal, available at [OSUbeavers.com](http://OSUbeavers.com)*

You grow the most through trials and tribulations. This whole year has been a trial after trial, but we continually come out of each one with our heads held high, standing firm and growing stronger.

Our trip to Alabama was no different. This trip was long and trying...from 10 hours in the Portland Airport, unsure of what was to come, to the four and a half hour bus drive to Seattle, a quick late night nap to an early 4:20 alarm clock, a 6:30 flight out of Seattle to Cincinnati, then Cincinnati to Birmingham, and then a one-hour

drive to Tuscaloosa.

Once we arrived at the hotel it was off to our rooms. We had a quick 30 minute stop on our beautiful dresses and smiling faces and racetourbanquet. At this point we were at a high level of delusion, laughing hysterically, typical symptoms of sleep deprivation.

Though the meet was rough, there were many shining moments. Most of the mistakes were due to the fatigue of 48 hours of traveling. We didn't finish as well as we wanted to, and people weren't able to get a full taste of who Oregon State really is.

The truth is we fought to get to Tuscaloosa and kept fighting till our last competitor finished. From the time we left to go to Portland and fly out, people thought we were crazy or that it was impossible to even get to Alabama. But we were determined to find a way to Tuscaloosa. When all flights were announced as canceled, we could have given up, picked up our bags and headed back to Corvallis. Instead we fought; we were going to be a part of the Super Six Challenge.

Though we didn't come away with a win, flowers, or a trophy, we came away with something so much more valuable than all those temporary things. We came away with knowledge of what it really takes to be on top! We need to fight not only in the meets but on a day-to-day basis in the practice gym. Practice is where we push through the sweat and tears as we strive to become the best we can. The competition is the chance to show what we've learned.

We showed great character last weekend and know what we need to do to improve. We are looking forward to our home opener this Friday (January 16) at Gill Coliseum to show our home crowd how much potential lies within this team.

We encourage our fans to come excited and ready to make some noise! Bring signs, lots of orange, and all your friends. We love to hear the roar of the crowd. It makes performing that much more fun and really pumps us up. See you Friday at 7p.m.!!

This feature is provided from the Official OSU Website and is added as a regular feature of the Newsletter.

## Visit our 10.0 Booster Club Website!!

Don't forget to visit the Official Booster Club Website. It grows each week with more features. Please take a moment to review the "Fans perspective" offered by Robert Martinez. He gives us a wonderful detailing of the meets by event. It is great – thank you Robert!! Also, there are many other exciting places to travel on the Website. There are wonderful photos of the team, not just from meets, but from all aspects of their association with Oregon State University. The web address is: [www.osugym.com](http://www.osugym.com). Please visit often and enjoy the MANY categories from which to choose. It is a work in progress and just gets better with every passing week!

## Advertisements around Corvallis area

The last item for news is to inform you of the Booster Club's efforts in advertising our Home gymnastic's meets. You will begin to notice "lawnsigns" in the greater Corvallis area. These will be on display beginning the Wednesday prior to a Friday home meet. The only home meet scheduled for a Saturday is the Regionals competition to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. When you begin to see these signs displayed, please inform family and friends. Our fans are some of the BEST and most GRACIOUS in college gymnastics. Our girls love to have a big crowd and they tell us it helps to keep them "PUMPED UP!"

As a reminder, the next meet on our 2004 schedule will be in Arizona vs. Arizona State on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

Our next home meet will be Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

We love to see you at all of the home meets. The support for our fabulous OSU Gymnastics Team is AWESOME and so very much appreciated!! The Newsletter

**will close with the rendering of Steve Piazza, our Club President:**

The first meet of the season is always especially exciting for the gymnasts and the fans. This is the meet where you really find out what the judges think of your team and the rest of the competition. This year's first meet was the Super Six Challenge, at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The level of competition was fantastic. The other teams were Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Denver. All of the teams with the exception of Denver have been recent participants at Nationals, and have realistic expectations to return to that meet. Needless to say, the level of competition and expectations were high. While fans, parents, and gymnasts were looking forward to the competition, the real challenge turned out to be getting to Tuscaloosa. The team was scheduled to fly from Portland on the morning of January 7, arrive that evening, practice on Thursday, and compete on Friday. Now for the "rest of the story". The team arrived at the airport early Wednesday morning only to find their plane covered with ice and their flight canceled. Thus started operation wait and camp out in the airport. As the day progressed it became obvious that the airport was not going to open in time for the team to get to the competition in time. With the help of cell phones, booking agents and parents the team reserved a flight out of Seattle the next day (Thursday). They had to hire a bus, travel through 100

miles of ice and snow, and spend another night in a strange hotel room, before leaving Seattle at 6 AM Thursday morning. Parents and fans planning to leave from Portland had to jump through the same hoop. Here is the itinerary for your team and some of their dedicated parents and fans. Team, four hour drive Portland-Seattle, flight Seattle - Cincinnati-Birmingham, drive two hours to Tuscaloosa. Piazza, Justus, Martinez drive Portland -Seattle, flight Seattle-Dallas-Atlanta, drive Atlanta -Tuscaloosa. Lamun, Plourdedrive Reno -Las Vegas, flight Las Vegas -Birmingham, drive Birmingham-Tuscaloosa. Denny Thompson drive Dallas -Tuscaloosa (10 hours). Irving -McElroy, fly Phoenix -Chicago-Birmingham, drive to Tuscaloosa. Thomas, fly Seattle -Dallas, drive (with Piazza's and Justus's to Tuscaloosa). Ricioli, drive to San Francisco, fly San Francisco-Dallas-Birmingham, drive to Tuscaloosa. As an example to the great attitude the team had throughout this odyssey, when it became obvious that they would not be able to practice or touch the equipment before the meet, like the rest of the teams, I expressed my sympathy to one of the girls. She just shrugged her shoulders and said "I guess that will level the playing field for the rest of the teams". The team did a good job at the meet and had a great team rotation. The Alabama people are great fans, and appreciated how difficult it was for our girls to get to the meet, and were amazed at the

number of parents and fans that came to support the team.

After the meet, we had dinner at The Olive Garden, and the girls made a special effort to tell all of the parents and fans how much their support was appreciated. I think I speak for everyone that made the journey to Tuscaloosa, how proud we are of our gymnastic team and coaches.