



# Newsletter

OSU10.0BOOSTERCLUB

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## Regular Season Ends

Since our last Newsletter, where we were about halfway through the season, today finds us with the regular season having come to an end. We have Spring Break upon us as the team begins to prepare for post-season.

As Booster Club members, you have undoubtedly followed the progress of the gymnastic team throughout the season. However, for those of us that have not, as yet, mastered the computer, I will summarize the results here.

We had a rough start at the Super Six Challenge. Our first meet of the year, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama netted a score of 193.775. However, after that our scores never dipped below a 195.075 (which was the next meet score, at home against Cal State Fullerton). The meet scores after that were as follows: 196.050 vs. UW; 195.550 at Cal; 196.700 at ASU; 196.950 vs. Arizona; 197.175 at UCLA; 197.175 vs. Stanford; 197.675 at our Salbasgeon Suites Invitational; 197.450 at Utah; and 197.075 at the PAC -10 Championships in Tucson yesterday.

You may have noticed that there was no mention of "winning" or "losing" when the scores were stated in the above paragraph. That is because SCORES ARE WHAT COUNTS! The NCAA wants to see the 12 best teams at National Championships. And because competition is so varied, depending upon your opponent each week, the conference you are in, the judging by area, there needed to be a "constant" with which to determine the best 12 teams at season's end.

Well, "hmmm, that's goofy." That is what I thought when I first entered Division I College Gymnastics as a parent! When my daughter was a Freshman at OSU I was also a "raw recruit." I understand, now, why the scoring has to be the constant. Oregon State lies within a formidable conference regarding the sport of gymnastics. Prior to our conference championships, 6 of the 7 PAC-10 teams were ranked in the top 25! Therefore, other teams with less highly ranked opponents could be winning every meet but with scores considerably less than those of the PAC -10 teams. Based upon wins alone then, you would not have the 12 best teams attending National Championships.

If you are wondering where OSU's other major competition comes from, it would be the Southeast Conference, commonly known as the SEC. This year is no exception.

## On the Road To Nationals!

How do we get to the "big dance"? Well, it is kind of complicated and I do not want to go into all the scenarios. So, as simply as I can make it, here it is (boy do I need Richard - he just carries all this information in his head!!!)

In recent years the top 18 teams are (seeded) ranked. This ranking determines what regional competition your team will attend, with the exception that the team hosting a Regional meet is guaranteed to compete at home as long as they qualify to regionals. There are six regions and the top 2 finishers from each region qualify to Nationals. So, where your scores have determined your ranking throughout the regular season, you

NOWhavetoperform,regardlessofyour score,andbeoneofthetoptwoplacersin yourRegion.

Simple,huh?!Nope,ha!That'swhatI thoughttoobutnoway.Theeasywayto determinewhoyourcompetitionwillbefor Regionalsistopairthetop18asfollows:

1<sup>st</sup>vs12<sup>th</sup>;vs13<sup>th</sup>;2<sup>nd</sup>vs11<sup>th</sup>;vs14<sup>th</sup>;3<sup>rd</sup>vs 10<sup>th</sup>;vs15<sup>th</sup>;4<sup>th</sup>vs9<sup>th</sup>;vs16<sup>th</sup>;5<sup>th</sup>vs8<sup>th</sup>;vs 17<sup>th</sup>;and6<sup>th</sup>vs7<sup>th</sup>;vs18<sup>th</sup>.Thenthebalance ofthesixcompetingteamstomakeupeach regionalmeetwillbepulledfromthose highestscoringteams,withinthatregion, afterthetopranked18.So,thereare6 teamscompetingineachregionalmeet,or 36totalteamswithanopportunityof makingittoNationals.

Simple,huh?!AsIsaid, **NOWAY!!**

**Herearethevariables.Forexample, sinceOSUishostingtheWestRegional Meet,wecompeteat home.Sincewe remainedranked#10afterour ConferenceChampionships,we were pairedwiththe#3and#15ranked teams (AlabamaandOklahoma).Another factoristravel.Lastyear,NCAAruled thatthedistancetraveledtoaRegional competitionrequiredamaximum distance.Iknowyouarewonderingwha themileageis,Icannotrecall(sorry).But thepointwas,toprevent a Westcoast or anEastcoastteamhavingtotravelcoast to-coasttocompete.Thetimechanges andnumbersofdaysawayfromhome putthoseteamsatadisadvantagefrom otherteams. Asyoucansee,allmid continentteamswouldalwaysrequireless distance.Already,however,itappears thattheNCAAhasrevisedthistravel considerationfor2004.Sinceallofthesix Regional'scompetitorshavebeen announced,twoteamswill,infa ct,be travelingcoasttocoast.Alabamawillbe comingtoCorvallisasthe#1seedinour RegionalandUCLAwillbetravelingto Raleigh,NorthCarolinatobethe#1seed inthatRegional.**

**Inanycase,thatmakesarealchallenge fortheNCAAofficialst o determine whichteamscompeteinwhichregions.I askedRichard,once,andhecould actuallytellmethescenariosthatexisted. Iwassoimpressedbutmyheadwas spinningtoo!!**

**Needlesstosay,thehopeisthatthe NCAAhasplacedtheteamsproperly so thatthebest12haveachanceofmaking ittotheNationalCompetition.We have, oftentimes,beensittingonpinsand needleswonderingwithwhomwewillbe paired.DidIsaythiswassimple?No way!!**

## **RecordSetting Season**

**THIS TEAM IS PHENOMENAL!!** Withall theadversitywehaveencounteredalongthe way,thissteamhasjustpickedupthepieces andpatchedthemselvesintoa#10National ranking!Sincetheirseasonbegan,wehave lostmajorcontributorstothe lineup. MeghanJonesto atragicand life- threateningcaraccident.LindsayNelson andDayleeIngallsinDecemberof2003to seasonendingkneeinjuries,andAnnie Campbelltoarthroscopic kneesurgerya monthintothestartofthe2004season. WOW!!Thatistotalof12outof24 routinesgone.

**Coaching,coaching,coaching.** These coacheshavegottobethebestinthe Country!!I meanit.OSUdoesn'talways getthe"Olympians"or"nationalteam members."Butourcoachingstaffknows howtogetthemostandthebestfromtheir athletes.Notonlyaretheyawesome coaches,buttheyareterrificpeople.This seasonisaperfectexample.

DidIsaywesetrecords?Wehavescored ourhighestteamscoreever:197.675atthe SalbasgeonSuitesInvitational.Wesetour highesteverawaysco reagainstUtah, 197.450andalmostbeattheUtesinthe process!ThePAC -10FreshmanoftheYear

came from OSU –Chelsea Plourde. Chelsea also tied the second highest all-time score ever by an OSU gymnast of 39.650. We added two more athletes to the “9.9 club.” Only Annie Campbell, then Lindsay Nelson and now Tanya Ricioli –Hebron and Chelsea Plourde have scored at least 9.9 on all four events. Woops –are all of these athletes members of the current 2004 squad?? Oh my –that would be a correct statement.

I believe our 197.075 score at PAC –10’ this year is our second highest ever conference championship score, next to the ’99 PAC –10’ in Corvallis. And happily, our great head coach, Tanya Chaplin, earned her 100<sup>th</sup> win earlier this season!! **Wow! Where do we go from here? We are on the Road to the NCAA National Championships!!!**

## Regionals Tailgater

Our Regional Championship meet is April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004. It is a Saturday, the meet time is 6:00 p.m., and doors open at 5:00 p.m. The Booster Club “Tailgater,” is scheduled prior to the meet from 3:30 p.m. –5:15 p.m. Booster Club members and their guests (and OSU Gymnastics Alumnae) are invited. Light refreshments will be provided by the Booster Club. **The location is the CH2M Hill Alumni Center** across the street from Reser Stadium. The room reserved is the “Giustina Living Room,” the first room to the left as you enter the Center. Please do plan to attend. We all have such a wonderful time gathering as the “super” group we have become. It is just plain fun to get together and discuss the upcoming competition and reminisce about the many other memorable seasons’ events.

This will be our last opportunity this season to “tailgate.” The final meet, Nationals will beat UCLA April 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our Booster Club members are absolutely wonderful! It has been an inaugural year to remember. We just cannot be more proud of the support the Boosters give the OSU

Gymnastics Team and we look forward to many, many more years to come. **Thank you all** for being a part of the OSU Gymnastics Booster family.

We are not done yet this year. The Booster Club members will be invited to attend the year end Team Awards which are tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Look for the orange invitation to be sent by regular mail.

**YOU ARE AWESOME FANS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## Travel Tidbits Utah Meet

As in our previous newsletters, I have included a “tidbit” from the Booster Club President, Steve Piazza, regarding a travel experience. I will close this edition with his rendition of Salt Lake City.

**SALT LAKE VISIT A SUCCESS IN THE GYM AND ON THE SLOPES**  
By Steve Piazza

Hi everyone. I am your trusty reporter here to tell you about our (OSU 10.0 Boosters and Parents) trip to Utah.

Salt Lake is home to the University of Utah UTEs woman’s gymnastic team (I have absolutely no idea what a UTE is), and was home to the 2002 Winter Olympics. I am sure you are seeing the crystal clear logic developing. Why not include a bit of skiing while watching two fantastic gymnastic teams?

To assure that the slopes would be in prime condition for the rest of the group, Steve and Candie Piazza, Steve and Pam Justus volunteered to leave Portland a day early and test the slopes at Alta on Thursday. We found the skier’s elusive dream, good snow, great weather, and no crowds. Realizing that we had other responsibilities, we left the slopes an hour before closing, so we could hit the hot tub at the Marriott, rebuild our muscles with some serious red meat at Ruby

River, and get to the Red Lion in time to meet the team at 8:30pm.

The girls were in great spirits, even after an "interesting" approach and landing at the airport.

Our original plan was to ski with a larger group on Saturday. Dick Foxal (bar coach) was able to convince Steve Justus that a quick trip to the mountain on Friday morning was in order. We (Steve, Dick, and Steve) got an early start and had another beautiful day (half day) of skiing. We got Dick back to town by 1:00 for the team lunch.

The boosters got together for a pre-function before the meet at the Marriott lounge. It was good to see everyone (Steve and Pam Justus, the Piazza's, Doug Plourde, Rob and Sandie Lamun, Richard Thomas, and Robert Martinez). We were all looking forward to the meet and were happy that Utah opened their doors a half hour earlier than usual so we could see more of the warm-ups. When the doors opened, Pam Justus made sure we were there.

Utah has a great facility, and they do a good job of filling it up. The arena is in the round and provides a good view to everyone. You could see from the warm-ups that both teams were going to be on that night. I won't try to go into the meet details (Robert is our exclusive meet reporter that makes you think you are there when you read his report. See the website, [osugym.com](http://osugym.com) for his report every week). This was an important meet for our RQS standing because of the low score that we could throw, and a high score that we could keep if we scored well. A score above 197 would really help. As the meet progressed it was apparent that we had a good chance at that score. Our last rotation was on the beam, an ail bitter under the best of circumstances. The girls didn't let a nearly fall phase them, they stuck every other routine, and came away with the school record of 49.6 on the beam!! Steve Justus and I claim part of the credit for this

success. We were eating caramel corn non-stop during the routine to keep from chewing our fingernails off. We have since named them "lucky charms", and we are bringing the left over to the Pac-10 meet in Tucson. Hey, when something works.....

The Utah fans were more than impressed with our girls, and many of them took the time to tell us. Our orange shirts gave us away as being OSU fans. Although we didn't know it at the time, the 197.450 away school record moved the girls to number 10 in the nation.

The after-meet dinner was great fun and we had another great day of skiing to look forward to. Eight of us hit the slopes at Alta, and thanks to Steve Justus's leadership, we were in line in twenty minutes before the lifts opened, and I don't think there was a chair that we didn't ride, including the one on the bunny hill!! Dick Foxal has a name for the group. We will share it with anyone who would like to join us next time. Those of us that were there will make sure there is a next time.

I hope I have expressed how exciting the meet was and how much fun we had with the skiing and just getting together. I hope some of you will be inclined to plan your vacation around an away meet date next year, either in the sun or in the snow, or both. We really do have a lot of fun!!

## Captain's Corner

By

**Tanya Ricioli -Hebron, Christa Piazza, Chrissy Lamun**

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As this season continues to speed on, our team continues to grow stronger and become more unified. It doesn't matter if we are competing at home in front of a great crowd, or if we are on the road, we are doing what we need to, improve and grasp our goals. Pac 10's fell at the end of a long week, finals week. Although timing may have seemed a little inconvenient, we were able to

get the most out of four workouts and travel to Arizona confident and ready to see the sun.

It was well said in one of our pre-competition meetings that we have been competing against all these teams every weekend, now we are all just in the same place; it is just another meet. All we had to do was start fighting as soon as we walked on the floor and continue the fight all the way to the end. We are very determined team and much of the reason we have been so successful this year is because we aren't willing to give anything up or let any opportunity slip by. Even if we have some difficulty, we continue to fight for every tenth. That is just what we did at Pac 10's. The energy was invigorating. We could even hear our families and fans cheering us on from the stands. Vault started off strong and we continued to build. We were able to break a 197.0 and place third.

As we now prepare for our regional meet to take place here at Oregon State, we are continuing to set goals and work toward them with unity and excitement. We have achieved some amazing things this season and have no doubt that we will continue to amaze!!!