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# 2020 College Gymnastics Association



## Awards Program



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# Statement from CGA President

## Mike Burns



As we try to navigate through these new and unsettled waters, we all need to find our own ways to stay positive and manage this uncharted territory. One thing I know about the gymnastics community I'm proud to be a part of – we are resilient, we are innovative, we are positive, and we will rise above what ever adversity that gets in our way. In our world of NCAA Men's Gymnastics, we have suffered a tremendous blow to the 2020 season with all the shutdowns and cancelations around the country. In a little over a week the world we knew was turned upside down. One day we were all preparing for our next meet and the upcoming end-of-season championship meets, and the next day the season was over. No end-of-season dual meets, no Conference Championships, no NCAA Championships. That's a tough pill to swallow. And what a way for our seniors to end their careers.

We now are in the process of adjusting to a new reality. As with any crisis, there are things we can control and there are things we can't control. Let's discard the things we can't control that sap our positive energy, and focus on the things we can control and find a way to be productive. I'm sure we all went through a series of emotions that ran rampant through our veins – first shock, then denial, then disbelief, then anger, then disappointment, then sadness – and then it was time to recalibrate and get a move on.

The CGA Executive Committee has been getting a move on and is ready to restore those parts of the season we do have control over. The annual CGA Awards we control will still be presented this year, in as normal a way as possible. Here is a list of those awards:

- CGA Honorary Membership Award
- CGA Honor Coach Award
- CGA MVP of the Year Award
- CGA Rookie of the Year Award
- CGA Specialist of the Year Award
- CGA Regional Head Coaches of the Year Award
- CGA Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year Award
- CGA National Coaching Staffs of the Year
- The 2020 Nissen-Emery Award

We have also recently awarded those student-athletes, in both the NCAA and the GymACT divisions, Regular Season All-America honors to those who were ranked in the top 8 (NCAA) or top 6 (GymACT) on the individual events and all-around based on the National Rankings as posted by the [Road to Nationals website](#).

So, all you NCAA Men's Gymnastics fans out there – don't lose hope and try your best to adjust to our new surroundings the best way you can. And realize we are all in this together and we will survive.

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# In Memoriam

*In the past year, the gymnastics community has lost four very illustrious members. We honor them here.*



## Gene Watson

Junior National Team Coaching Staff  
March 6, 1951 - April 2, 2020

It is with a heavy heart that we extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Gene Watson. Gene was a household name in the gymnastics community whose impact is immeasurable. Our community as a whole is better for the man he was and the contributions he made to our sport.

Gene was named a CGA Honor Coach Award recipient in 2016, recognizing a coach with 25 years or more in the sport. The award reads as follows: “In recognition of his service in coaching and developing gymnastics for over twenty-five years. He has gained the respect of his associates in the gymnastics world by his inspiring example and accomplishments.” A truer statement could not be written about Gene Watson.

He was one of the more influential coaches in the Junior ranks and coached many gymnasts who went on to achieve greatness at the collegiate level. He was a constant fixture on the USAG Junior National Coaching Staff, a non-stop presenter at USAG Congresses, and at the end of the day, a great man and a great friend.

Gene served in numerous roles while representing the athletes and coaches of USA Gymnastics, including Georgia State Chairman, Region 8 Chairman, Men’s Program Committee member, and Junior National Coaching Staff member. He was heavily involved in the development of the Junior Olympic rules and coached many athletes to great success, including former senior national team member, Alec Yoder, who competed and won the bronze all-around medal at the inaugural 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

He also coached and mentored such notable athletes as 1988 Olympian and 2007 USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame inductee, Kevin Davis, as well as 1989 and 1991 World Championships team member Patrick Kirksey.

Gene’s tremendous service and commitment to the sport of gymnastics were acknowledged many times over. For his thoughtful and unselfish contribution in service of the USA Gymnastics Junior Boy’s Programs, he was awarded the Frank J. Cumiskey Service Award in 1991. In 2002, Gene was recognized with USA Gymnastics’ top honor, the Service Star Award. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee recognized Gene in 2015 with the honor of Developmental Coach of the Year. Gene would have been recognized for 40 years of service this year.

Integrity, kindness, civility, and wisdom seem to be, at best, in short supply in today’s world. To have known Gene and to have worked along his side was to know that those characteristics of leadership, really, more essential characteristics of humaneness, were still present and powerful. His love for our sport, his fellow coaches, but most of all, the athletes – all the athletes he worked with and cared for over his remarkable career is unsurpassed and serves as a model for all of us who share his craft and care for athletes.

Gene’s presence will be missed across the gymnastics community, and our thoughts go out to his family and friends during this difficult time. Rest in Peace Gene from all your friends at the College Gymnastics Association.



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# In Memoriam

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## Gregory W. LaFleur

Gymnast, Coach

January 9, 1953 - January 10, 2020

Greg LaFleur passed away on January 10, 2020. In 2011, Greg was given the Lifetime Achievement award by Wisconsin Gymnastics for his lifelong devotion and contribution to gymnastics. He was also voted Wisconsin Coach of the Year multiple times for both boys and girls.

Greg has been coaching for over 30 years, most of those at LaFleur's Academy of Gymnastics in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin and then later in Germantown, where he taught Tot programs and girl's teams, all levels through elite. About 20 of LaFleur's athletes received Division I college scholarships.

Greg's personal competitive experience included State Champion Team Member in 1971 as a high school athlete and NAIA National Championships Team Member in 1973 and 1974 (while also earning NAIA All-America honors) as a collegiate athlete. Greg had several certifications and memberships including USAG Professional membership, USAG Safety Certification, Elite Coaches Association member, State Board of Wisconsin, and Region IV Board Member.

Greg is survived by his four sons, Elliot, Collin, Sean, and Andy (Charlie Shinavier), his three brothers, Tim, Jeff, Mike, and his sister Toni. Greg was 67.



## Karl Kurt (Schwenzfeier) Schier

Penn State University, U.S. Air Force Academy

Gymnast, Olympian, Coach, Hall of Fame

October 5, 1953 - September 15, 2019

Karl coached at the Air Force Academy from 1965 to 1976 (75-51-1 record). He later accepted the job as Head Coach at his alma mater, Penn State, where he remained as head coach from 1977 to 1991 (79-34-1 record) with two undefeated seasons. While at Penn State, his teams finished 2nd twice at the NCAA Championships, 3rd four times, and finished outside the top 10 only once.

While on active duty with the Air Force, he flew KC135s, a Strategic Air Command aircraft. In the spring of 1968, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam and totaled 622 combat flying hours in a U-10. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters.

He served as the Head Coach for the 1976 U.S. Olympic Team. He was also the Head Coach of the US Pan American Games Team that won gold in 1975, and was also the Head Coach of the 1977 US World University Games Team.

As a competitor in National AAU competition, he placed 1st in the all-around, 3rd on pommel horse and parallel bars, 4th on floor and vault, and 6th on high bar in 1955 at NAAU. He placed 2nd in all-around, 4th on vault and parallel bars, and 6th on floor and high bar in 1956. He was on the 1956 Olympic Team as an alternate.

In NCAA competition, in 1955, he placed 1st AA, 2nd PB, 3rd PH and FR, 4th FX and HB, and 6th SR. He placed 1st AA, PB, and HB, and 2nd FR and PH at the Eastern Conference League competition also in 1955. Karl's all-around gold in the EIGL, NCAA, and NAAU Championships were touted as the first "Triple Crown."

Karl is an honored individual in the sport with honors including President of the NACGC, Founder of the NCAA All-American Awards, Editor of the NCAA Rules Book, Colorado Gymnastics Award, NACGC Special Service Award, host of two NCAA Championships, and 1982 USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame Inductee. In many record books, Karl's last name will appear as Schwenzfeier, as he changed his last name later in life.



His family includes Patricia Ann Colman, and children Kris Karl and Kurt Karl (1989 PSU Team Captain). Karl passed away at the age of 85.

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# In Memoriam

*In the past year, the gymnastics community has lost four very illustrious members. We honor them here.*



**Robert M. "Bob" Hazlett**

University of Iowa, New Mexico State University  
August 11, 1928 - September 11, 2019

When Larry Griswold returned to the University of Iowa in 1950 to help put on the Dolphin Show, he devised a plan to have a woman seem to accidentally push her baby in a baby buggy off a diving tower and into the pool. Robert Hazlett, a freshman, played the role of the baby.

“The first time we did it, the buggy collapsed right as I got to the end of the diving tower,” he remembered with a chuckle. “I had a heck of a time getting out of that thing - I had a big white gown and a bonnet.”

Bob was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and as a high school student was State Champion in diving and wrestling. Hazlett would go on to spend decades performing in a professional trampoline act before finishing his career as a professor of physical education. He might have never been an Iowa student had he not met Griswold and his then business partner, George Nissen.

Nissen and Hazlett met in West Virginia, where Hazlett was working in a steel mine and teaching at the local YMCA. After observing him do tumbling stunts, Nissen encouraged Hazlett to come to Iowa City and joining the UI gymnastics squad.

“I hadn’t planned to attend college. I had no direction, so he kind of pointed me,” said Hazlett, who would earn two Big Ten Championships in tumbling as well as an NCAA trampoline title. In 1952, Hazlett placed 5th on trampoline at the NCAA Championships, 1st on trampoline in 1953, and 3rd on both trampoline and tumbling in 1954. Hazlett was also commissioned in the Army as an Infantry Second Lieutenant.

After graduation, Hazlett found work performing a two-man trampoline act at the Tommy Bartlett Show in the Wisconsin Dells. After Hazlett earned his graduate degree, he joined the faculty at New Mexico State University, where he taught physical education courses until his retirement in 1990.

Prior to this, he coached high school boys gymnastics at York Community High School in Illinois, coaching his team to a 2nd place and a 3rd place finish at the State Championships.

At the time of his passing, he was 91. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and children, Mark and Kim.

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# CGA Honorary Memberships

*Honorary Membership in the CGA is awarded to selected retired collegiate coaches with ten years or more of active service in the association, Honor Coach recipients, or others chosen to be so honored. Nominees must be confirmed by 2/3 vote of Honorary Lifetime Committee. An honorary Member is entitled to the privilege of voice and vote, for life, in all CGA matters.*



## Russ Fystrom

University of Minnesota  
Gymnast, Coach, Judge

A four-year letter winner for the Golden Gophers and a 1973 graduate of the University, Russ Fystrom completed his 36th season as an assistant coach at Minnesota in 2017. Upon graduating, Fystrom taught high school in Edina, MN. He later moved to the Burnsville school system where he taught until his retirement in 2010.

As an assistant coach at the University of Minnesota, Fystrom earned CGA National Assistant Coach of the Year honors in 1990 as well as Regional Assistant Coach of the Year in 2015 and 2016. Fystrom helped coach Ellis Mannon to two national titles on pommel horse (2014 NCAA Championships and 2015 Winter Cup Challenge). He also coached Kit Beikmann to pommel horse gold at the 2007 Big Ten Championships (an event that Beikmann earned All-American honors on as well). In all, Fystrom helped Minnesota produce 92 All-Americans. Fystrom was also selected to coach the 1985 U.S. Olympic Festival in Houston and led his team to the gold medal. Fystrom was voted in as one of two senior coach representatives of the USAG Men's Program Committee (serving as secretary), the most powerful national men's gymnastics committee in the country.

As a competitor, he was the 1973 Big Ten Champion on pommel horse, a three-time NAAU pommel horse runner-up, a four-year letter winner, and was the captain of the Gophers during the 1973 season.

A recipient of the USA Gymnastics Masters of Sport Award, Fystrom has always been an advocate of proper men's gymnastics judging rules. Fystrom is certified as a judge both nationally and internationally, for which he has published several judging articles. He represented the USA as a judge at the 2011 American Cup and the 2012 USA vs. Canada competition. Other notable honors include 2017 University of Minnesota M-Club Hall of Fame Inductee, 2016 Minnesota Gymnastics Hall of Fame Inductee, 1989 National High School Coach of the Year, coach of six Big Ten Championship teams, and coach of one NCAA runner-up team.

"Russ has been one of the most loyal Gopher coaches at Minnesota in his years as an assistant," head coach Mike Burns said. "His knowledge of the FIG Code of Points and how to utilize it in the gym, combined with his many years of experience with college gymnastics, has made him an invaluable member of our staff. He was a daily beacon of integrity and has been instrumental in the continued success of the Golden Gopher Men's Gymnastics Program."

Fystrom and his wife, Janet, have three children: twin daughters, Amelia and Martha, and a son, Charles, as well as four grandchildren.



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## William Tom

*Gymnast, Olympian, Coach, Hall of Fame  
March 15, 1923 - October 31, 2012*

Often times great athletes change gymnastics, but in the case of Bill Tom, gymnastics changed him (in many sources, William is listed as “Bill”, but in many others he is listed as “William”). Following the 1956 Olympics where he met and befriended Taiwanese athletes, Tom moved to that country and started its first gymnastics program. Following his time in Taiwan, the former L.A. Turner returned to the U.S. where he coached the men’s gymnastics teams at L.A. Trade Tech Jr. College for 32 years. Tom was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1992 and inducted into the Occidental College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. During the late 50s and 60s, he opened the Lincoln Heights (Los Angeles) HS gymnasium two evenings a week. Former and prospective Olympians often trained there, including Jack Beckner, Larry Banner, Armando Vega. Tom would help numerous young gymnasts learn the gymnastics skills they would later perform in Olympic Trials, Olympic Games, World Championships, NCAA Championships, and other elite competitions.

Tom was born in San Francisco, but when he was five years old, he moved to Guangzhou (Canton), China. He moved back to the United States finally settling in Los Angeles when he was about 15 years old. Tom attended Los Angeles Poly Tech High School where he first learned gymnastics. He went on to Los Angeles City College for one year and then went into the military service during WWII. After his military service, he went to Occidental College where he graduated with a B.A. in 1951. Eventually he received his M.A. from Cal State Los Angeles in 1962. Gymnastically, Tom won the 1949 National AAU (elite) vaulting championship, having also placed in floor exercise and pommel horse. He was also the Southern California all-around champion in 1952, vault champion in 1949 and 1956, pommel

horse champion in 1952, 1954, and 1955 (against the likes of Jack Beckner, Armando Vega, and Charlie Simms), and a valuable member of the Los Angeles Turners team that won several National AAU team titles. In 1956, he qualified for the U. S. Olympic team, being its senior member at age 33 (Melbourne, Australia).

Honors include the Fulbright Smith-Mundt Teacher Education Exchange Program Award that took Tom to Taiwan Normal University as an instructor (1957-58). A point of interest includes Abie Grossfeld telling about September in 1956, "While we were training at Lincoln High School prior to leaving for Melbourne Olympics, Bill devised and often performed the "Bailie" skill on pommel horse. He called it a "Moore, back Moore, travel" that, in today's terms, would be a "half Czech, Direct Stockli B. Two years later, at a workout in Florida, Sam Bailie was eager to show me a new skill that he "invented", which was the same skill that Bill had shown me. Neither Bill Tom or Sam Bailie knew they both were working on the same skill."

Tom also won numerous International Senior Badminton titles including several Asian National Age Bracket Championships in his 80's. For example, in Asia in 2007 for the World Cup Championships, he and his partner won gold in the doubles competition, (at age 83 1/2). He was inducted into the Senior Badminton Hall of Fame in 2006. He was also a champion diver. Bill passed away at age 89.

His family includes one son, Tracy, two daughters, Lisa and Meiling, and six grandchildren.





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# CGA Honor Coach Awards

*The first Honor Coach Award of the College Gymnastics Association was presented in 1954. This award is given annually to a member coach of twenty-five years or more who has gained the admiration of his coaching associates. The award reads as follows: "In recognition of his service in coaching and developing gymnastics for over twenty-five years. He has gained the respect of his associates in the gymnastics world by his inspiring example and accomplishments."*



## Peter Kormann

U.S. Naval Academy

The Ohio State University

Peter Kormann began his gymnastics career at the Dave Ellis Gym Club under former Springfield gymnast, Dave Ellis, and competed for Braintree High School under coach Joe Schuwert, where he won the Massachusetts state high school all-around title. He began his collegiate career at Southern Connecticut State University under Abie Grossfeld. During his collegiate career, he captured 11 EIGL individual titles (the most in conference history), including three consecutive all-around titles. In what was a remarkable 1976 season, he captured all-around titles on consecutive weekends at the EIGL, NCAA Division II, and NCAA Division I championships (the only gymnast to ever capture both NCAA titles) all with compulsory, optional, and individual event competition. At the 1976 Olympic Trials at Penn State, he earned a berth on the U.S. Team and at the Montreal Olympics, earned a bronze medal on FX becoming the 1st U.S. gymnast to earn an Olympic medal in 44 years. He represented the U.S. in 20 international competitions in 15 different countries including the 1975 Pan American Games, the 1977 International Cup, and the 1978 World Championships.

Peter became the head coach of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982 after serving as an assistant under Bill Savering. Prior to that he was an assistant coach at SCSU from 1977-80 while still training. In his 1st year at Annapolis, he led the Midshipmen to an 11-1 record, the best in Academy history. The program continued to improve under his direction and in 1987, Navy would capture its first EIGL team titles in 26 years, repeating as league champions in 1988 and 1989. He coached Navy gymnast, Jerry Harran, to the all-around titles in 1987 and 1988. From 1986 to 1989, seven Navy gymnasts would capture 11 individual EIGL titles – including 6 by Jerry Harran.

Leaving the Naval Academy, Peter assumed the head coaching position at Ohio State in 1989 where he would lead the Buckeyes to a dual meet record of 111 wins to only 7 losses during his career. They would capture the 1996 NCAA team title and three 3rd place finishes during his tenure. The Buckeyes would also capture two first, two seconds, and four third place team finishes in Big Ten competition. Peter also served as U.S. head coach for the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games, the 1995, 1997, and 1999 U.S. World Championship Teams, and the 1994 Gold Medal Pacific Alliance team.

Peter has served as USAG National Team Coordinator, a USAG Board of Directors member, the President's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sport, and a TV color commentator for CBS & ESPN Sports. He was the 1988 NCAA East Regional Coach of the Year while at Navy, Big Ten Coach of the Year in 1993-94 and 1996-97, and NCAA Coach of the Year in 1996. He was the Director of Gymnastics for Chelsea Piers in New York City for ten years and is currently the owner/operator of Yellow Jacket Gymnastics in Middleton, MA with a thriving Junior Olympic Program.



## Yoichi Tomita

Cal State University - Long Beach

Gymnast, Olympic Coach

Yoichi Tomita was born in Takasaki, Japan in 1955 and began his gymnastics career in 1967 at age 12. He came to the United States in 1974 and, in 1975, enrolled at Cal State University - Long Beach where he graduated in 1978 with a B.A. in Physical Education. While in Japan, he was the 1973 Japanese High School National All-Around champion. As a U.S. collegiate gymnast, he won the 1975 NCAA parallel bars title at Indiana State University and placed 2nd in the all-around at the NCAA Championship at the University of Oregon in 1978. He was the PCAA Western Conference all-around champion and CSULB Athlete of the Year from 1975 to 1978. He was the 1979 USA champion on horizontal bar and 3rd place finisher in the all-around. He received an NCAA Post Graduate Scholarship for 1978-79.

Yoichi has been the owner/director of Gymnastics World, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona from 1983 to the present. From 1983 to 2015, he has produced 13 National Junior Olympic all-around champions. He has been on the Junior National Coaching Staff since 1978 and served on the Olympic coaching staff for the Seoul, Korea (1988) and Sydney, Australia (2000) Games.

He has served on the Senior National Coaching Staff from 1983 – 1988 and again from 1998 – 2000. He has been chairman of the USAG Men's Program Committee from 2002 – 2018 and been a member of the USAG Board of Directors from 2002 – 2018. He is a USAG National Team Special Advisor for the 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan. Among the significant gymnasts that Yoichi coached during his illustrious career were ASU gymnast Dan Hayden (1985 & 1987 USA World Team); ASU gymnast Dennis Hayden (1986 NCAA champion & USA Goodwill Games Team); Cal gymnast & captain Jon Omori (1983 J.O. National Champion and 1987 USA World Team); and his son Yewki Tomita (1983 & 1996 J.O. National All-Around champion, 1999 & 2005 USA World Team member). Additionally, Yoichi has mentored gymnasts that have gone on to compete for Oklahoma (Matt Hervey), Army (Frank Maizner, Judah Sung, Brandon Rhode), Ohio State (Emeric Quade), BYU (John Padgett), Illinois (Ricardo Cheriell), UC Santa Barbara (Stephen Taylor), Arizona State (Moses Dunca, Tyler Wiedmeir), and Nebraska (Josh Everitt). Among his J.O. National AA champions were: Adam Forman (1985) -Stanford, Josh Nelson (1993) – Santa Barbara, Nathan Goff (2014) – USMA, Angel Leon (2014, 2015) – Ohio State University, Caleb Rodriguez (2016) – Arizona State University.

Yoichi has received honors as the USOC Developmental Coach of the Year (1998), the CSULB Athlete Hall of Fame (1987), and Pima County Sports Hall of Fame (2004).

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# CGA Regular Season All-Americans: NCAA

*On March 12, 2020, the NCAA announced the cancellation of the remaining season for all winter sports, including men's gymnastics. Without an NCAA Championships, All-America honors would not be awarded by the NCAA. The CGA pushed an initiative forward to honor the student-athletes who rank in the top eight, plus ties, on each individual event and the all-around standings in the NCAA division with CGA Regular Season All-Americans based on the March 9, 2020 national qualifying averages on Road to Nationals, the official statistical platform for reporting meet scores throughout the season.*

## Individual Events



Floor Exercise

1. [Gage Dyer](#) | Oklahoma
2. Vitality Guimaraes | Oklahoma
3. Connor McCool | Illinois
4. Paul Juda | Michigan
5. Sebastian Quiana | Illinois
6. Mike Moran | Minnesota
7. Jake Bonnay | Nebraska
8. Matthew Davis | Army
9. Jesse Tyndall | Ohio State

1. [Nick Guy](#) | Michigan
2. Curran Phillips | Stanford
3. Zach Martin | Stanford
4. Connor Lewis | Stanford
5. Vitality Guimaraes | Oklahoma
6. Brandon Briones | Stanford
7. Brody Malone | Stanford
8. Connor Van Loo | Navy



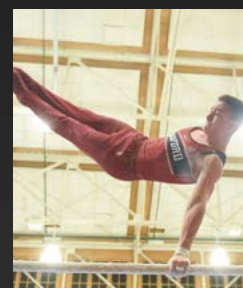
Vault



Pommel Horse

1. [Stephen Nedoroscik](#) | Penn State
2. Michael Paradise | Illinois
3. Ian Skirkey | Illinois
4. Nick Mock | Penn State
5. Mack Lasker | Michigan
6. Ian Gunther | Stanford
7. Luke Smigliani | Ohio State
8. Cameron Bock | Michigan

1. [Brody Malone](#) | Stanford
2. Shane Wiskus | Minnesota
3. Cameron Bock | Michigan
4. Curran Phillips | Stanford
5. Ian Gunther | Stanford
6. Gage Dyer | Oklahoma
7. Sam Zakutney | Penn State
8. David Pochinka | Minnesota



Parallel Bars



Still Rings

1. [Daniel Graham](#) | Illinois
2. Cameron Bock | Michigan
3. Isaac Hammett | Penn State
4. Ian Gunther | Stanford
5. Shane Wiskus | Minnesota
6. Josh Williams | Navy
7. Trevor DiGerolamo | Stanford
8. Riley Loos | Stanford

1. [Paul Juda](#) | Michigan
2. Angel Leon | Ohio State
3. Timmy Kutyla | Minnesota
4. Alex Frack | Penn State
5. Jesse Tyndall | Ohio State
6. Cash Buske | Navy
7. Gage Dyer | Oklahoma
8. Ben Provost | Navy
9. Jonathan Liu | Michigan



Horizontal Bar

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# CGA Regular Season All-Americans: NCAA

## All-Around



Shane Wiskus

1. Shane Wiskus | Minnesota



Brody Malone

2. Brody Malone | Stanford



Brandon Briones

3. Brandon Briones | Stanford



Bennet Huang

4. Bennet Huang | Iowa

5. Ian Gunther | Stanford



Ian Gunther

6. Paul Juda | Michigan



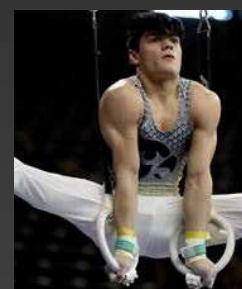
Paul Juda

7. Riley Loos | Stanford



Riley Loos

8. Evan Davis | Iowa



Evan Davis

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# CGA Regular Season All-Americans: GymACT

*On March 12, 2020, the NCAA announced the cancellation of the remaining season for all winter sports, including men's gymnastics. Without an NCAA Championships, All-America honors would not be awarded by the NCAA. The CGA pushed an initiative forward to honor the student-athletes who rank in the top six, plus ties, on each individual event and the all-around standings in the GymACT division with CGA Regular Season All-Americans based on the March 9, 2020 national qualifying averages on Road to Nationals, the official statistical platform for reporting meet scores throughout the season.*

## Individual Events



1. [Nick Garcia](#) | Arizona State
2. Anthony Mills | Arizona State
3. Chris Bartee | Arizona State
4. Dalton Hopkins | Arizona State
5. Kiwan Watts | Arizona State
6. Nick Smiley | UIC

Floor Exercise



1. [Kiwan Watts](#) | Arizona State
2. Anthony Mills | Arizona State
3. Nick Garcia | Arizona State
4. Dalton Hopkins | Arizona State
5. Esteban Montiel | Arizona State
6. Austin Jones | Arizona State

Vault



1. [Kiwan Watts](#) | Arizona State
2. Kyle Burriss | Arizona State
3. Luka Sisauri | Washington
4. Colton Palmer | Arizona State
5. Craig Hernandez | UIC
6. Kirk Malm | Arizona State

Pommel Horse



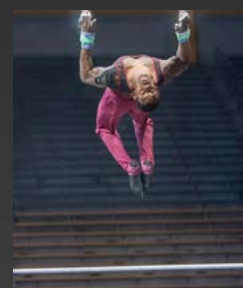
1. [Kiwan Watts](#) | Arizona State
2. Anthony Mills | Arizona State
3. Benjamin Bloom | Washington
4. Connor Pattison | Washington
5. Jacob Jarrett | Washington
6. Perry Lightfoot | Washington

Parallel Bars



1. [Kiwan Watts](#) | Arizona State
2. Benjamin Bloom | Washington
3. Chris Bartee | Arizona State
4. Dalton Hopkins | Arizona State
5. Daniel Gordon | Washington
6. Connor Pattison | Washington

Still Rings



1. [Kiwan Watts](#) | Arizona State
2. Kirk Malm | Arizona State
3. Colton Palmer | Arizona State
4. Benjamin Bloom | Washington
5. Esteban Montiel | Arizona State
6. Andrew Atkeson | Arizona State

Horizontal Bar



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# CGA Regular Season All-Americans: GymACT

## All-Around



Kiwan Watts

1. Kiwan Watts | Arizona State

2. Benjamin Bloom | Washington



Benjamin Bloom

3. Anthony Mills | Arizona State



Anthony Mills

4. David Dortmund | Northern Illinois



David Dortmund

5. William Pearce | Southern California



William Pearce

6. Tyson Grover | Rocky Mountain



Tyson Grover

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# 2020 CGA Yearly Awards

*In 2018, the CGA implemented three new awards to honor the MVP of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Specialist of the Year during the regular season. Each program is allowed to nominate one athlete for each award. The nominees were analyzed and debated on by a panel of gymnastics experts with distinctly unique perspectives. Each member of the panel was then given one vote for each award.*



Shane Wiskus | Minnesota

## MVP of the Year

This award is given to the most outstanding NCAA Men's Gymnast of the Year who provided the greatest value to his team and is not limited to all-arounders. An athlete may be nominated regardless of his year in school.



Brandon Briones | Stanford

## Rookie of the Year

This award is given to the most outstanding NCAA Men's Rookie of the Year and is not limited to all-arounders. This award is for athletes who are competing in their first year of NCAA competition.



Stephen Nedoroscik | Penn State

## Specialist of the Year

This award is given to the most outstanding NCAA Men's Gymnast on a single event. It will be given to a gymnast who dominated his event more than any other gymnast dominated any other event. This award is not limited to a gymnast that only competes on one event. A gymnast can only be nominated for one event for this award.

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# 2020 Nissen-Emery Award Finalists

*In 1966, College Gymnastics' highest student honor, the Nissen Award, was created by George Nissen to honor the outstanding senior collegiate male gymnasts. In 1989, Dr. Robert Emery established an endowment that would provide indefinitely for the award. James H. Stephenson, 1973 NCAA All-American and Nissen Award Finalist, is the sculptor for the newly designed Nissen-Emery Award. In order to win this award, a gymnast must be an example of good sportsmanship and fair play in victory and defeat. He must also maintain a high degree of scholarship. The trophy is inscribed: "The true champion seeks excellence physically, mentally, socially, and morally."*



## JAKE BONNAY | NEBRASKA | Business Administration | 3.019 GPA

Jake Bonnay has been at the vanguard of the Nebraska Cornhuskers' resurgence over the past few seasons, leading his team to a third-place finish at the 2019 NCAA Championships and picking up his first All-American citation, on floor. The Burlington, Ontario native is known for his confidence and flair on floor and vault (he earned medals on both events at the 2018 Big Ten Championships), but he also grew into a strong parallel bars and high bar worker over the past two seasons. Bonnay will be remembered as one of the standout Cornhuskers who, over the 2019 and 2020 seasons, helped turn his program into one of the best in the country.



## DAVID JESSEN | STANFORD | Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology | 3.71 GPA

Success on the international stage helped David Jessen earn an Olympic berth for the Czech Republic in 2016, and his career at Stanford has met the expectations of a world-class athlete. He lifted the Cardinal to an NCAA title in 2019 and had been contributing big during the team's standout 2020 season. Jessen picked up an All-American citation on high bar in 2019 and boasts a number of academic honors, including two MPSF All-Academic Scholar-Athlete nods. Jessen embodies the elegance that's become synonymous with Stanford Gymnastics, and he'll be remembered as one of the gymnasts who helped the Cardinal hold down the No. 1 spot in the country in 2020.



## STEPHEN NEDOROSCIK | PENN STATE | Electrical Engineering | 3.29 GPA

There are quite a few names that come to mind when discussing who is the best NCAA pommel horse worker of all time; Stephen Nedorosci just may be at the top of the list. The Nittany Lion instantly put the country on notice when he took the NCAA title as a freshman, the first competitor in the meet in a very deep field. He would eventually follow that performance with another NCAA title, a Big Ten title, and a career high 15.9. Nedorosci also won a gold medal on pommel horse at the 2020 Melbourne World Cup.



## MICHAEL PARADISE | ILLINOIS | Aerospace Engineering | 3.8 GPA

Long known for their production of elite pommel horse swingers, Illinois added another one to the list in Michael Paradise. A two-time All-American on the event, Paradise quickly became the anchor of the Illinois lineup, filling a large gap left by Brandon Ngai. Boasting one of the more flawless swings in the NCAA, the Bartlett, Illinois native helped the Illini secure a Big Ten team title during his sophomore season. Off the mat, Paradise has racked up a long list of academic achievements including being a two-time CGA First Team All-American Scholar Athlete and reaching Academic All-Big Ten twice.



## BAILEY PEREZ | STANFORD | Product Design Engineering | 3.44 GPA

Quietly consistent, Bailey Perez embodies the excellence of Stanford Cardinal gymnastics. An All-American on floor exercise with the accolade coming from last year in a huge spot for the Cardinal as Perez's runner-up finish helped the team secure a historic national title upset. With crisp, clean gymnastics, Perez built himself into a household name on the event while also contributing solid numbers for Stanford on still rings, vault, parallel bars, and high bar. A Product Design major, Perez's work in the classroom was equal to his excellence on the mat as he became a two-time MPSF All-Academic Scholar Athlete and two-time CGA Second Team All-America Scholar Athlete.



## SAM ZAKUTNEY | PENN STATE | Biomedical Engineering | 3.36 GPA

Penn State got four years of elite production out of Sam Zakutney, who was the top performer of their 2019 Big Ten title team. His illustrious career includes three All-American honors, a Big Ten parallel bars title, and the 2017 Big Ten Freshman of the Year award. Zakutney has also had success on the world stage, representing his home country of Canada, that includes a second place finish on the high bar at the 2018 FIG World Challenge Cup in Mersin, Turkey. He has also excelled in the classroom where he studies biomedical engineering and notched Big Ten Academic All-American honors.

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# NCAA Regional Head Coaches of the Year

*Regional Head Coach of the Year recognition began in 1961 when each region nominated a Regional Coach of the Year. In 1973, when the National Coach of the Year was no longer selected by nomination and ballot, the CGA continued electing the Regional Head Coaches of the Year. Ballots are received from each active member in each region for selection of one Regional Head Coach of the year. In 1997, the voting regions were realigned into three regions: West, Central, and East.*



KIP SIMONS | East Region  
U.S. Naval Academy

Five years as Head Coach at the United States Naval Academy and now five East Region Head Coach of the Year awards for Kip Simons. Navy has dominated their conference since Simons took the reins, winning conference titles in 2016, 2018, and 2019. Without a doubt, the Midshipmen were well on their way to a third-straight title in 2020.

Prior to his time in Annapolis, Simons spent ten years as head coach at the Air Force Academy. The Falcons won six straight USAG team titles from 2010 to 2015.

As a gymnast himself, Simons was the winner of the 1994 Nissen Award as the nation's top senior collegiate gymnast while competing at Ohio State University. He competed for four years with the U.S. Senior National Team and earned a spot on the 1996 Olympic team in Atlanta.



KURT GOLDER | Central Region  
University of Michigan

Kurt Golder is no stranger to success and is back in the spotlight after a terrific 2020 season, the culmination of a short rebuild.

Golder has been at the helm for Michigan since 1996 and led the program to four national titles. The Wolverines had a tremendous season and were well on their way to top finishes at the Big Ten and NCAA Championships before their campaign was abruptly cut short. The highlight for Golder this season was a win over a dominant Oklahoma team in Ann Arbor.

Golder was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team Coaching Staff in 2012 serving as the personal coach of 2014 Nissen-Emery Award winner, Sam Mikulak.



THOM GLIELMI | West Region  
Stanford University

The Stanford Cardinal's Thom Glielmi shocked the country in 2019 by leading his team to a historic upset over Oklahoma at the NCAA Championships. As a result, expectations of the reigning champs in 2020 were huge, but Glielmi never blinked. He masterfully shepherded the Cardinal squad throughout this past season, keeping his team atop the ranking by honing the poise and precision Stanford has come to be known for during his tenure.

Glielmi joined Stanford in 2001 after earning plaudits as an assistant coach at the University of Minnesota. Since then, he has led the Cardinal to three NCAA titles in 2009, 2011, and 2019. Those three victories account for half of Stanford's six NCAA Championship victories.

Glielmi is a USA Senior National Team coach and former FIG Brevet judge. He was named National Coach of the Year in 2009, 2011, and 2019.



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# GymACT Regional Head Coaches of the Year

*Regional Head Coach of the Year recognition began in 1961 when each region nominated a Regional Coach of the Year. In 1973, when the National Coach of the Year was no longer selected by nomination and ballot, the CGA continued electing the Regional Head Coaches of the Year. Ballots are received from each active member in each region for selection of one Regional Head Coach of the year. There are two regions being represented in the GymACT division: East and West Regions.*



Jesse Kitzen-Abelson garnered GymACT East Head Coach of the Year after a successful third season leading the Owls.

Kitzen-Abelson had been instrumental to Temple's success since they transitioned to a club team. Prior to his appointment as Head Coach, he was a member of the team and a two-time captain.

JESSE KITZEN-ABELSON | East Region  
Temple University



Arizona State's Scott Barclay has been coaching the Sun Devils since 1979. He took over as head coach in 1993, when the program lost its varsity status, and has cultivated a nationally competitive team whose success is a testament to the resilience of collegiate men's gymnastics.

He led ASU to their 22nd national title (13 of which were consecutive) at the USA Gymnastics Men's Collegiate Nationals in 2019, where 13 Sun Devils were named All-Americans.

SCOTT BARCLAY | West Region  
Arizona State University

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# NCAA Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year

*In an effort to recognize outstanding Assistant Coaches, this award was initiated in 1989. The winner is determined by a direct vote of all active members of the CGA. The three regions represented for NCAA Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year are East Region, Central Region, and West Region.*



## CRAIG HOLT | East Region | U.S. Naval Academy

Holt has been with the Naval Academy for 21 season, helping the Mids achieve a great deal of success. Back in 2009, he helped the team advance to the NCAA Qualifying meet for the first time in program history. More recently, Holt has helped Navy secure ECAC conference titles in 2016, 2018, and 2019. The assistant has represented the United States in international competition as well, coaching at the 2005 Maccabiah Games in Israel.



## COLIN PAYNE | East Region | U.S. Naval Academy

Payne, a 2017 graduate of the University of Oklahoma, USA finished up his third season as assistant coach for Navy. He helped the team capture its second-straight ECAC team title in 2019 and oversaw a team well on their way to doing the same in 2020. Before arriving in Annapolis, Payne spent time coaching at Harpeth School of Gymnastics, near Nashville, TN, and Bart Conner Gymnastics Academy in Norman, OK. During those stints, he played a big role in the development of many current and future NCAA gymnasts.



## XIAO YUAN | Central Region | Univeristy of Michigan

Xiao Yuan is in his 15th season with the Maize and Blue assisting in the technical aspects of the routines and leading the Wolverines' recurring efforts. Xiao's impressive resume includes back-to-back national titles as assistant coach at both Michigan and Oklahoma. Xiao earned the 2010, 2013, and 2014 National Assistant Coach of the Year. He has coached Wolverines at the international stage at the 2009 World Championships, 2010 Japan Cup in Tokyo, and the 2011 World Championships. Before moving to the United States, Xiao coaches several Chinese Olympic and World Championships gymnasts.



## JORDAN GAARENSTROOM | Central Region | University of Michigan

Jordan Gaarenstroom is in his first season in the role of assistant coach for the Wolverines. Gaarenstroom was a two-time NCAA team champion with Michigan, and was a lineup mainstay during his four seasons in Ann Arbor. He owns a career best 15.60 on still rings, a mark that he achieved at the 2013 NCAA Championships. Since graduation, and before returning back to Ann Arbor, the Laguna Hills, CA native served as boys coach at SCATS Gymnastics in Huntington Beach, CA. The gym has produced numerous Wolverine greats in Sam Mikulak, Adrian de Los Angeles, and current Wolverine standout, Cameron Bock.



## SYQUE CAESAR | West Region | Stanford University

Michigan alumnus, Syque Caesar, is in his fifth season with the Cardinal. He helped Stanford earn their sixth NCAA title in program history in 2019 and played a pivotal role in shaping the success the team had during the 2020 campaign. He had a direct hand in Stanford's success in recruiting through his tenure. Caesar is also an FIG Brevet judge. During his collegiate career, Caesar led Michigan to three NCAA titles and earned five All-American citations. He competed for Bangladesh at the 2012 London Olympics.



## MARK FREEMAN | West Region | Stanford University

Mark Freeman is in his first season as assistant coach at Stanford. He coaches on all six events and uses his strong background in strength & conditioning, functional movement, and injury prevention to keep the Stanford Cardinal fit and healthy. He was an assistant coach at Cal for two seasons before joining Stanford. As a Golden Bear gymnast, he helped lead his team to three top-five national finishes. Freeman also represented his native Great Britain at the 2002 and 2003 World Championships.

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# GymACT Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year

*In an effort to recognize outstanding Assistant Coaches, this award was initiated in 1989. The winner is determined by a direct vote of all active members of the CGA. The two regions represented for GymACT Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year are East Region and West Region.*



FRED TUROFF | East Region  
Temple University

A USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame inductee, Fred Turoff is the assistant coach of the Owls after serving as head coach for over 40 unforgettable seasons.

On top of his time at Temple, Turoff was a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team Coaching Staff and oversaw the men's team multiple times at the World Maccabiah Games in Israel.



ROB SURVICK | West Region  
Arizona State University

A former team captain for the Sun Devils (2002-03), Survick began his coaching career in 2006 and has seen plenty of success ever since.

Named Assistant Coach of the Year at the Collegiate National Championships in both 2014 and 2016, Survick has been a key piece to Arizona State's success over the last 14+ years.

Survick has coached numerous junior athletes to collegiate programs including 2018 Youth Olympics Vault Champion, Brandon Briones.



EVAN SHAW | West Region  
Arizona State University

Similar to Survick, Evan Shaw has been a Sun Devil for life having competed for the team from 2002-06. A three-time All-American as an athlete, Shaw is now an assistant under Scott Barclay.

Shaw was named Assistant Coach of the Year at the Collegiate National Championships in 2014 and 2016.

Shaw is an FIG Brevet judge and has judged at numerous major competitions including Winter Cup Challenge, U.S. Championships, and NCAA Championships.

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# 2020 National Coaching Staff of the Year

*As of 1973, the National Head Coach and Assistant Coaches of the Year are selected annually to the coaches of the team that wins the NCAA Championships. Due to the early cancellation of the 2020 competitive season, the CGA held a vote amongst its members for the National Coaching Staff of the Year in both the NCAA and GymACT divisions for the 2020 season.*

## NCAA: STANFORD UNIVERSITY



THOM GLIELMI  
Head Coach



SYQUE CAESAR  
Assistant Coach



MARK FREEMAN  
Assistant Coach

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## GymACT: ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



SCOTT BARCLAY  
Head Coach



ROB SURVICK  
Assistant Coach



EVAN SHAW  
Assistant Coach



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# Richard M. Aronson Special Service Award

*The first Special Service Award was presented in 1967 by Special Service Award Chairman, Lyle Welker. The award is for a person the CGA membership feels has contributed significantly to the CGA and is also designed to be given to the retiring CGA President and for outstanding service to the coaches' association.*

## 2020 Winner: CGA Digital Content Team



JESSICA FRANKL

School of Visual Arts, Class of 2016

CGA Social Media Director



BEN COOPERMAN

Penn State, Class of 2018

CGA Writer & Analyst



LOGAN BRADLEY

Illinois, Class of 2016

CGA Head Writer & Analyst



YORDAN ALEKSANDROV

Cal-Berkeley, Class of 2018

CGA Writer & Analyst



ALEX WITTENBERG

Minnesota, Class of 2018

CGA Writer & Analyst



DANIEL GERI

Cal-Berkeley, Class of 2011

CGA Website Engineer

These six individuals are being recognized for their amazing efforts on expanding the digital footprint of the CGA and the sport of collegiate men's gymnastics with the 2020 Richard M. Aronson Special Service Award. The team worked directly with the organization's sponsors to produce valuable content regularly during the competitive season. This group's versatility was clearly displayed as it was able to pivot and continue to produce even more creative and engaging content during unprecedented times. Last, but not least, the creation and continued evolution of the new CGA website was another critical step for the organization working to continue living out its Vision, Mission, and Values.

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# 2020 Nissen-Emery Award Winner

*On April 16, 2020, the CGA Executive Board hosted a virtual meeting with all six Nissen-Emery Award Finalists, their parents, and the coaches of the universities they represent to announce the winner of the prestigious award. This year's winner is...*

## STEPHEN NEDOROSCIK



PENN STATE UNIVERSITY | Head Coach: Randy Jepson