

SENIOR TRIBUTE

MEN'S GYMNASTICS
S E N I O R S
2022





ILLINOIS SENIORS

MATTHEW CIHLAR

*Flying High Gymnastics,
Countryside*

Matthew started gymnastics at the age of 4. He's enjoyed many accolades and disappointments, but gymnastics has always proven to be a fixed point in his life. The camaraderie and dedication to his sport have helped him persevere both academically and physically.

Matthew will study applied math and computer science in college. He is still undecided as to where he will attend. This will be his final year of competitive gymnastics. He would like to continue training casually if there is a club offered at the college he chooses.



TAI GOPAUL

*Lakeshore Academy of Art
Gymnastics, Chicago*

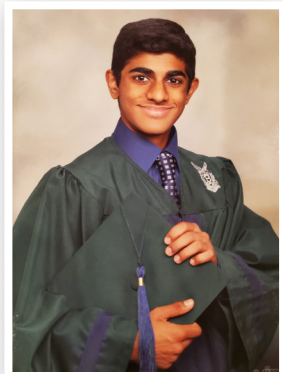
Tai was born in Toronto, Canada, and moved to Buffalo Grove, IL, in 2008. He is a senior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. Academically, he has been a 3x Academic All-American. Most recently, athletically, he was the 2021 and 2022 Illinois State Champion, as well as placing 5th at the 2021 National Championships and qualifying for the 2021 USAG Championships. He has committed to the United States Air Force Academy where he will continue his gymnastics career.



ALWYN JACOB

*Gymkhana Gymnastics Club and
Dance Studio, Hanover Park*

Alwyn started doing gymnastics when he was very young. He loved the exhilarating feeling it gave him, especially when he learned a new skill. The 2015 to 2016 season was a turning point in his career where he decided to take a break shortly after. That break turned out to be four years long.



However, he could not stay away from the sport and decided to come back to gymnastics this past summer and compete one last season, hopeful to make it to Nationals!

He is also proud to say that he was accepted to Purdue's School of Engineering where he plans to major in Biomedical Engineering!

JUSTIN KURAK

*Gymkhana Gymnastics Club and
Dance Studio, Hanover Park*

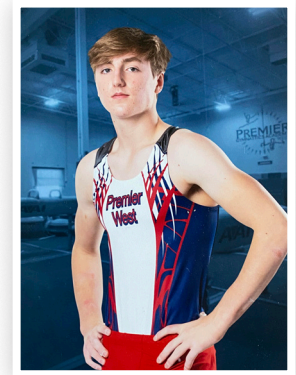
Justin started competitive gymnastics at age 9 at a small park district gym in Rolling Meadows. Unfortunately, that program shut down, so he moved to the Palatine Park district where he completed Level 5 and Level 7. He decided to move to American Academy to complete Levels 8 through 10. His final move was to Gymkhana where he currently competes and will close out his high school career. After this season, he plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign to pursue a major in Chemistry and continue gymnastics in the club program there.



KYLE MAYOTTE

*Premier Gymnastics Academy West,
Oswego*

Kyle picked up gymnastics a short while ago and has enjoyed the sport. He is a five time National qualifier and a Region 5 Elite Team member. He's excited to continue his passion at the University of Illinois next year. In his free time, he contemplates the meaning of life.



SAI NITTA

*Premier Gymnastics Academy West,
Oswego*

Sai has been doing gymnastics since he was very young. He's loved all the time spent with his teammates and coaches and is glad to have had their support through it all!



MAX OLINGER

*Lakeshore Academy of Art
Gymnastics, Chicago*

Maximilian Olinger will graduate from Lake Forest High School. He began his gymnastics career at Libertyville Gymnastics, then later moved to Buffalo Grove where he trained for the majority of his career. Unfortunately, his home at BG closed its doors during the pandemic. Fortunately, he was welcomed at Lakeshore Academy to complete his club career. In late 2021, he signed the B1G and NCAA contracts to become a part of the gymnastics team for The Ohio State Buckeyes.

Max began gymnastics when he was 3 years old and has found an incredible passion in the sport for 15 years. He plans to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering and aspires to work in the automotive industry. He enjoys playing piano in his free time and loves traveling with his family and team.

He would like to extend his gratitude to his mom, dad, and sisters for their unending support, his teammates, and all of his coaches in his career, chronologically including: Ron Fogel, Mike Weber, Gene Watson, Yevhen Vovkiv, Leo Krivitsky, Doug Burton, John Karmecy, Jon Klemens, and Arkadiy Andryushchenko. This sport has taught respect, discipline, and perseverance and has created an incredible brotherhood for a lifetime.

ALEC PARAS

*Flying High Gymnastics
Countryside*

Alec started gymnastics at age 4 and has been a part of the Flying High competitive team since age 6. He has enjoyed competing both in club gymnastics and as a member of the Lyons Township High School men's gymnastics team, which won the state title in 2021.

Alec enjoys inventing handshakes with his teammates and dancing around the gym. He has started teaching recreational gymnastics classes to share his love of the sport with the next generation. In college, Alec will study kinesiology. He plans to continue gymnastics in college so he can keep his skills sharp to audition for Cirque du Soleil after graduation.



ARJUN SRIRAM

*Premier Gymnastics Academy
West, Oswego*

Arjun is a graduating senior from MVHS, Naperville. He is the oldest of triplets and started his gymnastics career at Little Gym's parent and me classes when he was 18 months old. When he is not working at the gym, he can be seen perfecting his pizza making skills. He wants to be an Engineer when he grows up.

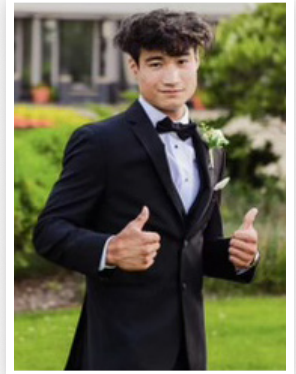


RYAN VANICHTHEERANONT

*Premier Gymnastics Academy
West, Oswego*

Ryan has been doing gymnastics for well over a decade and has grown in so many ways through the sport of gymnastics.

He is thankful for his family, friends, and coaches for supporting him throughout this chapter of his life.



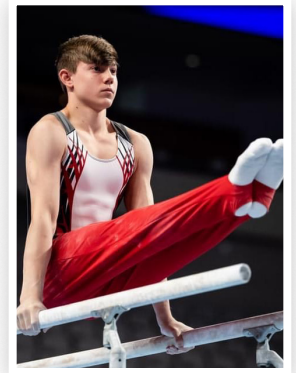
NATHAN YORK

*Premier Gymnastics Academy
West, Oswego*

Nathan will graduate from Plainfield Central High School.

He has been a Region 5 Elite Team Member, 6x Junior Elite National Qualifier, 2021 US Championship Pommel Horse Bronze Medalist, 2022 Elite Team Cup Athlete, and will attend the University of Nebraska next year as a member of their Men's Gymnastics Program, majoring in Physical Therapy.

He enjoys playing video games, basketball, and hanging out with friends. He is very grateful for all of the coaches who have helped him on his journey, friends he's made, experiences he's had, and is looking forward to the next stage of his gymnastics career as a collegiate athlete.



Congratulations, graduating gymnasts!

INDIANA SENIORS

MATT CARTER

SIGS Sportsplex, New Albany

Matt Carter will graduate from Louisville Collegiate School in May 2021. This fall Matt will attend Penn State to pursue a degree in Finance.

Matt began his gymnastics career at the age of 3 in San Diego, California. He has been a member of a variety of clubs and teams in California, Virginia, and Indiana. Matt will finish his career at SIGS Sportsplex and has enjoyed many accomplishments through the years.

Matt is so grateful for the people in his life that have helped him. He wants to give a special shout-out to his parents for always giving him the best that they can. Matt will truly miss gymnastics and especially the SIGS Men's Team but is excited to see what the future has in store for him.



COLE COMER

DeVeau's School of Gymnastics, Fishers

Cole Comer is a 17 year old Level 10 senior gymnast at DeVeau's School of Gymnastics. He will be graduating with honors this spring with the class of 2022 at Hamilton Southeastern High School.

Cole lives in Fishers, Indiana with his father, mother, sister, and two dogs. In his free time, Cole likes hanging out with friends and family, drawing, and watching Netflix. He attends club meetings as a member of the Ski/Snowboard Club and Philosophy Club. In addition, he also participates in community service and tutoring each semester for the National Honors Society and upholds a 4.0 GPA.

In the gym, Cole plays a leadership role as a team captain, inspiring and offering advice to the next generation of gymnasts. Currently, he is a three-time J.O. National Qualifier and a three-time Academic All-American. Cole plans to attend Purdue University and study in genetics. Whether he will continue his gymnastics career is undetermined.



JOSH DUNN

Indiana Gymnastics Center, Greenwood

Josh is a homeschool student who will graduate in June 2022. He is a 10 year 4H member, and during his school career Josh has qualified to compete in the 4H Public Speaking and Demonstration Divisions at the State level for several years.

He was also an inaugural member of the Red Falcons Vex Robotics Group and the 4H Robotics Program in Hamilton County. Outside of the gym, Josh likes to camp, build things, and plays drums. Josh intends to take a gap year after graduation and attend college in fall 2023.

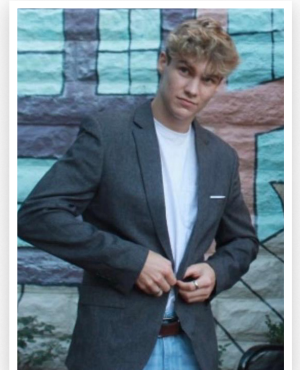
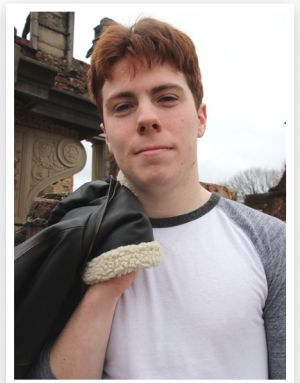
Josh has never really known life without gymnastics as both of his parents coach. He began taking classes with his brother at his Godfather's gym (Hoosier Gymnastics Training Center) when he was 6. Josh also played a variety of other sports along the way including t-ball, soccer, and swimming, but he always seemed to gravitate back to gymnastics. When Josh was headed into his freshman year of high school, he decided that if he was going to continue in the sport, he wanted to compete. Since HGTC does not have a competitive men's program, Josh moved to Geist Sports Academy. Josh had a very successful freshman season as a JD (Junior Developmental) finishing 3rd in Vegas on Pommel Horse at BlackJack, and 2nd on Pommel Horse at USAG Regionals. His sophomore season (cut short by COVID-19), Josh went Level 9 finishing 3rd on pommels and floor, 1st on p-bars and 3rd All Around at Gasparilla in Tampa. Following the COVID-19 shutdown, Josh resumed gymnastics at Indiana Gymnastics Center where last year's highlights included being part of the Indiana State Championship Team and the 4th Place Regional Team.

Josh is retiring from gymnastics at the end of the season. The mentors, friends, and experiences that he has gained along the way are immeasurably valuable. Gymnastics competition has given him the mental toughness to succeed on the road ahead. Josh and his parents are particularly grateful to Kevin O'Brien, Baron Deveau, and Chad Ford for their support during the process.

JACK FELLMY

DeVeau's School of Gymnastics, Fishers

Jack has been a Level 10 gymnast for four years, training under coaches Jeff Greene and Aaron Schmitt at DeVeau's School of Gymnastics. Jack was named Team Captain alongside his teammate Cole Comer. They have a fantastic time leading the boy's program together.



Jack is also a coach, assisting Coach Taylor in teaching the Mighty Mite's as well as the Level 5 and 6 boys. Jack feels that teaching gymnastics has tremendously furthered his development. Coaching has assisted with his own gymnastics career; specifically, performing and learning skills, as well as communicating properly, and keeping the gym atmosphere positive. Gymnastics has been the best influence in his life and will always have a place in his heart.

Jack serves as the Club Officer of the Philosophy Club at Hamilton Southeastern High School, where he has learned that Law is his passion and plans to pursue it as a career. He plans to study Philosophy at Purdue University next semester.

In his free time, Jack enjoys playing guitar, skateboarding, reading, writing, and playing music.

COLE RICHEY

*InterActive Academy of
Gymnastics, Zionsville*

Cole competes gymnastics for Interactive Academy under Craig Christie. He will graduate from Zionsville Community High School on June 5, 2022. During his high school career he was co-president of an investment club and finished all four years on the honor roll. This fall he will attend The University of Cincinnati to pursue a degree in biomedical sciences in the premed curriculum.



Cole began gymnastics at the age of 5 at Indy School with coach Craig Christie. He followed his coach a couple years later to Interactive where he would spend the rest of his gymnastics years. Throughout his career Cole has attended many state and regional championships. He has also qualified for Junior Olympic Nationals making all-around Finals, placing 3rd on the Floor Exercise and 11th in the All-Around. His experience has brought him through the years and given him a good sense of time management, hard work, and friendship. Cole is now a Rings specialist who spends his free time working at Interactive and coaching the younger level team members.

**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**

TREY SOROCO

Gymnastics Michiana, Michiana

Trey Sorocco competes for Gymnastics Michiana, coached by Andy Poe. He comes from a family of four and will graduate from Marian High School.



He plans to continue his education at either Purdue or Indiana University in the upcoming fall, studying kinesiology in hopes of becoming a physical therapist. He also has an interest in Chemistry as a potential career path.

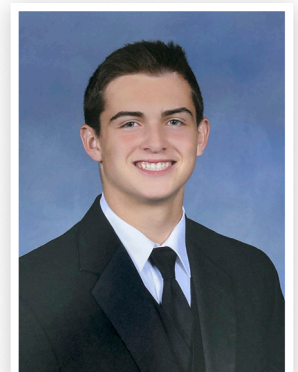
Outside of school and the gym, he likes to hang with friends, weight lift, play video games, skateboard, and spend time relaxing on the beach with his family.



TOMMY CARLSON

Legacy Gymnastics, Louisville

Tommy Carlson will graduate from Tates Creek High School in Lexington, Kentucky in May 2022. He will finish as an International Baccalaureate Program student with Highest Honors and receive the IB Latin Seal of Bilingualism.



Tommy began his gymnastics career at Legacy Gymnastics at the age of 7. He has continued at Legacy since then, where he has been on the Level 10 team for the last 3 years under Coaches Heath Underwood and Jeremiah White. Tommy has won multiple individual and team awards and annually qualified for regional competition where he placed second in the all-around in Level 8.

Tommy's parents are Geoff and Linda Carlson. He will finish out his gymnastics career this year then attend college at Brigham Young University in Utah. Tommy is grateful for the lessons of hard work, resiliency when things go wrong, and being willing to change in order to make improvements that he has learned through his time in gymnastics. He will miss the team and coaches at Legacy but will take these lessons with him throughout his life.



LANDEN BLIXT

*Infinity Gymnastics Academy,
Brighton*

Landen will graduate from Fowlerville High School in May of 2022. His academic performance earned him USA Gymnastics Academic All-American recognition all four years. In August of 2022, Landen will attend the University of Michigan majoring in Civil Engineering and taking part in the Men's Gymnastics Team.



Landen's athletic career started when his mother, Mollie, and father, Steve, took him to mommy and me classes at Infinity Gymnastics Academy when he was 1. He has since made a successful career out of the sport becoming a State, Regional, and National Champion. He also has been on the men's Junior National Team four times. Landen was selected to compete internationally for Team USA in Canada 2020 and Columbia at the Pan American Games 2021. He is also a part of the Region 5 men's team, representing them at three Elite Team Cups, and traveling to London, Columbia, and Italy with the team.

The journey has just begun for Landen. He works hard and has lofty goals. All thanks to his parents and coach, George Gagua, for supporting him and making this journey possible. Landen said, "I could not have found a better coach and role model in my life as George! He truly wants the best for me and has stuck by my side for 16 years of my life. I want to make him proud and continue showing off mine and his hard work!"

GARRETT COOK

*Grand Rapids Gymnastics,
Grand Rapids*

Garrett will be graduating from Zeeland West High School in June of 2022. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a three-time varsity letter winner in Golf. He has also been recognized as a USA Gymnastics Academic All-American the last 2 years. In the fall, Garrett will be attending Eastern Kentucky University to pursue a degree in business with concentration on PGA Professional Golf Management.



Garrett joined his first gymnastics club at age 8 and moved to Grand Rapids Gymnastics at age 10. Garrett has been fortunate enough to be a consistent Regional qualifier and even State and Regional champion on two events at level 6. During this final season, he is working hard at enjoying every moment.

Garrett will always be grateful for the friendships, experiences and life lessons he has gained through his participation in gymnastics. He is confident this will position him well as he looks towards college and a career in the golf industry. He would like to thank his coaches and gym family who have pushed and encouraged him throughout his time in gymnastics.

ANDREW GRAVES

Branch Gymnastics, Battle Creek

Andrew Graves will graduate with honors from Gull Lake High School in Richland, Mich., this June 2022. His high academic achievements have led him to be a three year member of the National Honor Society, and he has earned the USA Gymnastics Academic All-American Award all four years. In addition, he has maintained a 3.9+ GPA throughout high school and he will be honored as a Distinguished Scholar at his high school. He plans on studying chemistry but has not yet made a decision on the college.



Andrew's gymnastics career started when he was 3 years old at Branch Gymnastics. He started competing when he was 8 years old and never looked back! Throughout his career, he has been State and Regional Champion on multiple events and in the All Around, and is a 3x Level 10 National qualifier, making finals each time. The highlight of his career was in 2021, when he finished 3rd on vault at National Finals.

He has loved his time at Branch, not only for the coaching (thanks to Tyler, Lubo, Scott and the late Gene Watson) but also for the things he has learned and the friendships he has made. He has learned discipline, time management, goal setting and much more. Being a recreational and team coach has also made him realize the other side of gymnastics - how to plan ahead, and how to teach and encourage the younger gymnasts. He'd like to thank his parents, Stephanie and Butch, siblings Laura and Nolan, and all the people at Branch Gymnastics who have encouraged him throughout his life and his gymnastics career.

**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**

NICHOLAS GREENLEAF

Gym-Jester Gymnastics, Saginaw

Nicholas Greenleaf will be graduating from Essexville Garber High School with Honors on June 2, 2022. During his school career, Nicholas was a diver for Essexville Garber's varsity Men's Swimming & Diving team, earning many top diving awards. He also played the clarinet in the Essexville Garber Marching Dukes Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band.



Nicholas began his gymnastics career at the age of 3 with Bay Valley Gymnastics in Bay City, coached by Holly Bills. He then joined Gym Jester Gymnastics Center in Saginaw where he started his competitive career at the age of 6, coached by Rich Weatherwax and Scott Fry where he remains today. Over Nicholas's gymnastics career, he has received countless medals including at State and Regional Championships.

Nicholas's parents, Christopher and April Greenleaf, and big brother Zachary, are his biggest fans and best friends. He plans to finish his gymnastics seasons with his team and then plans to attend Delta College and The Michigan State Police Academy to become a Michigan State Police Officer.

Gymnastics has made Nicholas who he is today from learning that team work, hard work, and dedication pays off! Nic would like to thank all his coaches including Coach Rich, Coach Scott, Coach John, and Mrs. Helen Fry for the time and encouragement throughout the years. Nicholas will miss all his Gym Jesters family and wishes them all the best.

KALEB HUNTSMAN

Infinity Gymnastics Academy, Brighton

Kaleb has been doing gymnastics at Infinity Gymnastics Academy for 8 years, coached by George Gagua. He will be graduating from Brighton High School in May of 2022 and plans to attend Washtenaw Community College for a year, then transfer to the University of Michigan where he'll major in political science.

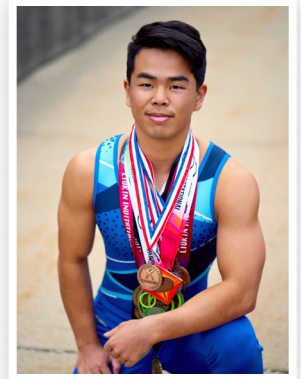


He has been a Level 4 State Champion, and Level 6 and 7 Regional Champion! Sadly, this will be Kaleb's last season. Gymnastics has taught him so many life lessons and given him so many great experiences while doing this sport. He's so grateful for the bonds formed with teammates and is especially grateful for his coach, who never gave up on him and always pushed him to do his best, even when he felt like giving up. He can't wait to watch his teammates grow and further their gymnastics careers. He will truly miss his Infinity family.

KOTARO KOMAZAWA

Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy, Novi

Kotaro Komazawa will graduate with honors from Northville High School in June 2022.



At age 8, he began his competitive gymnastics career at Wimbleton Gymnastics Academy in Bartlett, TN, inspired by his big brother, Kentaro; Level 8 TN State Floor Champion, 2-time TN Elite Team Member, Region 8 P-Bar Champion, and a 2019 JO National qualifier. He moved to Michigan in 2019 and joined Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy. 2021 was a challenging year after the pandemic. Kotaro had to narrow his focus to the floor and pommel horse due to a shoulder injury. He loves gymnastics and never gave up and was the 2022 Michigan State Champion on Pommel Horse. Kotaro learned essential life lessons and grit through gymnastics activities and school work. He aspires to become a floor and pommel horse specialist in college and beyond, and is planning to study business.

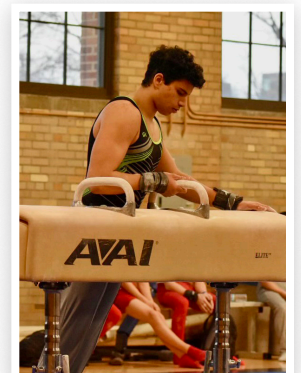
He is grateful to all the coaches and people who support him and encourage him. Coach Murphy of Wimbleton gave him numerous opportunities to try, fail, and get back up with a big heart. He appreciates all MEGA coaches and staff who managed online training during the pandemic, then made extra efforts to make the in-person practice possible. Special thanks to Coach Juha, Coach Camilo, Coach Mazen and Coach Joseph of MEGA for everything and for providing an upscaled and challenging program where Kotaro transformed into an high-level gymnast.

Kotaro is the son of Akira and Noriko Komazawa, the young brother of Kentaro Komazawa.

KARIM MADKOUR

Infinity Gymnastics Academy, Brighton

Karim Madkour will graduate from Washtenaw Technical Middle College in May of 2022. During the school year, Karim was a part of the National Society of High School Scholars. He began his gymnastics career at the age of 4 in Cairo, Egypt. He moved to the United States when he was six and continued training at the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics. In 2013, Karim moved gyms to Infinity Gymnastics Academy and has been coached by George Guaga ever since. Karim plans to finish this season and continue doing gymnastics in college. He plans to study Kinesiology and eventually become a Physical Therapist. Infinity has provided Karim with a second home and second family. He is very thankful for all the amazing memories and life lessons gymnastics has taught him and will continue to carry them for the rest of his life. He would like to thank all the coaches and administration who had a part in his gymnastics development at Infinity.





SENIORS

CONTINUED...

NOAH MITCHELL

*Michigan Academy of Gymnastics,
Westland*

Noah Mitchell will graduate with honors from Anthony Wayne High School in May 2022. His academic performance will earn him USA Gymnastics Academic All-American recognition his senior year. Noah plans on attending the University of Toledo in the fall of 2022 and will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in the Exercise Sciences with the plan to attend the Physician Assistant program post-graduate.

He began his gymnastics career at the age of nine and it has been an integral part of his life ever since. He has been competing in Ohio since starting gymnastics and transitioned to Michigan Academy of Gymnastics for this competition season where he has truly enjoyed learning and growing under Coach Rosen. While he began his gymnastics career a little later than some, he has enjoyed much success as an annual regional qualifier and many event placements over the years.

Noah's parents are David and Gina Mitchell and he has one brother, Ben who recently retired from a competitive junior hockey career. Noah is so thankful for all the support from his family and all the opportunities and friends he has made over the years in gymnastics and is looking forward to his future endeavors.

ROBERT NOLL JR.

*Michigan Elite Gymnastics
Academy, Novi*

Robert found his love for gymnastics at age 5. He started in the recreation program at Olympia and worked his way up to Pre Team that year. With every class, he loved the sport more, and his gymnastics shows that. Robert was the 2018 JO National Champion. Then in 2019, he was the Regional Champion and was brought onto the Region 5 Elite Team. Robert transitioned to a new gym, Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy and trained under Juha Tanskanen, and competed in Elite Nationals in 2021. This year, Robert qualified for the Elite Team Cup and was the Michigan High Bar and Rings State Champion. He was also rostered to the University of Michigan Men's Gymnastics Team.



Robert will graduate with honors from Lighthouse Academy in May 2022. His strong academic performance has earned him USA Gymnastics Academic All-American recognition. While training 24 hours a week, Robert also coaches a 5-year-old boys rec class. He wants to keep this sport alive and is trying to help that by being a great coach to the kids and helping them fall in love with it as he did. He will continue his education at the University of Michigan with a major in Economics. After college, Robert hopes to join Cirq Du Soleil and travel the world doing what he loves and eventually settle down and open his own gym.

This sport has given Robert so much more than gymnastics skills. It has taught him dedication, sacrifice, and discipline. One of the biggest lessons he learned from this sport is that it's okay to fall and fail as long as you get back up and keep going. Robert is beyond grateful for the coaches who have been by his side through his career and never gave up on him and pushed him to be the best version of himself!

ADHAV RAJESH

Mills Gymnastics USA, Southgate

Adhav Rajesh will graduate from Oscar A. Carlson High School in June 2022. His academic performance earned him the National Merit Scholarship, and he is the Salutatorian of his class. Adhav has National placements in Business Professionals of America and is part of his school's student council and National Honor Society.

Adhav began his gymnastics career in 2014 when he was 10, and it has been an important part of his life ever since. His journey started at Mills Gymnastics where he was coached and mentored by Jeff Rush. During his career, Adhav has placed at many different competitions, and was the State and Regional champion on pommel horse several times. Throughout his years of practice, Adhav learned how to train hard and chase his passions.

Adhav's parents are Rengasamy and Elamurugu Rajesh. He plans to attend college to pursue a Computer Science degree with a focus in Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. Gymnastics has truly been a formative part of Adhav's life. He has met lifetime friends and had many fun experiences. The gymnastics community taught Adhav important lessons he will use to prosper as he moves on to college and his career. Gymnastics and the Mills family shaped Adhav into the person he is today, and he will always be grateful for his teammates and coaches.



**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**

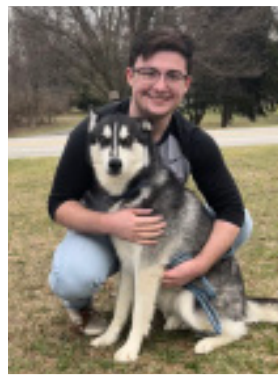
MARK SNYDER

*Michigan Academy of Gymnastics,
Westland*

Mark Snyder will graduate from Bowling Green High School in May of 2022. He incorporated his gymnastics into school as a part of the competitive cheer squad and even won the Ohio State Championships at Ohio State University. Mark plans to start courses this summer towards obtaining his Real Estate License.

Mark began his gymnastics career at age 8 participating in a family-oriented organization where he was a level 7 JD regional qualifier, placed 8th on the floor at regionals, and has won multiple events in the Ohio state championships. Mark has received several plaques for sportsmanship and the male gymnast's top teammate award. This year, Mark switched to the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics (MAG) and is competing as a Level 9. He plans to stay for one more year and see where his passion for gymnastics takes him.

The MAG team has become a second home and family for Mark. He drives 1½ hours each way to train with them and has used it as time to discover who he is as a person and an athlete. Training with MAG this year has kept him excited and interested in gymnastics and in the many opportunities that it may open for him in the future. Mark's favorite quote is, "Don't aspire to be the best on the team. Aspire to be the best for the team."



MILO STALEY

*Infinity Gymnastics Academy,
Brighton*

Milo Staley will graduate from Huron High School in Ann Arbor with honors in May of 2022. Though currently undecided on where to attend, he plans on continuing his gymnastics career collegiately and furthering his education in the Health Sciences.

Milo started gymnastics at 9 years old with his homeschool group at Peak Gymnastics in Marquette, Michigan. In 2014, Peak created their very first boys team, and Milo competed with them until Level 6 in 2017. From there, he moved to Ann Arbor with his mom, where he currently trains and competes with Coach George at Infinity Gymnastics Academy in Brighton, Michigan. Throughout his gymnastics career, Milo has held several State and Regional event titles and was a 2021 National qualifier. This will be his 10th year in the sport.

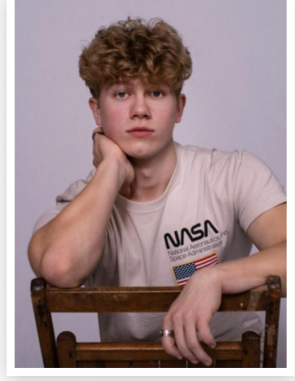
Milo's parents Wendy Johnson, Matthew Staley, and sister, Kiah, along with his coaches and community have been instrumental in helping Milo to achieve his goals. Milo is extremely grateful for his supportive family, coaches, friends, and community. He is grateful for the opportunities and experiences gymnastics has given and continues to give him.



CONNOR VANBOCXLAER

Gym-Jester Gymnastics, Saginaw

Connor VanBocxlaer is a senior at Swan Valley High School and will graduate in June. While attending Swan Valley schools, he participated in Business Professionals of America, band, track, and is set to graduate with Magna Cum Laude Honors.



Connor is the son of Jason and Lori VanBocxlaer. His gymnastics career began when he was 18 months old, joining a preschool class for basic motor skill development. He joined the Gym Jester competitive team when he was just 5 years old, and Rich Weatherwax has been his coach since the beginning. Connor has earned State Champion titles and has qualified to numerous Regional Championships. Connor suffered a knee injury in late 2020 his junior year of high school, causing him to miss most of the 2020-2021 season and later reinjured the same knee right before his senior season. This injury required surgery and put Connor out for his entire senior gymnastics season. However, this did not stop Connor from attending practice and physical therapy sessions daily.

Connor plans to attend Delta College but is undecided about his major. He will continue to train for one more year of USAG. Connor is grateful for the lessons he learned along his journey and is thankful for all the friends he has made along the way.

PARKER VAUGHAN

Infinity Gymnastics Academy, Brighton

Parker Vaughan will graduate from homeschool after dual enrolling and earning about 50 credits from Washtenaw Community College. He is a member of National Society of High School Scholars and will graduate with a 4.0. He has not yet decided on a university but has been offered several academic scholarships and is leaning towards going to the Ohio State University or Simpson College. He intends to major in math or an engineering discipline and then continue his studies in graduate school.

Parker first started gymnastics at Infinity in rec and homeschool classes. He was 11 when he started competing with Infinity in 2014, qualifying for Nationals in 2018. He especially enjoys high bar, parallel bars and pommel horse and plans to continue his gymnastics training while in college.

Outside of gymnastics, Parker enjoys cooking, tending to his garden and playing the cello. He also enjoys bonding with his several pets including his parrot, Percy, three dogs, and chickens.

Parker's thankful for the support of his parents, Daniel and Carla Vaughan, and his three siblings. He is deeply grateful to his coach, George, who has believed in him and pushed him to be excellent. He is also extremely grateful for the camaraderie and friendships of his teammates at Infinity.





SENIORS

SHANE BIBBY

Queen City Gymnastics, Cincinnati

Shane will graduate from Lakota East High School in May 2022. He was a member of the Junior National Honor Society and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), an organization for future health professionals. During his entire high school career, he maintained high honors academically.



He began his gymnastics career at the early age of 16 months, in the Tumblebee Classes at KidsFirst (home of Queen City Gymnastics). He competed in other sports through the years (basketball & baseball), but decided at an early age to focus exclusively on gymnastics. He continued his journey through the program at Queen City to become a Level 10 gymnast. He has had many highlights over the years to be proud of. Notably, he was the 2018 Pommel Horse State Champion!

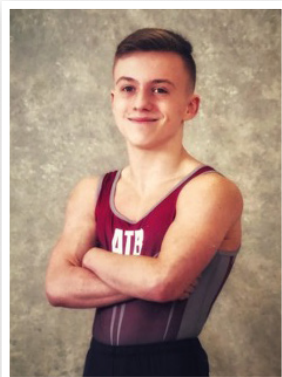
Shane has shared this journey with his parents, John and Therese. He plans to finish his gymnastics career at Queen City Gymnastics and attend college studying health sciences. He is still deciding which college to attend.

He has also gone full circle at Queen City Gymnastics by coaching the younger gymnasts, helping to inspire the next generation. He is a model/actor and enjoys just hanging out with his friends. Shane is very thankful for the guidance he has received over the years from his coaches: Keith Pettit, Deacon Harris, and Brandon Norris. They have become more than coaches to him; they are family.

BRADEN BOYER

Above the Barre Gymnastics, Berea

Braden will graduate this year from homeschool in June 2022. In the coming year, he plans to attend college and pursue a degree in business or possibly graphic design. Along with gymnastics, Braden competed in the National Piano Playing Auditions. Braden began his gymnastics career at age 7 at Pinnacle Gymnastics. He competed until Level 6 and then took several years off.



During that time off, he coached at Pinnacle and returned to the sport in 2020. Returning during COVID had its challenges but he was determined to return to the sport. He worked hard to regain what he lost and soon surpassed where he left off. Braden began this season at Above the Barre where he has continued to develop his skills. This year has been his most successful, finishing first in the All Around as a Level 9 at State. He is a hard worker and committed to always give 100%. The experiences and lessons he has learned from this sport are unmeasurable. He has developed many lifelong friendships that he is forever grateful for. Above the Barre and Pinnacle Gymnastics have been his second home, and he is thankful for all the friends and coaches that have been such an integral part of his life. Braden is looking forward to his future, but will truly miss the sport and most of all his gymnastics family.

KYLE BRACKENBURY

Toledo Turners Gymnastics, Perrysburg

Kyle Brackenbury will graduate from Bowling Green High School in May 2022. He is in the top 10 of his class and a member of the National Honors Society and the French Honors Society. He is also a four-time USA Gymnastics Academic All-American and a student leader in his school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In addition to gymnastics, he has competed in cross country and track. Kyle will be attending Bowling Green State University in the fall to study exercise science with a specialization in sports medicine and athletic training.



Kyle began gymnastics in 2012 at Exceleation Gymnastics Center and moved to Toledo Turners in 2015. He is a multi-time State Champion and has qualified for multiple Regional Championships. Kyle is thankful for all that gymnastics has given him and plans to stay with the sport as a coach or judge.

Kyle is extremely grateful for all he has learned throughout the years. Gymnastics has taught him the value of hard work, patience, teamwork, and leadership. He has been blessed with great coaches, teammates, and parents, all who have shaped him into the person he is today.

Congratulations, graduating gymnasts!

JOSHUA DINGMAN

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Joshua Dingman, son of Jean and Michael Dingman, will graduate with honors from Berkshire High School in May of 2022. During his high school career, he has qualified to Junior Nationals and is a member of the National Honors Society. Joshua will be attending the Ohio State University in the fall of 2022 to study nursing.

Joshua began gymnastics at the age of 6 at Emeth gymnastics and trained there throughout his early years but switched over to Gymnastics World two years ago. The highlight of his career is when he qualified to all around finals at Nationals where he placed 25th.

Gymnastics World gave Josh many friendships and experiences he holds dearly in his heart. He is especially grateful for his parents and his coaches who have pushed Joshua to be his best.

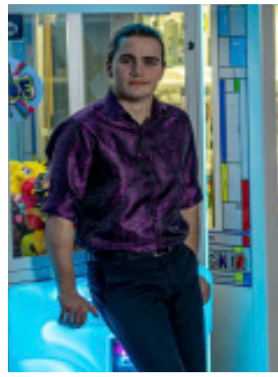


THOMAS HOAGLAND

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Thomas Hoagland is graduating from Madison Comprehensive High School in May of 2022. During his high school career, Thomas played lead roles in two musicals, was a part of the esteemed Jazz Choir and Chorale, attended three adjudicating events for vocal performance receiving superior ratings each time, and was a member of the National Honors Society.

He began his gymnastics career at age six at TOPS Gymnastics where he spent five years under the direction of Chris Larson and his father, Eric Hoagland. The next three years were spent at Queen City Gymnastics under the direction of Sean Sawyer, Deacon Harris, and Keith Petit. This team was one that became his first true gymnastics family, lighting the still-burning spark that would eventually take him beyond his wildest expectations. Upon a rather dramatic move a few hours north, the next four years were spent largely under the sole direction of Dave Forister, with Justin Kreit accompanying him whenever he was able. One last change happened quite abruptly, leading him to join Gymnastics World under the direction of Greg Skupski, Kadeam Cross, and Mike Dingman for his final year of developmental gymnastics.



Thomas's parents are Cassandra and Eric Hoagland. He plans to continue gymnastics as a member of the inaugural team at Greenville University in Illinois, where he also plans to study musical technology, vocal performance, and theatre. Gymnastics has been a driving force in keeping momentum in Thomas's life for as long as he can remember. He is certain that without it, and the people he has met and cherished along the way, he would be unrecognizable. He would like to give thanks to his mother for keeping him sane in the moments he needed it most, and to his father for his unwavering support. He would like to thank all of his coaches over the years for putting up with the various versions of him over his years of growth, and for becoming some of the most important people in his life. He would also like to thank his closest friends that have been along for the ride across all of the years that mattered most. He says he wouldn't be here without them.

OWEN LAIB

Toledo YMCA, Perrysburg

Owen Laib will graduate from Perrysburg High School in May of 2022. During his high school career, he was president of his school's Interact Club connecting students to the community through service. He also founded the Yellow Oak Club which serves to fundraise for local nonprofits like Harbor Behavioral Health Services. Owen loves music. He plays clarinet with the Wind Ensemble, trumpet in the Jazz Band and really enjoyed serving as Drum Major for his high school's marching band. He attended multiple Honor Bands, is a member of the National Honors Society and will graduate Summa Cum Laude.



Owen joined the Greater Toledo YMCA gymnastics team at age 10 and received several Academic All-American Awards. He was the Ohio State All-Around Champion in both 2016 and 2018. In 2021 he became the first gymnast from the Greater Toledo YMCA to qualify and compete at Junior Nationals.

Gymnastics has been an amazing part of Owen's life. Now, he is preparing to focus his efforts on studies in college. While he has not yet made a final decision on a university, he will be studying Chemistry as an undergrad with the goal of getting into Medical School to become a doctor. Owen is really grateful for the gymnastics program at Greater Toledo YMCA. It has provided so many opportunities for him to grow and helped shape him into the person he is today. He would like to say thank you to his parents Doug and Anita Laib, his coaches, Jai Charles, Brian Berends and Joey Walasinski and his teammates for supporting him in all of his endeavors.



SENIORS

CONTINUED...

TRISTAN MARZLUF

Cyclone Gymnastics, Blacklick

Tristan Marzluf will graduate from Reynoldsburg Summit High School in May of 2022. He plans on attending The Ohio State University where he will pursue studies in Aerospace Engineering.



He began his gymnastics career at Cyclone Gymnastics in Blacklick, Ohio, at the age of four. He had a number of instructors in the recreational program, including Chad Lape who invited Tristan to become a member of the boys team. As he moved into high school and his work load became more demanding, Tristan found it challenging to balance school, gymnastics, and life. He finally reached a point where he was deciding whether or not to continue with gymnastics. After much consideration, he decided he would see his gymnastics journey through to the end. Ultimately, he ended up placing 2nd in the in the All Around at the Ohio State Championships as well as 2nd in Rings, Parallel Bars, and High Bar.

He has learned many life skills such as commitment, determination, and overcoming challenges, which will serve him well in all aspects of his life to come. The friendships that one can only develop with those who understand the challenges and hurdles that are unique to the sport of gymnastics will always be a part of who he is and who he becomes. Tristan's family and his parents, Mark Marzluf and Suzy and Chris Allen are all extremely proud of him.

MATTHEW PETROS

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Matthew began his gymnastics career at the age of 5 at Gymnastics World of Ohio, coached by Greg Skupski. He is a 3x National qualifier, Region 5 Elite Team member, multiple event State Champion, and in 2021, he placed 4th on Vault and 3rd on High Bar at the Region 5 Championships.



Academically, he is a 3x Academic All-American, ranked 2nd in his class, member of the National Honor Society, suburban league MVP in diving, 2x state winner of Americanism and government exam, WOIO athlete of the week, and AP honors with distinction.

His parents are Barry and Kelly Petros. In the fall, he will be attending the US Naval Academy to study engineering and compete on their gymnastics team.

JOHNNY PINC

Pinnacle Gymnastics, Medina

Johnny Pinc will graduate from Buckeye High School summa cum laude in May 2022 where he is ranked 1st in his class. He also has his Associates in Science from Cuyahoga Community College. He is a National Merit Commended Student and an AP Scholar with Distinction. At school he is a member of NHS, Academic Challenge, and Science Olympiad.



Outside of school, Johnny is the Cadet Commander of the Medina Skyhawks Civil Air Patrol Squadron 219 where he holds the rank of Cadet Captain. He was named the Ohio Wing Officer of the year in 2020. He also is an avid pianist who has taken lessons for 12 years.

Johnny started at Pinnacle Gymnastics at the age of 4 and joined the team at 6 years old. He has participated in many State and Regional competitions, as well as Future Stars Nationals, and two Junior Nationals. He is thankful that Coach Lance came back for his senior year and that Coaches Amy & Jordan and the upper girls team have adopted him this year.

Next year Johnny will be attending the United States Military Academy (West Point) where he plans on majoring in Chemistry and competing in gymnastics for Army. He will miss all of his teammates - past and present - as well as everyone who became his friends throughout the years from other teams. He appreciates all of the time his parents spent driving him to and from gymnastics as well as sitting through award ceremonies that went out 17 places with 5 age groups!

RICKY PIZEM

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Ricky Pizem will graduate from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School in May of 2022. While he was in high school, Ricky was a member of the National Honors Society and a representative in the Student Council.



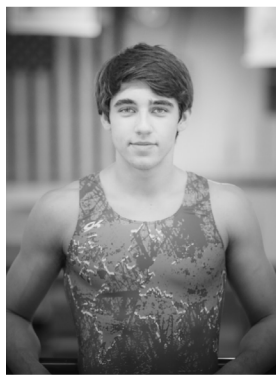
Ricky has participated in gymnastics to some degree his whole life but started competitive gymnastics when he was 6. Over the years, Ricky has qualified to Regionals multiple times and twice to Junior Olympic Nationals. In 2021, he qualified to Junior Elite Nationals and his Region's Elite Team. During this season, he was proud to be selected to represent Region 5 at the Windy City meet in Chicago.

Ricky's parents are Denise and Rick Pizem. He plans to continue his gymnastics and academic career at the College of William and Mary. Gymnastics World has provided Ricky with a second home and he will forever be thankful for that. He would like to thank his parents, coaches, and teammates who encouraged and motivated him to do the best he could in the sport.

HUDSON SCHNEIDER

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Hudson Schneider will graduate from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School in May 2022. During his high school career he was a member of the National Honors Society, a commended National Merit scholar, a USAG Academic All-American, and in the top ten of his graduating class.



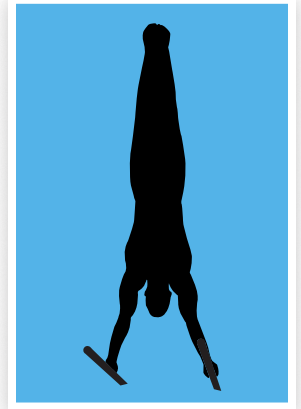
Hudson began his gymnastics career at the age of 6 at Gymnastics World. He has been coached by Greg Skupski for his entire career. He has been a State floor and vault champion. He qualified to Nationals for the first time in 2021 and was a member of the Region 5 JN team and placed eighth on high bar.

Hudson's parents are Scott and Jennifer Schneider and he has one sister. Hudson plans to attend Purdue University in the fall to major in biological engineering and hopes to be a part of the club gymnastics team there. Hudson would like to thank all of his coaches and teammates for helping him become the person he is today!

JOEY SCHNEIDER

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Joey, son of Maria and Bill Schneider, has committed to Miami University for Business Economics. His greatest achievement was qualifying to Junior Nationals. It had always been a lifelong goal. He'd like to thank all his teammates and family for everything they do for him!

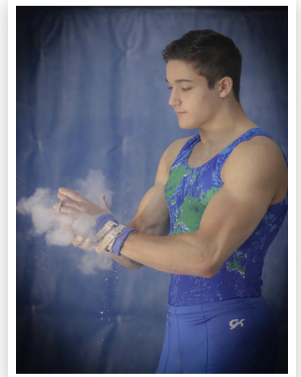


DAVID SKOCIC

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

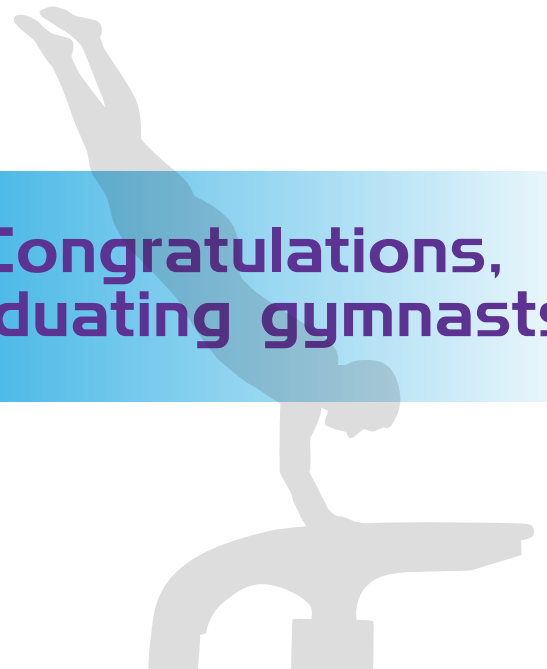
David Skocic will graduate from Chagrin Falls High School in May of 2022.

He began his gymnastics career at age 7 and moved to Gym World shortly after. Throughout the years, David has been State Champion on pommel horse twice and a member of two State Champion Teams.



David's parents are Dayle and Mike Skocic. He plans to end his gymnastics career after this year and pursue computer science at Cleveland State University. Gym World has been a place for years of personal development for David and he would not be the same without it. He would like to thank everyone who helped him through his career, including coaches, family members, and friends.

**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**





SENIORS

CONTINUED...

JOSHUA SOBECKS

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Joshua Sobecks will graduate in May of 2022 from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. He is an AP Capstone Diploma recipient and a 3x Academic All-American for USAG. In his high school career he has participated as a member of his school's National Honors Society as well as a member of Science Olympiad.



Josh began gymnastics classes at a very young age but started classes at Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights in 2010 and has been there ever since. In his freshman year, he was State runner-up on the floor exercise and All Around. Recently, he qualified to the Junior National Championships in 2021.

Josh is incredibly grateful for his teammates and coaches who have been by his side for many years now. He is also thankful for the tools gymnastics has given him and the opportunities that this sport has provided. He plans to study Biochemistry at The Ohio State University and possibly participate in the cheer program.

CORBIN SPRAFKA

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Corbin Sprafka will be graduating from Solon High School in May of 2022. Corbin is a quiet, funny individual, who is also intelligent, dedicated, and deeply passionate about the things he holds dear. He began his gymnastics career at age 8 at Gymnastics World. During his gymnastics career, he has earned many State titles on multiple events. His love for gymnastics has led Corbin to coaching, where he is able to share his gymnastic knowledge and excitement.



The experiences gained and friendships that have been developed over these years through gymnastics have been immense, and he is thankful for every one of them. He is especially grateful for his coaches' support and

encouragement over the years. Though currently undecided about what college he will attend, Corbin has excelled at science throughout high school and will continue to gain more knowledge and plans to major in Biochemistry.

KAN SUZUKI

Queen City Gymnastics, Cincinnati

Kan Suzuki, son of Jin & Mina, will graduate with honors from William Mason High School in May of 2022. His academic performance earned him USA Gymnastic Academic All American recognition. In August 2022, Kan will attend The Ohio State University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Kan's gymnastics career began at the age of 4 and it has been an integral part of his life since the age of 6. He has been through a couple of transitions over the years. He lived in Japan for 4 years and continued diligent gymnastic discipline during the term. His final chapter of his gymnastics career landed at Queen City Gymnastics as a Level 9 in 2016. Kan will finish his gymnastics career at QCG this season. He has had numerous wins and placements at numerous competitions and has been an annual Regional qualifier for 4 years. Kan has enjoyed many accomplishments through the years. His native language is Japanese and he trains hard to perform his best for both academic and gymnastic success within such a huge language barrier.

He gained tremendous experiences and friendships through his gymnastic years and built a great athlete spirit as a team player. Kan is grateful for every one of them. He especially has deep gratitude for the coaches who have taught and encouraged him over the years. He is very much excited to see what the future holds. Kan will truly miss his QCG family.

JAKE SWEETEN

Queen City Gymnastics, Cincinnati

Jake Sweeten will graduate in May of 2022. Earlier this year, Jake became an NCAA certified judge and has enjoyed exploring another side of gymnastics. In the fall he will attend Simpson College where he will continue his gymnastics career.



Jake started gymnastics at nine years old. He has been a member of several teams during his career but has found his home at Queen City Gymnastics for the last three seasons. Jake is coached by Keith Pettit, Brandon Norris, and Deacon Harris.

Jake's parents are Laura and Daniel Sweeten. He has a younger brother, Andrew, who is also a gymnast.

Gymnastics has helped shape Jake into the motivated and hardworking person that he is today. He has made excellent friends, learned how far hard work can take you and thoroughly enjoyed everything related to gymnastics.

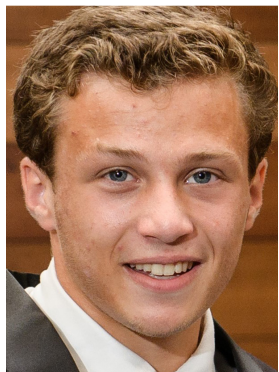
IVAN THAL

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights

Ivan will graduate from Beachwood High School in May 2022. During his high school years, he has been a member of the National Honors Society and National Technical Honors Society.

He started gymnastics at the age of three in his first gym in Tucson. Later on, he moved to Ohio and decided that Gym World was a great fit for him, where he has been able to compete for all of his high school career. In addition to qualifying for Regionals on multiple occasions, he has also been able to receive the Academic All-American Award. He is happy to have been able to compete at his best, even through obstacles such as injuries.

He would like to thank his coaches and teammates for giving him an amazing experience. He's had a ton of fun throughout this journey, and wouldn't have traded it for anything in this world!



We also acknowledge the following Ohio seniors:

CARTER BECK

Integrity Athletics, Plain City

LUCAS DANIELS

Queen City Gymnastics, Cincinnati

NOLAN DECH

Hocking Valley Gymnastics Center, Lancaster

TIM HORVAT

Toledo YMCA, Perrysburg

JACK SAUER

Gymnastics Training Center of Ohio, Franklin

ETHAN SIPOS

Integrity Athletics, Plain City

Congratulations, graduating gymnasts!

THIS TRIBUTE TO THE 2022 SENIORS OF REGION 5 MEN'S GYMNASTICS has been thoughtfully brought you through the organizational efforts of **Tim Saxton**, Indiana State Chair. A partner in this effort, **Maleta Schmidt** designed and produced this piece. Maleta is a creative professional who owns and operates Crescent Creative, LLC, in central Indiana. She is the mother of Statler Schmidt, a level 10 gymnast who competes for Indiana Gymnastics Center.

The opportunity was given to all and a great effort was made to include a photo and bio of every senior male gymnast in Region 5. Great care was taken to produce an accurate piece. Should there be any errors or omissions, these were not intentional and entirely accidental.

We hope that this tribute is something that you will cherish now and in years to come as you look back on this sport that helped shape your lives. Best wishes as you embark upon the next chapter!

Thank you to all the Region 5 State Chairs for their efforts in collecting senior information!

- ◆ **John Klemens**, Illinois
- ◆ **Tim Saxton**, Indiana
- ◆ **Jeremiah White**, Kentucky
- ◆ **Russ Young**, Michigan
- ◆ **Greg Skupski**, Ohio

Special thanks to **Tim Saxton**, for spearheading and organizing this project!

KEVIN CHOPE

Region 5 Chairman
krchope@comcast.net

