

SENIOR TRIBUTE

MEN'S GYMNASTICS
S E N I O R S
2023



2023 SENIORS

SAM APPLIGATE

Sam will graduate from Floyd Central High School in May of 2023. A two-time Academic All-American and AP Scholar with Distinction, Sam plans to attend Purdue University and study Economics.

Sam started gymnastics at the age of 6 at SIGS Sportsplex with coach Regan Green and is currently coached by Tim Saxton and Jim Slavich. He's been a State Champion, is a two-time national qualifier, and is also one of the Team Captains this year for SIGS Sportsplex.

He'd like to thank his parents, Todd & Kris, brother Wes, and sister Addie for their support. Outside of the gym, he enjoys playing basketball, golf, and volleyball with his friends!



WILLIAM BACUS

College still to be determined, William plans to major in architectural engineering. He currently competes for MEGA.



EVERETT BARNETT

Currently competes for Libertyville Gymnastics Academy.



JOHN BLAKEY

Plans to major in business studies. He currently competes for Premier Gymnastics.

NIKO BRUSER

Niko competes for Premier West out of Oswego, IL.

NATHAN PAUL BURKE

Will graduate from L'Anse Creuse High School North. He's made the Dean's List, Honor Roll, earned the Presidential Award, Celebration of Excellence Award, is a Dual Enrollment Student, DECA, and National Honor Society member.

He plans to finish his Associates degree in major arts and sciences in early 2024 through the ECM program at Macomb Community College, eventually transferring to another university to pursue collegiate gymnastics and finish a degree in the medical field.

Nathan first started gymnastics when he was 8 years old and competes for Sterling Gymnastics Academy under Coach Nino, Coach Brandon, and Coach Joey.

ISAAC CHANG

Isaac will graduate from St. Xavier High School. He is undecided which school he'll attend but plans to major in Biomedical Engineering and Premed. He's a National Merit Finalist, member of the National Honors Society, peer tutor, and Academic All-American.

The sport has helped him build confidence, work hard, and be a good teammate. The highlight of his career was hitting high bar at Junior Nationals in Mesa, AZ!

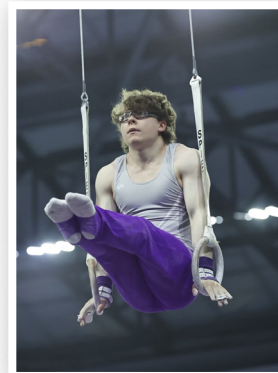
Thanks to his parents Gail and Roger, coaches Keith Pettit and Brandon Norris, and his entire Queen City team! Outside of gymnastics, he does Culinary Club, Fantasy Football, Big Brothers, and St. Joseph's Home.



MICHAEL CROWE

Will graduate from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in May of 2023. He will have taken 15 AP courses over his high school career, and currently has a GPA of 4.84. He is undecided as to which college he will attend.

Michael has done gymnastics at Legacy All-Sports for the past 12 years under Jeremiah White. This is his second year as a Level 10, and he is hoping to become a first-time national qualifier. Gymnastics has given Michael a place to come out of his shell and develop discipline and a strong work ethic. Most importantly, he has been able to get a sense of what matters in life.



Michael would be unable to do what he does without the loving support of his parents, Patrick & Kristie Crowe. While not in the gym, Michael enjoys philosophy, tabletop gaming, and painting miniatures.

MAX FORD

Max has been doing gymnastics since he could walk. He has qualified to compete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs for the USAG Future Stars Program on three occasions. He has also qualified to JO Nationals six times in different competitions around the country, and he has been successful in the elite program, earning several national medals and maintaining a spot on the Regional Elite Team. This will be his fourth year to receive the USAG Academic All-American Award.



Balancing his athletic and academic responsibilities, Max attends Franklin Community High School, obtaining a GPA of 4.22, and coaches at IGC. In his free time, he enjoys many outdoor activities including snowboarding, waterskiing, golf and cliff diving.

DEVIN FRIEDRICH

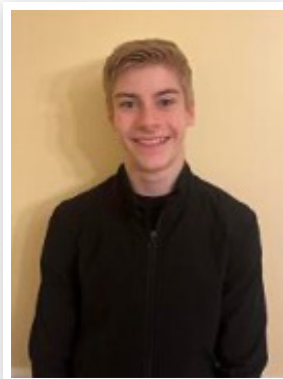
Devin will graduate Heritage Homeschool a National Merit Semifinalist and a 4x Academic All American. He plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Architectural Engineering.

He started gymnastics when he was 3 years old and competes for Michigan Academy of Gymnastics under Rosen Manolov. He's a Top 10 State All-Arounder and has qualified to Junior Nationals 3 times.

Gymnastics has taught him discipline, perseverance, and work ethic. His hobbies include music, reading, investing, and inventing. He's also a concert pianist, band director, Ninja athlete, and volunteers for the Special Olympics.

JACK GAGAMOV

Will attend the University of Minnesota to study Aerospace engineering. Currently competes for Libertyville Gymnastics Academy.



LOGAN GRIFFEY

Will graduate from Sylvania Southview and plans to pursue a career as a Paramedic/Firefighter. Logan started gymnastics when he was 5 years old and competes for the Greater Toledo YMCA under Jai Charles and Brian Berends. Gymnastics has taught him dedication, patience, and perseverance.



DAVID GROSSMAN

Plans to attend the University of Minnesota to study business marketing. Currently competes for Libertyville Gymnastics Academy

SILAS HOCKENSMITH

Silas will graduate from Floyd Central High School in May of 2023. A member of the National Honors Society and Academic All-American, Silas will attend West Point Academy in the Fall with plans to continue his gymnastics career there.



Silas started gymnastics when he was 6 years old at SIGS Sportsplex under Regan Green and Tim Saxton. Tim continues to coach him and recently Jim Slavich has joined the coaching team. He's was a member of last year's Level 10 Indiana State Championship team and was a 2022 National qualifier.

He'd like to thank his parents, John and Jenni Hockensmith, who have always been there supporting him. In addition to gymnastics, he enjoys hiking, sightseeing, and enjoying blues, classic and alternative rock.

JACK HOLT

Champaign Gymnastics Academy

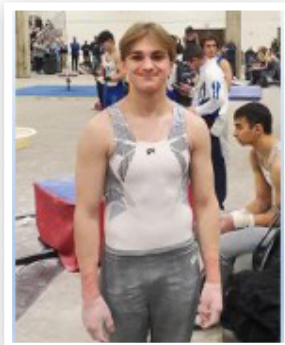


2023 SENIORS

CONTINUED...

OWEN KAMS

Currently competes for Libertyville Gymnastics Academy.



XANDER KELLEY

Will graduate from Simon Kenton High School, is an Academic All-American, and Executive Council Member of the French Club. He is undecided on what college he'll attend but plans to major in Aerospace Engineering.

Coached by Brandon Norris and Keith Pettit, Xander competes for Queen City Gymnastics. The highlight of his career was becoming a Region 5 Elite Team member. The sport has taught him the importance of respect and trusting in teamwork.

He thanks his parents Gwen and Bill! In his spare time, he cuts grass at K2 Lawn Care.



REX KENYON

Will graduate from Jonathan Alder High School, on Honor Roll, is a member of the National Honor Society, 2x Academic All American, 2022 Derivative Bee Champion, and COMPTIA A+ and ITF+ certified. He is currently undecided on which school he'll attend but plans to study Cybersecurity.



Rex started gymnastics when he was 7 years old and competes for Integrity under Stan Dobrydnio and Neil Zybur. Gymnastics has had such a positive impact on his life and helped shape him into the person he is today. As his coach Stan always says, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Outside of the gym, Rex enjoys building computers, computer programming, and competing in cyber security challenges. Captain of the Jonathan Alder eSports team, lead Snare in the Marching Band, and Right Forward for the Dublin Tornadoes recreational men's soccer team.

RYAN LAMBDIN

Will graduate from Springfield High School / Penta Career Center and plans to attend Union Skilled Trade Journeyman.

Ryan started gymnastics in 2007 at Exceleation Gymnastics Center with Ashley Lambdin and Kyle Munroe. He's been an individual event State Champion, Regional qualifier and event champion; but most importantly, has enjoyed his career and had a lot of fun! Outside of the gym, he enjoys riding his dirt bike and 4-wheeler.



CARLOS LEONARD

Will graduate from Chippewa Valley High School with a 3.0 GPA, a member of the Black Student Union, and plans to attend Macomb Community College before transferring to a school that he can continue his gymnastics career.

He started gymnastics when he was 6 years old and currently competes for Sterling Gymnastics Academy with Nino! A 5x Junior National qualifier, gymnastics has taught him how not to get chalk in your eyes.

ERNESTO MAGALLANES-LOPEZ

College still to be determined, Ernesto plans to study Graphic Design. Midwest Elite Gymnastics Academy.



Congratulations, graduating gymnasts!

MARTY MACSAY

Will graduate from Strongsville High School with a 4.3 GPA, with Honors and having taken many AP classes.

Marty started gymnastics at the age of 4 and competes for Above the Barre under Jeff Vacha and recently Dave Forrester, as well. He's qualified to Junior Nationals every year since 6th grade except 2020 due to COVID and 2021 because of a broken ankle. Gymnastics has taught him perseverance as he's had to do so through several injuries, each time coming back stronger than before. It's also taught him confidence and leadership.

Outside of the gym, he enjoys video games and hanging with friends, girlfriend, and family. He'd like to thank his parents Barb and Steve for their continued support!



GIOVANNI MANTIA

Will attend Springfield College to study Applied Exercise Science. He currently competes for Premier West.



COLE METZGAR

Plans to attend Iowa State University to study Graphic Design. He currently competes for Premier West.



ARMANN MAHAJAN

Will graduate from Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy with a 4.043 GPA and 1500 SAT. He is a National Honor Society President and MUN Secretary General, and Flint science and engineering fair finalist. He plans to attend the University of Toronto.

Armann started gymnastics in 2009 at Gym Jesters under Russ Young, Rich Weatherwax, and Scott Fry. He qualified for Eastern Nationals in 2022 and finished 6th in the All-Around and 3rd on High bar.

Gymnastics has taught him how to train toward a single goal, how to put faith in his abilities, and not to back down from a surmountable challenge. Outside of the gym, he enjoys running and basketball.

GIANLUCA MANCINI

Graduating from Northville High School. A member of the National Honors Society and Northville Computer Science Honors Society, and a USAG Academic All American Award recipient.

Gianluca started gymnastics in 2009 at Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy under Juha Tanskanen and Camilo Sanchez. He was the 2021 Pommel State Champion and finished 4th on the High Bar at Eastern Nationals in 2022.

Gymnastics has taught him discipline, courage, and determination. Outside of the gym, he enjoys computer programming and cycling.

DREW MITCHELL

Will graduate from Moeller High School as an Honor Student and is a 4x Academic All-American. He plans to attend The Ohio State University as a member of their gymnastics team.

A multiple-time State Champion, Regional and National qualifier, Drew competes for Queen City Gymnastics under Brandon Norris and Keith Pettit. The highlight of his career was competing in Italy with Region 5. The sport has taught him to never take anything for granted and to treat everyone with the utmost respect.

He thanks his parents for their unwavering support! In his free time, he enjoys hanging with friends and family, working out, and playing football.



AIDAN MURRAY

Will graduate from Oswego East High School and plans to attend the University of Iowa to study Pre-Med. He currently competes for Premier West.



2023 SENIORS

CONTINUED...

NOAH MUTCHLER

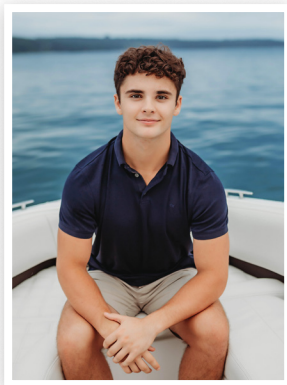
Will graduate from Lake Orion High School and plans to attend ATP Flight School.

Noah started Mom & Tot classes when he was 2 years old. He currently competes for Flip Spot under Shaun Clement and Jacob Maurer. He's a 9x Top 10 State All-Around, 8x Regional and 3x National qualifier. He was an AA finalist as a Level 8 and finished 5th in the nation on High Bar!

Outside of the gym, he does Lake Orion Varsity Golf, F1 Racing, and works at Emagine Theaters.

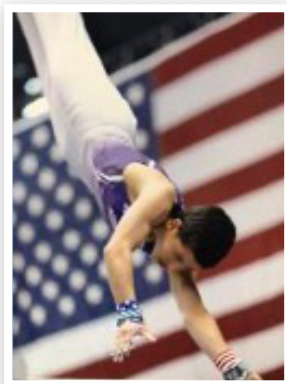
MAX NEWMAN

Will graduate from Plainfield North High School and plans to study business at University of Kentucky or Ole Miss. He currently competes for Premier West.



ANTHONY NICHOLAS

Plans to attend the University of Minnesota to study Chemistry. He currently competes for Gymkhana Gymnastics.



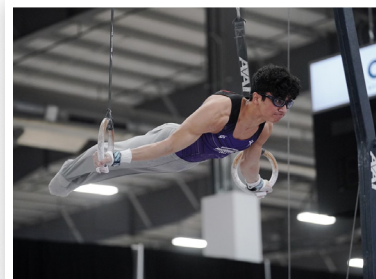
ALEXANDER NOVAK

College still to be determined, Alexander plans to study Chemical engineering. He currently competes for Flying High Gymnastics.



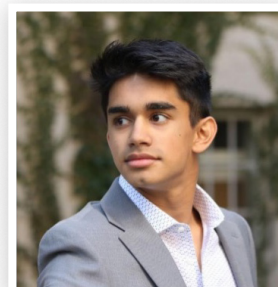
AKSHAY PURI

Will graduate from the University of Chicago Lab High School and plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in Chemical Engineering. He currently competes for Lakeshore Academy.



KAVAN PURI

Kavan will graduate from the University of Chicago Lab High School. He is a 4x Academic All-American, 2022 Junior National Bronze medalist on Rings, 2022 Junior National Floor medalist, 2021 Region 5 Floor Champion, and was a member of the 2021 Junior National 1st Place finishing Team with Lakeshore Academy.



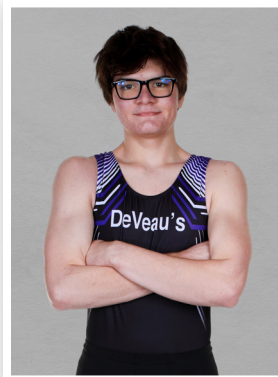
EVAN REICHERT

Plans to attend Springfield College to pursue Biology. He currently competes for Premier West.



KEEGAN REYNOLDS

Keegan competes for DeVeau's School of Gymnastics and is currently the Team Captain. He has been home-educated since preschool and will graduate in May 2023. Keegan is a 10-year 4H Member with several county Grand Champion titles and Blue Ribbon state fair entries. He plans to attend Ball State University in the fall to study Applied Behavior Analysis.



A special thanks to Coach Jeff and Coach Aaron for their support. Among other qualities, gymnastics has taught him perseverance and patience.

BRIAN ROLLISON

Brian will graduate from Howland High School, summa cum laude, having completed his senior classes at Kent State University. He will continue his gymnastics and academic career at Simpson College in Iowa.

Brian has competed his whole 14-year career at The Ohio Gymnastics Institute, coached by Ron Ferris. He's earned many State and Regional awards over the years and qualified to Junior Nationals in 2022.

Gymnastics has taught him not to let anything affect him too much, while also teaching him how to deal with problems, inside and outside of the gym. Not every turn has to be perfect, and it's okay to make mistakes because mistakes are what teach you the most. The sport is truly a wonderful thing because it teaches courage, controlling fear, determination, hard work, and self-sufficiency.

He'd like to thank his parents Jim and Tonya for their support over the years. In his free time, he enjoys video games, and spending time with friends and girlfriend. He's interested in coaching in the future, has been his school's mascot, and is a novice guitarist.



BLAISE ROUSSEAU

Blaise was born in Hawaii on an island called Oahu. When he was 1 ½ years old, his mother put him in gymnastics classes. He participated in other sports growing up, but there was just something about gymnastics that kept bringing him back to the sport. At the age of 9, he finally committed to be a part of a gymnastics team.

He competed for HITS (Hawaiian Island Twisters) until 2020 when he moved to Ohio and joined Gymnastics World, coached by Greg Skupski.

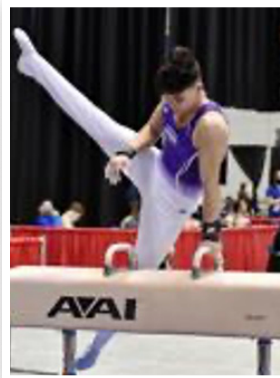
His senior year did not go as planned because of an injury at the first meet of the year. It's been a long recovery, but he plans to recover, persevere, and continue his gymnastics journey while attending The Ohio State University, majoring in Exercise Science and continuing his graduate studies in Physical Therapy.

Gymnastics has taught him so much - resilience, commitment, toughness, dedication, friendship, and teamwork. He's learned so much, traveled to many cities, and met such amazing people on this journey. He's so grateful for what the sport has given him, and would like to thank his family, coaches, and teammates for their support!



CHRISTIAN ROMERO

Plans to compete for Simpson College and study computer information systems. He currently competes for Gymkhana Gymnastics.



WILL SAUER

Will is graduating from Bellbrook High School and plans to attend the University of Iowa as a member of the Iowa GymACT Team and to study physical therapy.

He started gymnastics when he was 3 years old and has been competing for GTCO since 2014 under Lindsay Bittner and Paul Wood. He is a 2x National qualifier and was a Regional Team Member in 2022. He'd like to thank his mom, dad and brother for their support throughout the years!



**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**

ZACHARY SCHEIBLE

Will graduate from St. Clair County Community College with an Associate Degree in Mechatronics and begins working in the field of Industrial robotic programming.

He competes for All American Flames Gymnastix under Doug Bean, and is a 4x National Qualifier. Outside of the gym, he enjoys playing the drums, video gaming and youth group, and programming robots.

2023 SENIORS

CONTINUED...

STATLER SCHMIDT

Statler fell in love with gymnastics at age 7, competes for Indiana Gymnastics Center and became All-Around State Champion his first year. The dedication, teamwork, time management and discipline that he has learned from gymnastics will serve him well in the future. Statler is a 4x Academic All-American.



He will graduate from Franklin Community High School in May with high honors, is a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society and Leadership Johnson County's Youth Leadership Academy. Statler coaches at IGC, and he is active in community service and his church youth group.

Statler plans to attend Butler University's Lacy School of Business to study finance and economics. When not training at the gym or studying, Statler enjoys spending time with family, playing ping pong, volleyball, golf, and watching NFL football and NCAA basketball.

DANIEL SEAGULL

Will graduate from Pioneer High School, a 2x USA Gymnastics Academic All American, and plans to attend the University of Michigan and study neuroscience!

He began gymnastics when he was 9 years old and currently competes for Gym America under Kurtis Rosen. He competed Level 10 the past 2 years, was 2021 Level 9 State All-Around Champion and Region 5 Rings Champion.

He's learned the importance of perseverance, how to be a good teammate and leader, and how to overcome adversity. He enjoys hanging out with friends, making music, playing chess, and coaching. He also mentors elementary students through the Pioneer Trailblazers program.

BRODY SEBOLD

Plans to study finance in college. He currently competes for Premier Gymnastics.



CONLAN SIMPKINS

Will graduate from Metro Early College High School with a 4.7 GPA and 50 college credit hours. He's a 2x Academic All American and plans to study Aerospace Engineering at The Ohio State University.



Conlan started gymnastics in 2013 and competes for International Gymnastics Academy under Casimiro Suarez, qualifying to Junior Nationals in 2022. Gymnastics has taught him consistency, discipline, and time management. He thanks parents Perry and Sandra for their years of support!

ALEX SMART

Will graduate from Haslett High School as an AP Scholar with Distinction and plans to study computer science in college.

Alex started gymnastics when he was 7 years old at Twistars and currently competes for Infinity Gymnastics. His coaches have been Tom Buese, Brandon Norris, and George Gagau. He was a 2022 Junior National qualifier.

Gymnastics has taught him to persevere through setbacks and about team comradery. His hobbies include computer programming, drawing, 3-D modeling, and electronics.

OWEN MATTHEW SNYDER

Owen will graduate from Pioneer High School as a member of the National Honor Society. He plans to major in Materials Science and Engineering and is still deciding which university to attend.

He competes for Gym America under coach Kurtis Rosen and finished 1st in the state on Rings this year.

Over the years, he's learned to take risks and work through his fears and frustrations. Outside of the gym, he enjoys gaming, camping, and blacksmithing.

Congratulations, graduating gymnasts!

NICK STEVENSON

Will graduate from Dakota High School on the Honor Roll with 4.0 GPA and plans to attend Oakland University and study Criminal Justice.

Nick started training gymnastics at Olympia in 2012 and transferred to Sterling Gymnastics in 2020. He's been with Coach Brandan and Nino his entire career. Gymnastics has taught him perseverance and hard work, along with loyalty and keeping your priorities straight.

He also enjoys lifting, spending time with friends, and watching NCIS.

COLTEN THOMAS

Will graduate from Ohio Connections Academy, is a 3x Academic All-American and member of the National Honors Society, and plans to attend The Ohio State University.

Colten started gymnastics when he was just 3 years old and began competing at the age of 6 with International Gymnastics Academy under Casimiro Suarez. He's a 4x Junior National qualifier. Gymnastics has taught him how to work hard, regardless of how he was feeling.

He'd like to thank his parents, Jonathan and Shannon. Outside of the gym, he enjoys listening to music, hanging out with his friends, and playing Xbox.

NICK TOWNSEND

Plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to study Physics. He currently competes for Premier West.



TONY TRAUFLER

Tony will graduate Waynesville High School with High Honors and is a 4x Academic All-American. He plans to attend the University of Cincinnati and major in Health Science / Physical Therapy.



In 2021, he placed in the Top 10 at Junior Nationals and has been a Region 5 Elite Team member multiple times. He competes for Queen City Gymnastics under Keith Pettit and Brandon Norris. The sport has taught him to be positive and move passed negative things in life.

His parents Amy and Dale have supported him over the years. He enjoys coaching and supporting the next generation of gymnasts!

KYLE WALCHUK

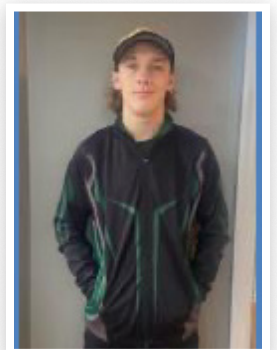
Will graduate from Howell High School with High Honors and the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy for Spanish. He's committed to The University of Michigan and will be competing for the Men's gymnastics team there.

Kyle started gymnastics when he was 4 years old at Infinity Gymnastics Academy with George Gagua. He earned 1st place on Pommel Horse at the 2022 Junior National Competition and followed that with a 1st place finish at the 2022 US Championships.

Gymnastics has taught him that you can only make progress once you have confronted the things you are afraid of. You may not conquer your problems in one day but you have to train like you can. Outside of the gym, he enjoys cooking & baking, chess, and reading.

MASON WALTON

Will graduate from Freeburg High School and plans to attend the University of Memphis to study dietetics. He currently competes for World Class Gymnastics.



2023 SENIORS

CONTINUED...

SHANE WHIDDEN

Will graduate from Andrews Academy on the Honor Roll. He began gymnastics when he was 12 years old and competes for Power in Motion Gymnastics under Chad Williams. Gymnastics has taught him patience and about hard work. Outside of the gym, he enjoys ice skating and piano.

TYLER WILLIAMS

Will graduate from Naperville Central High School and plans on studying physical therapy in college. He currently competes for Premier Gymnastics.



BEN WILSON

Champaign Gymnastics Academy



LUKE WOLFINGER

Luke will graduate from Whitmer High School as his Class Ambassador and plans to attend Owens Community College and enter the electrical field.

He started gymnastics in 2014 and competes for Toledo Turners under Ed McGee, Robby Kijowski, and Scott McGee. He's been a Pommel Horse State Champion, finished Top 3 on the Parallel Bars and in the All-Around, Regional qualifier, and qualified to the 2022 National Championship.

Outside of the gym, he enjoys weightlifting. And thanks parents Sue and Ken, and sisters Alexandra and Kennedie for all the support over the years!



ANDREW WRIGHTSEL

Andrew started his gymnastics career at Champion in Louisville and has had numerous coaches over the years, including Thomas Britton, and currently Tim Saxton and Jim Slavich at SIGS Sportsplex, where he's been training the last few years.

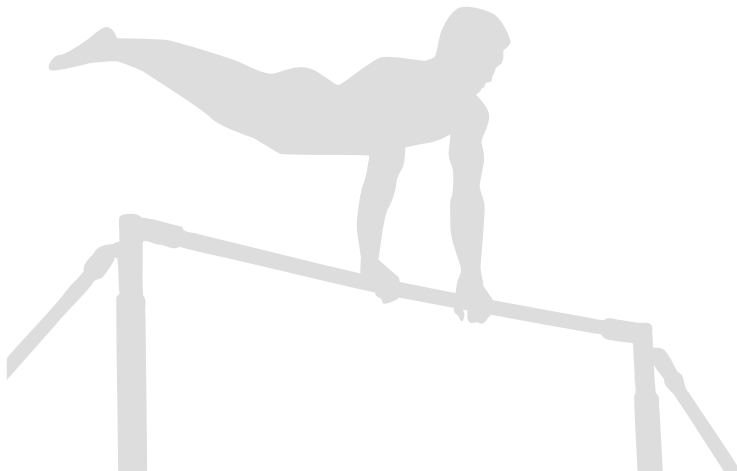
One of the highlights of his career was qualifying to Eastern Championships last year, placing 3rd on Pommel Horse and 2nd on the Parallel Bars. He was also part of the 2022 Level 9 State Championship team!

He'd like to thank his friends and family for their support over the years! Outside of the gym, he likes skateboarding, enjoys music, video games, and hanging out with his friends!



TUCKER YASANAGA

Plans to attend the University of Cal Berkeley. Tucker currently competes for Champaign Gymnastics Academy.



**Congratulations,
graduating gymnasts!**

THIS TRIBUTE TO THE 2023 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.

Great care was taken to produce an accurate piece. Should there be any errors or omissions, these were not intentional.

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!

- ◆ **Jon 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

