

CAT SCRATCHES

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The Newsletter of The University of Arizona GymCats

Dear Friends, Alumni & Boosters,

March 5

After finishing off February with 3 straight road meets, the team was pretty excited to start the final month of the regular season back home in Tucson at McKale Center. We would be welcoming the University of Washington for our final Pac-10 dual meet of the year. Although we had been competing pretty well, there were still some routine and line-up changes we felt needed to be made to maximize the team's potential. So even in this latter third of the season, we were going to try some new stuff.

Starting on the usual home team lead-off event, vault, we warmed up Mykle as she has been making vast improvement in the gym. She has the potential to provide a big vault but due to injury, this was the first time she had vaulted on a hard surface all year. I felt she made some progress, getting over the nerves of vaulting in McKale for the first time but we decided to take our time and not have her perform this night. With that our vault line-up was the one we had used most to the season: Talyn, Aubree, Molly, Colleen, Sarah, and Deanna. Talyn really thrives in the lead-off spot and once again got us off to a solid start and a 9.7. Aubree, who is really getting the hang of her vault, followed up with a great effort and a 9.825. Molly then landed her vault for our second 9.7. Colleen, Sarah, and Deanna all had pretty good vaults to give us three 9.8's in a row. Overall a very good vault rotation although we did not stick a single landing. Our event score was a 48.925. Meanwhile, UW was hitting great bars and we were .125 behind after one.

After a very good bar rotation last week in Nebraska, I was hopeful we could bring a repeat performance to the home crowd. We were using the same line-up as well: Deanna, Molly, Aubree, Britnie, Miranda, and Sarah with Katie performing exhibition. Deanna did a great job starting us off with a 9.75. Molly and Aubree both followed her with a pair of 9.7's. The routines were good but ticky-tack deductions took their toll. Britnie then stepped and hit a really nice set that the judges awarded a 9.85. Miranda's knee had been really bothering her all week, forcing her to avoid training her dismount. She came thru when the team needed it though for a 9.8. Sarah finished off the official line-up with hit set and a 9.775. Katie keeps getting better, week-by-week, as she hit to finish off the event with a 9.725. It was a good bar rotation but some weak handstands and unstuck dismounts gave us an event score of 48.875. At the halfway point, our team score was a 97.8 and we were still .1 behind as we headed to beam.

After struggling for a few weeks, we hoped that some routine changes as well as an order change would give us a little boost. Our line-up for this meet would be: Aubree, Sarah, Colleen, Katie, Britnie, and Molly with Deanna performing exhibition. For some reason, the beam warm-up was a little shaky but we hoped that it was nothing more than pre-meet excitement. Aubree started us off well, looking confident as she hit for a 9.7. Sarah had a rough time though, going second and falling on her dismount. Her score was

an 8.8 and we all hoped it would not come down to counting it. Colleen saluted next and got the team back on track by hitting for a 9.725. Katie then performed a nice routine that unfortunately had a rough spot that lowered her score to a 9.775. The team seemed to be tensing up a bit as Britnie stepped next with perhaps her roughest routine all year. She fought hard to not fall but her score did take a dip from its usual point. Her score was a 9.625. Molly did her job to make sure we didn't end up counting a major deduction by hitting and scoring a 9.825. Deanna was our final beam routine and one of our best of the meet for a 9.775. Too bad we couldn't use it. Our event score was a somewhat disappointing 48.65. We had escaped counting a fall but the shakes had cost us a bit. Our running team score was a 146.45 but we had now fallen behind by .375. As I gathered the team, the focus was not about winning but rather regrouping and performing incredible floor for our home fans. The team took the challenge and seemed to relax and loosen up as we marched to our final event.

After a week culminating an impressive comeback, it was decided that it was now or never for Katie to salute the floor judges for the first time in her collegiate career. We also felt that she may also be a spark to the line-up so for this meet, our line-up would be: Talyn, Molly, Katie, Aubree, Deanna and Sarah with Mykle performing exhibition. Talyn did another great job leading us off with a dynamic routine and a 9.75. Molly then did a great job finishing up her meet with a great hit set and a 9.8. Next up was Katie. Katie has a different look on floor than most collegiate gymnasts. The judges obviously liked what they saw as her first ever floor score came in at our second 9.8. Aubree then stepped up and hit her best floor routine of the season for a 9.875. Deanna then followed Aub's lead and hit her best routine of her collegiate career for a 9.925. We didn't really know it at the time but we had been inching our way closer to UW during the rotation as they performed on beam. And as Sarah saluted, we didn't know that it would be in fact, up to her. She took the lead of her teammates and went out there for an all-star performance. When she landed her last pass (double pike), we knew she had done a fantastic job and received a fantastic score of 9.9. Mykle finished up our meet with a very nice routine that was only marred by landing deductions on her last pass. She scored a 9.625 from the judges. As the team thanked the crowd for coming and supporting us, all we knew was that we had finished the meet right with a super 49.3 event score. It wasn't long before we discovered that we had pulled off a huge comeback in the last event to barely squeak by UW, 195.75 to 195.675.

It was one of really unexpected nice surprises for the team. After trailing the entire meet and struggling thru beam, it came down to the last competitor of the meet for each team. I guess if you are going to be in that position, you would like an experienced competitor out there for you. Sarah did a great job securing the meet and a great performance. It was our high score of the year and a hard fought victory. On the individual front, we had event victors on every apparatus. Aubree tied for first on vault, Britnie tied for first on Bars, Molly tied for first on Beam, and Deanna took the Floor title. It was a very exciting meet for the fans and the team. As March progresses, we will work our hardest to use this performance as a benchmark for things to come.

Arizona vs. Washington				
	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor
Aubree	9.825	9.7	9.7	9.875
Talyn	9.7			9.75
Mykle				9.625
Colleen	9.8		9.725	

Deanna	9.8	9.75	9.775	9.925
Britnie		9.85	9.625	
Katie		9.725	9.775	9.8
Molly	9.7	9.7	9.825	9.8
Miranda		9.8		
Sarah	9.8	9.775	8.8	9.9

March 12

Our final dual meet at McKale Center welcomed the Gophers of Minnesota. It was also our Senior Meet honoring Sarah. In preparation, we had a good week of practices but we were also feeling the fatigue of the long season. We were going to need to rest Britnie on beam to rest a leg issue. Even though, I really felt that we had a good line-up going in. The team had been getting better each week and we felt that we could continue the trend this Friday night.

Our vault line-up was the standard that we had been using almost the entire season: Talyn, Aubree, Molly, Colleen, Sarah, and Deanna. But after a solid warm-up we decided to let Mykle perform her first vault of her collegiate career in an exhibition. Talyn got us started with solid 9.725. Aubree had performed a vault in warm-ups that could have won the meet. With that on her mind, she maybe tried a little too hard to stick and then took a poor landing. A good try but a score of 9.45. Molly quickly got us back on track with one of her best and a 9.775. From here, it just kept growing. Colleen with a very nice 9.8, Sarah next with a great 9.85, and then topped off with Deanna nailing a 9.9. Our final vaulter was Mykle and this would be the first time she performed her 10.0 vault in front of judges since last year. She did an admirable job but landing deductions earned her a score of 9.4. It was a very good start to the meet. Our event score was a 49.05 and we held a .375 cushion as we prepared for our second event.

Our bar team has been performing pretty consistently of late and so I felt that the line-up should also remain consistent for now. Our usual line-up of: Deanna, Molly, Aubree, Britnie, Miranda, and Sarah with Katie in exhibition. We warmed up well so I was feeling good about the possibility of continuing the strong showing from vault. Deanna did a great job starting us off after her great vault. She hit a very good routine and our first score was a 9.75. Molly was next and hit her routine for a 9.675 that was attributed to compositional deductions and nickel and dime form errors. Aubree then had a bit of a struggle on her set but as usual, managed to get through pretty well. Her score was another 9.675. We were staying on but not performing as well as I would like. Britnie was up next and hit a very clean routine that earned a 9.75; that was a little more like it. Miranda followed next and hit a very good routine that received a 9.825. Our final regular routine was Sarah. She hit a solid set for her and scored a 9.775. Katie finished up our bar work with a 9.5 that actually would have been much better if she had not kicked the low bar on the way to her dismount. Overall, a 48.775 is a decent bar outing. Was it what I felt we were capable of? No; but did it keep our momentum going into the halfway point? Definitely. Our running meet score of 97.825 had increased our lead to a big 1.625 but that was not our focus. Our focus was to keep the momentum going into beam and really show what we can do.

The beam team had worked incredibly hard to prepare for this meet. Not that we had been doing terrible, but there was a feeling of underachieving with the talent we had out there. It would be a slight change as Britnie would not be out there for the first time this year. With that fact, the line-up for this meet would be: Aubree, Sarah, Colleen, Deanna, Katie, and Molly, with Talyn performing exhibition. Aubree did her usual great job of getting us started with a hit and a 9.725. Sarah was really intent on making up for the problems she had on beam the week before. She did just that with a solid routine and a

9.7. Colleen then got us really going. She saluted next and hit a very nice routine for a 9.8. Deanna was next with her best set ever and a 9.85. Katie then followed with her best set ever and a 9.875. Molly then followed up by finishing off the regular line-up with another outstanding effort and a 9.9. The team was incredibly fired up to have finally hit beam like they knew they could. But we still had one to go. Staying focused through the excitement, Talyn did a great job and hit our seventh straight beam routine for a 9.725. All I can say is wow. After the troubles we had experienced, I felt really happy for the team because they had been carrying this around their necks for a while. Our event score was a season best 49.15 and our team total was now 146.975. We had the possibility of a great score and a 2.125 point lead. It was now up to our best event to finish it off.

The floor line-up remained the same as last week: Talyn, Molly, Katie, Aubree, Deanna, and Sarah. After the performance last week; "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" as they say. Talyn had a quick turnaround to get ready. She had recovered when she saluted and was doing a great job but had a bit of a health issue occur during her middle pass. She gallantly tried to get through but fell on her final salto. She did a great job trying but the fall cost and her score was a 9.05. Even though now we had a fall and were forced to be clean for the next five routines, I had no doubt we would do it. Molly quickly got us back on track with a great set and a 9.75. Katie followed and kept us going with an identical 9.75. Aubree then stepped up and hit a really nice routine earning a 9.85 from the judges. Deanna saluted next and for the second straight week, rocked the house with a 9.9. Our final routine of the evening was Sarah in her final regular meet at McKale Center and she saved the best for last. Set up by outstanding routines by her teammates, Sarah hit her career high of a 9.95. It was a great finish to a great team effort. The floor team had done just as we had expected, hit. Our event score was a 49.2 giving us our highest team total of the year so far, 196.175.

We had won the meet by 2.475 points along with Deanna winning Vault and the All-Around, Miranda winning Bars, Molly winning Beam, and Sarah winning Floor. All of this was secondary in my opinion to the complete meet we had put down and the continued improvement of the team. Of equal importance though was the fact that this was our Senior Meet. A time to honor Sarah and her contributions to the program. At the end of the awards, a video and presentation allowed the fans to show their appreciation.



Sarah came to the desert to join the GymCat family from Naperville, IL. She is now in her 5th year with the program and what a ride it has been. When she first arrived on campus, she was known as Sarah Specht and also was recovering from a serious elbow injury sustained at the end of her club career. Her first year in Tucson was spent with endless hours of rehab trying to straighten her previously injured elbow. A surgery at the end of her freshman year saved a career that was certainly in question. Given a second chance, Sarah took full advantage, dedicating herself to go beyond merely coming back. And since that moment, she has been a vital and pivotal part of the program. Sarah has

competed for the past four years, missing only one meet in that span of time. To date: she has amassed 1,474.275 points in an Arizona leotard, and has career highs of 39.45 in the all around, 9.925 on vault, 9.9 on bars, 9.775 on beam, and 9.95 on floor. She has 17 event titles to her credit, been named 1st Team All-Conference, and last season was the Regional floor champion. Sarah doesn't only focus on her athletics. Sarah has performed hundreds of hours in community service as her team has won the department award for Community Service the past 4 years. She has also served as a Peer-Athletic-Leader. A very good student, Sarah has been named a U of A Academic Champion for 2006 thru 2009, Academic All-Conference in 2008 & 2009, and Scholastic All-American in 2008 & 2009. Sarah graduated with her degree in English last May and is now married. She is currently working on her certification to teach and came back this year to lead the team that has meant so much to her. Her teammates and coaches will certainly miss her work ethic, spirit, and dedication to the program.

Arizona vs. Minnesota				
	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor
Aubree	9.45	9.675	9.725	9.85
Talyn	9.725		9.725	9.05
Mykle	9.4			
Colleen	9.8		9.8	
Deanna	9.9	9.75	9.85	9.9
Britnie		9.75		
Katie		9.5	9.875	9.75
Molly	9.775	9.675	9.9	9.75
Miranda		9.825		
Sarah	9.85	9.775	9.7	9.95

March 20

For our last regular meet of the season, we headed to the Rocky Mountains for a three team competition with host Denver and Cal. We arrived in a big snow storm that really had me smiling as I remembered my youth. It took us almost an hour and a half to go the 12 miles down the highway to our hotel but it was the Bus Driver's problem, not ours. Once we arrived, we settled in and prepared for what I was sure was going to be a tough meet. In our history of competing in Denver, we had never performed well for whatever reason. With this team though, I felt we would get by that stumbling block. We have competed so many times on the road this season and against some pretty big odds and performed very well. This team has certainly seen it all and is afraid of no one.

Because of the three team format we would be start on bars but still compete in Olympic order. The bar line-up would be the same as in the past: Deanna, Molly, Aubree, Britnie, Miranda, Sarah with Katie in exhibition. Deanna had a solid routine to start us off with a 9.6. Both Molly and Aubree had some difficulties and both received a 9.575 from the judges. At this point we knew that we would have to fight to get a respectable total. Britnie did a great job getting us out of our funk with a great set and a 9.825. Miranda followed with what was looking like a fantastic set until she came up short on her dismount. With a 9.9 start value, no dismount and a fall, you can tell how good the routine was when her score was a 9.175. Sarah finished up the regular line-up with a very good routine and our second 9.825. Katie has been working very hard to improve her routine,

week by week. And her routine showed it as she finished off our bar work with a 9.7. It was a very rough start to the meet. Our event score was 48.4 and we rotated to beam in 3rd place: Denver-49.025, Cal-48.8, Arizona-48.4.

One thing is for sure, this team won't quit. We rotated to beam with the same line-up as the previous week: Aubree, Sarah, Colleen, Deanna, Katie, and Molly. Aubree quickly rebounded from bars to hit our leadoff routine and a 9.775. Sarah was up next but fell on her mount. She finished well for a 9.2 but we had our first fall. Colleen was up next and showed some veteran leadership as she calmly got us back on track with a solid set and a 9.75. Deanna was up next and this was the first time she has been in the official line-up when someone has fallen in front of her. She may have felt a little pressure but handled it well as she hit her routine for a 9.775. Katie and Molly both followed with identically good routines and identical 9.775's. Even though we had not scored a single 9.8+, the five scores we did count gave us a very respectable 48.8. The team had handled the pressure of a slow start and not counting a fall and now we were in 2nd at the halfway point: Denver-98.1, Arizona-97.25, Cal-96.875.

Even though we were almost a point back, we felt good and confident rotating to floor with the line-up of: Talyn, Molly, Katie, Aubree, Deanna, and Sarah. We still felt confident as Talyn over-rotated her first pass and scored a 9.0. Molly was up second and started off what we hoped would be five in a row. She did just that with a 9.7. Katie followed with a 9.75 set that set up Aubree for a great routine that earned a 9.85. Deanna really boomed her first pass that unfortunately was a little too powerful as she stepped out-of-bounds. She finished well but the 9.725 tells what could have been. Sarah picked herself up from beam and really put one down as she nailed our final routine for a 9.9. Our 48.925 was a solid (but somewhat low) score for this floor team. We had competed very well and overcame the early miss. Our event score was a 48.925 and we had closed the gap: Denver-146.65, Arizona-146.175, Cal-144.525.

As we rotated to our final event with our usual line-up (Talyn, Aubree, Molly, Colleen, Sarah, Deanna), they really believed they could pull this off. They felt the intensity building and so did the crowd. My only comment was go for it and rock those landings, what did we have to lose? Well Talyn was motivated considering she had just fallen on floor. She saluted and performed the best vault of her career. She drilled her landing and pumped her fists in the air. We all erupted because it was such a nice vault. The first vault of the rotation was a 9.8 and we were just getting started. Aubree went up next and really hit a great effort for a 9.85. Molly vaulted next for a 9.725 with Colleen following for a 9.75. Sarah was still feeling the pump from floor and delivered a great effort for a 9.85. Deanna finished off our meet with her own great effort and a 9.9. It was a fabulous and very exciting vault rotation. Our event score was a 49.15. While we were competing, Denver was doing well on floor, just not as well as we were. They had the lead but we did not now how this competition would look at its conclusion.

After the scores were tallied, we had just fallen short by .075: Denver-195.4, Arizona-195.325, and Cal-192.45. It was a little bittersweet but when you think back to our subpar bars, you know where the problem was. We didn't quite pull-off yet another last second comeback this time but how can you not love a team with so much spirit and passion. We had never competed this well in Denver and my initial feelings were verified. Individually we had also done well. Deanna won vault with Aubree and Sarah tying for second. Britnie and Sarah tied for second on bars. Sarah won floor with Aubree tying for second. Deanna finished second in the all-around with Aubree third and Molly and Sarah tying for fourth. It was now back home to Tucson to get ready for the Pac-10 Championships which we are hosting at McKale Center.

Arizona @ Denver w/ Cal				
	Bars	Beam	Floor	Vault
Aubree	9.575	9.775	9.85	9.85
Talyn			9.0	9.8
Colleen		9.75		9.75
Deanna	9.6	9.775	9.725	9.9
Britnie	9.825			
Katie	9.7	9.775	9.75	
Molly	9.575	9.775	9.7	9.725
Miranda	9.175			
Sarah	9.825	9.2	9.9	9.85

March 27 After three grueling months of competing, we had made it to the end of the season and the Pac-10 Championships. If you have been keeping track, you know that we have had only four home meets so far this season. The reason was that we were proud to be hosting this year's Championship meet. The team that was competing now in March was so much different than the team that started out in January. Because of this, we entered the meet as the fifth seed behind UCLA, Stanford, Oregon St. (all in the top 10), right behind Washington and ahead of ASU and Cal. The progress of the young team was impressive and we had been competing very well as of late. I was very confident that we were going to have a good meet. This team had seen it all and not afraid to be out there with anyone. With that kind of attitude, good things can happen. The new thing was that we use four judge panels at the Championships. And with four judges, not much gets missed. Any scores from this meet would be earned.

Our rotation for the competition was: Bye, Vault, Bye, Bars, Beam, Bye, Floor. A great rotation for us due to our strength on Vault and Floor. Stay strong on Bars and Beam in the middle and see what happens. After the meet got under way and we anxiously sat thru our first bye, we marched over to vault to start our meet in front of a very vocal home crowd. Our line-up for vault was the same as we had used most of the season: Talyn, Aubree, Molly, Colleen, Sarah, and Deanna. Talyn was steady and ready for start our meet. She did a great job and our first score was a 9.725. Aubree continued her excellent vaulting as she landed a 9.825 from the judges on her vault. Molly was up next and landed her vault for a 9.675. Colleen then stepped for a very good effort and a 9.775. Sarah then saluted and hit a great effort for a 9.85. Our final vault was Deanna and she topped our score sheet with a 9.875. We were all really excited for a strong vault rotation and a great start to the meet. Our event score was a 49.05 and after all teams had competed one event, we sat in second place, .225 behind UCLA and .05 ahead of OSU. Stanford, Washington, ASU and Cal followed.

After another rotation we marched to bars and our usual rotation of Deanna, Molly, Aubree, Britnie, Miranda, and Sarah. Deanna did a very nice job starting us off with a stuck double layout and a 9.775. Molly then hit her set for a 9.675. Aubree was up third and hit for a 9.75 from the judges. Britnie kept it going with our fourth hit and our second 9.775. The team was pretty pumped as we were competing pretty well. Miranda had really been focused on having a much better set this meet than last week. She stepped up and accomplished just what she set out to do and nailed her routine for a 9.825. At this point we knew that at least we would not be counting a fall but the team was focused on doing their very best and that meant one more routine. Sarah had had a rough week of training on bars but had just started to get back to normal during the workout day before the meet. She rose above the nerves and the sore neck to hit her bar set when the team needed it for

our top bar score and a 9.85. It was our second six-for-six event with an event total of 48.975; a great score in this type of meet. Our running score was now 98.025 and we were still hanging on to second, .675 behind UCLA and .025 ahead of Stanford. OSU, Washington, Cal and ASU followed.

We immediately rotated to beam without a bye and there was no doubt in my mind that we would not be counting a fall. We were pumped about the first half of the meet but knew that there was still a lot of work ahead. We were going to go with a new line-up for this competition. After 2 weeks off, Britnie looked ready to get back out there and I decided it was worth it. Our new line-up was: Aubree, Colleen, Britnie, Deanna, Katie, and Molly. Aubree started us off just as she had the majority of the season, with a great hit routine. Her score from the judges was a 9.775. Colleen saluted next and almost fell on her series but refused to come off. After quickly regaining her composure, she finished well for a 9.75. Britnie was up next and had a bit of a scare herself on her series but managed to pull it out. She received an identical 9.75. Deanna was in the zone all meet and saluted next for a great set and a 9.775. Katie followed her teammates' lead and matched her 9.775 with a nice routine of her own. Molly was our final beam worker and wasn't going to let the momentum die here. She fought thru a few little balance checks but hit a fine routine for a 9.8. It was our third clean event and the team was extremely excited about a good finish. Our event score was a very good 48.875 giving us a running meet score of 146.9. The meet was going great and after three events we were sitting in third: 1.15 behind UCLA, .525 behind Stanford, and with a .375 lead over OSU with Washington, Cal, and ASU following.

Finishing on floor was great. The crowd was really into it and the team was excited to go out on a high note. We would be using our usual line-up of: Talyn, Molly, Katie, Aubree, Deanna, and Sarah. We knew that OSU was finishing on their best event but we didn't care. We were having our best meet of the year so far and wanted to finish it off for our home crowd. Talyn had missed the last two meets but was not going to let this one get away from her. She started us off with solid set and a 9.7. Molly followed Talyn's lead and finished her meet with a solid routine and our second 9.7. Katie was up third and raised the bar a bit with a hit and a 9.75. Aubree moved us up a notch as she nailed her tumbling, especially her last double back and scored a 9.825 from the judges. Deanna then stepped up and rocked her double Arabian (and everything else) for a 9.85. Sarah was our final routine of the meet. She harnessed all the excitement to give the home crowd one last glimpse of her career. She nailed her routine for another 9.85. She never let the fact that that was her last routine ever in McKale get to her. When Sarah landed her last pass (double pike), we all cheered with excitement. We had gone out and competed with heart and passion and no matter the outcome, we sent a message. Our event total was a 48.975 giving us a final score of 195.875. A great last meet of the regular season.

After the final scores were in, the results were: UCLA-197.35, Stanford-196.55, OSU-195.95, Arizona-195.875, Washington-193.825, California-191.475, and ASU-190.675. Even though a miracle beam rotation from OSU had put us fourth, I couldn't have been prouder of how the team had competed. So much passion and toughness from such a young team. They really deserve credit considering the year we have had. Individually we also did quite well. Deanna placed third on vault with Sarah fifth. Sarah placed fourth on bars with Miranda eighth. Molly finished tenth on beam and Deanna and Sarah tied for twelfth on floor. In the all-around competition, Deanna, Aubree, and Molly finished 4th, 5th, and 6th respectively. We had the third highest vault total, the second highest bar total, the fourth highest beam score and the fourth highest floor score. Now we just sit back, wait to be seeded at a Regional and go and show the rest of the country how good this team is.

As a final reward for a great performance at the Pac-10 Championships, four of the team was honored by being placed on the All-Conference Team. Deanna, Aubree, and

Molly were named 1st Team in the All-Around and Sarah was named 2nd Team on Vault and Bars. This is now Sarah's second and third different event that she has been honored on. A pretty impressive feat. As for the other 3, having three young team members already distinguish themselves certainly bodes well for the future. Great job!

Arizona @ Pac-10's				
	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor
Aubree	9.825	9.75	9.775	9.825
Talyn	9.75			9.7
Colleen	9.8		9.75	
Deanna	9.9	9.775	9.775	9.85
Britnie		9.775	9.75	
Katie			9.775	9.75
Molly	9.7	9.675	9.8	9.7
Miranda		9.825		
Sarah	9.85	9.85		9.85

Upcoming Meets Next up for the team is the NCAA Regional meet. Virtually everyone who is reading this newsletter and was a member of the team, knows what this is all about. This is our 24th consecutive year of qualifying to the NCAA post season which is the longest current streak of any team here at the U of A and something we are very proud of. We have been placed in the Los Angeles Regional that is being hosted by UCLA. Besides us and host UCLA, the other teams vying for a spot in the NCAA Finals are: Arkansas, Iowa State, Brigham Young, and Arizona State. The top two will advance. The meet will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday April 10th in Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus. Tickets are \$14 for reserved adult seating in the "Arizona" section, \$12 for student/youth in the reserved sections and \$10 general admission. If you are in the area, I hope you will make it a point to come root on the team!

Alumni Sightings **Beamer Bergeson, Alexis Greene, Erica Anderson, Bree Workman, Jamie Custer, Jillian O'Neal, Kara (Fry) Meyer** and of course **Jessamyn Salter & Jamie Holton** were all in attendance for the Washington meet. **Katie (Johnson) Ranne & Lisa (Heckel) Shabansky** both called to catch up on the season and life in general. **Jamie (Duce) Quintero, Beamer Bergeson, Alexis Greene** and **Erica Anderson**, were in the stands cheering at our Minnesota meet. Now that she back home until her child is born, she came by to show her support. **Kara (Fry) Meyer** and her daughter Saylor, dropped by the office on their day off to visit and play. Always a nice distraction. In between our Minnesota meet and our trip to Denver, **Maureen (Kealey) Bleam** made a rare trip to Tucson and stopped by the gym to say hello. Her mother and her two boys were with her to see the new digs. **Stevie Fanning, Emily (Peterman) Cabano**, and **Andrea Walters** were all in attendance at our meet in Denver rooting on their former team. As Pac-10's drew closer, the alumni started showing up in town and in the gym to show their support. First were **Danielle (Hicks) McAfee** and **Aubrey (Taylor) Kelly** with their children. Aubrey is expecting her second child.

This month was a very special group of alumni sightings. **Rose (McLaughlin) Neale** along with **Cami (Banholzer) Scagliotti** and **Rachelle Silberg** organized a GymCat Alumni Reunion in conjunction with the Pac-10 Championship meet we were hosting. I can't explain how great it was to see all of the former GymCats there for each other and to cheer on the current squad. The alumni that I know of that attended some portion of the

weekend (Reunion or meet) are: **Rose (McLaughlin) Neale, Cami (Banholzer) Scagliotti, Kara (Fry) Meyer, Mary Reiss, Nicci (Filchner) Goodman, Jamie (Duce) Quintero, Tenli Poggemeyer, Darci Wambsgans, Randi (Liljenquist) Acosta, Aubrey (Taylor) Kelly, Danielle (Hicks) McAfee, Rachelle Silberg, Melanie Weiser, Karin Wurm, Beamer Bergeson, Alexis Greene, Erica Anderson, Alexis Greene, Jamie Custer, Jillian O'Neal, Kristen Schmieder, Lisa (Heckel) Shabansky, Stacey (Walski) Van Dyke, Lindsay (Compitello) Hendrickson, Amanda (Goins) Dziawura, Jessamyn Salter, Jamie Holton, Nancy (Altmann) Jones, Gina Martin-Mueller.**

Team Banquet The team banquet is scheduled for Sunday, May 2nd in the Jim Click Hall-of-Champions, on the Rountree Mezzanine. The event will start at 6:00 PM and the cost is \$20 per person. You can also sponsor a gymnast for \$20 if you would like. You can send payment to me here in the office and make the checks payable to "University of Arizona / GymCats". I hope you can make it as it the final time to recap the season, honor the team, and bid farewell to our lone senior.

Boosters We have already had donations to our program by some of our most loyal supporters. I just want to thank you again for your contributions that make such a big difference to a program like ours.

If you would like to donate, just send a check made out to "University of Arizona / GymCats" and send it to me here at the office. I will get it to the proper people. Your donation is tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Cyberspace You can keep up on important information on the team at the Official University of Arizona Athletics Website (www.arizonawildcats.com/gymnastics). This season we have had a great response to our Facebook page "University of Arizona Gymnastics". There is a bunch of multimedia along with any breaking news. We also have used our Twitter account "AZGymnastics" to post real-time scoring during our meets. We also have people subscribing to our YouTube account "arizonagym" for the latest videos. Don't forget to check out the AllAccess page on our official website. You can find complete meets, commercials, Coach's Show's, etc.

Until next month...

Bill

