

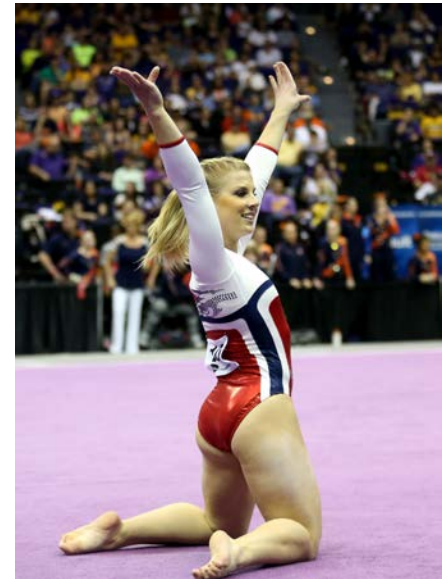
CAT SCRATCHES

May 2014
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The Newsletter of The University of Arizona GymCats

Dear Friends, Alumni & Boosters,

April 5 For the 28th consecutive season, the team qualified to the NCAA post-season. We are proud of the streak but wanted to keep the season going on as long as possible. Anyone following us realizes how bizarre the season has gone. Never before can I remember a time where each of our individual events was ranked higher than the team as a whole. It really shows where our issues have been this year. Well due to the inconsistencies on the road this year, we were a 4 seed, placed in the Baton Rouge Regional hosted by LSU. We were looking forward to the meet as the Pac-12 Championships were the best road performance we had had to date. Our rotation was: Floor-Vault-Bye-Bars-Beam-Bye. This meet had 4-judge panels and there would be no hiding from being caught with poor execution. On the medical front, Kristin had come down with a calf issue and rested much of the 2 weeks between our meets. Other than that, the team was pretty healthy and the line-ups were unchanged.



After a decent day of training, I was relieved that our standard floor line-up (Shana, Shay, Amber, Mackenzie, Allie, Kristin) would all be ready to go. Shana did a fine job starting us out and being the first floor routine of the entire meet. She hit her set for a 9.75. Shay then hit a good routine for a 9.725. Amber followed with another solid set and another 9.725. The scores were a bit average and we were taking a lot of little dance deductions that were adding up. Mackenzie then hit one of her best of the season and received a 9.825. That was more like it. Allie then really performed a nice routine for a 9.85. Kristin ignored her pain and delivered a routine that shows why she earned that All-America status. Her score was a 9.9. Our first event was a 49.05 and I was pleased with that in the first rotation. I knew the scores would go up during the meet but I wanted to at least have a score that wouldn't kill us in the end.

We rotated to vault also with the usual line-up: Amber, Gabby, Mackenzie, Allie, Shelby, and Kristin. Amber did a great job with our opening vault and nearly stuck the landing. The score was a 9.775. A little bit confusing (2nd rotation maybe?) but it was a great effort. Gabby then hit her

vault for a 9.75. Mackenzie came up third and stuck her vault cold. Her score was a 9.85 and the only errors I could see were in the position and distance. Allie then stepped up and hopped on her landing, earning her a 9.8. Shelby then hit a vault just like her Pac-12 vault and stuck it for a 9.925. Kristin hadn't really vaulted in 2 weeks but gave it a great try. Several hops on her landing gave her a 9.725. Once again, we had a pretty decent event score of 49.1. At this point both Kristin and Shelby were leading an event: floor and vault respectively, and we had a 98.15 after 2 events. We were competing pretty well but I knew we had to have a few bigger scores if we were going to make an impact on the team results. After the bye, we marched to our third event.

As I mentioned before, the bar line-up also remained unchanged: Krysten, Gabby, Lexi, Selynna, Shelby, and Allie. Krysten had had a very good season for us. She has been thrust into a lead-off spot as a freshman and needing to hit to set up everyone else. She knew her role and had only 1 missed routine the entire season. Unfortunately, at the biggest meet of the year, she had her second miss. She missed the bar on her release move and the resulting score was a 9.025. This was not the way we were hoping to start off an event. Gabby was up next. She also had a very good year as a freshman. She had handled the pressure and had not missed a routine all year. Until this meet that is. Reeling from Krysten's fall, the team held its breath as Gabby saluted. Unfortunately Gabby fell over on a cast handstand and then dropped to the ground. It was a big miss under the circumstances. Her score was a 9.225. We needed to stop this bleeding quick. After the two reliable freshmen had both missed, I was hoping that the remaining athletes could pull it off. I wasn't too confident looking at Lexi as she saluted. It quickly all went wrong as she missed her release move. She also had another fall and received an 8.575 from the judges. This was a meltdown. Next up was our third freshman, Selynna. She had missed at the conference meet and I was hoping that she could keep her head on straight after the first 3 had all fallen. She did a great job making us all proud as she hit our first bar routine and scored a 9.85. Shelby then stepped up and was a bit conservative on her set. Short handstands and a big step on her dismount left her with a 9.725. Allie finished off our bar routines with a solid set and a 9.825. Obviously our bar rotation had finished our quest for the top 2 spots. Our event score was a 47.65, the lowest in ages. Not the meet to go for a team low. I still believe in our bar team of 3 freshmen, 2 sophomores, and a junior. They have done exceptionally well over the year but did not have it at this meet. The only thing to do was to finish up as strong as possible for our own pride.

Our beam team of Amber, Allie, Jessie, Shelby, Lexi, and Shana were all motivated and focused on closing out this competition on a high note. Amber was first up and as she had all meet, came through with a solid set for the team and a 9.75. Allie was up next and had a few balance checks. She stayed on and finished well for a 9.725. Jessie was on a mission to redeem herself from the Pac-12 meet. She did just that as she nailed her set for a 9.85. Shelby then stepped up and nailed her set for another 9.85. Lexi was able to regroup after her bar experience and performed beautifully for a 9.825. Shana was up last for our last routine of this year and her last routine of her career. It was fitting that after all that work; she hit her routine and ran back to the team with a big smile. Her score was a 9.75. Our event score was a 49.05 leaving us with a 194.825 team total.

We all had a very empty feeling about the meet as is concluded. It was a very bitter pill after all the months, injuries, and bizarre issues of the year. But that is why they call it “sport”, it only matters what you do on that given day. Our score had left us with the 26th highest score of the 36 teams competing on that day. It was well below what we expected of ourselves. Individually, there were some that had great, great efforts. Kristin had overcome her leg injury to still lead the floor exercise standings for most of the meet, finishing 5th in the final results. Shelby had done the same with vault: leading until the final rotation and finishing 4th.

Mackenzie, Amber, Shana, Selynna, Shay, Jessie and Allie all had good meets but it was that one event the killed us. I promise you we will regroup although without the 3 seniors we are losing and come back as determined as ever. It will be a long wait until January where we open up in Tuscaloosa, AL and I know the team will have it in the back of their heads until then.

	Floor	Vault	Bars	Beam	All-Around
Selynna			9.85		
Shana	9.75			9.75	
Allie	9.85	9.8	9.825	9.725	39.2
Gabby		9.75	9.225		
Amber	9.725	9.775		9.75	
Kristin	9.9	9.725			
Lexi			8.575	9.825	
Krysten			9.025		
Mackenzie	9.825	9.85			
Shelby		9.925	9.725	9.85	
Jessie				9.85	
Shay	9.725				

Honors & Awards As the end of the season get closer; it is time to list some of the honors and awards the team has received for this season:

Barbara Donaldson	CATS Academics Student-Athlete of the Month
Amber Wobma	CATS Academics Student-Athlete of the Month
Selynna Felix-Terrazas	Pac-12 Newcomer of the Week for Feb. 23 – Mar. 2
Shelby Edwards	Pac-12 Vault Co-Champion
Allie Flores	Pac-12 Vault Co-Champion
Kristin Klarenbach	2 nd Team Season All-America – Floor Exercise
Allie Flores	1 st Team All-Conference – All-Around

Shelby Edwards	2 nd Team All-Conference – Vault
Kristin Klarenbach	2 nd Team All-Conference – Floor Exercise
Shelby Edwards	4 th Place Vault – NCAA Regionals
Kristin Klarenbach	5 th Place Floor Exercise – NCAA Regionals
Shana Sangston	Academic All-Conference – 1 st Team
Shelby Edwards	Academic All-Conference – Honorable Mention
Amber Wobma	Academic All-Conference – Honorable Mention
Barbara Donaldson	Scholastic All-America
Shana Sangston	Scholastic All-America
Jessie Sisler	Scholastic All-America
Mackenzie Valentin	Scholastic All-America
Amber Wobma	Scholastic All-America

Team Banquet The team banquet is a time when we can get together and celebrate on all the hard work the team has put in over the year. Although our final meet didn't go as planned, there was far more good than bad to reflect on. Here are some of the items that the team accomplished this year:

- **Final Event Rankings: Vault – 14**
 - **Bars – 14**
 - **Beam – 19**
 - **Floor – 15**
 - **Every event had a higher ranking than last year**
 - **Every RQS (including team) was higher than last year**
- **52 new Individual Personal Records**
 - **In fact, 15 athletes achieved at least 1 personal high.**
- **29 scores of 9.9+ from 7 different athletes**
 - **38% increase over last year**
- **174 scores of 9.8+ from 14 different athletes**
- **2 Conference Champions**
- **1 All-American**
- **Highest team score since 2004**
- **Team Community Service Champions**
 - **9 years in a row**

We also gave out our team awards for the season. The recipients are:

Golden "A" (Team MVP)	Allie Flores
Golden "A" (Team MVP)	Shelby Edwards
Jim Gault Coaches Award	Amber Wobma
Jim Gault Coaches Award	Kristin Klarenbach
Outstanding Performance	Shana Sangston
Team Academic Award	Amber Wobma
Newcomer of the Year	Mackenzie Valentin

CONGRATULATIONS!!! We are very proud of the fact that our program has the highest APR of all the teams on campus. It is due to the hard work the team puts into their academics and the result is that they all graduate with an excellent degree and ready to face their next challenge. This May we have quite a number of team members receiving their diplomas. I am very proud of each of them and even though they will move on, they are always welcomed back to this family with open arms.

Aubree Cristello
Molly Quirk
Chelsea Perna
Barbara Donaldson
Shana Sangston
Ali Stakem

Alumni Sightings **Kara (Fry) Meyer** and **Amanda Hunter** were in the stands cheering for the UCLA meet. At that meet **Jamie (Duce) Quintero** took over behind the microphone to commentate the meet for the webcast. **Kara (Fry) Meyer, Mary (Reiss) Farias** and **Becca Cardenas** were spotted in the stands cheering the team on at the OSU meet. In the attendance at the senior meet were: **Nancy (Altmann) Jones, Britnie Jones, Becca Cardenas, Talyn Curry, Nicci (Filchner) Goodman,** and **Kara (Fry) Meyer.** Also their commentating for the webcast was **Mary (Reiss) Farias** and **Jamie (Duce) Quintero.** I can't thank them enough for doing this for our program. They do a great job and it means so much to me. THANK YOU!!! **Katie Matusik** made the long drive all the way to Baton Rouge to cheer on the team at Regionals.

Boosters I want to again thank everyone for your generosity last season. If you would like to donate, just send a check made out to "University of Arizona / Gymnastics" 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). We have a dedicated microsite at www.arizonawildcats.com/gymnastics that will focus on current info, videos, etc. You can also follow the team on Facebook (**University of Arizona**

Gymnastics), Twitter (**AZGymnastics**), and Instagram (**ARIZONA_GYMNASTICS**). They have current articles, videos, and pictures of the team.

As always, the newsletter will be on our main website. The archives of the old newsletters reside at (www.u.arizona.edu/~ryden/gym.html). An entire segment of GymCat supporters receive this newsletter electronically. Please contact me if you would like to be put on that list.

Until next year...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are stylized and cursive.

2015 SCHEDULE

<u>DAY/DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
SAT / JAN 9	ALABAMA	TUSCALOOSA, AL	TBA
SAT / JAN 17	SACRAMENTO ST. WISCONSIN-STOUT ILLINOIS-CHICAGO	TUCSON*	4:00 PM
MON / JAN 19	UCLA	LOS ANGELES, CA	TBA
FRI / JAN 23	WASHINGTON	SEATTLE, WA	TBA
SAT / JAN 31	UTAH	TUCSON*	4:00 PM
FRI / FEB 6	OREGON ST.	CORVALLIS, OR	TBA
SAT / FEB 14	ASU	TUCSON*	4:00 PM
SAT/ FEB 28	CALIFORNIA	TUCSON*	4:00 PM
FRI / MAR 6	TEXAS WOMAN'S	DENTON, TX	TBA
SUN / MAR 8	MICHIGAN ST.	LANSING, MI	TBA
SAT / MAR 14	DENVER	TUCSON*	4:00 PM
SAT / MAR 21	PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIPS	TEMPE, AZ	TBD
SAT / APR 4	NCAA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	TBA	6:00 PM
FRI – SUN / APR 17-19	NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS	FORT WORTH, TX	1:00 / 7:00

**All Home Meets in McKale Center*