

# NAWGJ-SC

National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges—Southern California

## Summer 2005

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## 2005 Junior Olympic Nationals

The gymnastics community in Southern California has been extremely fortunate in the last few years to have some of the most exciting gymnastics in the world take place in our "own backyard." In 2003, Anaheim hosted the World Gymnastics Championships; the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials were held in Anaheim as well; and most recently Charter Oak Gymnastics and Precision Gymnastics hosted the 2005 Level 10 Junior Olympic National Championships on May 14 and 15, 2005 at the Ontario Convention Center. This competition represents the pinnacle of the U.S. Junior



*NAWGJ-SC Judges Assistants at J.O. Nationals*

Olympic Program. Level 10 gymnasts compete in State Championships in March and must qualify by score to the Regional Championships that are held in April. There are eight regions in the U.S., and each qualifies seven gymnasts in each of the eight age divisions for a total of 448 competitors at J.O. Nationals.

At J.O. Nationals, each gymnast competes as part of her Regional Team for her age division, with athletes wearing matching regional leotards and cheering each other on. This exciting format really showcases the relative strengths and weaknesses of each region, and Region I clearly shined! Region I won the team competition in three of the eight age divisions (Junior A, Senior A, and Senior B), and finished second in two additional age divisions (Senior C and Senior D). Southern California had the most representation at Nationals of any state in our region, with 20 out of the 56 Region I athletes (36%). Southern California athletes also had excellent individual results, garnering numerous titles including Junior A All-Around Champion (Mattie Larson, All Olympia), Junior C Uneven Bars Champion (Taryn Brogden, SCEGA), Junior D Uneven Bars Champion (Staci Schwitkis, SCEGA), Senior A All-Around Champion (Colleen Fisher, SCEGA), Senior A Vault, Uneven Bars, and Floor Exercise Champion (Brittani McCullough, SCEGA), and Senior B All-Around and Vault Champion (Sophia Hocini, SCEGA). In addition, the top four All-Around gymnasts in each age division were named to the Junior Olympic National Team, and 9 Southern California athletes earned that distinguished honor (Taryn Brogden, Nicole Day (SCATS-HB), Sophia Hocini, Colleen Fisher, Mattie Larson, Brittani McCullough, Kiara Redmond (SCATS-HB), Staci Schwitkis, and Ashley Stott (SCEGA)).

NAWGJ-SC was well-represented at this event. Piper White was the chief judge on Junior Uneven Bars and Tammy Parsons was on the Senior Balance Beam panel. Many of our judges took advantage of the opportunity to be a part of this exciting competition by volunteering to be Judge's Assistants and act as master scorers, touch warm-up/fall timers, line judges, and routine timers. It was great to see so many familiar faces on the competition floor and our judges played a big role in making the competition run smoothly. NAWGJ-SC would like to thank the following judges for contributing to this successful event: April Brandon, Rebecca Callaway, Shelley Chapman, Pam DeGross, Jennifer Gross, Celeste Hamil, Suzanne Hecht, Carole Heald, Vivien Hessel, Marisa Huey, Julie Knight-Bowse, Libby Jacobs, Tracy Loffer, Shana Looney, Cindy Lord, Galina Marinova, Yolande Mavity, Jennifer Orio, Jami Pillasch, Denise Porrazzo, Tina Preston, Christina Stokholm, Roberta Teixeira, Linda Tickenoff, Mayra Torres, Pat Watts, and Emily Wensel.

# Three Southern California Gymnasts Named to U.S. Delegation for 17th Maccabiah Games

Every four years, the best Jewish athletes from all over the world come together to compete in the World Maccabiah Games, an Olympic-style competition held in Israel. The Maccabiah Games have been a quadrennial event since 1957 and are among the top international sporting events in the world. Maccabiah Games alumni include gymnasts Mitch Gaylord and Kerri Strug. The 17<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games will be held July 10-21, 2005, and will include a 600-700 member USA delegation. The Southern California gymnastics community is proud that three of our own athletes, Adee Schoffman, Talia Kushynski, and Yvette Leizorek, have been selected to the five-member U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team. NAWGJ-SC has donated \$250 to each of the three Southern California gymnasts in support of their fundraising efforts to help defray the costs of travel to Israel. Congratulations and the best of luck to Adee, Talia, and Yvette!

## Adee

My name is **Adee Schoffman**. I am a senior at Taft High School in Woodland Hills, California. I am also a third year Level 10 gymnast currently training at Josephson Academy of Gymnastics in Culver City. I will be joining the gymnastics team at UC Davis next year. I have been competing since age nine, and have qualified to State, Regional, and Western National competitions. I am very excited and honored to be a member of Team USA in the Maccabiah Games this summer. Many of my summers were spent in Israel when I was younger, and I am excited to have the opportunity to compete at this international competition representing my country. I consider this competition to be the highlight of my career.



## Talia



My name is **Talia Kushynski** and I am 15 years old. I am a Level 10 gymnast training at Scats HB. I have been competing since I was 8 years old. I train four hours five days a week. (I just can't get enough of gymnastics!) The Maccabiah Games is my first international competition and I am so excited to be a part of it and to be representing the United States. I am in the 10th grade and attend Van Nuys Performing Arts Magnet School. Other than gymnastics I enjoy dancing, shopping, and making arts and crafts. I also love going on the computer and watching movies. I can't wait to go to Israel and experience this fantastic event!



## Yvette

My name is **Yvette Leizorek** and I am a junior at Palm Desert High School. I am a National gymnast at SCEGA Gymnastics in Temecula, California. I have been in gymnastics for eight years. In 2004, I won first place in my age division at the Level 9 Western National Championships, and am now a Level 10. I drive to Temecula 5 days a week, spending 3 hours each day in the car. I work out 5 hours a day, 5 days a week, and drive 1,000 miles a week. I am an honor roll 4.0 student and have received many academic achievement awards over the years. This is my commitment, as well as my family's, to gymnastics. My goal is to receive a college scholarship. I recently competed in the Maccabiah Games Trials and was selected to the U.S. team. Sadly, I got injured just before Level 10 Regionals and will not be able to go to Israel. However, I still consider it a great honor to have been selected to represent the U.S. in Israel.



# 2005 National Judges' Cup

By Christy Jagoe

The NAWGJ National Judges' Cup for 2005 was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, and I had the opportunity to attend as a representative of NAWGJ-SC. I had never been to a National Judges' Cup, nor had I been to New Orleans, but as it turned out this was the perfect year to experience both. The competition was held in the Morian Convention Center on January 7 through 9, 2005 and served as a fundraiser for NAWGJ. It is quite an amazing undertaking, considering it is staffed entirely by volunteer judges. The National Judges' Cup is one of the few non-championship meets hosting teams from across the country *and* including four-judge panels for all levels. The sessions ran for all three days, and included Levels 2 through 10! There were teams representing every region, and almost every state – including our own state, represented proudly by Gymnastics Pacifica. The meet itself was enormous, with two sessions running simultaneously throughout all three days.

I arrived in New Orleans at 10:00 on Saturday morning, after a long red-eye flight from Los Angeles. I was exhausted, hadn't met my roommate yet, hadn't seen the venue, and didn't have the faintest idea as to what I would be doing once I got there. I wasn't scheduled to judge until the last session on Saturday, so I figured I would run over, check out the venue, then zip back for a quick nap before I needed to judge. Once I stepped into the venue, however, I was hooked. The set-up was great, the energy of the other judges was contagious, and there was no way I was going back to the hotel to sleep! The next two days were spent

judging all levels and making some new friends. The process included some great (late) evenings with other judges from all over the country, a gift exchange/raffle with NAWGJ gear donated from each state, and a stroll down Bourbon Street. It still amazes me how judges from all around the country can arrive in one location, sit down on a new panel, and be completely in sync with one another. This experience is (as of yet) unmatched in my career, but most importantly I came out of it with some great new friends in the judging community.



Christy Jagoe on a Judging Panel at the National Judges' Cup

## NAWGJ-SC Summer Education Calendar

JULY 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### IMPORTANT DATES!

- JULY 14-17** NAWGJ National Symposium (Portland, OR)
- JULY 31** Beginners' Judging Course—Levels 4, 5 & 6 Day 1
- AUGUST 6** Beginners' Judging Course—Levels 4, 5 & 6 Day 2  
Contact: Yolande Mavity — yomav@earthlink.net
- JULY 30** National Judges—Study Session
- AUGUST 6** National Judges—Study Session  
Contact: Jami Pillasch — jpillasch@comcast.net
- AUGUST 20** Level 9, 10 Judging Course
- AUGUST 21** Level 7, 8 Judging Course  
Contact: Christy Jagoe — christy@jagoe.com
- AUGUST 27-28** NAWGJ-SC Symposium  
Contact: Suzanne Hecht — Suzanne.Hecht@pobox.com

Check the NAWGJ-SC website ([www.nawgj-sc.org](http://www.nawgj-sc.org)) for further details.



## NAWGJ-SC

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*Remember to check  
our website regularly!  
[www.nawgj-sc.org](http://www.nawgj-sc.org)*

***HAVE A  
GREAT SUMMER!***

### **Meeting Minutes**

Be sure to check the website each month for "Meeting Minutes" from the board. Find out what your association is doing for you.

