

# News for Artistic Gymnastics Judges

March 2000 Issue

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# Jen's Journal (March 2000)

Well, it looks like everyone survived the "millennium bug". I hope you all had a great holiday season and your new year has started off great.

I was very pleased with the turnout at the December clinic. I hope everyone learned a little something and felt more prepared to tackle the optional season. For those of you who could not attend, we honored the members of NAWGJ for their years of service. I would like to take the opportunity again to thank everyone for being a member of our organization.

National Judges Cup was a success. Nor-Cal was well represented with 7 judges, our Nor-Cal state team and their coaches. The team did extremely well and had a lot of fun. Please read the articles to follow. Optional State meet assignments are published in this newsletter. If your name is on the list, you should have a contract. Sorry for the late notification, but we had to wait for the final regional assignments prior to completing the state assignments.

Jen

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# National NAWGJ News (March 2000)

Yvonne Hodge, who has been the wonderful President of our organization, is retiring from her position. She has been a positive, fun-loving, inspirational leader, and she will be greatly missed. (I truly can't say enough about Yvonne)

Carole Ide, the current administrative assistant, will be taking over her position. I had the opportunity to judge with Carole at National Judges Cup, and I am positive she will do a great job as president.



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## 2000 National Judge's Cup (March 2000)

by Jennifer Shipman

As you all probably know by now, we, as an organization, sponsored a group of Level 6s to compete in the National Judges Cup in Texas. Our Level 6 State Team competed against other State Teams and finished 2nd place. The team was:

- Anjali Mehta - Airborne
- Becky Osaki - Woodland
- Margot Cuero - Michael Anthony's
- Michelle Phillips - Byers - Sacramento
- Michelle Estrada - Golden Bear
- Ashley Silva - Airborne

The girls looked great and had a blast. All of them came home with plenty of medals and a team trophy. To everyone's surprise, Svetlana Boginskaya showed up to take pictures with the girls and autograph their shirts.

Along with having a Nor-Cal team compete, we were represented by 7 Nor-Cal judges. It was great to see a Nor-Cal judge on almost every panel. What a great showing for our state.

I will be sure to bring pictures from the meet and the trophy to our Judges Cup for everyone to see. Next year we again hope to send a team to National Judges Cup which will be held in Atlanta. The Nor-Cal Coaches Association has agreed to help with expenses.

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## 2000 National Judge's Cup (March 2000)

by Hawley Almstedt

The National Judges Cup hosted by the Texas Sport Ranch on January 8th and 9th was a great experience. The meet was hosted with true southern hospitality in a fabulous facility outside of Houston. The enormous gymnasium decorated with Texas stars and cacti held two sets of equipment quite spaciouly. The facility also provided dormitory style housing and meals for athletes, coaches, and judges. Everyone working the meet was extremely friendly and helpful. By the end of the meet, the chef even knew my name.

The evening before competition began, a clinic was held in preparation of judging the optional competition. Dena Parrish, the clinician, was assisted by talented gymnasts who demonstrated bonus connections on bars, beam, and floor. The clinic helped me to better answer the ever-present question, "to give or not to give?".

Many teams from all over the country competed in the eight session meet. It was exciting to see gymnasts and teams from other states. Although I did see a lot of great gymnastics, I must say Northern California gymnasts are definitely at the top compared with the rest of the country. Judges from 26 different states volunteered to officiate the meet. I sat on many four-judge panels where I was the only person from California, if not the only one from the West Coast. I was amazed to find that judges from all over the country with very different experience levels could come together and score routines nearly exactly the same. "Bingos" actually occurred in some sessions.

The group of Level 6 gymnasts from Northern California represented their state well. They dominated the meet and earned second place in the team competition. Jennifer Shipman and I had the opportunity to stay in the dorms with the Level 6 Team. Their excitement and love for the sport of gymnastics reminded me of the reasons for which I became a judge. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to travel to Houston to judge the meet. The diversity in competition and the fun-loving attitude of the Northern California Level 6 Team is not something I will soon forget.

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## Clarifications (March 2000)

Here is some very important information as provided by Yvonne Hodge. These clarifications have all arisen out of situations reported to NAWGJ and USAG so far this year. The page numbers from Rules and Policies and Technical Handbook for Coaches and Judges are listed where these situations are clarified.

1. Hotel rooms are only for judges (not relatives or friends of the judges.) Page. 96, R&P V
2. Breakfast is not reimbursed for day (local) meets in which the judge travels to and from the meet site in one day. Lunch and dinner per diem would be provided if on-site responsibilities are 8 hours or more, or if the round trip mileage is 100 miles or more. Page 96, R&P VI, Maximum for one day is \$30.00
3. If the Meet Director provides a meal, NO per diem is to be paid. Just because we as judges "don't like" what was served or are allergic to several items does not mean we can ask for per diem. (If a judge is allergic or has (doctor's) dietary restrictions, he/she should bring his/her own food for his/her own protection.) Page 97, R&P  
If a club serves dinner at the end of a meet, judges cannot ask for per diem because they want to get on the road. They need to "fix a plate" to travel with them.
4. Carpools that have been planned should remain the same so no one is left out or left to travel alone. (Illness in the middle of a meet might cause a change occasionally.)
5. Judges who have only passed Levels 5 and 6 CANNOT judge optionals. In emergency only, a Level 5/6, who has tested Level 7/8 (and not passed) may judge Level 7/8 vault.
6. An affiliated judge MAY NOT be assigned as a Chief Judge regardless of certification. Page 87 R&P, B, 1, C
7. A judge must wear the uniform for the competition, as designated in the contract. Tech. Handbook, Page 12, #20, page 15, #17, Page 16, #8
8. Judges must stay in their seats during the competition unless they ask permission of the Chief Judge, Tech. Handbook, Page 16, #6

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# Yvonne Benny Balance Beam Award (March 2000)

by Joan Geel

Since 1994 Nor Cal NAWGJ has given the Yvonne Benny Balance Beam Award annually to honor the memory and service of Yvonne Benny. Yvonne was active in judging in the Sacramento area. Balance Beam was Yvonne's favorite event, and she was known as the original "Beam Queen". Yvonne passed away at the age of 57 of cancer.

The award is given at the Level 6 State Championships. There are no set criteria for the award. Each year the balance beam judges set the criteria and select the recipient. In the past gymnasts have been chosen for exhibiting some of the following qualities: dynamic style, great amplitude on leaps and jumps, outstanding toe point and footwork, artistic presentation, recovery from a fall to complete a routine to the optimum level.

The award is a perpetual plaque that is engraved with the name of each year's winner and her club. Yvonne's family keeps the plaque with a photograph album containing a photograph of each recipient. The gymnast is given an individual plaque.

Those of us who knew Yvonne cherish her memory. We admired her professionalism, commitment, devotion to her family, and her love of the sport of gymnastics. We miss her very much.

The 1999 Yvonne Benny Balance Beam Award recipient is **Margot Cuero** from Michael Anthony's. Congratulations Margot!

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## The Spotlight is on... YOU! (March 2000)

Here's some great news to share...

**Anne Brown** is due to deliver her first baby. She is expecting a little girl on April 27th.

**Leesa Coate** delivered a baby boy on December 20, 1999. Alistair James now weighs 3 lbs. 3 oz. and is doing well.

**Rebecca Dengrove** achieved her personal best on floor exercise at Seattle Pacific. She received a 9.375!

**Chizu Holmes** received her Level 10 judging rating.

**Missy Keffler** is now in Physical Therapy school in Colorado. As much as we miss her, we all wish her well.

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