

Athlete Focus: Todd Thornton

Todd Thornton, 19, just vaulted to victory at the 2002 Winter Cup Challenge where he won the all-around title. Todd is from Houston, Texas, where he trains at Team Chevron - Houston Gymnastics Academy and is coached by **Kevin Mazeika**. Todd was an alternate to the 2001 World Championships team in Belgium and said that he was highly motivated from the experience. After the World Championships were complete Todd competed in the Glasgow Grand Prix and took fifth on floor and sixth on vault.

Todd won the all-around in the junior division at the 2000 John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships and was sixth all-around at the 2001 U.S. Championships in the senior division. He's eager for the 2002 U.S. Championships and his goal is to be competitive with his teammate **Sean Townsend** and other top gymnasts as well. He's looking forward to having the 2003 World Championships held in the USA and would like to be a part of the USA Team at the event.

Todd began the sport of gymnastics in 1989 when he was 7 years old and has been a member of the Junior National Team for three years and the Senior National Team for one year.

Todd is the youngest of four brothers and is a freshman at San Jacinto Community College where he is studying business. He has aspirations of opening his own gymnastics facility someday!

In his spare time Todd enjoys going to movies and hanging out with friends. He's also starting a new website which will be dedicated to the fans of gymnastics. He's going into this new venture with Townsend and another teammate **Jason Furr**. The threesome hope to have the site up and running by the middle of March or beginning of April.

