

# Michael Rodrigues and Clare Brunson

## MICHAEL RODRIGUES AND CLARE

Brunson are the perfect pair. They compete in Acrobatic Gymnastics and just won a silver medal at the 2006 World Cup in Belgium. Michael said, "It was really exciting to be at a high level event and medal. It was great to be running with the big dogs." Clare added, "It was the first time for us to compete at a World Cup and to get second was very encouraging."

The duo has a history of success, taking fourth place last season at the World Games in Germany. They also grabbed the title at the 2005 Freedom Cup for balance, dynamic and all-around and were the top pair at the 2005 Machuga Cup in Russia.

Michael is 23 and calls Livermore, Calif. his hometown while Clare is 17 and calls Riverside, Calif., her hometown. They train about four hours per day at Mission Hills Gymnastics and are coached by Yuri Voroyev and World Champion Arthur Davis. Both have spent the last three to four years on the national team and have represented the USA at numerous international competitions.

Michael works part time in a warehouse packing orders, shipping and receiving, while Clare is finishing up her junior year of high school.

The two athletes share a common goal – to compete at the World Championships and bring home a medal. They'll get their opportunity this June when they represent the USA at the 2006 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships in Coimbra, Portugal.

When asked why they like Acrobatic Gymnastics, Michael said, "There's always something new to learn. The challenges are never ending!" Clare said, "The best part of acro is competitions, meeting people, traveling and winning medals."

Good luck Michael and Clare. ✧