



Photo - Steve Lange

RETURN TO SENDER

2008 Visa Championships All-Around and Floor Exercise Champion



David Sender is 22 years old and the 2008 USA National All-Around and Floor Exercise Champion.

Sender is from

Chicago, Ill., but currently resides in Stanford, Calif., where he trains at Stanford University with coaches Thom Glielmi and JD Reive. Sender represents Team Chevron-Palo Alto.

Sender was a member of the 2006 World Championships team, but was not selected for the 2007 World Championships team. When asked if missing

the 2007 Worlds gave him extra motivation for 2008 he said, "I wasn't satisfied with how I did at last year's Visa Championships. It's definitely in the back of my mind that whatever I did last year was not good enough so I knew I needed to do more this year to make the Olympic Team. I look at what I want and what it's going to take to get me there. I've been working very hard towards the goal."

Sender has made a good start in the Olympic Team selection process by winning the Visa Championships all-around title. He says he won't change much heading into the U.S. Olympic Team Trials.

"I might make some minor changes, but the main thing we've worked on since the Visa Championships is focusing on the details like the body line, rhythm and all the things that make it look aesthetic."

Sender is a senior at Stanford majoring in biology and is looking into veterinary medicine. "I plan to finish school next year and apply for vet school the following year," said Sender, who is finished with his gymnastics eligibility at Stanford.

"I'll continue training after the Games," said Sender. I'm not looking to make a 4-year commitment, but I'll at least stay around another year."

When asked about his future as a veterinarian, Sender said, "My dad is an ER physician and my mom used to be a nurse. So I grew up around the medical field. I think for me it will be easier to work with animals than people. I do a lot of volunteer work at animal clinics and shelters and the more I do it the more I like it. I've always enjoyed being outside around animals. I've known I was going to be a vet for as long as I can remember."

Sender is one of four siblings born to Ira and Bonnie Sender. He has an older brother and sister, Marc and Erica, and a younger brother, Joshua. ✕