



Liukin partners with USA Gymnastics to create Nastia Liukin Cup

USA Gymnastics and 2008 Olympic all-around champion Nastia Liukin have joined forces to provide a competitive opportunity for the country's top Junior Olympic gymnasts, the Nastia Liukin Cup. Proceeds from the Nastia Liukin Cup will go into the Nastia Liukin Fund, a charitable fund within the National Gymnastics Foundation.

"USA Gymnastics is honored to partner with Nastia in



creating this unique opportunity for young gymnasts," said Steve Penny, president of USA Gymnastics. "Nastia's gymnastics accomplishments are incredible. She is known and respected for her integrity, sportsmanship and sense of fair play. Her interest in helping others and dedication to gymnastics led to the creation of the Nastia Liukin Cup and Nastia Liukin Fund."

"I love gymnastics, and it has given me the opportunity to achieve my dreams and goals," said Liukin, who has a total of nine world and five Olympic medals to her credit. "Gymnastics has given me so much, and now I want to give back to the community that has supported me for my entire career. I am excited about the development of the Cup, which will give athletes an elite competitive opportunity, and the creation of the Nastia Liukin Fund that will enable me to help others through scholarships or charitable support."

The inaugural Nastia Liukin Cup is scheduled for March

5, 2010, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., will be televised by Universal Sports. The Nastia Liukin Cup will be held the evening prior to the prestigious Tyson American Cup and use the event's podium.

Gymnasts will be chosen to participate in the Cup from a series of invitationals known as the Nastia Liukin Cup Series. The Series will be promoted throughout the competitive season with individual meets each selecting a minimum of two athletes to compete in the Cup from their respective fields. The events already committed to participate in the NLCS are listed below.

- CGA Coaches Spectacular, Covington, Ky., Jan. 15-17
- Cereal City Classic, Kalamazoo, Mich., Jan. 22-24
- Parkettes Invitational, Allentown, Pa., Jan. 29-31
- The Fiesta Bowl Classic, Chandler, Ariz., Feb. 5-7
- WOGA Classic, Plano, Feb. 13-14
- Buckeye Classic, Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 19-21
- Circle of Stars, Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 19-21
- Excalibur Cup, Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 19-21
- IGI Chicago Style Meet, Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12-14
- Pikes Peak Cup, Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 19-21
- Presidential Classic, Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Feb. 19-21
- The Long Beach Open, Long Beach, Calif., Feb. 26-28

Gymnasts who qualify for the Nastia Liukin Cup will receive a Nastia Liukin-designed leotard and a warm-up from GK Elite; two tickets to the Tyson American Cup and recognition during the event; and the opportunity to meet Nastia Liukin and participate in a team photo.

In the first year, net revenues from the Nastia Liukin Cup will be utilized as scholarships for young gymnasts who show ability and have a financial hardship through the Nastia Liukin Fund.

Note: Meet Directors who are interested in having their invitational participate in the Nastia Liukin Cup Series and would like to receive information on the criteria should contact Kathy Kelly at 317-829-5626 or Gary Warren at 317-829-5627.

