



# Chellsie Memmel

**C**hellsie has all the ingredients. She's flexible, strong, quick, innovative and has a mind of steel. She's tough and has proven that hard work and perseverance pay off!

Chellsie wasn't 100 percent going into the U.S. Championships due to an injury, but she gave it her best shot and finished 10th all-around. She earned a spot on the Pan American Games team where she and her teammates won the gold medal. Chellsie went on to win three more medals at this event including the all-around gold. While at the Pan Am Games, she was selected as the alternate to the World Championships team. Later, when adversity struck team USA, Chellsie was placed into the lineup. This 15-year-old took full advantage of her opportunity by leading her team to its first ever World Championships gold, achieving the highest all-around score during team finals. She finished in a tie for eighth during the all-around finals and won bars along with her teammate Hollie Vise.

It was an amazing turn of events and one that Chellsie's family was able to share with her. Chellsie's mom, said, "My husband and I were in Anaheim watching for the first day of competition and when we learned Chellsie made finals, we flew the rest of the family out to meet us."

It's no wonder that Chellsie is a great gymnast since she comes from a gymnastics family. Her mom and dad, Andrew and Jeanelle, were All-American collegiate gymnasts and the family owns a gym in Wisconsin called M&M Gymnastics. Chellsie's younger sisters Mara and Skyler are both gymnasts, too. Chellsie excelled early in the sport and by age 7, Chellsie began training at Salto Gymnastics with her coach Jim Chudy.



USA GYMNASTICS PHOTOGRAPHY © STEVE LANGE



## We caught up to Chellsie and this is what she had to say!



**Q** When and how did you find out you were going to compete at the World Championships?

**A** They told me to be ready when Ashley (Postell) got sick, just in case. After a few days, Martha told me I was in the lineup.

**Q** What was it like competing? Were you nervous?

**A** I was a little nervous but when we walked into the arena a lot of my nerves went away. I knew everyone in the arena was behind us.

**Q** What was it like winning the team gold and the uneven bars gold?

**A** It was amazing. Before the meet it seemed like everything was against us. After the injuries and illness no one thought we could pull out the gold so it was really amazing to be standing on the top. It was really cool to win bars, too. After the all-around finals I was a little mad at myself since I didn't do as well as I wanted to do. I wanted to show I could do a good routine like during team competition. It was cool to share the gold medal with Hollie.

**Q** What did you and your teammates do in the hotel when you were in between training or competition and where did you eat?

**A** We hung out and rested. We played cards and went online a lot. We ate in a banquet room at the hotel all together every meal.

**Q** How is Martha Karolyi as the National Team Coordinator?

**A** I think she's doing a really good job. The U.S. hasn't lost a team competition since she's been the National Team Coordinator. Everyone gets along and hangs out as a team. Coming together at camp is great because we all get to know each other.



**Q** Did you get to do anything at Worlds beside train and compete?

**A** Yes. The day after the competition we did the Today Show from the Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim then we went to the beach. Later that night we went to California Adventure and Disney. We only did a few rides but it was fun.

**Q** What was it like coming back from the World Championships?

**A** When I got to the airport there were around 100 people waiting for me, plus A TV station. The next day, my gym had a reception at a hotel for all the gyms in the area. The city of West Allis gave me an award.



**Q** Are you working new skills now for the 2004 season? Can you tell us what you're working?

**A** Yes, I'm trying to upgrade my vault to a double twisting Yurchenko. I'll probably begin working more stuff after the tour when I have a little more time.

**Q** What is your schedule for a typical day?

**A** I get up around 7:30 and go to gym at 8:30. I work out until 11:00, then I come home and do school work. I go back to the gym at 3:30 and stay until around 7:00. Then I watch TV or do whatever.

**Q** What's it like home schooling instead of going to school?

**A** Home Schooling is going pretty good. I do a lot of my school work myself or my parents help. It's all through books. I do the assignments, take tests, and mail them in. I'm a sophomore in school. I do miss having a teacher or having someone right there to ask a question.

**Q** Tell me about your ability to figure numbers in your head?

**A** Math has always been my favorite subject. In school when I was given a worksheet with 100 problems on it, I could always pass those tests very easily and quickly with time left over.

**Q** Is math still your favorite subject?

**A** Yes. I'm just finishing up geometry now and it's different. I like math with numbers better.

**Q** Do you have any pets?

**A** I have a dog named Tasha - she's a Bichon Frise. She's a white dog sort of like a poodle and weighs about 8 pounds.

**Q** Why did you name the dog Tasha?

**A** Well I was begging my mom to let me have a dog. We were going to a Classic meet and my mom said if I won the meet she would get me a dog. After the first day of competition I was in fourth, but after the second day I moved into first and won the meet, just ahead of Tasha Schwikert. We went home and did a lot of research and figured out what dog we wanted. Then we got the dog about a week after the meet. I named her Tasha in honor of this meet.

**Q** Does Tasha know this story?

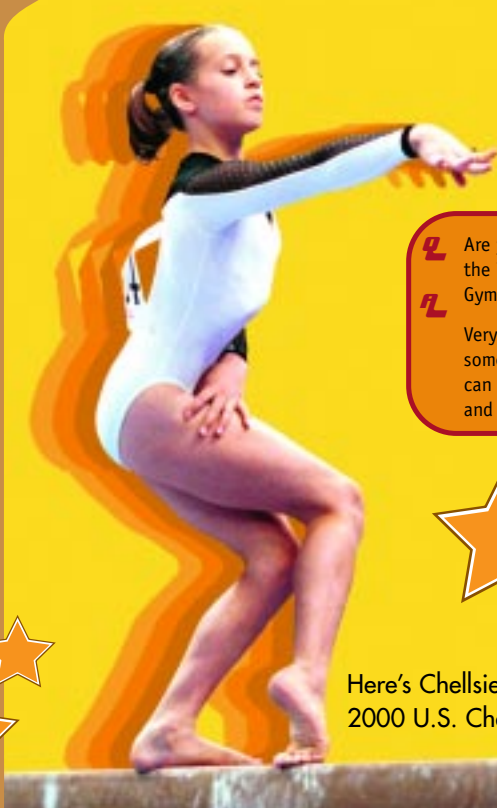
**A** Yes, (laughing) she knows about it.

**Q** What is your goal for 2004?

**A** To make the Olympic Team.

**Q** What do you think of the U.S. chances in Greece?

**A** I think our chances are really good if we have a healthy team. I think it will be hard to make the Olympic team but it's really good we have such a strong team. It showed in Anaheim how strong our team truly is.



**Q** Are you excited about the T.J. Maxx Tour of Gymnastics Championships?

**A** Very excited. It's something different. You can play to the audience and I like to do that.

Here's Chellsie at the 2000 U.S. Championships

### Chellsie's Chart

Age	15
Birthday	June 23, 1988
Hometown	West Allis, Wisconsin
Club	Salto Gymnastics
Coach	Jim Chudy
Began Gymnastics	1989
Favorite Event	All
Years on National Team	5 years
TOPs National Team	4 years
Fun Things to Do	Shop, read, bike
Future Ambitions	Coach Gymnastics

#### Best of the Best

- **2003 World Championships**, Anaheim, CA; 1st-Team, 1st-UB, 6th-BB, 8th-AA
- **2003 Pan American Games**, Santo Domingo, DOM; 1st-Team, 1st AA, 1st-UB, 3rd-BB
- **2003 Pacific Challenge (USA/CAN/AUS)**, Fullerton, CA; 1st-Team, 1st-UB
- **2002 USA-Belgium Dual Meet**, Houston, TX; 1st-Team, 1st-AA, 1st UB & FX, 2nd-BB, 3rd-V
- **2000 Copa Puerto Rico**, Internacional de Gimnasia; 1st-AA, 2nd-UB, 1st-BB, 1st-FX
- **1999 American Challenge**, Pomona, Calif.; 1st-AA, 1st-V, 1st-UB, 1st-BB, 2nd-FX