

inside USA gymnastics



USA Gymnastics received great news on April 28, just as we were going to press. The International Olympic Committee awarded the 2000 Olympic women's team bronze medal to the United States. The IOC stripped China of the medal because one of its athletes did not meet the age requirement. The United States originally finished fourth in the team competition. The decision, made during the IOC's Executive Board meetings in Dubai, UAE, was based on the recommendation of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).

USA Gymnastics is grateful that the FIG and IOC took the time to thoroughly review and address this issue that was first raised at the Beijing Olympics. Every athlete dreams about winning an Olympic medal, and our women's team in 2000 worked tirelessly leading up to the Olympics. This recognition is meaningful and even though it comes 10 years after the event, it reminds us of the value and importance of providing a fair field of play.

After conducting an internal investigation, the FIG nullified the results of Chinese gymnast Dong Fangxiao at the 2000 Olympic Games in February 2010. It was determined that Dong was 14 years of age in 2000, which violated the rule that gymnasts must be at least 16 years old to compete in the Olympic Games. The FIG recommended that the IOC strip China of the team bronze medal.

Congratulations to the members of the 2000 U.S. Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team: **Amy Chow, Jamie Dantzscher, Dominique Dawes, Kristin Maloney, Elise Ray and Tasha Schwikert**, along with **Morgan White**, who was named to the team but was injured prior to the Games. **Alyssa Beckerman** was the alternate. **Bela Karolyi** was the national team coordinator, with **Kelli Hill** as head coach and **Steve Rybacki** as assistant coach.

When we talked to the coaches and athletes, here's what some of them had to say.

Kelli Hill, head coach: "It's awesome for the girls. Those kids worked so hard and did their job, so earning the bronze medal is fantastic. I'm thrilled for each of them. Although it is late in coming, it is definitely well-deserved."

Dominique Dawes, member of the women's Olympic teams that won the gold medal in 1996 and the bronze in 1992: "Thanks to the due diligence of the IOC and FIG, the truth has been revealed. I could have never imagined receiving another medal after 10 years. Maybe this will inspire me to come back for a fourth Olympics. Oh wait, is there a maximum age?"

Kristin Maloney, a 1998 Goodwill Games gold medalist: "I'm very excited. I'm just trying to take it all in. It's just kind of strange because it was so long ago. I never dreamed in 2000 that we would later be awarded the team bronze medal."

This medal is significant for a variety of reasons. It brings the U.S. women's national team medal total to 50 for medals won in Olympic and/or World Championships competition from 2000-2008, and continues a run of Olympic team medals going back to 1992. This also brings overdue recognition to a team of women who fought back from a challenging sixth place finish at the 1999 World Championships.

We look forward to properly recognizing these athletes and their accomplishments and will provide details on the medal ceremony when we receive more information from the International Olympic Committee.

Congratulations once again to the 2000 Women's Olympic Team. Check out the great photos on page 24 of the U.S. team.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Penny". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Penny
President & CEO