

Master List

2017



Oksana Chusovitina



Shun Fujimoto



Alicia Sacramone



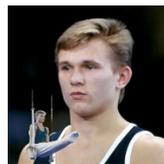
Alexei Nemov

2016



Aurelia Dobre

Aurelia Dobre (born 16 November 1972) is a former artistic gymnast from Romania and the 1987 world all-around champion. She is the 1987 world champion on the balance beam and the bronze medalist on the vault and floor exercise, as well, and scored five perfect 10s at these championships. She also has four sons: Cyrus, Darius, and twins Lucas and Marcus. Dobre was also a member of the silver-medal-winning Romanian teams at the 1988 Summer Olympics[1] and the 1989 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships. However, her career was cut short because of two major injuries and a growth spurt. For years, Dobre was thought to be the youngest world all-around champion ever, having won her title at the age of 14 years and 352 days.



Igor Korobchinsky



Jordan Jovtchev

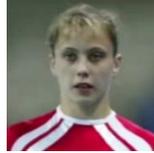


Tatiana Lysenko

2015



Valery Belenky

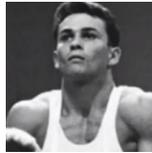


Elena Zamolodchikova

2014



Jackie Fie



Klaus Köste



Li Yuejiu



Natalia Yurchenko

International Order of Merit

2015 Philippe Silacci – Switzerland

Though he preferred a more behind the scenes role with the International Gymnastics Federation, Philippe Silacci was the driving force of efficiency and excellence in media operations at major international gymnastics events for 22 years. Silacci's leadership as the FIG's Chief Media Operations Officer was especially instrumental during a period of unprecedented growth of media interest in the sport. Born November 29, 1949 in Switzerland, Silacci went straight to work after finishing his education. From 1970 to 1988, he worked in the public relations department for the Longines watch company's sports timing division. The position introduced him to the Olympic Games, which he attended from 1972 to 1984 as a Longines representative. In 1988, he joined the communications department of Swiss Timing Limited, which involved press activities at the Seoul Olympics that year, as well as the '92 Winter Games in Albertville, France. Later in 1992, after an invitation from Secretary General Norbert Bueche, Silacci transitioned to the FIG, and has represented the federation at every Olympics since.

The Frank Bare Award

2017 Mike Jacki - USA

It takes a rare combination of leadership, creativity and guts to rescue a not-for-profit organization with a deficit of \$700,000. And that's exactly what Mike Jacki did when he took over as the president of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation in 1983. Jacki was born in the Chicago area on December 2, 1946. He excelled as a gymnast at Iowa State, under the coaching of Ed Gagnier. He became an All-American and Nissen Award Nominee, and he won the 1968 Big Eight All-Around title, and also gold medals on floor exercise, rings and parallel bars. At the young age of 24, Jacki partnered with his former teammate, Jerry Fontana, to build the summer gymnastics camp known as Camp Tsukara. His co-ownership of the extremely popular camp for 15 years, built a firm foundation for Jacki's business success. He would later become a national sales representative for the up-and-coming AMF American Inc. gymnastics equipment company. In the late 1970s, U.S. gymnasts were just beginning to consistently earn medals and respect around the world. But in 1983, when Mike Jacki took over the U.S. Gymnastics Federation, the program began experiencing a period of explosive growth. Jacki was the Competition Director at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, where the U.S. Men's Olympic Team won its first and still only team gold medal. Mary Lou Retton became the first American to win the All-Around, and the U.S. Women's Team won the silver. At various times throughout his four-plus decades of service to gymnastics, Jacki was appointed to, and/or elected to the board of directors and leadership positions within the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games, and the International Gymnastics Federation, where he remains a lifetime honorary member. During Jacki's tenure, the U.S. program expanded its membership base, initiated education and safety programs, and enjoyed a dramatic increase in TV exposure and sponsorship revenues. More recently, Jacki has served as senior vice president of Powder Woodward LLC, which has developed gymnastics and action sports camps in Pennsylvania, California, Colorado and even Beijing, China.

2016 Bill Sorenson - USA

Certain things are taken for granted in the world of U.S. gymnastics, one of which is the ubiquity of American Athletic, Inc., equipment. AAI is the official supplier at every major domestic competition, and can also be found in gym clubs all across the nation. It has also provided the apparatus for multiple Olympic Games and World Championships. The company was founded in 1954 by Bill Sorenson, who was born in Spencer, Iowa, in 1931. Sorenson grew up on a farm and attended a one-room school that averaged nine students each year. Sorenson must have paid attention, because he built a company that is still going strong today. Sorenson played several sports in high school, but he enjoyed swimming and diving the most. As a freshman at the University of Iowa, he went out for the diving team. One day, however, Dick Holzaepfel, the gymnastics coach, showed up at the pool and invited him and a friend, Frank LaDue, to bounce on a trampoline. They were hooked and immediately joined the gymnastics team instead. Apparently, they made the right choice. In 1952, La Due and Sorenson placed first and second, respectively, at the AAU National Championships. In 1953, Sorenson was the Big Ten Trampoline Champion. The university was good to Sorenson in other ways. That's where he met his wife, Jane Seela, and they were married his senior year. After performing with the Tom Parris Trio in New York for a while, Sorenson returned to Iowa to follow his dream. He began building trampolines in the basement of his

father-in-law's hardware store in Jefferson, and later convinced his brother-in-law and two friends to become partners in the American Trampoline Company, which is now AAI. Sorenson held several roles within the company as it grew.

2015 Abie Grossfeld - USA

Spend any amount of time with Abie Grossfeld, and through his infectious storytelling, he will make you feel like a close friend. Abie was born on March 1, 1934, and grew up a sickly child of Polish immigrants in New York. However, the young boy was also driven to overcome his weaknesses, which is how he became involved in sports. He participated in track and field, swimming, diving, and he was even a Golden Glove boxing champion before he discovered his life-long passion of gymnastics. Grossfeld began gymnastics at the westside YMCA in New York City, and eventually competed for the University of Illinois, where he won 4 NCAA titles, as well as 7 Big 10 championships. While at Illinois, he earned his bachelor and masters degrees. Grossfeld competed for the United States on two Olympic teams in 1956 and 1960, two World Championship teams in 1958 and 1962, three Pan American Games where he won a total of 15 medals, and three Maccabiah Games where he won a total of 17 medals. In 1960, Grossfeld married fellow U.S. Olympic gymnast Muriel Davis, and for six years they were the glamour couple of the U.S. Olympic movement. After retiring from competitive gymnastics, Grossfeld began a long and successful coaching career at Southern Connecticut State College, which is now a university. What he accomplished there over 4 decades is remarkable, considering he had no scholarships and a modest training facility. Beyond the collegiate scene, Grossfeld served as the head coach of the U.S. from 1981 to 1988, including 5 World Championships and 3 Pan American Games. He coached 4 gymnasts who won the prestigious Nissen Award — John Crosby, Jay Whelan, Mario McCutcheon and Peter Kormann, who would go on to win the first medal for the U.S. Olympic Team in 44 years, as Kormann took the floor exercise bronze medal in Montreal in 1976. Most notably, Grossfeld was the coach for the historic victory of the U.S. men's program, the 1984 Olympic team gold medal. That year, Abie's demeanor and presence had a calming effect that united a team of rival gymnastics into champions. Grossfeld is a member of the U.S. Gymnastics Hall of Fame, as an athlete, coach and contributor, and has been an international Brevet judge since 1969. After retiring from Southern Connecticut in 2004, Grossfeld's love of the sport has never wavered. He continues to coach at summer camps and attend major events around the U.S. and abroad. And everywhere he goes, he attracts friends old and new, who enjoy chatting with one of the most friendly and knowledgeable ambassadors of the sport of gymnastics.

2014 Gordon Maddux - USA

The stage was set for a perfect storm. The 1972 Olympics were being broadcast by ABC Sports on a larger scale than ever before. There was a great deal of interest in women's gymnastics, because of the high expectations and popularity of American Cathy Rigby. Plus, Emmy-Award winning sportscaster Jim McKay was partnered with the effervescent Gordon Maddux. While the cameras were originally trained on the Hungarians and East Germans, Gordon Maddux noticed a tiny young Russian gymnast named Olga Korbut. Thanks in large part to his commentary during her historic uneven bars routine, life changed dramatically for Olga Korbut, Gordon Maddux, and, in fact, for the entire sport of gymnastics. Maddux's genuine enthusiasm for the sport, as well as his sense of awe and wonder, helped draw in the average viewer and enabled them to appreciate gymnastics as never before. Maddux's energetic delivery brought us all along for the ride, as we became fans of the individual athletes and the sport as well. Born June 16, 1931, in Denver, Maddux was a successful gymnast and coach in Colorado in the

1950s. However, it was his over 20 year career as a commentator, originally for CBS and then for ABC, that distinguishes his career. One fateful day, while Gordon was coaching his gymnastics team at Cal State Los Angeles, he broke away from a training session to answer a phone call from the legendary Roone Arledge, who asked Maddux to work as an announcer on a summer replacement sports show called "ABC's Wide World of Sports." This phone call, as it turns out, was as life changing for Maddux as it was for the sport. For more than 20 years, Gordon Maddux spanned the globe with ABC, covering major gymnastics events, including five Olympic Games. He introduced the world to gymnastics stars all along the way. Maddux, always a coach and teacher at heart, was constantly committed to educating and enlightening the TV audience by teaching them the nuances of the sport. But it was Maddux's true love of gymnastics that captivated the audience. Gordon Maddux's contribution to the growth and popularity of gymnastics will remain profound. And he is rightfully acknowledged as a game-changer in U.S. gymnastics history.

Nadia Comaneci Sportsmanship Award

2015 Johanna Quaas - Germany

Five gymnastics legends were honored at the 19th annual International Gymnastics Hall of Fame (IGHOF) ceremony, but one woman provided a highlight to the evening's festivities. On Saturday, May 16, 2015, 89-year-old Johanna Quaas of Germany received the Nadia Comaneci Sportsmanship Award. "That night, the IGHOF honored five individuals who have contributed greatly to the sport. This year was unique because we also celebrate octogenarian Johanna Quaas who is officially the World's Oldest Gymnast according to Guinness Book of World Records, " said Bart Conner, Chair of the IGHOF board and husband of Nadia Comaneci. YouTube videos of Johanna Quaas' precise gymnastics routines on the Floor Exercise, Parallel Bars have gone viral and have been viewed over 7 million times, according to Conner. "At first I could not believe it, that I should receive the Nadia Comaneci Award! because actually only the top stars of the world are honored by the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame," said Ms. Quass, who traveled from her home in Halle, Germany, to receive the honor.