

From: Nobert Bendixen <norbertil@aol.com>

Subject: 11 USA Gymnastics Womens Electronic Newsletter January-February

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- **Meet Directors:** There has been a bit of confusion regarding the junior pros and the need for Background checks. These individuals cannot be background checked cause they are minors- therefore is not something that should prevent them from performing their tasks as per what a Jr. Pro can at a competition. Remember there **MUST** be Pro member present at all times. This however does not mean that the Pro member needs to be directly next to the Jr. Pro, opposite flights are allowed
- **Coaches State Meets** are just around the corner. Please make sure that you are ready when the time comes. IF using out of state scores must report them to Level Chair, Score Tracker, JO, State Chair, ON line registration is required for State Series so be ready, also start checking out the Illinois website for hotel info and encourage your parents to reserve rooms for hotels! Many are filling FAST....thanks!! Link is on the left side STATE SERIES
- Attention Clubs with **Graduating Gymnasts!** We want them included in the state meet program as Senior Athletes. If you have graduating seniors, please contact Sari Engle ASAP so that they are included. sari@krausonline.com
- If you are attending Level 6-9-10 State and/or Level 5 State, **Hotel information** is available online via the Illinois website at www.ilusag.com
Rooms are filling fast so please have your parents and coaches reserve rooms immediately!!
- Sad to announce I saw in the news that **American Institute of Gymnastics** had a fire in their facility. Our thoughts are with all involved in that program
- **Erna Wachtel Scholarship Award:** Coaches please go to the Illinois site to find the form for Graduating seniors application the the Erna Wachtel Scholarship award. For more info please visit the Illinois site.
- WE in Illinois also wish all the luck, support and encouragement to **Kathryn Mahoney** from MSU and formerly Illinois Gymnast from IGI. Our thought and prayers go to her in her rehabilitation.

Cards can be mailed to **Kathryn Mahoney** at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago: 345 E. Superior St., Chicago, IL 60611.

In addition, a fund has been set up for **Kathryn Mahoney** at the MSU Federal Credit Union, and donations will be used for any necessities that she needs as she begins the post-operative, recovery stage. Checks should be made payable to "**Kathryn Mahoney Fund**" and mailed to either the Michigan State Federal Credit Union, 3777 West Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823 or MSU Gymnastics head coach **Kathie Klages**, 312 Jenison Field House, East Lansing, MI 48824-1025. People can also call (517) 333-2424 and make a deposit via virtual check at no additional cost.



Unfortunately, Liam was diagnosed at age 3 1/2 with an Auto Immune Disease called Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD). It is a disease in which Liam's body cannot fight off bacteria or fungi. If Liam's body comes in contact with such things, he gets extremely sick and is normally hospitalized and medicated to help fight off the infection. This type of disease is extremely rare and there are only 400 known cases worldwide. Liam takes daily medications to help protect him against environmental things in which we can't control. There is only one possible cure for CGD and that is a stem cell transplant. We are hopeful that Liam will get a perfect match in which he deserves. When his match is confirmed, he will undergo a stem cell transplant as early as spring/ 2011. Liam's long term prognosis can be potentially fatal and to transplant earlier in life is safer.

As you can imagine, this process is extremely hard on our family as we are trying to save our little boy and have him cured of an ugly disease. In order to have this transplant done, Liam and his mom will have to relocate to Bethesda, Maryland due to the fact that's where Liam's specialists are. We will be there for a minimum of 4 months without family or friends in a nearby distance. Liam's dad will travel back and forth on weekends as we still have 3 other children at home that need parents to help them understand what is going on.

When it comes to the financial aspect, our focus really needs to be on our son and helping him to recover from this exhausting time in his life. Of course, there is a financial burden weighing on our minds. We can use any help that we receive. We will be accepting donations in order to help Liam and his family get through this. We, Liam's mom and dad, are asking that you share Liam's story and keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Norbert Bendixen

Illinois USA Gymnastics State Administrative Committee Chairman

As always have a "Happy Handstand"