

David Durante Dominates All-Around

Six Gymnasts Named as Event Champions

WINTER CUP

Las Vegas 2005

By Luan Peszek

The Winter Cup Challenge took place February 4-5, 2005 at the Las Vegas Sports Center Arena. The competition followed the updated FIG Code of Points, with each routine starting from a base score of an 8.4.

Pan American silver medalist **David Durante**, from the USOTC, came out on top, winning the all-around title with a score of 53.815. Durante, 24, said, "It was a great feeling to win—it was amazing. It's the start of what I want to accomplish in the next few years."

In the all-around competition, Durante was followed by University of Minnesota's **Guillermo Alvarez** with a 53.115 and HGA/GymMasters' **Todd Thornton** with a score of 52.865.

Six different gymnasts won an individual event title, showing the depth of the U.S. men's program. Illinois' **Adam Pummer** and Oklahoma's **Jonathon Horton** tied for first on floor with a score of 8.95. After the tie-breaking procedure, Pummer earned the title. On pommel horse, **Alex Artemev** from 5280 Gym was the champion with a score of 9.50. Eastern Gymnastics Center's **Eric LaMorte** took first on rings with a score of 9.525. Stanford's **David Sender** won vault with a score of 9.600. The parallel bars title went

DAVID DURANTE

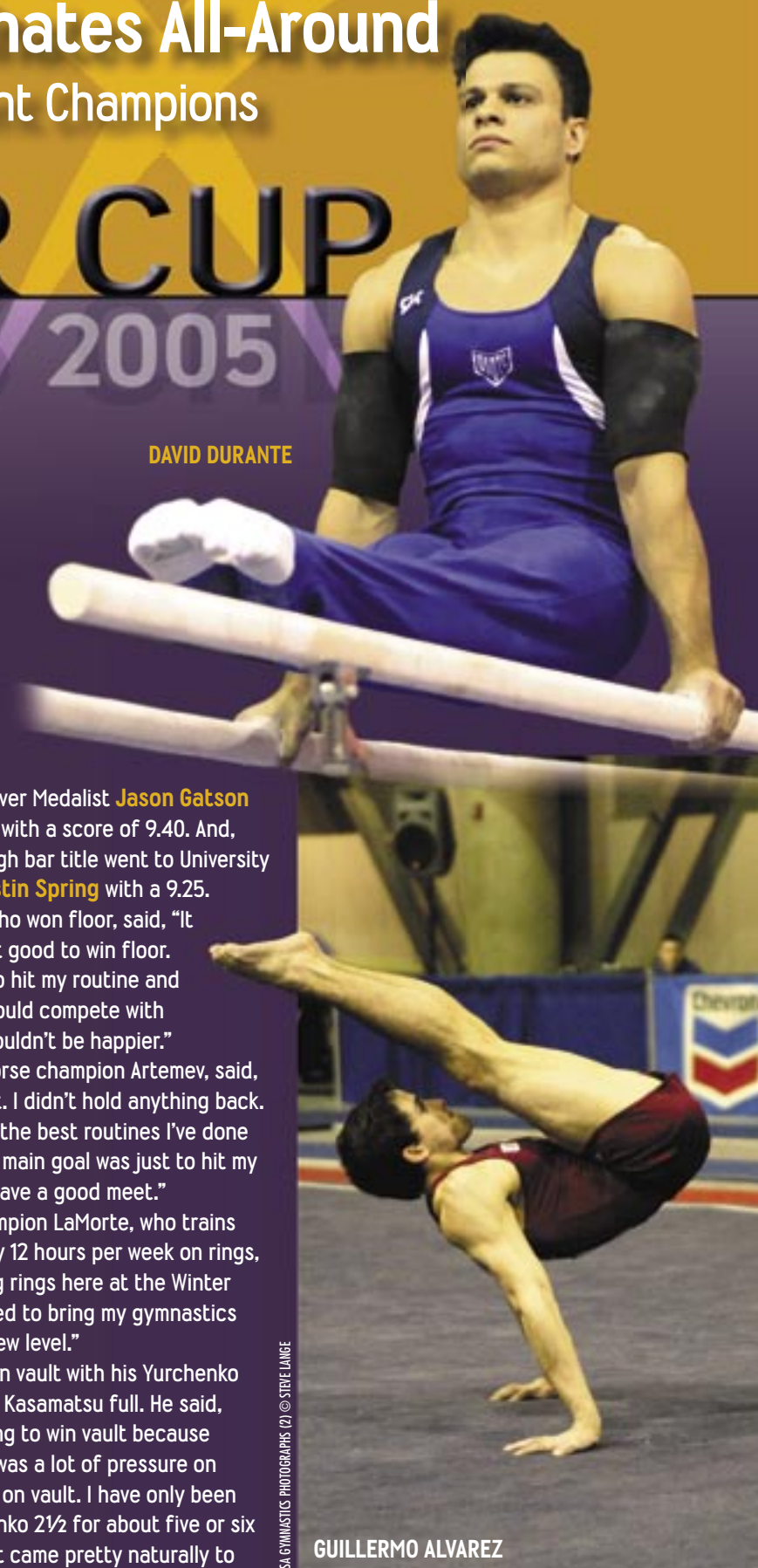
to Olympic Silver Medalist **Jason Gatson** of the USOTC with a score of 9.40. And, finally, the high bar title went to University of Illinois' **Justin Spring** with a 9.25.

Pummer, who won floor, said, "It definitely felt good to win floor. It felt good to hit my routine and show that I could compete with everyone. I couldn't be happier."

Pommel horse champion Artemev, said, "I went all out. I didn't hold anything back. It was one of the best routines I've done in a while. My main goal was just to hit my routine and have a good meet."

Rings Champion LaMorte, who trains approximately 12 hours per week on rings, said, "Winning rings here at the Winter Cup has helped to bring my gymnastics career to a new level."

Sender won vault with his Yurchenko 2½ twist and Kasamatsu full. He said, "It was exciting to win vault because I knew there was a lot of pressure on me to do well on vault. I have only been doing Yurchenko 2½ for about five or six months, but it came pretty naturally to



USA GYMNASTICS PHOTOGRAPHS (2) © STEVE LANGE

GUILLERMO ALVAREZ

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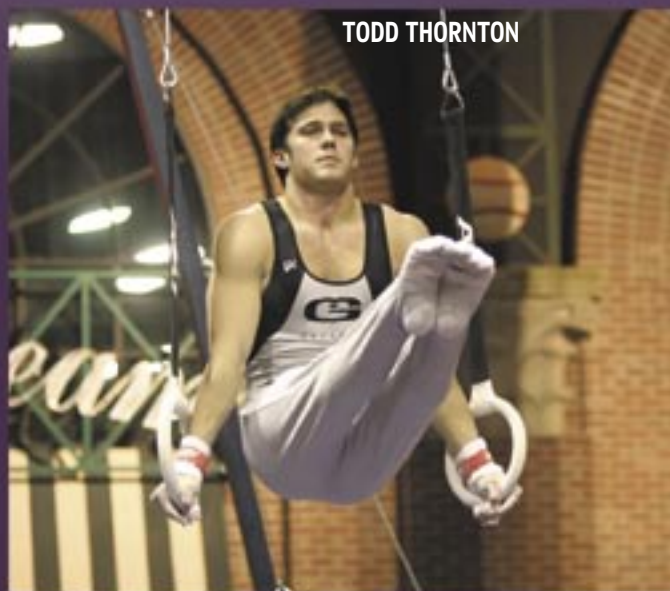
Driven to Succeed

By Luan Peszek

David Durante is 24 years old and a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in biology. He's also a full-time gymnast at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., and recently became the 2005 Winter Cup Challenge All-Around Champion.

Durante is definitely driven to succeed. In fact, his goal coming into Winter Cup was to win. Although his long term goal is to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, he would also like to accomplish a few things along the way, like making the 2005 World Championships team, competing in as many competitions for the U.S. as he can, and bringing back as many medals as possible.

In 2004, after Olympic Trials, Durante moved from California to Colorado to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. We asked about his move and he said, "I was ready for a change. I needed to get away from college life. I'm surrounded by other great gymnasts at the OTC like Jason (Gatson) and Brett (McClure) and Yewki (Tomita) and Steve McCain comes in on occasion, too. It really pushes me."



me, so I feel rather comfortable with it. I knew I needed to do two really good vaults to have any chances of making it onto National Team, so I was pretty excited when the vaults went well and I won."

Gatson said, "Winning parallel bars at Winter Cup was kind of a surprise. I put that routine together about three weeks ago and prior to Winter Cup I had only made it twice. I was glad I could go out there and nail my routine during prelims. My routine in finals wasn't quite as strong but it's a 10.0 start value so that helps me." He added, "This was my first event back since the Olympic Games and it was good to get back into competition."

High bar champion Spring, said, "I was excited going into finals. I've been recovering from an ankle sprain and high bar was the first event I was able to come back on. So, I was happy I was able to hit the one event I was full strength on."

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USA GYMNASTICS PHOTOGRAPHS (3) © STEVE LANGE

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JASON GATSON



USA GYMNASTICS PHOTOGRAPHS (2) © STEVE LANGE

ERIC LAMORTE



Winter Cup *continued from page 17*

After the Winter Cup Challenge had concluded, USA Gymnastics named nine gymnasts to the U.S. National Team including **Durante, Alvarez, Thornton, Artemev, Horton, Sean Townsend, LaMorte, Spring, and Sender.**

The Winter Cup Challenge also served as a selection competition for the male athletes to compete in the 2005 American Cup, a FIG World Cup competition, Feb. 26 in New York. Gatson and 2001 World Champion Sean Townsend highlight the list of U.S. men participants headed for the 2005 American Cup. Athletes who were also invited include **Alexander Artemev, David Sender, Eric LaMorte and Justin Spring.**

Results *continued on page 44*

Top 30 All-Around Results

	NAME/GYM	FLOOR	POMMEL	RINGS	VAULT	PBARS	HBAR	AA
1	David Durante <i>USOTC</i>	8.550	9.266	9.250	9.133	8.916	8.700	53.815
2	Guillermo Alvarez <i>Univ. of Minnesota</i>	9.100	9.233	8.350	9.566	8.300	8.566	53.115
3	Todd Thornton <i>HGA/GymMasters</i>	8.466	9.150	8.533	9.133	8.533	9.050	52.865
4	Alex Artemev <i>5280 Gym</i>	8.866	9.083	7.700	8.500	9.233	9.250	52.632
*	Casey Sandy* <i>Canada</i>	8.733	9.300	7.900	9.500	8.466	8.400	52.299
5	Wes Haagensen <i>Univ. of Illinois</i>	7.933	9.066	8.316	9.400	8.600	8.233	51.548
6	Clay Strother <i>Univ. of Minnesota</i>	8.950	9.250	7.600	9.133	8.383	7.866	51.182
7	Jonathan Horton <i>Univ. of Oklahoma</i>	8.916	7.466	8.650	9.266	8.133	8.750	51.181
8	Justin Laury <i>Univ. of Michigan</i>	8.483	8.333	7.933	9.083	8.266	8.750	50.848
9	Jamie Henderson <i>Univ. of Oklahoma</i>	8.200	8.700	8.533	8.866	7.733	8.800	50.832
10	Michael Reavis <i>Univ. of Iowa</i>	9.066	7.766	7.333	9.233	8.033	8.983	50.414
11	Edward Umphrey <i>Univ. of Michigan</i>	8.650	7.733	8.666	8.966	7.733	7.866	49.614
12	David Sender <i>Stanford</i>	8.400	7.266	8.433	9.683	7.666	7.916	49.364
13	Geoffrey Corrigan <i>Univ. of Michigan</i>	7.700	7.333	8.133	9.250	8.733	7.900	49.049
14	Jake Lee <i>Univ. of Minnesota</i>	7.866	8.800	7.816	9.283	7.500	7.616	48.881
15	Dylan Carney <i>Stanford</i>	8.333	7.133	7.500	9.400	7.666	8.700	48.732
15	Jason Shen <i>Stanford</i>	8.250	7.366	7.433	9.050	8.433	8.200	48.732
17	Gerry Signorelli <i>Univ. of Michigan</i>	8.500	7.966	7.466	8.616	7.700	8.366	48.614
18	Michael McNamara <i>Univ. of Iowa</i>	8.600	7.666	7.300	9.083	7.700	8.233	48.582
19	Curtis Kleffman <i>Univ. of Iowa</i>	7.933	8.333	7.633	9.033	7.333	8.233	48.498
20	Ralph Rosso <i>Surgent's Elite</i>	7.300	7.966	8.366	9.000	7.900	7.133	47.665
21	Andre Hernandez <i>Univ. of Michigan</i>	7.766	7.600	7.533	8.316	8.133	8.283	47.631
22	Mel Santander <i>Mass Gym</i>	8.033	7.800	7.683	8.983	7.066	8.033	47.598
22	Phil Onorato <i>WOGA</i>	8.000	7.533	8.233	8.933	7.766	7.133	47.598
24	Chris Lung <i>Mass Gym</i>	7.766	7.600	7.833	8.600	7.666	7.666	47.131
25	Joe Catrambone <i>Temple BG</i>	8.200	6.666	7.500	9.050	7.533	7.500	46.449
26	Chris Cameron <i>Florida Flips</i>	7.766	8.033	7.300	8.633	7.600	6.966	46.298
27	Jonathan Buese <i>Sun Country</i>	7.766	7.700	7.133	8.833	7.200	7.433	46.065
28	Jeff Crockett <i>Univ. of Washington</i>	7.233	6.433	7.233	9.333	8.033	7.566	45.831
29	Ben Baldus-Strauss <i>Midwest Acad.</i>	7.500	7.966	6.600	8.833	7.133	7.600	45.632
30	Matthew Cohen <i>Penn State</i>	8.200	7.466	7.566	8.783	6.533	7.033	45.581

*Foreign Athlete, not eligible for awards

As far as the future, Durante would like to go into physical therapy but, at the present, there are no schools in Colorado Springs for this pursuit, so Durante will be taking some business and art classes at a local college. "I prefer to be busy and concentrate on more things than just gymnastics," said Durante. "Once I leave gym I want to get it out of my mind and be passionate about other things. Focusing on the gym 24 hours a day makes me crazy."

So what does Durante like to do when he's not in the gym? "I like to draw. I'm into art. I do portraits, some gymnastics pictures, landscapes and a variety of things. It's relaxing for me. I also like to watch other sports. My favorite sport besides gymnastics is soccer. I played soccer in high school and a lot of my family plays soccer, too."

We asked Durante to tell us one thing that most people don't know about him. He said, "I'm an Italian citizen. My dad was born in Italy and my mom's family is from Italy. I received dual citizenship when I was younger. I just had to apply for it before I was 18 years old. I can speak Italian just okay but I can understand it pretty well. My dad speaks fluent Italian. I've been to Italy 8 or 9 times and I love it. I'd like to eventually live there for a little while."

Good luck to David as he drives to succeed in his sport!

David Durante's Scoop

HOMETOWN: Garwood, New Jersey

RESIDENCE: Colorado Springs, Colorado

BIRTH DATE: June 26, 1980

CLUB: U.S. Olympic Training Center

COACH: Vitaly Marinitch

SCHOOL: Stanford University (Graduated)

BEGAN GYMNASTICS: 1986

Competition Highlights

- 2005 Winter Cup Challenge, Las Vegas, Nev.; 1st-AA, 2nd-PB
- 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials participant
- 2004 Stella Zakharova Cup, Kiev, UKR; 1st-Team, 4th-AA
- 2004 Jurassic Classic, Calgary, CAN; 2nd-Team; 3rd-SR, 3rd-PB
- 2003 Pan American Games, Santo Domingo, DOM; 3rd-Team, 2nd-AA, 8th-FX, 8th-PH, 5th-PB



DAVID SENDER

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Winter Cup continued from page 18

Event Finals

Floor Exercise

1. Adam Pummer
Illinois 8.950
2. **Jonathan Horton
Oklahoma 8.950
3. Graham Ackerman
Cal Berkeley 8.900
4. Michael Reavis
Iowa 8.825
5. Clay Strother
Minnesota 8.775
- *Adam Wong
(Exhibition)
Canada 8.625
6. Chad Buczek
Penn State 8.450
7. Guillermo Alvarez
Minnesota 8.400
8. Alex Artemev
5280 Gym 7.850

** tiebreaker used

*Foreign Athlete, not eligible for awards

BELOW:
ILLUSTRATION BY
DAVID DURANTE

Pommel Horse

1. Alex Artemev
5280 Gym 9.500
2. Guillermo Alvarez
Minnesota 9.000
3. Wes Haagensen
Illinois 8.900
4. Ron Ferris
Ohio State 8.650
5. Todd Thornton
HGA/GymMasters 8.550
6. David Durante
USOTC 8.450
7. Yewki Tomita
USOTC 8.350
8. Clay Strother
Minnesota 8.250
- * Casey Sandy
(Exhibition)
Canada 7.850

Still Rings

1. Eric LaMorte
Eastern Gym. Ctr. 9.525
2. Kevin Tan
Penn State 9.400
3. Nyika White
Temple 9.275
4. Jeff Johnson
Washington 9.225
5. David Durante
USOTC 9.200
6. Jay Yee
Cal Berkeley 8.975
7. Sean Golden
HGA/GymMasters 8.875
8. Randy Monahan
Ohio State 8.850

Vault

1. David Sender
Stanford 9.600
2. Guillermo Alvarez
Minnesota 9.275
3. Michael Reavis
Iowa 9.125
4. Jonathon Horton
Oklahoma 8.975
5. Sean Golden
HGA/GymMasters 8.800

Parallel Bars

1. Jason Gatson
USOTC 9.400
2. David Durante
USOTC 8.975
3. Todd Thornton
HGA/GymMasters 8.600
4. Adam Pummer
Illinois 8.200
5. Alex Artemev
5280 Gym 8.050
6. Geoffrey Corrigan
Michigan 7.700
7. Sho Nakamori
Stanford 7.500

High Bar

1. Justin Spring
Illinois 9.250
2. Ron Ferris
Ohio State 9.100
3. Todd Thornton
HGA/GymMasters 9.050
4. Michael Reavis
Iowa 8.725
5. Yewki Tomita
USOTC 8.575
6. Randy Monahan
Ohio State 8.475
7. Joe Hagerty
Gold Cup 8.250
8. Alex Artemev
5280 Gym 8.125