



# MPSF NEWS

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## 2007 MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION MEN'S GYMNAST & COACH OF THE YEAR

### 2007 MPSF Men's Gymnast of the Year

**JONATHAN HORTON** – Junior, Univ. of Oklahoma (Houston, Texas; Cy Fair HS)

OKLAHOMA junior all-arounder **Jonathan Horton** proved his dominance by winning his second MPSF all-around title with a combined mark of 55.500. The Houston, Texas, native also tied for first on the high bar, matching his career high with a 9.8 and defended his 2006 still rings (9.8) and floor exercise (9.7) crowns. Horton also finished as the runner-up on parallel bars with a 9.3. In 2007, Horton has earned 19 event titles, including four all-around wins. Also this season he is a three-time Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Week and is the reigning 2006 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Year.

In his three years at Oklahoma, Jonathan Horton has made a name for himself as one of the top gymnasts in the United States. In two-plus seasons at OU, the Houston, Texas, native owns the school records for All-America honors in a season (5), individual NCAA titles in a season (3) and tied two-time Olympic gold-medalist Bart Conner's record for career NCAA individual titles (3). Horton has been a part of back-to-back NCAA championship teams and served as a co-captain of the 2006 and 2007 title squads. He is the defending NCAA all-around, rings and floor champion and owns 10 career All-America honors. Horton also owns the OU scoring records in the all-around (56.0) and on floor (9.8), rings (9.85), parallel bars (9.525) and high bar (9.8).

Horton also emerged as a force on the international gymnastics scene as a member of the U.S. World Championships team in 2006 and finished second in the all-around to help Team USA win the France/Switzerland/USA tri-meet in June 2006. Against a field of the world's top gymnasts at the 2007 Tyson American Cup, Horton became the first athlete to win back-to-back American Cup titles since the USA's Blaine Wilson won three in a row from 1997-99.

*Also Nominated: Tim McNeil, California*

### 2007 MPSF Men's Gymnastic Coach of the Year

**MARK WILLIAMS** – 8th year – University of Oklahoma

At the University of California's Haas Pavilion OKLAHOMA Coach **Mark Williams** led the third-ranked Sooners to their third-consecutive Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Men's Gymnastics title and eighth in the last nine years. Oklahoma scored 217.950 to beat runner-up Stanford at 216.100, third-place California at 215.000, followed by Nebraska in fourth at 203.450 and Air Force with 189.050. OU is currently 15-2 on the year.

Four-time National Coach of the Year Mark Williams has led the Sooners to four NCAA titles and two runner-up finishes in the last six seasons. In 2006, Oklahoma won its second-consecutive NCAA title and fourth in the last five years. Williams led OU to a perfect 31-0 record, racking up a school-record 14 All-America honors, an NCAA high for the second straight year. The 2006 squad also produced the eighth individual national champion under Williams as Jonathan Horton captured the all-around title, as well as the still rings and floor exercise.

In his 26 years as a professional gymnastics coach, Williams has guided gymnasts to the Olympic, World Championship, Pan American Games and World University Games teams and has also coached numerous senior and junior U.S. national team members. Williams graduated from Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in secondary education/English and completed his master's degree in journalism at OU.

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