



MPSF NEWS

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION

PO Box 850 • Woodland, CA 95776-0850

530.669.7600 • Fax 530.669.7627 • abeaird@mpsports.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2006

Contact: Al Beard

2006 MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION MEN'S GYMNAST & COACH OF THE YEAR

2006 MPSF Men's Gymnast of the Year

JONATHAN HORTON – Sophomore – University of Oklahoma (Houston, Texas; Cy Fair HS)

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA sophomore standout, **Jonathan Horton** won MPSF individual titles on the floor exercise (9.6) and still rings (9.65) at the 2006 MPSF Men's Gymnastics Championship at Air Force on March 25. He also finished second in the all-around (54.1) and on the parallel bars (9.5) at the MPSF Championship. Horton started the season by taking the all-around title (52.6) in season-opening Rocky Mountain Open and never looked back, also winning floor exercise title (9.4) for second straight year at Rocky Mountain Open. This season, Horton also took the all-around title (54.5) versus Michigan after finishing second on floor (9.2), pommel horse (8.4), still rings (9.3), parallel bars (9.2) and high bar (9.45) in Michigan meet. He was named to U.S. Senior National Team after finishing second in the all-around at 2006 Winter Cup while also finishing third on the floor exercise, still rings and high bar at the prestigious event. Horton earned Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Week three times during the season, including following Winter Cup performance, after which he was also named College Gymnastics Association National Gymnast of the Week. Jonathan also took first in the all-around with a season-high 55.55 and on still rings (9.75) at the Pacific Coast Classic and won the 2006 Tyson American Cup all-around championship with a 92.5 by taking first on the still rings with a score of 15.6 and second on the floor exercise (15.5) and vault (16.4) at the American Cup. As a freshman, Horton clinched the 2005 NCAA team title with career-high 9.5 vault and earned third in all-around (56.425) at the NCAA championships, while also tying for third on high bar (9.475) in NCAA event finals. He won the 2005 MPSF still rings title with a career-high tying 9.825 and also placed first on the floor (9.675) and third on the parallel bars (9.325) in MPSF Team Finals.

Also Nominated: Tim McNeil, California; Brian Moore, Air Force; Tony Burtle, Nebraska; Dylan Carney, Stanford

2006 MPSF Men's Gymnastic Co-Coaches of the Year

MARK WILLIAMS – 6th year – University of Oklahoma

Coach **Mark Williams** has been voted 2006 MPSF Coach of the Year for the fifth-time in his brief career at the helm of the No. 1 ranked Sooners' men's gymnastics program. As a result of his tutelage, the UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA has won the last two MPSF men's gymnastics championships and six of the last seven years. When searching for continued dominance in recent years across the sport of NCAA men's gymnastics, people can look no further than Norman, Okla. At the University of Oklahoma, head coach Mark Williams has led the Sooners to three NCAA Titles and one runner-up finishes in the last four seasons. Not since 1979-1982 has a team produced a finish of second place or higher in four consecutive seasons. Williams was named head coach of the program in 2000 and has positioned the program as a legitimate national contender every year with an overall mark of 159-13 in five seasons. In the last four years, OU has recorded impressive numbers, including 43 All-America honors, in addition to producing the nation's top gymnast in 2003, Daniel Furney (Nissen Award).

KIP SIMONS – 1st year – U.S. Air Force Academy

Former Olympian **Kip Simons** wrapped up his first season as the head coach of the AIR FORCE ACADEMY men's gymnastics team by being voted by his peers as MPSF Co-Coach of the Year. Despite numerous injuries that plagued the young Falcons' squad, the team continued to develop over the course of the season. Under Simons' guidance, Air Force improved its team total by nearly 15 points. Simons began his first collegiate head coaching job following a stellar career at both the collegiate and national levels. He dominated the U.S. Junior National Championships and the Junior Pan-American Games, before going on to claim the Nissen-Emery Award as a senior at Ohio State. Simons also represented the United States as a member of the 1996 Olympic Team that finished fifth at the Atlanta Games.

– MPSF –