



FALLING



ILLINI

ILLINOIS GYMNASTICS

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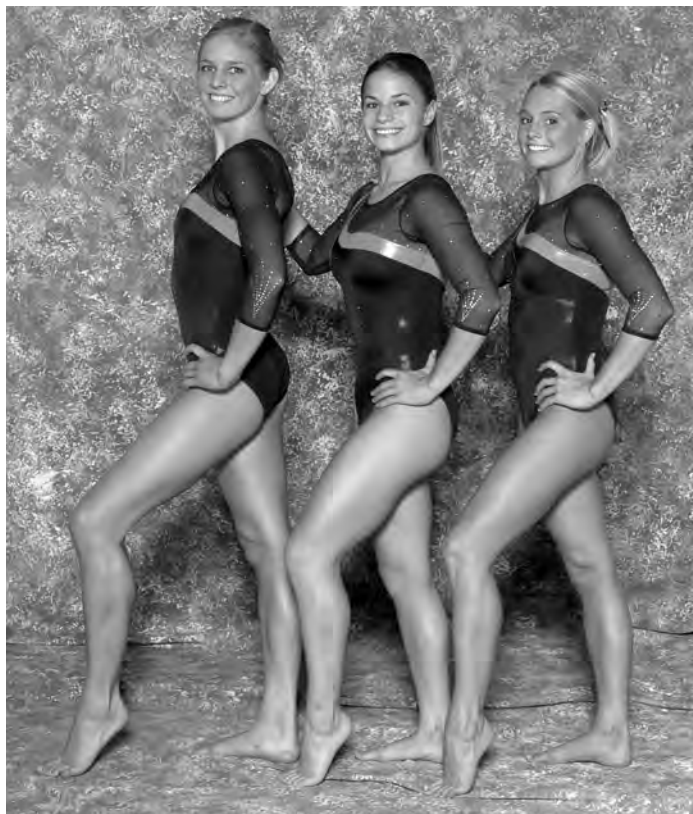


THE 2007 FIGHTING ILLINI:

*(L-R) Front Row: Lindsey Smith, Julie Crall, Marijka Botterman, Krystal Melcarek
 Second Row: Sarah Schmidt, Melissa Singer, Danye Botterman, Nicole Cowart, Laura Woolf
 Back Row: Michelle McGrady, Ursula Orozco, Cara Pomeroy, Kim Kruk, Lori Hamilton*

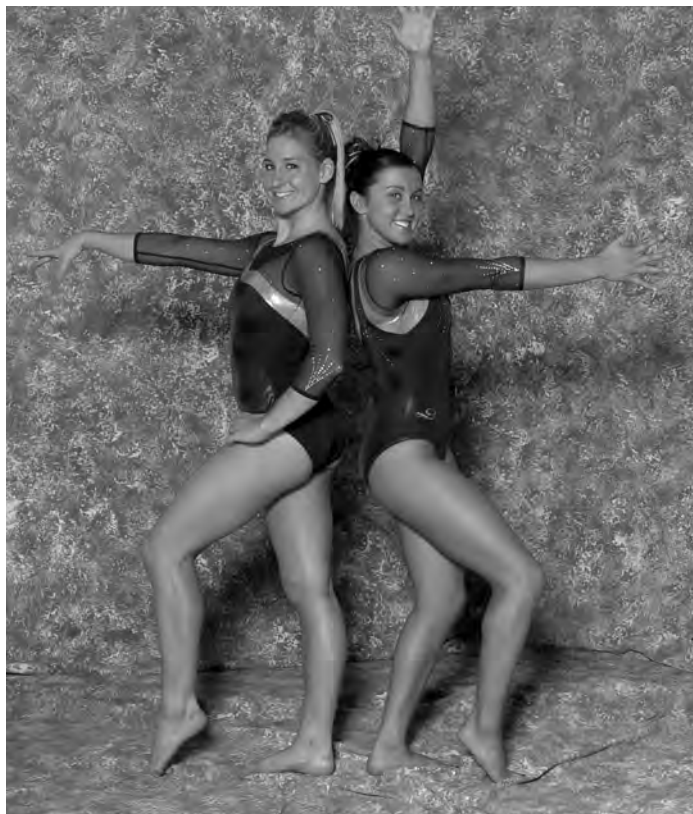
2007 ILLINOIS WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS ROSTER

NAME	YR.	HT.	EVENT(S)	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL	CLUB TEAM
Danye Botterman	Sr.	5-3	AA	New Lenox, Ill./Chicago Christian	Gym-Kinetics
Marijka Botterman	So.	5-3	AA	New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln-Way Central	Gym-Kinetics
Nicole Cowart	Fr.	5-2	AA	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove	Wright's Gymnastics
Julie Crall	So.	5-2	AA	Cincinnati, Ohio/Ursuline Academy	Queen City Gymnastics
Lori Hamilton	Fr.	5-2	AA	Mississauga, Ontario/Lorne Park	Gymnastics Mississauga
Kim Kruk	So.	5-2	AA	Carol Stream, Ill./Bartlett	Illinois Gymnastics Institute
Michelle McGrady	Jr.	5-5	AA	Buffalo Grove, Ill./Stevenson	American Academy
Krystal Melcarek	Jr.	5-3	AA	Mukwonago, Wis./Mukwonago	Salto Gymnastics
Ursula Orozco	So.	5-1	VT, BB, FX	Des Plaines, Ill./Maine East	Elk Grove Gymnastics
Cara Pomeroy	Sr.	5-8	AA	Ottawa, Ontario/Nepean	Ottawa Gymnastics
Sarah Schmidt	Fr.	5-2	AA	Hartland, Wis./Arrowhead	Midwest Twisters
Melissa Singer	Sr.	5-4	VT, BB, FX	Buffalo Grove, Ill./Stevenson	American Academy
Lindsey Smith	So.	5-0	AA	Collinsville, Ill./Metro-East Lutheran	World Class Gymnastics
Laura Woolf	Fr.	5-2	AA	Deerfield, Ill./Deerfield	Buffalo Grove Gymnastics Center



SENIORS

Cara Pomeroy, Melissa Singer, Danye Botterman



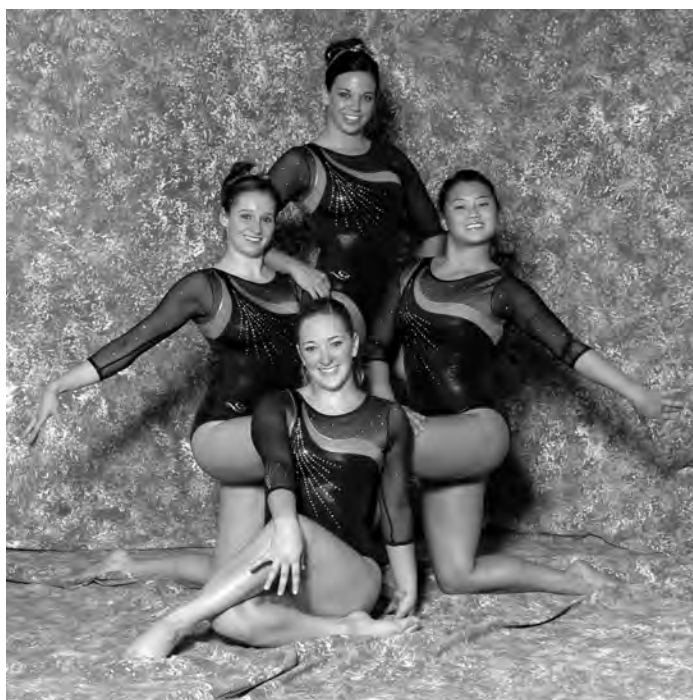
JUNIORS

Michelle McGrady, Krystal Melcarek



SOPHOMORES

Lindsey Smith, Marijka Botterman, Julie Crall,
Kim Kruk, Ursula Orozco



FRESHMEN

Lori Hamilton, Sarah Schmidt,
Nicole Cowart, Laura Woolf

DANYE BOTTERMAN

5-3 // SR. // NEW LENOX, ILL. // CHICAGO CHRISTIAN // CLUB: GYM-KINETICS



2006 – JUNIOR: Recorded three individual titles (vault-2, floor-1)...Competed on vault and bars every meet before getting injured and missing the final three meets...Best performance of the season came on March 11 vs. Michigan State where she recorded two event titles (vault-9.750, floor-9.825) and a second-place finish on bars (9.800)...Hit 23-of-24 routines in 2006, and has hit 90-of-94 (.957) routines in the first three years of her career (34-of-36 Vault, 30-of-30 Bars, 26-of-28 Floor).

2005 – SOPHOMORE: Competed on vault and bars in all 13 meets for the Illini...Hit 36-of-37 routines (.973), including 12-of-13 on vault, 13-of-13 on bars and 11-of-11 floor exercises...Captured the vault title against Northern Illinois and the Japan All-Stars with a score of 9.750...Won first place on vault at the State of Illinois Classic with a season-high mark of 9.850...Placed second on vault at the Cardinal Classic (9.800)...Tied for third on vault against Denver (9.825).

2004 – FRESHMAN: Stepped in and became Illinois' No. 1 vaulter...Competed in every meet on vault and floor, and was inserted into the uneven bars line-up for the final seven meets...Hit 31-of-33 overall routines (.939), including 12-of-13 on vault, 12-of-13 on floor and 7-of-7 on bars...Scored a 9.800 or better on vault in 10-of-13 meets...Won five event titles on the season, all on vault, and had 11 top-three finishes... Won vault at her first three collegiate meets at NIU (9.850), at UIC (9.850) and vs. Michigan State (9.825)...Also won vault vs. Ball State (9.850) and Illinois State (9.800)...Established season and career-highs of 9.875 on vault vs. Iowa State, 9.850 on bars at the South Central Regional and 9.875 on floor twice at Ohio State and at the State of Illinois Classic.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Qualified for Level 10 Nationals in 2002 and was the Level 10 State floor and vault champion in 2001....Level 9 National vault champion in 2001...Coached by Glen Willmeng and Dana Edeus.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Hank and Laurie Botterman...Has two sisters, Marijka, who is a sophomore on the Illinois gymnastics team and Kylee, who is a senior at Lincoln-Way Central High School...Credits her family and coaches most for influencing her gymnastics career...Majoring in speech communications...Loves shopping as well as wakeboarding and snowboarding.

COACH STARKELL ON BOTTERMAN:

"Danye is approaching her senior year with high hopes. She is a dynamic gymnast and is very competitive in nature. Each year, Danye has proven to be a strong competitor on vault, uneven bars and the floor exercise. This year should be no exception."



DANYE'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.875
(vs. Iowa State, 2/14/04)

BAR: 9.850
(at NCAA South Central Regional, 4/3/04)

FLOOR: 9.875
(twice, last at State of Illinois Classic, 3/13/04)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Vault: 9
Floor: 1
Total: 10

THE BOTTERMAN FILE

Nickname: Danye or Botter

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Cubs

Favorite Movie/TV Shows: Pirates of the Caribbean

Favorite Musical Artist: Kelly Clarkson

Favorite place in the world: My room

Favorite Activity Outside of Gymnastics: Shopping

Three words that describe me: Competitive, stubborn, crazy

Most Inspirational Person: My mom, Laurie

I can't go a day without: A nap

Least favorite sport: Golf

Age I started gymnastics: 5

Something no one knows about me: I have a 205-pound dog!

In 10 years I will be: Continuing to cheer on the Illini!

What I do before a meet: Listen to my iPod

What makes Illini gymnastics unique: The friendship & team unity

CARA POMEROY

5-8 // SR. // OTTAWA, ONTARIO // NEPEAN // CLUB: OTTAWA GYMNASTICS



2006 – JUNIOR: Junior co-captain... Big Ten Gymnast of the Week (2/8) after recording two first-place finishes at the Illinois State meet... Named to the first team All-Big Ten, while placing third on beam at the conference championships... Hit 33-of-34 routines on the season... Has hit 37 consecutive bar routines entering 2007, dating back to her freshman year... Recorded 10 individual event titles on the season (bars-6, beam-4)... Was a double-winner twice, winning bars and beam at NIU and Iowa... Tied her career high on beam with a 9.900 at UIC to win the event... Recorded personal best on floor of 9.775 to place third against Missouri... Nominated for Illinois Female Athlete of the Year... Was a co-winner of the team awards for Most Outstanding Gymnast, Most Valuable Gymnast, and Most Consistent Beam... Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Student-Athlete Honor Society... Academic All-Big Ten, Illinois Scholastic All-State, and George Huff Award recipient.

2005 – SOPHOMORE: Named first team All-Big Ten... Competed on bars and beam in all 13 meets for the Illini... Hit 25-of-26 routines (.962), including 13-of-13 on bars and 12-of-13 on beam... Scored a 9.900 or better on bars in six meets... Won 11 event titles on the season, three on beam and eight on bars... Named Big Ten Gymnast of the Week on March 1 after placing first on both bars (9.950) and beam (9.850) at the Texas Women's Quad... Won the team's Most Outstanding Gymnast award... Academic All-Big Ten selection and George Huff

Award recipient... Named a Scholastic All-American by the NACGC/W.

2004 – FRESHMAN: Competed at the NCAA Championships on uneven bars, earning a solid 9.800... She and teammate Ashley Williams were the first U of I gymnasts to compete at NAAs in 17 years... Scored the first perfect 10.0 in Illinois history to win bars at the South Central Regional Championships and became U of I's first Regional Champion since 1977... Tied for fifth on beam at Regionals with a 9.875... Shared the team's Most Outstanding Gymnast award with Ashley Williams... Named second team All-Big Ten... Competed on bars and beam in every meet... Hit 24-of-27 routines (.888), including 13-of-14 on bars... Scored at least a 9.850 on bars in 10 of the last 12 meets, including five scores of 9.900 or better... Won 10 event titles, most on the team, including seven on bars and three on beam... Won both events in the same meet on two occasions, vs. Michigan State (9.900 UB and 9.875 BB) and at the State of Illinois Classic (9.925 UB and 9.850 BB)... Won beam in her first collegiate meet with a 9.750 at NIU... Earned beam season and career high of 9.900 at Ohio State to finish second... George Huff Award recipient... a Scholastic All-American by the NACGC/W.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Competed at the Canada Winter Games in 2003, and captained the Ontario Team which won the gold medal during team competition... Three-time Canadian National Uneven Bars Champion... Finished fourth in the all-around, second on bars and beam and fourth on floor at 2003 Nationals... Best all-around finish at Nationals was a second-place showing in the National Open category in 2001... Competed in the Canadian National Championships every year since 1996... Coached by Tobie Gorman and Lori Ierullo.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Steve and Jill Pomeroy... Has one brother and one sister... Both parents ran track and field at the University of British Columbia... Majoring in kinesiology... Credits her family as having the biggest influence on her athletic career... Five-time honor roll student in high school.

COACH STARKELL ON POMEROY:

"Proven to be one of Illinois' most accomplished gymnasts, Cara has her heart set on the team making it to Nationals. Last year was an exceptional year for her as she competed on three events and anchored the squad on bars and beam. This year, look for Cara to contend for a Big Ten title on both these events. Besides excelling on the competition floor, our young team will look to her strong leadership and guidance throughout the season."

THE POMEROY FILE

Nickname: Pommie

Favorite Sports Team: Ottawa Senators

Favorite TV Show: The O.C.

Favorite Actress: Dakota Fanning

Favorite Musical Artist: Kelly Clarkson

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Worst Habit: Falling asleep during movies

Favorite sport besides gymnastics: Beach volleyball

Age I started gymnastics: 3

Something no one knows about me: I know how to ride a unicycle.

Three words that describe me: Motivated, Canadian, caring

What makes Illini gymnastics so unique?: We are all best friends and are always together. Our closeness really allows us to succeed in the gym.

CARA'S CAREER HIGHS

BARS: 10.000
(NCAA South Central Regional, 4/3/04)

BEAM: 9.900
(twice, last at UIC, 2/25/06)

FLOOR: 9.775
(vs. Missouri, 2/11/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Bars: 21

Beam: 10

Total: 31



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ILLINI

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UNIVERSITY

MELISSA SINGER

5-4 // SR. // BUFFALO GROVE, ILL. // STEVENSON // CLUB: AMERICAN ACADEMY



2006 – JUNIOR: Competed on vault in every meet for the Illini...Tied her personal-best score of 9.750 on vault vs. Missouri...Competed on floor for the final three meets and scored a 9.700 at the State of Illinois Classic to finish fifth...One week later, set a new career high of 9.725 at Big Tens...Competed on beam in five meets, earning a career high 9.650 at the Big Ten Championships...Hit 35-of-36 vaults through her first three seasons...Chi Alpha Sigma National Student-Athlete Honor Society member...Academic All-Big Ten selection, Illinois Scholastic All-State and George Huff Award recipient...Named Illinois Gymnastics Co-Most Valuable Gymnast and was nominated for Big Ten Sportsmanship Award.

2005 – SOPHOMORE: Competed on vault in all 13 meets for the Illini...Hit 12-of-13 vaults and counted toward the team score in 10 meets...Recorded a personal best in vault with a score of 9.750 at Illinois State...Competed once on floor, scoring a 9.000 vs. Denver...Academic All-Big Ten selection and George Huff Award recipient...Named a Scholastic All-American by the NACGC/W.

2004 – FRESHMAN: Won the team's Most Improved Gymnast Award...Was a model of consistency for the Illini vault team...Hit 13-of-13 vaults and counted toward the team score in every meet...Hit her season and career-high of 9.725 on two occasions, in the season opener at NIU and also vs. Iowa State...George Huff Award recipient...Named a

Scholastic All-American by the NACGC/W.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Named the 2003 IHSA Outstanding Senior Gymnast after leading Stevenson to its third-consecutive state title...IHSA state finalist all four years, finishing fourth in the all-around in 2002 and fifth in 2003...Finished fourth on beam and sixth on vault while competing for Team Illinois at the 2003 High School National Meet...Coached by Leonard Isaacs and Judy Harwood.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Allen and Sharon Singer...Has one sister...Credits her sister, Jenna, for getting her interested in gymnastics...National Honor Society member...Won Scholar-Athlete Award in the winter of 2003...Majoring in kinesiology...Made high honor roll every semester of high school.

COACH STARKELL ON SINGER:

"Mel has proven that she is an excellent leader inside and outside the gym. Look for this year to be her best as she always carries herself to the highest of standards. Over the past three years, Mel has been a rock for us on vault as the lead-off competitor. She has been monumental in helping this become our most improved event since her arrival. As one of the captains of this Fighting Illini squad, I see her continuing to lead on vault and also be a viable competitor on balance beam and the floor exercise."

MELISSA'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.750
(three times, last vs. Missouri, 2/11/06)

BEAM: 9.650
(at Big Ten Championships, 3/25/06)

FLOOR: 9.725
(at Big Ten Championships, 3/25/06)



THE SINGER FILE

Nickname: Mel, MJ

Favorite Athlete: Michael Jordan

Favorite Movie: Remember the Titans and Happy Gilmore

Favorite Actor: Will Ferrell

Favorite Food: Chicken Parmigiana

Favorite Musical Artist: Michael Jackson

Age I started gymnastics: 5

I collect: Teddy Bears

My best memory as an Illini is: Hanging out with teammates

Three words that describe me: Determined, ambitious, motivated

I chose Illinois because: It's the greatest place in the whole world.

My favorite thing about Coach Bob: He is always very positive and encouraging.

To prepare for a meet: I visualize my routines and get really pumped and excited.

What makes Illini gymnastics so unique? We are a family of best friends who share a passion for gymnastics, a love for our school and a motivation to achieve our goals together.

MICHELLE McGRADY

5-5 // JR. // BUFFALO GROVE, ILL. // STEVENSON // CLUB: AMERICAN ACADEMY



2006 – SOPHOMORE: Competed on vault, beam and floor in the first eight meets of the season before being sidelined with a stress fracture in her leg...Had seven event titles on the season, four on vault and three on floor...Was a double-winner three times, winning vault and floor in three consecutive meets (vs. Maryland, at NIU and vs. Illinois State)...Set career-highs on all three events she competed on: vault (9.875 vs. Maryland) beam (9.775 at UIC) and floor (9.850 at NIU)...George Huff Award winner, Academic All-Big Ten selection and Illinois Scholastic All-State selection.

2005 – FRESHMAN: Competed on vault in eight meets for the Illini and counted towards the team score seven times...Recorded a season and career-high of 9.800 on vault at the Texas Women's Quad meet...George Huff Award recipient.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Five-time Level 10 regional qualifier...The 2004 balance beam champion, as well as fourth place in both the all-around and uneven bars at the IHSA meet...Finished third in the all-around, second on balance beam and uneven bars and fourth on vault at the 2004 USAG state meet...Finished second in the state on uneven bars and floor exercise at the 2003 IHSA meet.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Michael and Diane McGrady...Majoring in accountancy...Biggest thrill in sports is winning as a team, because it makes everyone feel they contributed

something valuable...Feels her mom most influenced her athletic career because she got her into the sport and provides support and encouragement.

COACH STARKELL ON McGRADY:

"Even with a shortened competitive season last year, Michelle has shown she can excel on vault and floor. Her power gives her the extra edge when competing, and we see these events to be her strengths for the upcoming season. Michelle's consistent style should make her a key factor on balance beam as well."

MICHELLE'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.875
(vs. Maryland, 1/21/06)

BEAM: 9.775
(at UIC, 2/25/06)

FLOOR: 9.850
(at NIU, 1/29/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Vault: 4
Floor: 3
Total: 7

THE McGRADY FILE

Nickname: Mich

Favorite Athlete: Mark Prior

Favorite TV Show: The Real World

Favorite Actress: Kate Hudson

Favorite Singer: Kelly Clarkson

Favorite Food: Italian Beef

Favorite activity outside of gymnastics: Shopping

I can't go a day without: A nap

My least favorite sport: Soccer

My favorite sport besides gymnastics: Tennis

Age I started gymnastics: 3

Three words that describe me: Rambunctious, entertaining, motivated

Before a meet I: Listen to music to pump me up

I chose Illinois because: It is a great academic institution and has a lot to offer its student-athletes

What makes Illini gymnastics unique? The loving and supportive girls!

The most inspirational person in my life is: My mom, Diane



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UNIVERSITY

KRYSTAL MELCAREK

5-3 // JR. // MUKWONAGO, WIS. // MUKWONAGO // CLUB: SALTO GYMNASTICS



2006 – SOPHOMORE: Competed on bars for the Illini in every meet and competed on floor six times...Recorded the first individual title of her career at Illinois-Chicago on bars (9.725)...At the State of Illinois Classic, tied a season best of 9.750 to win bars...Hit 17-of-18 routines on the season.

2005 – FRESHMAN: Competed on vault, bars and floor for the Illini...Hit 12-of-12 bar routines and counted toward the team score in all 12 meets...Placed second on bars with a personal-best 9.775 at the Illinois Quad...Recorded two third-place finishes on bars against Denver (9.725) and at Michigan State (9.750)...Scored a career-best 9.875 at the Texas Women's Quad meet...Recorded career bests on vault (9.650) against Denver and on floor (9.700) at the Texas Women's Quad...Rewarded with the team's Most Improved Gymnast Award.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: National qualifier three years in-a-row...In 2003, named team captain and helped her team receive the sportsmanship award...First place in uneven bars at regionals in 2002...Four-time high school academic All-American.

PERSONAL: Daughter of James and Debra Melcarek...Majoring in kinesiology...Favorite athlete is Brett Favre because he is confident, aggressive, a team player and a leader...Hobbies include swimming, shopping and listening to music...Biggest thrill in sports is the feeling of butterflies and getting pumped up for a competition.

COACH STARKELL ON MELCAREK:

"Krystal has shown that she is a consistent competitor. Over the past two years, Krystal has been a key factor in the bar line-up, hitting nearly every routine. Last year, she saw significant time on uneven bars and the floor exercise. She will once again be a vital contributor on bars, and is capable of being an all-rounder with added difficulty on beam and floor."

KRYSTAL'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.650
(vs. Denver, 1/29/05)

BAR: 9.875
(at Texas Women's Quad, 2/26/05)

FLOOR: 9.750
(twice, last at NIU, 1/29/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES
Bars: 2



THE MELCAREK FILE

Nickname: Krys or Krystalle

Favorite Athlete: Brett Favre

Favorite TV Show: The O.C.

Favorite Actor/Actress: Johnny Depp, Dakota Fanning

Least Favorite Sport: Golf

Worst Habit: Worrying

I collect: Hotel room keys

Age I started gymnastics: 3

Three words that describe me: Dependable, sincere, peppy

The most influential person in my life: My dad, James

I can't go a day without: Smiling

What makes Illini gymnastics unique? Our strong friendship and our drive to be the best

Words I live by: "Live with no regrets, love with all your heart, and laugh with all you've got."

MARIJKA BOTTERMAN

5-3 // SO. // NEW LENOX, ILL. // LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL // CLUB: GYM-KINETICS



COACH STARKELL ON BOTTERMAN:

"As a freshman, Marijka gained valuable competitive experience on all four events. In the off-season, she continued to make great strides that have benefited her thus far. Her power on vault should enable her to be one of the key forces in the Big Ten. Marijka really doesn't have a weak event, and we are expecting a strong all-around showing from her this year."

2006 – FRESHMAN: Placed sixth on vault at the Big Ten Championships with a score of 9.775...Competed on vault, bars and beam in every meet, and competed in the all-around eight times...Recorded five individual titles (vault-2, bars-1, all-around-2)...Put up personal-best scores to win vault (9.875) and beam (9.825) at Illinois-Chicago, leading Illinois to victory...Won all-around titles at Ohio State (38.700) and vs. Michigan State (38.850), a career high, and also posted a career-high of 9.775 on bars...George Huff Award recipient.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Four-time Junior Olympic National qualifier...Placed first with the Region V team at the 2005 National Championships...2005 fifth-place Regional finish...The 2005 state champion on beam (9.45)...Placed second on bars, floor and the all-around and third on vault at the 2005 state championships...Coached by Glen Willmeng, Jim Fredrickson and Dana Edeus...Competed for Gym-Kinetics gymnastics club.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Hank and Laurie Botterman...Older sister, Danye, is a senior on the Fighting Illini Women's Gymnastics team and younger sister, Kylee, is a senior at Lincoln-Way Central High School...Says she chose Illinois because she loved the girls and coaches and it felt like a family away from home, even though home is so close...Enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences...High honor roll student.

MARIJKA'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.875
(at UIC, 2/25/06)

BAR: 9.775
(vs. Michigan State, 3/11/06)

BEAM: 9.825
(at UIC, 2/25/06)

FLOOR: 9.775
(at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

ALL-AROUND: 38.850
(vs. Michigan State, 3/11/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Vault: 2
Bars: 1
All-Around: 2
Total: 5



THE BOTTERMAN FILE

Favorite TV Show: Prison Break
Favorite Musical Artist: O.A.R.
Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Cubs
Favorite Type of Music: Country
Can't Go a Day Without: Music
Age I started gymnastics: 4
I've Always Dreamed of: Skydiving
Favorite Athlete: David Beckham
Favorite Illini Athlete: My sister, Danye
My least favorite sport: Fishing
One thing I've always wanted to do: Skydiving (but I'll never do it)

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UNIVERSITY

JULIE CRALL

5-2 // SO. // CINCINNATI, OHIO // URSULINE ACADEMY // CLUB: QUEEN CITY GYMNASTICS



2006 – FRESHMAN: Named to the All-Big Ten second team...Tied for third on beam with teammate Cara Pomeroy at the Big Ten Championships (9.825)...Finished fifth in the all-around at the NCAA South Central Regional meet with a career-high 38.950...Recorded an individual event title vs. Missouri on beam with a score of 9.875...Set a career high with a 9.825 on floor against Missouri...Won the second event title of her career at the State of Illinois Classic on beam, tying her personal-best score of 9.875...Recorded seven second-place finishes on the season...Recorded a 9.875 on beam vs. Missouri, and at UIC...Competed in the all-around in the last four meets, recording a second-place finish vs. Michigan State with a 38.525...Posted personal-bests on vault, bars and the all-around at the NCAA South Central Regional...Won the 2006 Illinois Athletics Female Newcomer of the Year Award and shared the team's Most Outstanding Gymnast Award with Cara Pomeroy...Illinois Scholastic All-State Award and George Huff Award recipient.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: A two-time Junior Olympic National qualifier and five-time Level 10 Regional qualifier...Took second place in the all-around, bars and beam at the 2005 state championships...Finished fifth on beam and sixth on floor (9.45) at the 2004 Regional Championships...2004 state champion on floor exercise...Placed third in the all-around at the 2003 Regional meet...Finished sixth on the floor exercise and eighth on the balance beam at Nationals in 2002...Coached by Trevor and Jennifer O'Hara and Jenny Cox...Competed for Queen City Gymnastics club.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Rick and Kathy Crall...Says she chose Illinois because "the girls felt like they were my sisters, the coaches were friendly and welcoming and the whole atmosphere felt like home"...Majoring in business administration...A four-year honor roll student in high school.

COACH STARKELL ON CRALL:

"Coming off an exceptional freshman year, Julie has made great improvements for this season. Julie has a presence and style that will impress judges. Finishing last year with her strongest all-around performance at the NCAA Regional Championships, I believe she won't miss a beat coming into her first competition."

JULIE'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.775
(at NCAA South Central Regional, 4/8/06)

BAR: 9.675
(at NCAA South Central Regional, 4/8/06)

BEAM: 9.875
(three times, last at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

FLOOR: 9.825
(vs. Missouri, 2/11/06)

ALL-AROUND: 38.950
(at NCAA South Central Regional, 4/8/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Beam: 2



THE CRALL FILE

Favorite Athlete: Ken Griffey Jr.

Favorite Team: Cincinnati Bengals

Favorite Illini Athlete: Kyle Hudson

Favorite Type of Music: Everything

Favorite Food: Peanut Butter

Favorite Movie: Wedding Crashers

Favorite TV Show: Project Runway

Favorite Actor: Vince Vaughn

Worst Habit: Losing my driver's license

Age I started gymnastics: 3

Three words that describe me: Energetic, hard-working, easy-going

Words to live by: "Live with no regrets"

KIM KRUK

5-2 // SO. // CAROL STREAM, ILL. // BARTLETT // CLUB: ILLINOIS GYMNASTICS INSTITUTE



2006 – FRESHMAN: Competed in the all-around 12 times for the Illini, scoring an Illinois season-high 39.075 at the State of Illinois Classic...Recorded six individual titles (bars-1, floor- 2, all-around- 3)...Recorded four personal bests and three event titles at Illinois-Chicago (bars, floor and all-around)...Had a career meet at the State of Illinois Classic posting four personal bests on vault (9.750), beam (9.750), floor (9.850) and the all-around (39.075), taking home the individual floor and all-around titles...George Huff Award recipient.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Two-time national qualifier...11th-place all-around and third place on vault (tie) at the 2005 National Championships...Member of the 2005 first-place Region V team...Finished third on vault and bars, fourth on beam and third all-around at the 2005 Regional Championships...2005 state champion on vault, bars, floor and the all-around and placed third on beam...Placed third on beam and the all-around and fifth on bars and floor at the 2004 Junior Olympic Nationals...Competed for Illinois Gymnastics Institute...Coached by Todd Gardiner, Kurt Aichele and Sharon Barbato.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Zbigniew and Gisele Kruk...Says she chose Illinois because she "loved the team and Illinois has such a strong reputation for outstanding academics and taking care of their student-athletes"...Major is undecided...A four-year honor roll student at Bartlett High School.

COACH STARKELL ON KRUK:

"Kim's first year was definitely a learning experience that will help her this year. Since she competed in the all-around as a freshman, she should be a seasoned competitor on all four events throughout her sophomore year. Kim's strongest event was floor exercise, but with a good preseason, her other three events should be just as solid."

KIM'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.750
(at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

BAR: 9.775
(vs. Illinois State, 2/4/06)

BEAM: 9.750
(at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

FLOOR: 9.850
(at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

ALL-AROUND: 39.075
(at State of Illinois Classic, 3/18/06)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

Bars: 1
Floor: 2
All-Around: 3
Total: 6



THE KRUK FILE

Favorite Athlete: Derrek Lee

Favorite Team: Chicago Cubs

Favorite TV Show: Grey's Anatomy

Favorite Actress: Rachel McAdams

Favorite Place in the World: Kenney Gym

Worst Habit: Losing everything

I Have Always Wanted to: Go skydiving

Favorite Food: Pizza

Three words that describe me: Spunky, determined, outgoing

Age I started gymnastics: 7

Words to live by: "Be who you are and say what you want, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

-Dr. Suess

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URSULA OROZCO

5-1 // SO. // DES PLAINES, ILL. // MAINE EAST // CLUB: ELK GROVE GYMNASTICS



2006 – FRESHMAN: Exhibited on three occasions (at Iowa, at Ohio State, vs. Michigan State)...Earned Most Improved Gymnast award for the team.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: All-conference all four years of her career at Maine East...Earned All-America status her first three years... Named All-America and elite All-America her senior year...Honored as Senior Gymnast of the Year...State contender all four years...Broke high school floor (9.65) and all-around (36.75) records...Competed for Elk Grove Gymnastics...Coached by Glen Marks, Lynette Milstead and Betty Axelson.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Guillermo and Roge Orozco...Says she chose Illinois because of “the irreplaceable bond between all Illini gymnasts”...Major is undecided...Says that the most inspirational person in her life is her mother Roge.

COACH STARKELL ON OROZCO:

“Being a back-up for much of last year’s season, Ursula could see competitive time on balance beam and floor exercise this year. Her nice lines and showmanship are two traits that we would love to have on the competition floor. With her continued work on upgrading her vault, she could break into the line up later this season.”



THE OROZCO FILE

Favorite Athlete: Muhammad Ali

Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Cubs

Favorite Place in the World: Home

Favorite Food: Pokey stix

Favorite Actress: Tea Leoni

Favorite Musical Artist: Frank Sinatra

Favorite TV Show: Grey’s Anatomy

I’ve Always Wanted To: Travel the world

Most Inspirational Person: My mother, Roge

I can’t go a day without: My cell phone

Worst Habit: Forgetting

Age I started gymnastics: 4

Three words that describe me: Outgoing, supportive, funny

LINDSEY SMITH

5-0 // SO. // COLLINSVILLE, ILL. // METRO-EAST LUTHERAN // CLUB: WORLD CLASS GYMNASTICS



2006 – FRESHMAN: Competed on vault in every meet for the Illini...Placed second on vault vs. Michigan State with a score of 9.725...Posted her personal-best vault score of 9.800 at the South Central Regional to finish ninth overall...Also competed on floor in two meets...George Huff Award recipient.

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Four-time Regional qualifier...Finished third on vault and fourth on floor at the 2005 Regional Championships...Placed second on vault and beam at the 2005 state championships...Eighth-place finish on vault and floor at the 2004 Regional Championships...2002 all-around champion at USAIGC Nationals...Finished first on balance beam at the 2001 USAG Regional meet...Competed for World Class Gymnastics...Coached by Patrick Hulliung and Donna Berutti.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Gary and Loretta Smith...Says she chose Illinois because "it's close to home and because of the opportunity to get a quality education and be a part of a great gymnastics team"... A four-year honor roll student in high school... National Honor Society Member...Salutatorian of Metro-East Lutheran High School...Majoring in chemistry...A Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering award winner.

COACH STARKELL ON SMITH:

"Lindsey has probably shown the most improvement of any team member from last year. In 2006, she was an instrumental competitor on vault. This year, the coaching staff believes

she will be a key factor on floor, in addition to contributing on the balance beam. Lindsey is a very strong and powerful athlete, which will give her a great advantage this season."

LINDSEY'S CAREER HIGHS

VAULT: 9.800
(at NCAA South Central Regional, 4/8/06)

FLOOR: 8.975
(at Florida, 1/6/06)



THE SMITH FILE

Favorite Athlete: Shaun McDonald

Favorite Sports Team: St. Louis Rams

Favorite TV Show: Project Runway

Favorite Type of Music: Country

Favorite Musical Artist: Rascal Flatts

Favorite Food: Chicken

Least Favorite Sport: Soccer

I can't go a day without: My hair straightener

Favorite Place in the World: The beach

Worst Habit: Worrying

Age I started gymnastics: 9

Three words that describe me: Unique, organized, loving

Most inspirational people: My parents

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NICOLE COWART

5-2 // FR. // GREENWOOD, IND. // CENTER GROVE // CLUB: WRIGHT'S GYMNASTICS



HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Six time National Qualifier...Two-time Junior Olympic Team member...Two-time Region Five all-star team member...2006 third place all-around, and runner-up on beam at Nationals...2006 Region Five all-around champion and runner-up on bars and third on vault and floor...2006 Indiana State Champion...2005...Placed eighth on vault and beam at Nationals...2005 Regional all-around, floor, beam and bars champion...In 2004 placed fourth on all-around and vault at Nationals...2004 National Team member and ninth place on floor.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Paula Cowart Jenne...Says she chose Illinois because "there is no comparison to the academics at the University of Illinois" and "I found a team that will love me for me and will share the triumphs and wins we earn together as gymnasts"...Majoring in business.

THE COWART FILE

Favorite Athlete: Jermaine O'Neal

Favorite Sports Team: Indianapolis Colts

Least Favorite Sport: Curling

Favorite TV Show: Family Guy

Most Inspirational Person: My mom

Favorite Food: Pasta

Age I started gymnastics: 6

Three words that describe me: Loud, curious, adventurous

What makes Illini gymnastics so unique? The team is so amazing and close!

COACH STARKELL ON COWART:

"Nicole comes in as one of the most heralded recruits in Illinois history. She had a fabulous high school career in which her club coaches did an excellent job preparing her for college gymnastics. Nicole has no weak event and should be a steady all-rounder for the Illini. Already we can tell she is a fierce competitor and will demand success from not only herself but her teammates as well."



LORI HAMILTON

5-2 // FR. // MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO // LORNE PARK // CLUB: GYMNASTICS MISSISSAUGA



HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Four time National Qualifier...Member of the 2005 and 2003 first-place team at Eastern Canadians...Fifth-place finisher in the all-around, third on floor and seventh on bars at 2005 Canadian Nationals...Placed second on bars at 2005 Eastern Canadians...Two time Provincial Tour Selection ...Finished second on bars and beam and fourth in the all-around at the 2004 Tour Selection...Team Champion and third place finisher on bars and seventh-place finisher in the all-around at the 2003 Canada Winter Games...2003 Eastern Canadian floor exercise champion...2001 Elite Canada sixth-place finisher on bars and seventh-place finisher in the all-around...2000 Novice Nationals team

champion and third place finisher in the all-around.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Ian Hamilton and Cheryl Leggat-Hamilton...Says she chose Illinois because "it was the perfect combination of academic and athletic excellence. The team was so close-knit and welcoming and they made me feel at home"...Majoring in business.

THE HAMILTON FILE

Favorite Athlete: Saku Koivu

Favorite Sports Team: Montreal Canadiens

Favorite Actress: Alexis Bledel

Favorite TV Show: Gilmore Girls

Favorite Food: Cereal

Favorite Place in the World: Hawaii

Favorite Type of Music: Oldies

Favorite Musical Artists: The Temptations & Tim McGraw

Age I started gymnastics: 3

COACH STARKELL ON HAMILTON:

"Coming from Canada, Lori has extensive competitive experience in big meets. She will most likely prove to be an important element in our uneven bars and balance beam line-ups. As more time passes, she could be an important back-up on the floor exercise."



SARAH SCHMIDT

5-2 // FR. // HARTLAND, WIS. // ARROWHEAD // CLUB: MIDWEST TWISTERS



HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: 2005 National Qualifier...Three-time National Qualifier Alternate (2003, '04 and '06)...Placed fourth on floor at 2006 Regionals...2006 Level 10 Wisconsin State floor exercise champion, second place finisher on bars and in the all-around, and third place finisher on vault...2004 Region Four National alternate...2003 Junior Olympic National Qualifier.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Roger and Kim Schmidt...Says she chose Illinois because "it has a great kinesiology program and because the team made me feel welcomed"...Majoring in kinesiology.

THE SCHMIDT FILE

Favorite Athlete: Brett Favre
Favorite Sports Team: Green Bay Packers
Least Favorite Sport: Soccer
Favorite TV Show: Friends
Most Inspirational People: Friends and family
Favorite Food: Pasta
Can't Go a Day Without: Milk
Age I started gymnastics: 4
Three words that describe me: Funny, easy-going, caring
What makes Illini gymnastics so unique? The closeness of the team

LAURA WOLF

5-2 // FR. // DEERFIELD, ILL. // DEERFIELD // CLUB: BUFFALO GROVE GYMNASTICS CENTER



HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB: Two time Junior Olympic qualifier...Four-year Level 10 Region Five qualifier...2006 State qualifier, placing eighth on floor...Ninth place on bars at 2003 Regionals...2003 Third-place finisher on bars and sixth-place on all-around at the Illinois state competition...2002 Level 10 National Qualifier, placing ninth on bars...Placed fifth on bars and fifth in the all-around at the 2002 Illinois state competition.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Micheal and Victoria Wolf...Says the most inspirational person in her life is her grandmother...Says she chose Illinois because of the girls on the team...Majoring in psychology.

THE WOLF FILE

Favorite Athlete: Brian Urlacher
Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Bears
Favorite Actor: Matthew McConaughey
Favorite TV Show: Will and Grace
Favorite Food: Cookies
Favorite Place in the World: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Favorite Type of Music: Anything
Favorite Activity Outside of Gymnastics: Tennis
Can't Go a Day Without: My cell phone
Age I started gymnastics: 5
Least Favorite Sport: Soccer

COACH STARKELL ON SCHMIDT:

"Since Sarah's arrival on campus, we have been pleasantly surprised with her progress. She has tremendous skills on all four events, and the ability to become an all-around competitor. Look for Sarah to have an immediate impact on nearly every event. She has a presence about her that will lead her to excel in NCAA competition."



COACH STARKELL ON WOLF:

Laura joins the Illini with Orange and Blue in her blood. From very early on in the recruiting process, Laura knew that Illinois was where her heart was. She has been making strides on every event and has gradually increased her difficulty throughout the fall. With continued hard work, she should be able to provide depth for the Illini on all four events."



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