

Gymnastics Masters Team World Cup



Dekade	Name
30	Julia Sharpe
30	Nate Sharpe
50	Bernd Schoner
50	Patrick McCarthy
60	Chris Whelen



JULIA SHARPE

Favorite Event: Parallel Bars



Favorite Skill: FHS, Layout, Layout on Floor

I started gymnastics at the age of 2 because my parents were already there for my brother who was showing signs of being a promising gymnast. I continued training and competing at a high level through college, where I competed for MIT's varsity program. Some highlights include winning the division III nationals all-around title twice, vault title once, and beam title once. In total, I claimed 14 All-American honors and qualified as an individual for division I regionals. After college, I took a break to try pole vault and diving while also coaching the newly formed MIT club team after the school cut the varsity program. After less than 2 years off, I was convinced to rejoin the team to help the earn a national team title in club gymnastics and hopefully help recruit more members. We won 2 nationals titles as a team but were not successful in growing the program. At that point, I found a clause in the rules for our organization that allow women to compete men's gymnastics. I had always wanted to try men's gymnastics after watching my brothers and was thrilled for the opportunity for a change of pace. I've been training and competing men's gymnastics since 2012 (with a short break to have twins at the end of 2014). My greatest achievement in men's gymnastics was placing 10th place on high bar at 2014 Nationals in Chattanooga, TN.

DECADE: 30s

Career: Mechanical Engineer, recently retired, worked at startups and engineering consulting for 15 years



NATE SHARPE

Favorite Event: Rings



Favorite Skill: Iron Cross

Growing up I only had some incidental exposure to gymnastics through my time in a youth circus and as a semi-professional street performer, but my main focus was on juggling. I was a pole vaulter in college, but fell in love with a talented gymnast (Julia). When I was 25 and Julia started training the men's events, she convinced me to pole vault less and try this gymnastics thing. 11 years later and I now pole vault once a year at our annual alumni meet and do gymnastics as often as possible! I now train and compete all the men's and women's events with the MIT Gymnastics Club as an alum of MIT. In addition to helping to run that club, I serve as the Events Department Head for the NAIGC, the nonprofit that runs collegiate club gymnastics and much of adult gymnastics in the US.

DECADE: 30s

Career: Mechanical Engineer, recently retired, worked at startups and engineering consulting for 15 years



BERND SCHONER

Favorite Event: Pommel Horse



Favorite Skill: Press handstand

I started doing gymnastics at age 8 at Turnverein Aschaffenburg in North Western Bavaria, Germany. As a child and adolescent, I did not spend a lot of time training nor was I any good, but I never completely stopped doing gymnastics since then. As a young adult I joined the Hessenliga team of nearby TV Hoesbach for a few years. During my time at Aachen university, I trained with the university gymnastics team there. At age 26, I moved to Boston, Massachusetts to work on my PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At the time, MIT still had a varsity gymnastics team which I had the honor of joining the NCAA team for one season. The MIT gym became my main training facility for more than 20 years. About 5 years ago, I received my US citizenship and I moved full time to New York City with my wife and son. I am now mostly training at the Chelsea Piers gymnastics area in Manhattan.

Starting in 2001, I have been participating in some Bavarian and German master championships. I won a few times in Bavaria, and placed 3rd at the German national championship a couple of times. I have to travel far to attend these events, but they motivate me to train seriously and stay fit. Last year I also participated in the NAIGC US national championship with my old MIT team mates. I placed 2nd in the all-around competition (Level 9) and also tied for first place on parallel bars.

DECADE: 50s

Career: Head of Product
Strategy, Scandit AG



PATRICK MCCARTHY

Favorite Event: High Bar



Favorite Skill: 87 Giants in a Row!

I started unofficially by swinging and trying handsprings in the playground in elementary school. My first exposure to more formal gymnastics was a summer class at a university when I was 12, but only with WAG events. Then I found a gym with great coaching in Tucson, AZ, the next year and made pretty rapid progress, with a strong focus on fundamentals. I used gymnastics as a tool to help make going to UC Berkeley a reality from a financial standpoint, but quit about a year and a half later, mainly due to shoulder and ankle injuries, but also just not having fun anymore. A year or two later, I started at the university club level, which was a more fun and relaxed atmosphere. I have bounced around from different clubs to some degree, but mainly kept with the UC Berkeley club, with about a 9-yr hiatus, returning in 2018. I am trying to relearn skills I used to do and pick up some new skills along the way. I mainly focus on high bar, which has always been friendly to me. I enjoy gymnastics as an adult and especially like working out with my wife, who is also competing at this meet.

DECADE: 50s

Career: Crane Engineer



CHRIS WHELEN

Favorite Event: Floor



Favorite Skill: Giants

I started gymnastics my sophomore year in high school, but the program was dropped the next year. I walked on at South Dakota State University as a novice and was a 4-year letterman and team captain the last 2 years. The men's program was dropped after my senior year, but we started a club that allowed me to prepare for 1982 National Master's. I had very limited access to a gym over the next 2 decades while moving every 2-3 years. After settling in Hawaii, I got more routine access to equipment, and developed an interest in masters meets. My gym access has suffered some intermittent setbacks but has allowed me to compete 3 times since 2005 in 3 countries.

DECADE: 60s

Career: Clinical / Public Health
Microbiologist



NATE SHARPE

Favorite Event: Rings



Favorite Skill: Iron Cross

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DECADE: 30s

Career: Mechanical Engineer, recently retired, worked at startups and engineering consulting for 15 years