



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 8, 2007

## Gymnasts' Late Surge Only A Beginning? Sullivan Takes Top Honors as Falcons Finish 2nd Nationally

**Back on top.** Was it the end of an era, or a new beginning? Whatever it was, Seattle Pacific University showed itself to once again be among the top gymnastics programs at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Championships, presented by Leisure Care. The Falcons won their qualifying session and finished second overall at the national meet, Apr. 19-21 in Brougham Pavilion, and Maryland's Towson needed a meet-record to beat them.

**Quite a rush.** SPU surged at the end of the season, breaking the school scoring record and posting an unprecedented four consecutive totals of 193-plus, including the best-ever sum in a national meet and a second straight Mountain Pacific Sports Federation championship. Towson took top honors in USAG with an unreachable 195.675. Seattle Pacific was next (193.150), followed by next year's host, Centenary (191.675) and Texas Woman's (191.650). It was the best final placement by the Falcons since 1998.

**They've got class.** It will be a difficult act to follow in 2008 as three superb seniors graduate. All-arounders **Debra Huss** (Sr., Orangevale, Ca./Bella Vista) and **Sarah Sullivan** (Sr., Salem, Or./Sprague) and vault/floor standout **Kristin Bryant** (Sr., Anchorage, Ak./West Anchorage) were huge contributors throughout their careers. Huss leaves as the SPU all-around record-holder and a three-time national champion, Sullivan as the Division II Gymnast of the Year and Bryant as co-record holder on vault. Also graduating is **Haley Kromenhoek** (Sr., Seattle, Wa./Mt. Rainier).

**Leaders emerging.** While Coach **Laurel Tindall** will need her freshmen to make an immediate impact next season, she has some proven performers coming back. Shining at the national meet were **Ashley Domres** (Jr., Scottsdale, Az./Scottsdale Christian) and **Brianna Schwartz** (So., Bonney Lake, Wa./Sumner). Domres was the runner-up on bars while Schwartz was third in all-around, and also among the top six on bars and floor. Joining them as first-time All-Americans was **Christie Chinaka** (Jr., Honolulu, Hi.), who placed sixth on beam. With the loss of Bryant, Huss and Sullivan, Tindall must fill a total of 11 lineup spots.

**Ready or not.** Poised to take advantage of those opportunities are a handful of holdovers, plus four recruits whom Tindall signed last month. Francesca Jacobs, Betsy Snook, Brianna Steigauf and Laura Willis signed national letters of intent, and will form the Class of 2011, along with redshirt **Kelli Bates** (Fr., Port Orchard, Wa./South Kitsap). Jacobs, a Puyallup, Wash., resident, was a teammate of Bates at Lakewood's Grace Gymnastics. Snook lives in Milwaukie and is a Level 10 competitor from Oregon's Sunburst club. Steigauf, a native of Richfield, Minn., placed fourth on vault and floor at this year's Level 10 Region IV Championships. She was also ninth in all-around. Willis is coming off Level 9 Western Nationals where she took second on bars and fifth on beam.

**What a way to go.** The Falcons scored a moral victory at the USAG Championships by finishing second despite losing Huss for the team finals. Sullivan's floor score of 9.900 was a career-high and gave the squad a much-needed boost of confidence. She later won balance beam with a 9.800 and her all-around sum of 39.100 ranks No. 3 all-time. Bryant was runner-up on vault, tying the SPU record for the second night in a row at 9.875. In a very

## 2007 WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

### SPU Quick Facts

2007 Record– 4-16 (No. 2 in USAG, MPSF Championships)

Coach–Laurel Tindall, 32nd year  
SPU & Career Record– 353-371-1

### USAG Championship Finals

Towson 195.625  
at Seattle Pacific 193.150  
Centenary 191.675  
Texas Woman's 191.650

### USAG Championship Prelims

#### Session 1

Towson 195.625  
Centenary 190.400  
Rutgers 189.950  
Temple 187.500

#### Session 2

at Seattle Pacific 193.450  
Texas Woman's 193.050  
Cornell 192.625  
William & Mary 189.100

### Season Highlights

- SPU won its second straight MPSF title
- Sarah Sullivan was named Division II Gymnast of the Year and NCAA Postgraduate Scholar
- Broke the team scoring and tied vault record
- Kristin Bryant tied individual vault record

### Streaks & Such

Seattle Pacific has finished among the top four nationally for 22 of the last 24 years

### Stat de jour

The Falcons finished the season with four consecutive scores of 193-plus points

tight qualifying session, Huss gave everything before experiencing back spasms after her final dismount. She matched her highest all-around (38.950) of the season, punctuating it with a season-best 9.825 on beam. Huss was second in the all-around and would've also qualified for finals on floor and bars if not for the injury. Domres took her place on bars for individual finals and scored 9.750. Sullivan was third on floor (9.850) and all-around (38.325) and fifth on vault (9.6750). Bryant landed fourth on vault (9.7125). Schwartz's scores were 9.700 on bars and 9.725 on floor. She had totaled a career-best 38.825 in the all-around competition. Chinaka was a solid 9.700 on beam.

**Kudos for classwork.** Not only did Sullivan come through strong at the national meet, she kept collecting awards for her academic prowess in the days and weeks to follow. An art major with a 3.63 GPA, she became the Falcons' 21st NCAA Postgraduate Scholar in the last three years and the fourth gymnast. After that came Academic All-District accolades from CoSIDA. Seattle Pacific led all teams with seven selections to the Academic All-MSPF team. Sullivan and Bryant were named for the third time, and Chinaka and Domres were repeat honorees. Making it for the first time were sophomores **Melissa Daniels** (Salinas, Ca./N. Monterey Bay), **Sadie Johnston** (Wilsonville, Or./North Marion) and **Amber Lundgren** (Temecula, Ca./Temecula Valley). Sullivan, Domres, Chinaka, Krommenhoek, Bryant and **Aubrie Stavig** (Jr., Albuquerque, N.M./Sandia) were USAG Scholar Athletes.

**For the record.** The Falcons smeared their share of ink throughout the record book, breaking one record, tying two and achieving 14 top-10 marks altogether. The team total of 193.725 versus Washington Mar. 23 eclipsed the old standard of 193.700, set in 2001. The vault aggregate of 48.650 tied a record, as did Bryant's back-to-back 9.875s the first two nights of nationals. Four of the top seven scores in team history all came in the final month of the season. Before that, SPU had gone 23 meets without breaking the 193 plateau.

**On the mend.** Bates is methodically returning to training as she fully recovers from shoulder surgery. Floor specialist **Danna Nelson** (So., Maple Valley, Wa./Tahoma) and Stavig were other early-season casualties...Before the return of Sullivan to all-around from a pre-season hand fracture and development of depth, scores stayed below 190 for the first three meets, including a four-year low of 187.575...Seattle Pacific has finished among the top four 24 times, including 23 of the last 25 years. Four different teams have now won the USAG title in the last four years...Five gymnasts—Domres, Huss, Lundgren, Schwartz and Sullivan—competed all-around this season, matching the highest number in 14 years...Huss was the team MVP, Sullivan the most inspirational and Schwartz the most improved among the team awards. Sullivan also earned the Falcon Award for Excellence for career achievement in athletics, academics and leadership...Tindall's tentative '08 schedule currently has only three home dates (UC Davis, Air Force, Washington), with eight on the road, including the MSPF meet, which is one of three trips to Davis. Nationals are slated for Apr. 17-19 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The Falcons also visit Southern Utah for the first time in 20 years.

## 2007 Gymnastics Roster

Name	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Events	Hometown (High School)
Kelli Bates	5-2	Fr	Cl	AA	Port Orchard, Wa. (S. Kitsap)
Kristin Bryant	5-4	Sr	3V	V, BB, FX	Anchorage, Ak. (W. Anchorage)
Christie Chinaka	5-2	Jr	2V	V, UB, BB	Honolulu, Hi. (home school)
Melissa Daniels	5-0	So	1V	V, FX	Salinas, Ca. (N. Monterey Cty.)
Katelyn Degner	5-8	Fr	HS	BB, FX	Hillsboro, Or. (Glencoe)
Ashley Domres	5-2	Jr	2V	AA	Phoenix, Az. (Scottsdale Christ'n)
Debra Huss	5-2	Sr	3V	AA	Orangevale, Ca. (Bella Vista)
Sadie Johnston	5-4	So	SQ	V, UB, BB	Wilsonville, Or. (North Marion)
Haley Krommenhoek	5-3	Sr	3V	V, BB, FX	Seattle, Wa. (Mount Rainier)
Amber Lundgren	5-5	So	1V	AA	Temecula, Ca. (Temecula Valley)
Danna Nelson	5-4	So	1V	AA	Maple Valley, Wa. (Tahoma)
Brianna Piedmonte	5-3	Jr	2V	UB, BB, FX	Chandler, Az. (Desert Vista)
Brianna Schwartz	5-5	So	1V	AA	Bonney Lake, Wa. (Sumner)
Tracy Smith	5-5	So	1V	AA	Mokena, Il. (Chicago Christian)
Aubrie Stavig	5-1	Jr	2V	UB, BB	Albuquerque, NM (Sandia)
Sarah Sullivan	5-4	Sr	3V	AA	Salem, Or. (Sprague)

Head Coach: Laurel Tindall

Assistant Coaches: Kathy Siwek, Anna Leiferman

## 2007 Statistical Leaders

<b>All-Around</b>	193.725√
Sarah Sullivan	c 39.100
Debra Huss	38.950
Brianna Schwartz	c 38.825
<b>Vault</b>	48.650√
Kristin Bryant	c 9.875√
Sarah Sullivan	c 9.800
Melissa Daniels	c 9.750
Debra Huss	c 9.750
Brianna Schwartz	c 9.675
<b>Uneven Bars</b>	48.350
Christie Chinaka	c 9.775
Ashley Domres	9.775
Brianna Schwartz	9.725
Debra Huss	9.725
Amber Lundgren	c 9.725
<b>Balance Beam</b>	48.525
Debra Huss	9.825
Sarah Sullivan	c 9.800
Christie Chinaka	c 9.750
Kristin Bryant	c 9.725
Brianna Schwartz	c 9.700
Ashley Domres	9.700
<b>Floor Exercise</b>	49.025
Debra Huss	c 9.900
Sarah Sullivan	c 9.900
Kristin Bryant	c 9.875
Brianna Schwartz	c 9.825
Amber Lundgren	c 9.725

√SPU record

c Career high

## 2007 Season Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Res.
Jan. 19	UC Davis (191.850)	189.225
Jan. 26	Utah St. (194.225)	189.725
	at San Jose St. (193.025)	
	Boise St. (190.070)	
Feb. 2	at Air Force (184.300)	187.575
Feb. 9	Sacramento State (191.900)	191.550
Feb. 16	San Jose State (193.625)	190.275
Feb. 23	at Washington (195.800)	190.050
	Oregon State (196.975)	
Mar. 2	at Boise St. (192.350)	192.050
	Oregon St. (196.475)	
	UC Davis (192.775)	
Mar. 9	at UC Davis (192.450)	191.700
Mar. 16	at Oregon State (196.600)	189.750
	Utah (196.675)	
	Washington (193.625)	
Mar. 23	Washington (194.475)	193.725
Mar. 30	MPSF Championships	193.050
	UC Davis (192.825)	
	Alaska Anchorage (187.850)	
	Air Force (185.575)	
Apr. 14	at NCAA Regional (Berkeley, Ca.)	Indiv.
Apr. 19	USAG Prelims	193.450
Apr. 20	USAG Team Finals	193.150
	Towson (195.625)	
	Centenary (191.675)	
	Texas Woman's (191.650)	
Apr. 21	USAG Individual Finals	Ind.

## SPU School Records

### *Team*

Total	193.725	vs. Washington, 2007
Vault	48.650	vs. Washington, 2007
		vs. Alaska Anchorage, 2005
Uneven Bars	48.875	vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1997
Balance Beam	48.675	at Cal St. Fullerton, 2004
Floor Exercise	49.175	at Sacramento State, 2003
		at MPSF Championships, 2004

### *Individual*

All-Around	39.225	Debra Huss, 2005
Vault	9.875	Kari Kelly, 2004
		Jaynie Reynolds, 2005
		Kari Kelly, 2005
Uneven Bars	9.950	Mindy Lee Ferguson, 1997
Balance Beam	9.925	Alison Siegel, 2001
Floor Exercise	9.950	Callie Field, 2000

## Brougham Pavilion Records

### *Team*

Total	195.675	Oregon State, 2005
Vault	48.925	Oregon State, 2005
Uneven Bars	49.150	Oregon State, 2005
Balance Beam	49.125	Oregon State, 2005
Floor Exercise	49.100	Washington, 2007

### *Individual*

All-Around	39.350	Ashley Houghting, UW, 2007
Vault	9.950	Ashley Houghtin, UW, 2007
Uneven Bars	10.00	Cindy Tom, California, 1992
Balance Beam	9.925	Alison Siegel, SPU, 2001
		Nirvana Zaher, Sac St., 2002
Floor Exercise	9.975	Ashley Houghting, UW, 2007