



SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Men's Gymnastics

2012



*2011 USAG
National Champion,
Floor Exercise
Jimmy Pezzino*

Fast Facts:

- ▼ Gymnastics was the first varsity sport at Springfield College in 1891. Some 120 years later, the Pride remains a leader in competitive and exhibition gymnastics.
- ▼ One of the top squads in the east, the Pride has produced many Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) medalists, USA Gymnastics (USAG) All-Americans, and NCAA qualifiers.
- ▼ Head coach **Steve Posner** has coached 138 All-Americans and 20 national champions in his 29 seasons at Springfield College.
- ▼ Springfield College's famous gymnastics exhibition show, a performance unique to the gymnastics world, attracts more than 3,000 spectators each fall. The 2010 show celebrated 101 years of the exhibition.
- ▼ Affiliations: National Collegiate Athletic Conference (NCAA) Division III, Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)
- ▼ Conference: Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League (EIGL)
- ▼ Home Facility: Blake Arena



SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

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HEAD COACH Steve Posner



▼ Education

- B.A., University of California-Berkeley '76
- M.A., Syracuse University '80
- Ph.D., University of Connecticut '99

▼ Coaching Accomplishments at Springfield College

- Three straight USAG titles ('91-'93)
- USAG and NACGC Division II-III Coach of the Year ('92 and '93)
- NCAA Eastern Regional Coach of the Year ('02, '08, '09)
- Received the prestigious CGA Coaches Honor Award for 25 years of meritorious service to the sport of gymnastics ('07)
- USAG National Coach of the Year (2011)

Entering his 30th season as head coach, **Steve Posner**, Ph.D., is one of the outstanding gymnastics coaches in the east. In 2011, his team finished second in the New England championships; third in the USAG championships; and fourth at the ECAC/Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League (EIGL) championships.

Under Posner, the Pride has consistently been regarded as one of the top squads in the east, after placing among the top three teams at the USAG Collegiate National Championships.

One of Posner's gymnasts and former graduate assistant, Ricardo Portalatin, was chosen to represent Puerto Rico at the 1995 world championships in Japan. In 1984, another one of Posner's gymnasts, Jeff Coelho, finished second in the NCAA Division I championships behind Olympic Champion Tim Daggett, as Coelho edged out Olympian Mitch Gaylord.

In 2010, then-sophomore Ty Evans qualified for the NCAA Championships as well as the National Collegiate Gymnastics

Association (NCGA) championships, and the prestigious VISA championships for the final USA National Team selections.

Posner served as the gymnastics chair for the World Maccabiah Games in Israel in 1997. He was the chairman of the USAG Collegiate Committee from 1991 to 1994 and is a current member of that committee.

Posner competed at the University of California-Berkeley and earned All-America honors in the floor exercise in 1974. The following year, he helped lead the Golden Bears to the NCAA Division I championship. He was a member of the U.S. Elite National Team from 1973 to 1975 and won gold medals in the floor exercise and in the all-around at the 1973 Maccabiah Games.

Posner, an associate professor of sport management, joined the Springfield College staff in 1982 after coaching at State University of New York at Cortland for two years. He also served as an assistant coach at Syracuse University from 1977 to 1980.

2011 Season Wrap-Up

USA Gymnastics National Collegiate Championships

Team Place - 3rd (335.10 points)

Ty Evans - 1st in all-around*; 1st in high bar*;

2nd in parallel bars*; 4th in vault*

Jimmy Pezzino - 1st in floor exercise*; 6th in vault*

Ryan Ponce - 4th in still rings*

Joe Carlson - 5th in pommel horse*

Garrett DeSantis - 6th in high bar*

*All-America recognition

ECAC Championships

Team Place - 4th (333.20 points)

Ty Evans - 4th in parallel bars#, 4th in all-around#

Jimmy Pezzino - 2nd in vault#, 4th in floor exercise#

Ryan Ponce - 5th in still rings#

#All-ECAC recognition

New England Championships

Team Place - 2nd (323.050)

Ty Evans - 1st in all-around\$; 3rd in floor exercise\$;

5th in still rings\$; 1st in parallel bars\$

1st in vault\$; 2nd in high bar\$

Jimmy Pezzino - 3rd in vault\$, 2nd in floor exercise\$

Ryan Ponce - 1st in still rings\$, 4th in parallel bars\$

Rich Ruggiero - 3rd in pommel horse\$

Garrett DeSantis - 6th in pommel horse\$, 5th in high bar\$

\$ All-New England recognition

NCAA Division I Championship Qualifiers

Ryan Ponce - still rings

Ty Evans - all-around

Jimmy Pezzino - vault and floor exercise

CGA USAG Division National Performer of the Week

Ty Evans - Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 27, March 31

EIGL Most Improved Performer

Joe Carlson

Maroon Club Athletes of the Week

Ty Evans - March 7

Jimmy Pezzino - March 14

2012 Roster

Name	Cl.	Event	Hometown/Club
Devonta Brown	Jr.	FX/V	Marlboro, Mass.
Joe Capobianco	Fr.	TBA	Franklin Square, N.Y./Vitrovia Fitness Gymnastics
Joe Carlson	Jr.	FX/PH	Naugatuck, Conn./USA Gymnastics
William Chin	Fr.	TBA	Worcester, Mass./Giguere's Gymnastics
Brian Cogan	Fr.	TBA	Fairfax, Va./Capital Gymnastics
Ian Crider	Sr.	AA	Bethpage, Tenn./The Masters Athletic Center
Sam Docherty	Fr.	TBA	Upton, Mass./R&R Gymnastics
Garrett DeSantis	So.	AA	Manalapan, N.J./Surgents Elite
Ty Evans	Sr.	AA	San Jose, Calif./California Sports Center
Joe Gianino	Jr.	TBA	Burlington, Mass./Gym and More
Andy Grabowski	Fr.	TBA	Victor, N.Y./Rochester Gymnastics Academy
Steve Graham	Sr.	PH/V/HB	Lake Balboa, Calif./Gymnastics Olympia
Pat Hanley	So.	TBA	Abington, Mass./Ellis School of Gymnastics
Chris Jost	Jr.	V/FX/SR	Ashland, Mass./Gymnastics Training Center
Alex McCabe	Jr.	FX/PH/PB/HB/V	St. Paul, Minn./Midwest Gymnastics
Kevin Miner	Jr.	FX/SR/PB	Canton, Conn./USA Gymnastics
Killian O'Brien	So.	AA	Fishers, Ind./Deveus
Jimmy Pezzino	Jr.	FX/HB/V	Buffalo, N.Y./Stumpf's Gymnastics Center
Ryan Ponce	So.	AA	Tolland, Conn./Tri-Town
Kyle Reasoner	So.	FX/V	Whitinsville, Mass./R+R Gymnastics
Patrick Rojas	Fr.	TBA	Lewiston, Me/Andy Valley Gymnastics
Rich Ruggiero	Jr.	PH/PB/SR	Northford, Conn./Inflight Gymnastics Center
Patrick Ryther	Fr.	TBA	Boston, Mass./Ellis School of Gymnastics
Kasey Shields	So.	FX, SR/PB	Burlington, Mass.
Kelvin Soares	Sr.	FX/V	New Milford, Conn./USA Gymnastics
Ian Stratton	Fr.	TBA	Elizabeth City, N.C./Gymstrada
Jeff White	Jr.	V/SR/PB	Douglas, Mass./R+R Gymnastics

Head Coach: Steve Posner (30th season, UC-Berkeley '76)

Assistant Coaches: Matt Tocchio '10, Adam Ondira, Travis Eiler

Captains: Ian Crider '12, Ty Evans '12

2012 Schedule

January

21	Sat.	at Navy Invitational	2:00 pm
27-28	Fri.-Sat.	at Army Invitational	7:00 pm

February

12	Sun.	Penn State	1:00 pm
18	Sat.	at Temple w/Illinois Chicago	7:30 pm

March

4	Sun.	at Army w/Temple	1:00 pm
9	Fri.	Army	6:00 pm
11	Sun.	William and Mary	1:00 pm
17	Sat.	New England Invitational Championships	1:00 pm
30-31	Fri.-Sat.	USAG Championships at Air Force Academy	5:00 pm

April

6	Fri.	ECAC Championships at Temple	6:00 pm
7	Sat.	ECAC Championships at Temple	2:00 pm
19-21	Fri.-Sat.	NCAA Championships at Oklahoma	TBA

Home meets in **Bold**



sophomore
Ryan Ponce



The men's gymnastics team competes in the 2,000-seat Blake Arena located in the Physical Education Complex. Gymnasts train in Kresge Gym, a fully equipped, air conditioned top-notch facility. Team members practice and compete on the most up-to-date equipment, including an AAI Palmer Spring Floor, two AAI pommel horses, three sets of AAI parallel bars, two AAI high bars, two sets of AAI rings, and a spring-loaded AAI vaulting table. Two above-ground free foam safety pits are used for development of new skills on the high bar, rings, parallel bars, floor, and vault.



2011 USAG All-Around and High Bar Champion Ty Evans

2012 Season Preview

2011 proved to be a special year for the Springfield College men's gymnastics team as it landed three national championships. **Ty Evans** became the first Springfield College gymnast to win the all-around crown since 1993, before going on to win the individual title on the high bar. **Jimmy Pezzino** also took home the national title in the floor exercise in just his second year under the direction of Head Coach **Steve Posner**, who was named USAG National Coach of the Year.

The team is returning plenty of talent as it looks to improve upon last year's success. **Ryan Ponce**, a sophomore, placed fifth at the USAG National Championships on still rings and qualified for the NCAA championships alongside Pezzino and Evans. **Garrett DeSantis**, who took home All-America honors on the high bar, will be a key part to the Pride's success in 2012, along with junior **Joe Carlson**, who was named ECAC-EIGL Most Improved Gymnast of the Year in 2011.

The History of Springfield College Gymnastics

Springfield College has a long and rich gymnastics tradition, which dates back to 1891. Today, the Pride is one of the top squads in the east.

James Naismith, the inventor of the game of basketball; Amos Alonzo Stagg, the grand old man of football; and Dr. Luther Gulick, father of U.S. physical education and recreation, are among those who have called themselves Springfield College gymnasts.

Springfield College gymnastics coaches have been pioneers in the sport. In 1921, Leslie Judd became the first full-time gymnastics coach and went on to create the world-famous "statuary of youths" that was later renamed "tableaux." For decades, tableaux have been

a trademark of the Springfield College gymnastics program. In 1939, Life magazine featured the tableaux in its January issue, while *International Gymnast* magazine profiled them in the December 2004 issue. Springfield College gymnasts have performed all over the world, and, in 1996, thrilled a sold-out Fleet Center crowd in Boston at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Frank Wolcott, who coached the team from 1955 to 1981, was a driving force behind initiating intercollegiate teams for both the men's and women's gymnastics programs. He is a past president of the National Gymnastics Coaches Association.