

***national
collegiate
championships***



1959

Championship History

The National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships originated in 1938 with individual championships contested in eight events.

Nine institutions representing the East, Midwest and Far West competed in the inaugural event, April 16, at the University of Chicago. The host institution won the first team title with a five-point margin over second-place Illinois.

Four of the five pre-war Championships were held at the University of Chicago and largely dominated by teams from the Midwest and the East.

With the resumption of the Championships following the war, there came a rebirth in the sport. The first post-war meet in 1948, held as a tryout for the final Olympic team, boasted entries from all eight of the NCAA geographical districts.

The interest shown in the 1948 meet resulted in the adoption of a plan by the NCAA Gymnastics Rules Committee to rotate the site in a different locale each year.

The Championships are conducted under the direction of the six-man NCAA Gymnastics Rules Committee composed of:

LYLE WELSER, Georgia Institute of Technology, *Chairman*
 JACOB G. GEIER, University of Nebraska
 ANTHONY ROSSI, Colorado State College
 OTTO E. RYSER, Indiana University
 EUGENE WETSTONE, Pennsylvania State University
 FRANK A. WOLCOTT, Springfield College

Seventeenth Annual Championships

University of California, Berkeley
 March 20-21, 1959

PHOTOGRAPH: Armando Vega, Pennsylvania State University, 1956 National Collegiate parallel bars champion and member of the United States Olympic team.

Championship Results

Year	Site	Champion	Pts.	Runner-Up	Pts.
1938	Chicago	Chicago	22	Illinois	18
1939	Chicago	Illinois	21	Army	17
1940	Chicago	Illinois	20	Navy	17
1941	Chicago	Illinois	68½	Minnesota	52½
1942	Navy	Illinois	39	Penn State	30
1943-47	No meets held				
1948	Chicago	Penn State	55	Temple	34½
1949	California	Temple	28	Minnesota	18
1950	Army	Illinois	26	Temple	25
1951	Michigan	Florida State	26	Illinois, U.S.C.	23½
1952	Colorado	Florida State	89½	U.S.C.	75
1953	Syracuse	Penn State	91½	Illinois	68
1954	Illinois	Penn State	137	Illinois	68
1955	U.C.L.A.	Illinois	82	Penn State	69
1956	North Carolina	Illinois	123½	Penn State	67½
1957	Navy	Penn State	88½	Illinois	80
1958	Michigan State	Mich. State, Ill.	79	Penn State	72½

Number of Team Championships

Illinois	8	Florida State	2	Michigan State	1
Penn State	4	Chicago	1	Temple	

NOTE: The above table includes co-championships.

Number of Individual Championships, All-Time

Illinois	32	Florida State	6	Iowa	3
Penn State	16	Kent State	6	Michigan	3
U.S.C.	10	Minnesota	5	California	2
Chicago	9	Army	5	Ohio State	2
Michigan State	7	Los Angeles State	4	Pittsburgh	2
Navy	7	Syracuse	4	Indiana	1
Temple	7	U.C.L.A.	4	Western Illinois	1

NOTE: The above table includes co-championships.

Number of Individual Championships, One Year

Six Titles	Two Titles
Penn State—1954	Florida State—1951, 1952, 1956
	Illinois—1948, 1952, 1956
Four Titles	Army—1938, 1939
Illinois—1940, 1941, 1958	Navy—1940, 1942
	Penn State—1953, 1956
Three Titles	Temple—1942, 1949
Chicago—1938, 1941	U.S.C.—1949, 1955
Illinois—1938, 1939	Kent State—1949
Kent State—1950	Minnesota—1941
Michigan State—1955	Syracuse—1950
Penn State—1948	U.C.L.A.—1955
U.S.C.—1952	

Repeat Champions

Three-Time
 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
 Trampoline—1949, 1950, 1951
 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
 Tumbling—1938, 1939, 1940
 All-around—1938, 1939, 1940

Two-Time
 Earl Shanken, Chicago
 Long horse—1940, 1941, 1942

Two-Time

Jack Beckner, U.S.C.
Parallel bars—1951, 1952
Erwin Beyer, Chicago
Side horse—1938, 1939
Norm Boardman, Temple
Horizontal bar—1940, 1942
Caton Cobb, Illinois
Side horse—1941, 1942
Jean Cronstedt, Penn State
All-around—1953, 1954
Parallel bars—1953, 1954
Thomas Darling, Pittsburgh
Flying rings—1937, 1938
Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
Rope climb—1948, 1949
Abie Grossfeld, Illinois
Horizontal bar—1957, 1958
Don Harper, Ohio State
Trampoline—1956, 1958

Most Individual Titles, One Year

Four Titles
Jean Cronstedt, Penn State, 1954
Parallel bars
Horizontal bar
Free exercise
All-around

Three Titles
Erwin Beyer, Chicago, 1938
Side horse
Parallel bars
Long horse
Joe Giallombardo, Illinois, 1938
Tumbling
Flying rings
All-around

Abie Grossfeld, Illinois, 1958
Horizontal bar
Free exercise
Joe Kotys, Kent State, 1950
Parallel bars
Horizontal bar
All-around

Carlton Rintz, Michigan State, 1955
Side horse
Horizontal bar
Parallel bars

Two Titles
Jack Beckner, U.S.C., 1952
Parallel bars
All-around

Most Individual Titles, Career

Seven Titles
Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
Tumbling—1938, 1939, 1940
All-around—1938, 1939, 1940
Flying rings—1938

Six Titles
Jean Cronstedt, Penn State
Parallel bars—1953, 1954
All-around—1953, 1954
Horizontal bar—1954
Free exercise—1954

Frank Halland, Illinois
Tumbling—1937, 1938
Joe Kotys, Kent State
Parallel bars—1949, 1950
All-around—1949, 1950
Leo Minotti, Syracuse
Rope climb—1950, 1951
Don Perry, U.C.L.A.
Rope climb—1953, 1954
Carlton Rintz, Michigan State
Side horse—1953, 1955
Garvin Smith, Los Angeles State
Rope climb—1957, 1958
Bob Sullivan, Illinois
Tumbling—1951, 1952
Charlie Thompson, California
Tumbling—1948, 1949
Armando Vega, Penn State
Parallel bars—1956, 1957

Caton Cobb, Illinois, 1941
Side horse
Parallel bars
Jean Cronstedt, Penn State, 1953
Parallel bars
All-around

Joe Giallombardo, Illinois, 1939, 1940
Tumbling
All-around
Joe Kotys, Kent State, 1949
Parallel bars
All-around

Bill Roetzheim, Florida State, 1951
Horizontal bar
All-around

Bob Sears, Army, 1938
Horizontal bar
Rope climb
Courtney Shanken, Chicago, 1941
All-around
Rope climb

Ray Sorenson, Penn State, 1948
Parallel bars
All-around

Armando Vega, Penn State, 1957
Parallel bars
All-around

Four Titles

Erwin Beyer, Chicago
Side horse—1938, 1939
Parallel bars—1938
Long horse—1938
Abie Grossfeld, Illinois
Horizontal bar—1957, 1958
Free exercise—1958
Carlton Rintz, Michigan State
Side horse—1953, 1955
Horizontal bar—1955
Parallel bars—1955

Three Titles

Jack Beckner, U.S.C.
Parallel bars—1951, 1952
All-around—1952
Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
Trampoline—1949, 1950, 1951
Caton Cobb, Illinois
Side horse—1941, 1942
Parallel bars—1941
Bob Sears, Army
Horizontal bar—1939
Horizontal bar—1938
Rope climb—1938
Earl Shanken, Chicago
Long horse—1940, 1941, 1942
Bob Sullivan, Illinois
Tumbling—1951, 1952
Free exercise—1953
Armando Vega, Penn State
Parallel bars—1956, 1957
All-around—1957

Rope Climb Record

2.8 secs., by Don Perry, U.C.L.A., April 3, 1954, Champaign, Illinois.

Coaches of Team Champions

1938 Dan Hoffer, Chicago
1939 Hartley Price, Florida State
1940 Hartley Price, Illinois
1941 Hartley Price, Illinois
1942 Hartley Price, Illinois
1948 Gene Wettstone, Penn State
1949 Max Younger, Temple
1950 Charley Pond, Illinois
1951 Hartley Price, Florida State

1952 Hartley Price, Florida State
1953 Gene Wettstone, Penn State
1954 Gene Wettstone, Penn State
1955 Charley Pond, Illinois
1956 Charley Pond, Illinois
1957 Gene Wettstone, Penn State
1958 Charley Pond, Illinois
George Szygula, Mich. State

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Illinois has never placed lower than third in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships. The Illini have won the national title eight times, placed second five times and third three times.

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Until 1958, individual competitors in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships had been able to repeat as champions in all events but the flying rings. Tom Darling, Pittsburgh, broke that jinx by winning both the 1957 and 1958 flying ring titles.

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The tie between Michigan State and Illinois for the 1958 National Collegiate Gymnastics Championship is the first such deadlock in the 16-year history of this competition.

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Ohio State's Don Harper in 1956 won the National Collegiate trampoline title, at North Carolina, then hurried on to Yale University where he won the three-meter diving title in the National Collegiate Swimming Championships. In 1958, Harper improved upon his feat, but lessened his travel. He won the trampoline title at Michigan State University, then took both the one and three-meter diving championships at Michigan.

1958 Championships

(Results of 16th annual meet, Michigan State University, April 11-12)

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Free Exercise

1. Abie Grossfeld, Illinois, 89
2. Dick Becker, Michigan State, 88.5
3. Chick Cicio, Florida State, 88
4. Staffan Carlsson, Iowa, 86.5
5. Jay Werner, Penn State, 83.5
6. Larry Malmelin, Florida State, 83
7. Lee Cunningham, Penn State, 82.5
8. Frank Hailand, Illinois, 80.5
9. Ted Segura, Iowa, 77.5
10. Nino Marion, Michigan, 75.5

Trampoline

1. Don Harper, Ohio State, 90.5
2. Glenn Wilson, Western Illinois, 88.5
3. Ed Cole, Michigan, 86.5
4. John McCurdy, Iowa, 83.5
5. Ted Bogios, San Jose, 83.5
6. Dick Kimball, Michigan, 83.5
7. Nat Smith, Ohio State, 80.5
8. Bob Justice, Iowa, 79.5
9. Frank Hailand, Illinois, 79.5
10. Charles Clarkson, Michigan, 78.5

Flying Rings

1. Tom Darling, Pittsburgh, 93.5
2. Jay Werner, Penn State, 90
3. Bill Giallourakis, Army, 87
4. Dave Klages, U.S.C., 85
5. Edwin Sidwell, Penn State, 84.5
6. Lowe Byrnes, I.A. State, 83.5
7. Joseph Ray, Temple, 82.5
8. Raymond Cook, Michigan State, 81
9. Gordon Farley, Colorado, 78.5
10. Mike Walters, Illinois, 78.5

Parallel Bars

1. Tad Muzyczko, Michigan State, 92
2. Abie Grossfeld, Illinois, 89.5
3. Gar O'Quinn, Army, 89
4. Staffan Carlsson, Iowa, 86.5
5. Robert Focht, Penn State, 86
6. Ted Segura, Iowa, 85
7. Cal Girard, Michigan State, 84
8. Heinz Briegel, Massachusetts, 81.5
9. Russ Paul, Michigan State, 80
10. Jim Hayslett, Michigan, 62.5

All-Around

1. Abie Grossfeld, Illinois, 511.0
2. Tad Muzyczko, Mich. State, 499.0
3. Cal Girard, Michigan State, 486.5
4. Lee Cunningham, Penn State, 471.0
5. Jim Hayslett, Michigan, 470.0
6. Nino Marion, Michigan, 469.5
7. Staffan Carlsson, Iowa, 463.0
8. Heinz Briegel, Massachusetts, 461.0
9. Larry Malmelin, Florida State, 452.5
10. Ted Segura, Iowa, 450.0

1958 TEAM STANDINGS: 1—(tie) Michigan State and Illinois, 79; 2—Penn State, 72½; 3—Iowa, 49½; 4—Florida State, 49; 5—Michigan, 30½; 6—Army, 27½; 7—Pittsburgh, 23½; 8—Western Illinois, 23; 9—California Poly, 8½; 10—Ohio State, 19; 11—Los Angeles State, 16; 12—U.S.C., 14; 13—California Poly, 8½; 14—Indiana, 8; 15—Navy, 7; 16—(tie) Massachusetts and San Jose State, 6; 18—(tie) Nebraska and Temple, 4; 20—Chicago, 2; 21—Colorado, 1½.

All-Time Individual Champions

1955 Don Faber, U.C.L.A.
1956 Jamile Ashmore, Florida State
1957 Norman Marks, Los Angeles State
1958 Abie Grossfeld, Illinois

Horizontal Bar

1938 Bob Sears, Army
1939 Adam Walters, Temple
1940 Norm Boardman, Temple
1941 Newt Loken, Minnesota
1942 Norm Boardman, Temple
1943 Joe Calvert, Illinois
1944 Joe Calvert, Illinois
1945 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
1946 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
1947 Bill Roetzheim, Florida State
1948 Charles Simmons, U.S.C.
1949 Hal Lewis, Navy
1950 Jean Cronstedt, Penn State
1951 Carlton Rintz, Michigan State
1952 Ronnie Amster, Florida State
1953 Abie Grossfeld, Illinois
1954 Abie Grossfeld, Illinois

Flying Rings

1938 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1939 Ron Hall, U.S.C.
1940 Bill Butler, Navy
1941 Del Dady, Minnesota
1942 Jim Parker, Navy
1943 George Hayes, Temple
1944 Jerry Todd, U.S.C.
1945 Bob Schneider, Navy
1946 Mel Stout, Michigan State
1947 Jack Sharp, Florida State
1948 Ken Bartlett, Minnesota
1949 Manuel Procopio, Penn State
1950 George Wiktor, U.S.C.
1951 Fred Hoerner, Navy
1952 Thomas Darling, Pittsburgh
1953 Thomas Darling, Pittsburgh
1954 Thomas Darling, Pittsburgh

Long Horse

1938 Erwin Beyer, Chicago
1939 Mary Forman, Illinois
1940 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1941 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1942 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1943 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1944 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1945 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1946 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1947 Earl Shanken, Chicago
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1952 Earl Shanken, Chicago
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1957 Earl Shanken, Chicago
1958 Earl Shanken, Chicago

Trampoline

1948 Gay Hughes, Illinois
1949 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1950 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1951 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1952 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1953 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1954 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1955 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1956 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1957 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan
1958 Edsel Buchanan, Michigan

Rope Climb

1938 Bob Sears, Army
1939 Ray Belardi, Army
1940 Stan Ellison, Navy
1941 Courtney Shanken, Chicago
1942 Dale Cox, Navy
1943 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1944 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1945 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
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1949 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1950 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1951 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1952 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1953 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1954 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1955 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1956 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1957 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.
1958 Ken Foreman, U.S.C.

Side Horse

1938 Erwin Beyer, Chicago
1939 Erwin Beyer, Chicago
1940 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois
1941 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois
1942 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois
1943 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois
1944 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois
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1958 Harry Koehnemann, Illinois

Tumbling

1938 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1939 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1940 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1941 John Adkins, Illinois
1942 George Szypula, Temple
1943 Charlie Thompson, California
1944 Charlie Thompson, California
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1958 Charlie Thompson, California

Parallel Bars

1938 Erwin Beyer, Chicago
1939 Bob Sears, Army
1940 Bob Hanning, Minnesota
1941 Caton Cobb, Illinois
1942 Hal Zimmerman, Penn State
1943 Ray Sorenson, Penn State
1944 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
1945 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
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1954 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
1955 Joe Kotsy, Kent State
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1958 Joe Kotsy, Kent State

All-Around

1938 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1939 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1940 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1941 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1942 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1943 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
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1955 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1956 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1957 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois
1958 Joe Giallombardo, Illinois

Free Exercise

1941 Lou Fina, Illinois
1953 Bob Sullivan, Illinois
1954 Jean Cronstedt, Penn State