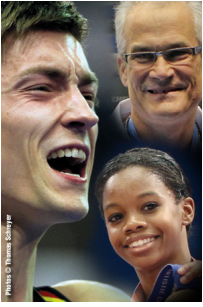


Written by Dwight Normile
Friday, 30 December 2011 13:00



As the year comes to a close, we instinctively recap the previous 12 months. The highs, the lows ... the quirky. 2011 was definitely memorable for gymnastics, but instead of another year in review, I have culled an eclectic collection of quotes from the last 10 issues of *International Gymnast*. Some are long, others short, but all, I believe, are worth repeating here. Happy New Year.

January-February

"Her father has a very rough nature. When she goes to compete, he says, 'Aliya, tear them apart!'"

Alexander Alexandrov, on Aliya Mustafina in "The Mustafina Mystique"

March

"I love the challenges, the preciseness, the dancing on floor, the sharpness on beam. I just love gymnastics."

Gabrielle Douglas, in "The Great Gabby"

April

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"I am shocked, and am still shocked that I won [Elite Canada]."

Peng-Peng Lee, in her interview

May

"We are two members of the German national team. He's not my best friend, but we accept each other."

Philipp Boy, on Fabian Hambüchen, in his interview

June

"We deleted her results and sent her back to Vietnam immediately. She was absolutely not guilty, in my opinion."

Dr. Michel Leglise, President of FIG Medical and Anti-Doping Commission, on Do Thi Ngan Thuong, her country's first gymnastics Olympian, who tested positive for furosemide, in "10 Questions With..."

July-August

"I am going to quit [coaching] gymnastics when I can't do it anymore. But as long as the motor is running, I'm going to continue. Quite frankly, I don't really care what people think about me, because I have the official results to speak for me."

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Leonid Arkayev, former USSR and Russian head coach, when asked how he would like to be remembered, in his Hall of Fame interview

September

"I think we push each other, and in a weird way, I'm kind of happy about the outcome of this meet. I wanted to be three-time champion, but for him to do what he did ... he had such a passion, such a heart to come out here and beat me, and that's kind of flattering."

Jonathan Horton, on placing second to Danell Leyva at the Visa championships

October

"Nobody argues with me. Never, ever, I guarantee it. This is the only way it has to be in gymnastics. You can speak, you can talk. But once you start arguing, you're going down."

"Look at the Japanese guys; that's when they [declined]. Before, the coaches were like gods for them. And now again they work like horses day in and day out, and they never open their mouth. So much respect for their coaches. It's as simple as that."

Valeri Liukin, in "Sky's the Limit," (profile on Katelyn Ohashi)

November

"I remember hearing (Tennessee basketball coach) Pat Summitt say, that as coaches, we compete in front of crowds we deserve, and that really hit home with me."

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Sarah Patterson, Alabama coach, on who has influenced her, in "10 Questions With..."

December

"We took difficulty out of her routines for worlds. ... If it's consistently going to lose more than it's worth, we don't do it. We're not going to rely on adrenaline in the moment."

John Geddert, coach of world champion Jordyn Wieber, in his interview