

The 2024 Naseeruddin-Natalie N2 Award Presentation

May 11, 2024

Volusia County Ocean Center

Hosted by USA Gymnastics Development Program
National Championships



Presented by
GymACT and
Syed A Naseeruddin, MD

BACKGROUND

The Naseeruddin-Natalie N2 award was initiated during the 2017-2018 season, when the founding physicians realized that there was a lack of recognition given to the accomplishments of an outstanding senior GymACT gymnast. These amazing athletes are ineligible for consideration for the Nissen-Emery award, which is reserved for varsity level athletes. GymACT has not been invited to attend or participate in NCAA Championship level award recognitions.

With the formation of GymACT in 2018, an outstanding Senior GymACT Gymnast trophy was finally able to be awarded. This trophy is on par with NCAA Gymnastics' highest honor, the Nissen-Emery Award, which has been presented annually to the outstanding Senior NCAA Collegiate Gymnast since 1966.

The Naseeruddin-Natalie Award, also called the N2 Award, honors the GymACT senior gymnast who has established an outstanding record of academic and athletic achievement during his college career. In addition, it recognizes sportsmanship, community service, leadership or overcoming an adversity while maintaining his outstanding performance. More than simply an award for gymnastics excellence, the winner must also meet these qualifications:

- He must be an example of good sportsmanship and fair play...a champion in defeat as well as in victory.
- He should maintain a high standard of scholarship throughout his collegiate career with at least a B average.
- He MAY have suffered an adversity or personal tragedy which he has managed to overcome without impacting his athletic performance.
- He MAY have served as a leader either within or outside of gymnastics.
- He MAY have served as a champion of gymnastics, working within the community or with youth to keep the sport of gymnastics vibrant and vital, spurring grassroots growth.

2024 Finalists

Dyson Adsit

University of Colorado Boulder Rocky Mountain Mavericks



Dyson is a natural motivator and leader in the gymnastics community. He emphasizes the importance of balance between academics, social life, and athletics. During his college years, he played a crucial role in revitalizing the Colorado Boulder Club team, increasing participation and exposure through innovative methods like showcasing gymnastics at school events. He also

tackled challenges such as gaining approval to use the CU Boulder logo on team apparel. As a team captain, he focused on team culture and development, rebranding the team to the Mavericks and fostering camaraderie. In his senior year, Dyson focused on ensuring the team's continuity by improving social media presence and establishing traditions like "Tabor Time" and "Maverick Mondays." His individual excellence in gymnastics raised the team's performance standards, leading them back to competitive NCAA-level meets. Throughout his tenure, Dyson set high standards for athletes and worked to ensure the team's success both on and off the mat.

Dyson's perspective as an athlete pivots on the issue of burnout among athletes. Having experienced it himself, he emphasizes the importance of balance in life, not just in gymnastics but also in academics and social aspects. He aims to inspire others who, like him, struggled with maintaining a passion for the sport due to pressures and limitations. By rekindling his own love for gymnastics as a leader on the Rocky Mountain team, he seeks to spread the message that success in gymnastics doesn't require it to be one's entire life. Instead, finding equilibrium between various facets of life can lead to a fulfilling college experience and a deeper appreciation for the sport. Dyson's mission is to leave a lasting impact by encouraging athletes to prioritize balance and well-being throughout their gymnastics journey. Dyson will be obtaining his degree in Finance and Leadership Management from the Leeds School of Business with a 3.51 GPA.

Marshall Burrows

Utah State University Rocky Mountain Mavericks



Marshall has made significant contributions to the gymnastics community at Utah State University (USU) and beyond, serving as an officer for the USU Club Gymnastics for three years, including a term as co-president. Under his leadership, the club grew in both membership and skill level, achieving financial stability through

fundraisers and fostering collaboration with the USU women's NCAA gymnastics program. Marshall facilitated access to high-quality equipment and the on-campus varsity gym for club athletes, and organized travel to regional and national competitions.

In addition to his involvement in club gymnastics, Marshall joined the broadcast team for the USU women's NCAA gymnastics team, providing engaging commentary for home meets and earning praise from coaches for his work. He also excels as a gymnast himself, serving as captain for the Utah side of the Rocky Mountain Mavericks (RMM) team and demonstrating leadership through his consistent performance and adaptability in competition.

Outside of gymnastics, Marshall excels academically, contributing to research projects focusing on age-related macular degeneration and lab-grown meat production. He is actively involved in mentoring fellow students, serving as a teaching assistant for multiple classes and providing technical writing consultations. Marshall's dedication to education and leadership extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his involvement in mentoring and guiding underclassmen in research projects.

Furthermore, Marshall recently passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, marking a significant milestone on his path toward becoming a licensed professional engineer. Overall, Marshall exemplifies dedication, leadership, and excellence in both academic and extracurricular pursuits. Marshall will be obtaining his degree in Biological Engineering with a GPA of 3.99.

Clayton Ward Cunningham

Arizona State University Men's Gymnastics



Clayton exemplifies academic excellence, graduating in just 3.5 years, earning a degree in Business. His stellar performance has attracted the attention of Edward Jones, where he's being actively pursued for a significant role within the company.

As a distinguished athlete, Clayton boasts a remarkable record as a 3-time All-American on the pommel horse at GymACT Nationals. Now, he's aiming to clinch his 4th consecutive title, showcasing his unparalleled dedication and skill in gymnastics.

Clayton's journey is one of resilience and determination. Despite facing significant hurdles, including a torn ligament in his hand during his freshman year, necessitating surgery, and a harrowing battle with pneumonia that landed him in the ICU for 5 days during his junior year, Clayton refused to be defeated. His unwavering spirit propelled him to achieve All-American status each year.

Alongside his academic and athletic pursuits, Clayton demonstrated entrepreneurial flair by establishing a gymnastics apparel line and supporting his team through modeling work, illustrating his multifaceted talents and commitment.

As Team Captain in his senior year, Clayton emerged as a beacon of leadership, commanding respect, and admiration from his peers. His quiet strength and guidance were instrumental in fostering a cohesive and motivated team environment, setting a shining example for all.

Clayton's impact extends beyond the gym, as he dedicated countless hours to advocating for the preservation of the team amidst administrative challenges. Through his adept negotiation skills and ability to build meaningful relationships, Clayton successfully navigated discussions with school administrators, securing the team's future and leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come. Clayton will be obtaining his Business degree with a 3.7 GPA.

Alexander Efstratios Skalkos

Temple University Men's Gymnastics



In Alex's freshman year, adversity struck hard as he tore his ACL while executing a daring triple full on the floor. The abrupt end to his season in February 2021 was just the beginning of a grueling journey back to competition. However, Alex's determination and resilience shone brightly throughout his recovery. By the time he returned as a sophomore, not only had he regained his form, but he had also elevated his game, adding a remarkable 1.1 difficulty to his parallel bars routine, a testament to his unwavering dedication and

hard work. It was no surprise when he clinched the "Comeback of the Year" award, a well-deserved recognition of his triumphant return to the sport.

Even before his injury, Alex was a pivotal figure within the team, exemplifying commitment and teamwork in every aspect. Whether it was assisting with equipment moves or leading by example during training sessions, Alex's presence was felt both on and off the mat.

His sophomore and junior years saw Alex's star continue to rise as he secured his place as a 2-time GymACT East All-Star, showcasing his skills on the rings with finesse and precision. But it wasn't just his performance that set him apart; Alex's natural leadership qualities earned him the roles of team co-captain and club president, positions bestowed upon him by his peers in recognition of his invaluable contributions.

Alex's work ethic is legendary within the team, earning him the title of "Hardest Worker" in 2023. Whether it's being the first one to arrive and the last one to leave training sessions or pushing himself and his teammates to their limits, Alex leads by example with humility and dedication. His achievements speak volumes, from winning GymACT Gymnast of the Week during the Eastern Conference Championship to holding the highest start value on parallel bars since the rule changes in 2017. Alex's journey is not just one of personal triumph but also a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and leadership in overcoming adversity and achieving greatness. Alex will be obtaining his Real Estate Management degree from the Fox School of Business with a 2.9 GPA.

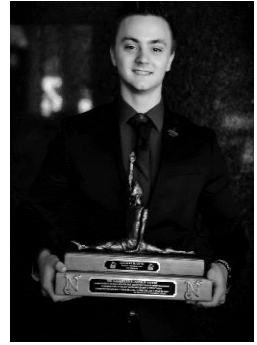
Previous Recipients of the N2 Award



2019 Recipient
Nathan Tsuji
University of
Washington



2020 Recipient
James Marden
University of
Illinois at Chicago



2021 Recipient
Zachary Cipra
Northern Illinois
University



2022 Recipient
Evan Davis
University of
Iowa



2023 Recipient
Jacob Biller
Temple
University



Dr Syed Naseeruddin, started his career in gymnastics photography after being sidelined with a back injury in 1984. He has been attending meets and documenting gymnastics history ever since. He obtained both a master's degree in Molecular Biology and his Doctorate degree in Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia; this was followed by a career in the US Air Force. He completed a Family Medicine residency followed by a Sports Medicine Fellowship in 2008. He continues to support gymnastics

through his photography and philanthropy. He is Chairman of the N2 Fund Board and is the past Board Chairman of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians. He currently practices Emergency Medicine while serving on the American Academy of Family Physicians Commission on Membership and Congress of Delegates..



Dr James Natalie III had an illustrious career in gymnastics, graduating from The Ohio State University in 2001 where he was coached by Miles Avery. He has been a two-time All-Around NCAA champion and is the **2001 Nissen-Emery award recipient**. He was also an alternate member of the 2000 Olympic team. He retired from gymnastics in 2001 and entered medical school, graduating from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 2005. He completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and currently

resides in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and 3 sons.

The trophy was sculpted by **Ginger Nunamaker** of Center Stage Sculptures, based in Oak Ridge, TN. The trophy is modeled after a composite of Mr. **Austin Epperson**, a 2017 graduate of the University of Nebraska, and Mr. **Colin Van Wicklen**, a 2017 graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Both models were photographed by Dr. Naseeruddin.

***“A WARRIOR DOES NOT GIVE UP WHAT HE LOVES,
HE FINDS THE LOVE IN WHAT HE DOES”***

DAN MILLMAN, WAY OF THE PEACEFUL WARRIOR