



photos by Corynne Hogan

World class trampolinist, junior Sean Sargent, practices his overseas competition trampoline routine at Kids First Sports Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, October 8.

DEFYING GRAVITY

Junior Sean Sargent reaches new heights in an unusual sport

James Nosek | Staff Writer

All junior Sean Sargent could do was look ahead. Literally, at the double mini trampoline which stood before him, but also mentally at the “rudi-out-pike,” that he said he was about to perform during his trampoline and tumbling practice. Standing tall, flexing his hands, Sargent said he kept his eyes glued on the structure, then suddenly put his head down and started sprinting. As the world class gymnast approached the slanted side of the double mini, a type of a miniature trampoline, he jumped; bouncing almost 10 feet in the air as he flipped two times to come back down and do one and a half more full body twists. Sargent just performed a move that is an 803 on the FIG shorthand rating, making it one of the hardest trampoline moves based on the scale.

According to Sargent’s head coach, Steve Anderson, a former world competitive gymnast himself, he wasn’t satisfied, “Somebody impress me, please,” Anderson said. The only thing Sargent said he could do in response was smile as he headed back to the start to get

more repetitions in.

This is a normal Saturday, Sargent said, which means he wakes up early for the nine o’clock, three hour practice for the Queen City Trampoline and Tumbling Program a part of Kid’s First Sports Center.

Sargent said ever since he was a little kid, Queen City has been his “second home” because of how much time he has spent there between his mom, Annette Sargent, who is a coach, and his two older brothers who were Queen City gymnasts themselves. Sargent said that this was one reason he got into the sport at an early age of six, because of the constant notion of being in the gym and watching his brothers.

For over 13 years Anderson has been his coach and Sargent said he owes a lot to him for the help in the sport but also in life; he considers him almost as a second father.

Anderson said that he is proud of Sargent’s growth as an athlete and sees a little of himself in Sean.

“It is a real honor to see Sean earn his way,” Ander-

son said. “I went to New Zealand [a part] of the US National Team in 1992, I’ve already been there before [and] that’s the neat part about seeing Sean do it, it’s gratifying.”

Towards the end of practice Sargent said he started to work on his routine that he would be performing in a month at the World Age Group Championships in Birmingham, England. For the individual trampoline competition, competitors are required to do two “heats,” the first run containing 10 skill requirements and the second, being a “freestyle,” run.

In Birmingham, Sargent said he will be competing in two other events besides the individual trampoline: synchronized trampoline, a trampoline event rated by the unity of two partners, and the double mini, which is a two skill event on smaller trampoline.

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