

GENERAL INFORMATION

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2009 SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Opponent/Event	Location	Time
Fri.	Jan. 9	KENT STATE	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 17	at Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.
Fri.	Jan. 23	DENVER & NC STATE	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 31	at West Virginia with George Washington & Rutgers	Morgantown, W. Va.	7 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 7	at Governor's Cup	Raleigh, N.C.	6 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 13	at Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.	7 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 15	at Kent State with Central Michigan	Kent, Ohio	1 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 20	NEW HAMPSHIRE	College Park, Md.	6 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 28	at Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	7 p.m.
Fri.	Mar. 6	NORTH CAROLINA & TEMPLE	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.
Wed.	Mar. 11	PITTSBURGH	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 14	ARIZONA, PENN STATE & YALE	College Park, Md.	4 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 21	EAGL Championships	Raleigh, N.C.	3 p.m.
Sat.	Apr. 4	NCAA Regionals	TBA	TBA
Thu.-Sat.	Apr. 16-18	NCAA National Championships	Lincoln, Neb.	TBA

Home meets are in **BOLD CAPS** and are held in the Comcast Center Pavilion.

All times are Eastern Standard

QUICK FACTS

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Location: College Park, Md.
Founded: 1856
Enrollment: 36,014
President: Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr. (California, '59)
Athletics Director: Deborah A. Yow (Elon, '74)
Nickname: Terrapins, Terps
Colors: Red, White, Black and Gold
Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Conference: East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL)
Home Facility: Comcast Center Pavilion (1,500)

GYMNASTICS INFORMATION

Head Coach: Bob Nelligan (Massachusetts, '72)
Nelligan's Career Record: 478-426-4 (30 seasons)
Nelligan's Record at Maryland: Same
Associate Head Coach/Recruiting Coordinator: Brett Nelligan (6th year)
Assistant Coach: Vicki Chliszczyk (4th year)
All-Time Program Record: 500-442-5 (33 years)
All-Time EAGL Record: 52-61 (13 years)
2008 Overall Record: 11-18
2008 EAGL Regular Season: 3-8
2008 EAGL Championships Finish: 5th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/2

MEDIA RELATIONS INFORMATION

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MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

The 2009 Maryland gymnastics media guide was written by Matt Bixenstine of the Athletic Media Relations Department. Editing by Doug Dull, Michael Lipitz, Joey Flyntz and Vicki Chliszczyk. Design and layout by Patrick Fischer, Publications Coordinator/Assistant Director of Media Relations. Cover design by John Schaffhauser. Photography by Greg Fiume, Lawrence French, Tony Quinn and Martin Reifschneider. Printing by Multi-Ad.

Additional copies of this media guide can be purchased for \$10, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling, by writing the Athletic Media Relations Office, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742, or by calling 301-314-7064.



THIS IS MARYLAND



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SPORTS

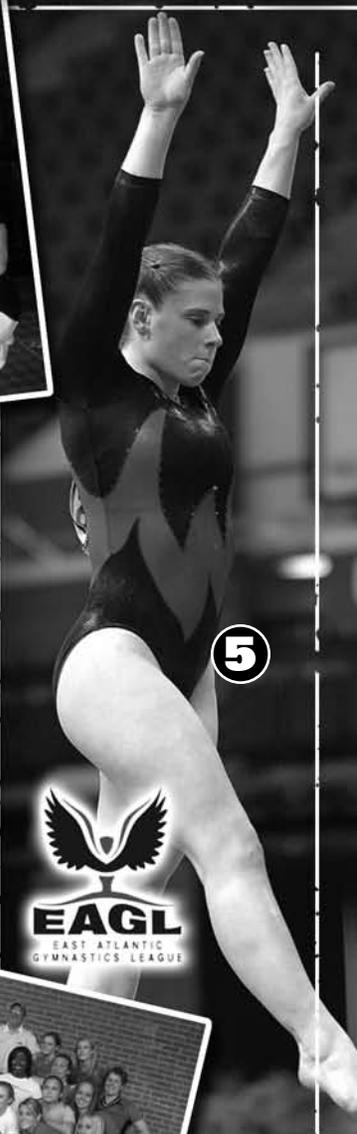
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TEAM

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Gymnastics

GYMNASTICS



4



FAN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

1 :: The Terrapin gymnastics team enjoys spending time with fans and especially signing autographs for aspiring gymnasts at post-meet get-togethers.

TRAVELING IN STYLE

2 :: The Terps gymnastics team travels to and from meets within driving distance in style in the luxury of the University of Maryland buses.

END OF AN ERA

3 :: The 2009 season will mark the end of a successful era for Maryland gymnastics. Head coach Bob Nelligan announced last summer that he will be retiring after this, his 31st season at the helm of the Terrapin program.

TERRAPIN GYMNASTICS: IT'S NOT A PROGRAM, IT'S A FAMILY

4 :: Unity is the key to the success of a team. Maryland gymnastics is not just your average collegiate program. It's a family, from the coaching staff to the student-athletes to alumnae. Once a Terp ... Always a Terp!

EAGL HONORS

5 :: The Maryland gymnastics program has earned its share of conference awards since helping form the East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) in 1995. Head coach Bob Nelligan was named the league's coach of the year in 1999 and four Terps have been named the EAGL's Outstanding Rookie Gymnast. Perhaps even more impressive is that Maryland gymnasts have been named the EAGL's Scholar Athlete of the Year five times, including Gretchen Kittelberger in 2008.



THIS IS MARYLAND



2009
SENIOR CLASS



2009
JUNIOR CLASS



2009
SOPHOMORE CLASS



2009
FRESHMAN CLASS

27

SPORTS

1

TEAM

W
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Gymnastics

GYMNASTICS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Terrapin gymnasts give back to their community by participating in a variety of community service projects throughout the year.

DURING RECENT SEASONS THE TERPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH:

- Making Strides for Breast Cancer
- Relay for Life
- "I Love to Read Week" at Bel Pre Elementary School in Silver Spring, Md.
- The Maryland Student-Athlete Advisory Council's canned food drive.
- Lance Armstrong 50-mile bike ride "Tour of Hope"
- Outback 5k walk
- Big Brother/Big Sister fundraiser
- Inauguration of new health program at HLHP
- "Motion Lessons" to first grade students at Capitol Hill Elementary
- "Recess by the River" with the American Heart & Stroke Association



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND **NO BETTER**



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SPORTS

1

TEAM



MARYLAND PLACE TO BE



There is no better place to be than the University of Maryland, College Park. With its top-ranked academic programs, nationally recognized faculty, diverse population, and lush 1,580-acre campus located between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., it's no wonder the University of Maryland is a sought-after destination for some of the state's — and the country's — best and brightest students.

Attracting them are some 127 majors and some of the highest-ranked programs in the country. As of 2007, 86 programs rank in the top 25 nationally and a school-record 31 programs were in the top 10 in the latest U.S. News & World Report undergraduate ranking of top public universities.

Specifically, the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business was ranked 21st, while the Clark School of Engineering was ranked 25th. In graduate school rankings, the College of Education, the Clark School of Engineering, the College of Information Studies and the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences each had specialties listed among the top 25 in the nation.

High-tech, engineering, and service industries thrive in close proximity to the campus, offering a wide spectrum of internships, work-study opportunities and career choices for students. And, the campus is surrounded by the dynamic cultural opportunities that only a major metropolitan area can provide.

Whether your focus is the sciences or the humanities, a small-town atmosphere or a metropolitan feel, the University of Maryland offers a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities.

There truly is no better place to be than the University of Maryland, College Park.

TESTUDO: TALE OF THE TOP SHELL

Testudo is Maryland's one-of-a-kind mascot ... a Diamondback turtle, native to the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. H.C. Byrd, the legendary football coach who later became University President, recommended the Diamondback as mascot in 1932 in response to the student newspaper's search for an "official" leader. The school paper was in fact already called The Diamondback.

The Class of 1933 gave as its graduation gift a permanent bronzed version that presides over McKeldin Mall to this day. In 1935, the student yearbook, The Reveille, changed its name to The Terrapin. Newspapers quickly shortened Terrapin to Terp for headline writing ease and the name was here to stay.





SEASON OUTLOOK

JUNIOR-LADEN SQUAD HOPES TO BUILD OFF LATE-SEASON MOMENTUM

Head coach **Bob Nelligan** enters his 31st and final season at the helm of the Maryland gymnastics program well-aware of the talent his battle-tested squad possesses heading into its 2009 campaign.

Nelligan, who recently announced his intentions to retire following the 2009 season, watched his young squad develop steadily throughout last season, peaking at just the right time to accumulate each of its team-high event scores during the decisive month of March. That late-season success culminated with an improved finish at the 2008 EAGL Championships on March 29 and a strong showing by four individuals qualifiers at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships two weeks later.

Now the longtime coach and his staff hope that momentum carries over to the 2009 season, which features a junior-laden squad and somewhat lofty expectations as Nelligan prepares to pass the proverbial head coaching torch to his son, associate head coach **Brett Nelligan**.

"We learned a lot about ourselves from our performance near the end of last season, and we have the talent and depth to go far this year," Bob Nelligan said. "I look forward to seeing what this team is capable of accomplishing because we set high expectations for ourselves."

The Terps' 2009 squad is comprised of just one senior, co-captain **Kelsey Nelligan**, who is Bob's daughter and Brett's sister. However, the team has its share of experienced upperclassmen, as it returns 10 letterwinners from a year ago. Six of those returnees are juniors in co-captain **Brandi George**, **Michele Brenner**, **Allie Dama**, **Candice King**, **Margaux Meeks** and **Talia Tossone**.

Following an impressive collective effort in 2008, that junior class is expected to provide leadership for Maryland during the 2009 season. Brenner (floor exercise), Dama (uneven bars), George (all-around) and Tossone (balance beam) each represented the Terrapins in regional competition in Gainesville, Fla., hitting seven-for-seven routines.



BRANDI GEORGE

The same quartet also achieved first team All-EAGL status in their respective specialty events, with George claiming first team honors for all-around and balance beam, as well as second team for vault, uneven bars and floor exercise. George's vault score of 9.850 during the EAGL Championships tied for the 15th-best in school history.

"That class has been producing standout performers for us ever since they arrived on campus," Bob Nelligan said. "They form the core of our team, and we expect continued success from them this season."

One year behind the Terps juniors, another class stands poised for breakout seasons following productive freshmen campaigns. Sophomores **Abbey Adams**, **Kaitlin Joseph**, **Kelsey McDermid**, **Lisa Reifschneider** and **Alyssa Valbert** each had their moments in 2008 and will be called upon for greater contributions during the upcoming season.

A pair of newcomers, **Becca Pang** (Honolulu, Hawaii) and **Kyra Phillips** (Murrieta, Calif.) represent the Terps' freshman class. Both demonstrated their potential during the 2008 Junior



TALIA TOSSONE

Olympic National Championships in June, placing in the nation's top-20 in multiple events at the weekend-long meet in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Recruiting has become the single biggest factor in evaluating the growth and, ultimately, the success of a program," Bob Nelligan said. "My staff and I have been fortunate enough to have secured some of the best recruits in the nation, and this year is no exception."

Brett Nelligan and assistant coach **Vicki Chlisczyk** return for their sixth and fourth seasons, respectively, with the Maryland staff. While Brett Nelligan undergoes preparation for assuming head coaching duties following the season, Chlisczyk continues to specialize in teaching balance beam, while also assisting with other events, routine construction and spotting, among various other duties.

"Brett and Vicki are both great technicians and are important to the success of our program," Bob Nelligan said. "I have a tremendous amount of confidence in both of them."

Suzanne Moreland and **Kilee Tafinger** represent two recent additions to the Maryland gymnastics staff. Moreland, the former Suzanne Sears, was a member of two NCAA Championship teams at Georgia and was a six-time All-America. She enters her first season as a volunteer assistant coach for the Terps. Tafinger serves as the team's strength and conditioning coach, having previously occupied similar roles at Louisville and Ball State. Both bring experience, enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the Terrapins.

The Terps must replace departed seniors **Lindsey Bonomo** and **Gretchen Kittelberger**. Bonomo competed in 18 events during the course of last season, and Kittelberger, who garnered Academic All-America and EAGL Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors in 2008, was a solid performer on vault and balance beam and floor exercise throughout her career.

The Terps are slated to play host to six home meets during the 2009 campaign, including a regular season finale quad meet on March 14 versus Yale, Penn State and Arizona – the latter two of whom finished among the top-25 in the final 2008 national rankings.

In all, Maryland will participate in a dozen challenging meets prior to the EAGL Championships scheduled for March 21 at NC State.

"I am speaking for the staff and athletes when I say that we have a challenging schedule and believe that we will be up to the task this season," Bob Nelligan said.

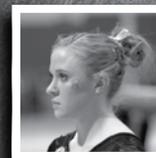
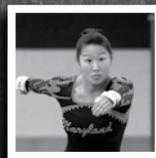
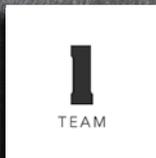
Following the annual 'Red vs. Black' intra-squad meet near the end of the 2008 calendar year, the Terps kick off the upcoming season with a home meet against Kent State on Jan. 9 before taking to the road to face nationally-ranked Ohio State on Jan. 17.

A home meet with fellow EAGL member NC State and Denver on Jan. 23 precedes a quad meet on Jan. 31 hosted by reigning EAGL champion West Virginia.

The 14th annual Governor's Cup, which pits Maryland and Towson against NC State and North Carolina in a battle for state bragging rights, will be held Feb. 7 in Raleigh, N.C. That meet begins a stretch in which the Terps participate in three road meets in a span of nine days, also competing against Pittsburgh, Kent State and Central Michigan during that span.

Maryland returns to College Park for a meet against New Hampshire on Feb. 20 before traveling westward to face Iowa on Feb. 28. Home meets with Temple and league opponents North Carolina and Pittsburgh are on tap before the Terps wrap up their regular season with the highly-anticipated March 14 home quad meet.

Following the completion of the regular season, Maryland will travel to Raleigh, N.C., for the 14th annual EAGL Championships on Saturday, March 21. The Terps then hope to qualify to compete at one of the six NCAA Regional Championships sites on April 4, and subsequently advance to the NCAA Championships at the University of Nebraska on April 16-18.



ROSTER INFORMATION

Name	Hgt.	Event	Class	Hometown (High School)
Abbey Adams	5-3	All-Around	So.	Spring, Texas (Klein)
Michele Brenner	5-1	All-Around	Jr.	New City, N.Y (Clarkstown)
Allie Dama	5-2	All-Around	Jr.	Lansing, Mich. (J.W. Sexton)
Brandi George	5-3	All-Around	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (William R. Boone)
Kaitlin Joseph	5-2	All-Around	So.	Grand Rapids, Mich. (Forest Hills Northern)
Candice King	5-8	All-Around	Jr.	Plano, Texas (Spring Creek Academy)
Kelsey McDermid	5-3	All-Around	So.	Seattle, Wash. (Gleneig)
Margaux Meeks	5-4	All-Around	Jr.	Winter Garden, Fla. (Dr. Phillips)
Kelsey Nelligan	5-1	All-Around	Sr.	College Park, Md. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
Becca Pang	5-1	All-Around	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii (Punahou)
Kyra Phillips	5-6	All-Around	Fr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Linfield Christian)
Lisa Reifschneider	5-1	All-Around	R-So.	Monrovia, Md. (Urbana)
Talia Tossone	4-10	All-Around	Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va. (Kellam)
Alyssa Valbert	5-1	All-Around	So.	Oswego, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)

COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach: Bob Nelligan (31st year)

Associate Head Coach/ Recruiting Coordinator: Brett Nelligan (6th year)

Assistant Coach: Vicki Chlisczyk (4th year)

Volunteer Assistant: Suzanne Moreland (1st year)

TERPS BY CLASS:

Seniors (1): Kelsey Nelligan

Juniors (6): Michele Brenner, Allie Dama, Brandi George, Candice King, Margaux Meeks, Talia Tossone

Sophomores (5): Abbey Adams, Kaitlin Joseph, Kelsey McDermid, Lisa Reifschneider, Alyssa Valbert

Freshmen (2): Becca Pang, Kyra Phillips

TERPS BY STATE:

California (1): Kyra Phillips

Florida (2): Brandi George, Margaux Meeks

Hawaii (1): Becca Pang

Illinois (1): Alyssa Valbert

Maryland (2): Kelsey Nelligan, Lisa Reifschneider

Michigan (2): Allie Dama, Kaitlin Joseph

New York (1): Michele Brenner

Virginia (1): Talia Tossone

Texas (2): Abbey Adams, Candice King

Washington (1): Kelsey McDermid

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

Vicki Chlisczyk: kuh-LIZ-chick

Margaux Meeks: Mar-GO

Lisa Reifschneider: REEF-schnide-er

Talia Tossone: Tuh-SONE



Abbey Adams
5-3 • All-Around • So.
Spring, Texas



Michele Brenner
5-1 • All-Around • Jr.
New York, N.Y.



Allie Dama
5-2 • All-Around • Jr.
Lansing, Mich.



Brandi George
5-3 • All-Around • Jr.
Orlando, Fla.



Kaitlin Joseph
5-2 • All-Around • So.
Grand Rapids, Mich.



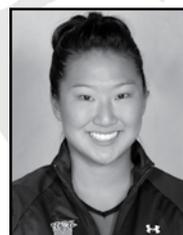
Candice King
5-8 • All-Around • Jr.
Plano, Texas



Kelsey McDermid
5-3 • All-Around • So.
Seattle, Wash.



Margaux Meeks
5-4 • All-Around • Jr.
Winter Garden, Fla.



Kelsey Nelligan
5-1 • All-Around • Sr.
College Park, Md.



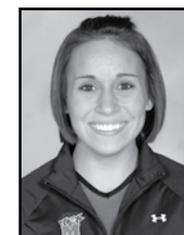
Becca Pang
5-1 • All-Around • Fr.
Honolulu, Hawaii



Kyra Phillips
5-6 • All-Around • Fr.
Murrieta, Calif.



Lisa Reifschneider
5-1 • All-Around • R-So.
Monrovia, Md.



Talia Tossone
4-10 • All-Around • Jr.
Virginia Beach, Va.



Alyssa Valbert
5-1 • All-Around • So.
Oswego, Ill.



Bob Nelligan
Head Coach
31st year

