



Dianne Durham

Elite Gymnast
Gymnastics Pioneer



HALL OF FAME

Inducted 2017

Dianne Durham competed for 10 years in Region 5 before moving to Texas to compete with Bela Karolyi. She spent her first seven years in Merrillville, Indiana at Wanda's Gymnastics. Wanda told Dianne that she couldn't take Dianne to the level that Dianne needed and told her she should look for another gym. Dianne spent the next two years at Mid-America Twisters in Illinois with Bill Sands. After taking a break from gymnastics for a few months she returned and went to Gymkhana in Illinois for one year and was coached by Tony Ladner.

During her time competing in Region 5 Dianne finished 2nd in the All-Around at the 1981 Elite Nationals. She also finished 2nd in the All-Around at the Junior Elite Team Trials. Finally, she won the 1981 USA Championships Fr. All-Around.

On the international level when she was in Region 5 she won the All-Around at the 1981 Sanlam Cup in South Africa where she was competing in a country that was practicing apartheid. Also, she represented the United States in the International Mixed Pairs competition in 1981 and at the USA vs. Canada Junior Invitational.

Dianne was born on June 17, 1968 and was on the USA Junior National Team in 1981 and 1982. She was on the USA Senior National Team in 1983 through 1985. She retired from competitive gymnastics in 1985.

Dianne was the first African-American gymnast to win a USA All-Around Championship (Two times as a junior and one time as a senior). As we all know she didn't make the 1984 Olympic team due to an injury she suffered at the Olympic Trials and her petition was denied. However, Dianne was a pioneer in gymnastics and helped pave the way for future African-American gymnasts like Betty Okino, Dominique Dawes, Gabrielle Douglas and Simone Biles.

Dianne has always acknowledged that without her start in Region 5 she would not have achieved what she did as a gymnast.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Competitions

1984 – Olympic Trials, Jacksonville, FL

1984 – McDonald's Championships of the USA, 7th-AA

- 1984 – USGF U.S. Classic, 3rd (t) All Around
- 1983 – World Championships Team Trials, 2nd All Around
- 1983 – McDonald’s Championships of the USA, 1st All Around; 1st BB, FX, V; 2nd (t) UB
- 1983 – Caesar’s Palace Invitational, 2nd All Around
- 1983 – USGF U.S. Classic, 1st All Around
- 1983 – USGF American Classic, 3rd All Around
- 1982 – Junior Championships of the USA, 1st All Around
- 1982 – Single Elimination Championships, 2nd All Around
- 1982 – Junior USGF U.S. Classic, 2nd All Around; 1st V, UB
- 1981 – Junior Elite Team Trials, 2nd All Around; 1st V, FX; 2nd UB
- 1981 – Junior Championships of the USA, 1st All Around
- 1981 – 1st Elite Nationals, 2nd All Around

International Competitions

- 1984 – McDonald’s USA vs. PR China, 1st All Around, 1st FX, 1st (t) V, 2nd BB, 1st Team
- 1984 – International Mixed Pairs (with Laurent Barbieri of France), 5th All Around
- 1984 – McDonald’s American Cup
- 1984 – Hong Kong Invitational
- 1983 – Chunichi Cup, 3rd All Around, 2nd (t) BB, 5th UB
- 1983 – Tokyo Invitational, 5th UB, 9th BB
- 1983 – McDonald’s International Invitational, 1st All Around, 2nd UB
- 1983 – International Mixed Pairs (with Jim Hartung), 8th All Around
- 1982 – Chunichi Cup, 10th All Around, 1st V, 3rd UB
- 1982 – International Invitational, 1st (t) All Around, 1st V, 5th (t) UB
- 1982 – Gymnast Friendship Championships, 3rd All Around with FRG and PRC
- 1982 – USA vs. Japan, 3rd All Around
- 1981 – USA vs. Canada Junior Invitational
- 1981 – International Mixed Pairs
- 1981 – South African Invitational, Sanlam Cup, 1st All Around