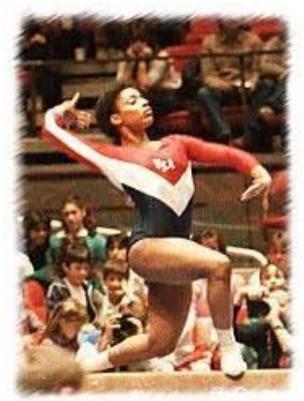


Elite Gymnast Gymnastics Pioneer





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 2<sup>nd</sup> in the All-Around at the 1981 Elite Nationals. She also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup>-AA

Dianne Durham Class of 2017

1984 – USGF U.S. Classic, 3<sup>rd</sup> (t) All Around

1983 – World Championships Team Trials, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around

1983 – McDonald's Championships of the USA, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around; 1<sup>st</sup> BB, FX, V; 2<sup>nd</sup> (t) UB

1983 – Caesar's Palace Invitational, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around

1983 – USGF U.S. Classic, 1st All Around

1983 – USGF American Classic, 3<sup>rd</sup> All Around

1982 – Junior Championships of the USA, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around

1982 – Single Elimination Championships, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around

1982 – Junior USGF U.S. Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around; 1<sup>st</sup> V, UB

1981 – Junior Elite Team Trials, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around; 1<sup>st</sup> V, FX; 2<sup>nd</sup> UB

1981 – Junior Championships of the USA, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around

1981 – 1<sup>st</sup> Elite Nationals, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Around

**International Competitions** 

1984 – McDonald's USA vs. PR China, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around, 1<sup>st</sup> FX, 1<sup>st</sup> (t) V, 2<sup>nd</sup> BB, 1<sup>st</sup> Team

1984 – International Mixed Pairs (with Laurent Barbieri of France), 5<sup>th</sup> All Around

1984 – McDonald's American Cup

1984 – Hong Kong Invitational

1983 – Chunichi Cup, 3<sup>rd</sup> All Around, 2<sup>nd</sup> (t) BB, 5<sup>th</sup> UB

1983 – Tokyo Invitational, 5<sup>th</sup> UB, 9<sup>th</sup> BB

1983 – McDonald's International Invitational, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around, 2<sup>nd</sup> UB

1983 – International Mixed Pairs (with Jim Hartung), 8<sup>th</sup> All Around

1982 – Chunichi Cup, 10<sup>th</sup> All Around, 1<sup>st</sup> V, 3<sup>rd</sup> UB

1982 – International Invitational, 1<sup>st</sup> (t) All Around, 1<sup>st</sup> V, 5<sup>th</sup> (t) UB

1982 – Gymnast Friendship Championships, 3<sup>rd</sup> All Around with FRG and PRC

1982 – USA vs. Japan, 3<sup>rd</sup> All Around

1981 – USA vs. Canada Junior Invitational

1981 – International Mixed Pairs

1981 – South African Invitational, Sanlam Cup, 1<sup>st</sup> All Around