

Glenn Wilson Biography

Glenn began his career in gymnastics on a backyard trampoline at the age of eleven. For several years he and his neighborhood friends learned out of a book written by his uncle, and they even did local shows with the primitive skills that they had learned.

At Western Illinois University he joined the gymnastics team competing in Trampoline, Floor Exercise, Tumbling, Rings and Vaulting. Glenn only dabbled on PH, PB and HB. During his time at WIU he was able to win first, second and fourth in the NCAA for Trampoline and third for Tumbling. It was enough to get an assistantship at the University of Illinois coaching with the great Charlie Pond.

Luckily, he was able to be at Illinois with such greats as Abie Grossfeld and Don Tonry. The three of them traveled to Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran to demonstrate the sport for the Royalty of the time.

Glenn began his coaching career at San Francisco State College as their first Gymnastics Coach. Gymnasts came from the physical education classes, and after the first year came the first win ever against Stanford and San Jose State. After two years at SFSC he took a job at the University of Colorado in Boulder. The High School system in Colorado was excellent and the teams became a power in the Rocky Mountain Region. He then moved to the University of Arizona where he coached National Collegiate Champions on the Rings (Pat Arnold) and on Vaulting (Doug Boger). During this time Glenn was the Secretary/Treasurer for the National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches.

A short time with equipment companies confirmed that he was a coach and not a salesman, so he and his wife started a private Gymnastics Club in New Jersey. During that time Glenn and Susan helped with the American Cup in New York City and were assistant technical directors for The World Championships in Fort Worth, Texas. Glenn and Susan coached in New Jersey for seven years, and when their Gym was sold they finally moved to California settling in North San Diego County.

West Coast Gymnastics was the name of the school that they bought in San Marcos in 1980, and they coached there until they sold the gym in 1998. WCG hosted competitions every year from prelims to the level six state championships, and they had numerous state and regional champions in several levels.

In 1998, Glenn read on the Internet that Trampoline was finally a medal event in the Olympic Games, and he immediately set about trying to set up a program in his artistic gym. He felt that it could not grow as a small side program, so he sold their gym, bought a trampoline and tumbling facility, and began learning the new sport of trampoline gymnastics. Now ten years later the club is called Bounce California, and it can boast over sixty national champions in various levels from five to Senior Elite. In 2001, a former student and California Club owner, Doug Boger joined the gym as co-owner. The combination of knowledge, coaching skills and determination are the key ingredients in building all those champions. And they are still building them today.

“So, I am old, as is your other honoree, Al Luber. Yes, we have that in common, but we also share the love of gymnastics. We both came from an era where to be a gymnast was to be a bit of a freak (wanting to get upside down and all).” –Glenn Wilson.