



No. 33 DENVER GYMNASTICS 2008-09 MEET NOTES

at No. 28 Washington
 Sunday, March 15, 2009 • 3 p.m. (MT)
 Bank of American Arena (10,000) • Seattle, Wash.
 Web: www.gohuskies.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of School..... University of Denver
 City/Zip.....Denver, Colo. 80208
 Founded 1864
 Enrollment 10,791
 NicknamePioneers
 School ColorsCrimson & Gold
 Affiliation NCAA Division I
 Conference..... Independent
 Chancellor Robert D. Coombe
 Athletics Director..... Peg Bradley-Doppes
 Athletics Department Phone (303) 871-2275
 Ticket Office Phone..... (303) 871-2336

TEAM INFORMATION

Home Arena Hamilton Gymnasium
 Capacity 2,500
 Press Row Phone303-871-2689
 2008 Overall Record 16-4
 2008 Conference RecordN/A
 2008 Regionals 2nd (Northeast) - 195.775
 2008 Nationals.....12th - 194.200
 Letterwinners Returning/lost..... 11/4
 All-Americans Returning/lost.....1/0
 Newcomers.....3

GYMNASTICS STAFF

Head Coach Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart
 Alma MaterFlorida '93
 Record at DU..... 180-86-2
 Career Same
 Phone (303) 871-3395
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 Best time to reach coach..... Through SID
 Assistant Head Coach Carl Leland
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 Assistant Coach Nilson Savage
 Office Phone (303) 871-4658
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 Athletic Trainer Julie Campbell

TEAM HISTORY

First Year of Gymnastics 1975
 Last NCAA Appearance 2008
 All-Time Record484-271-3 (.641)

MEDIA RELATIONS

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2009 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE	RECORD
Dec. 13	CRIMSON & GOLD INTRASQUAD MEET	2 p.m.	
Jan. 3	at Cancun Classic <i>(No. 5 Stanford, No. 7 LSU, No. 8 Michigan, No. 9 Oregon State, No. 19 Boise State, UNC, BYU)</i>	4th, 193.825	4-3
<i>Denver Pioneer Alumni Classic</i>			
Jan. 10	No. 11 NEBRASKA	1st, 194.350	5-3
<i>Winterfest Invitational</i>			
Jan. 17	No. 15 MINNESOTA	1st, 194.700	6-3
Jan. 23	at Maryland, North Carolina State	2nd, 193.200	7-4
<i>Colorado Club Night</i>			
Jan. 31	KENT STATE, ALASKA, WINONA STATE	1st, 195.300	10-4
Feb. 6	at No. 9 Alabama	2nd, 193.350	10-5
<i>Burnsley Invitational/Link to Pink Meet</i>			
Feb. 14	No. 8 OKLAHOMA	2nd, 194.825	10-6
Feb. 21	Texas Woman's University	1st, 195.575	11-6
Feb. 28	at Pittsburgh	2nd, 193.700	11-7
Mar. 6	at No. 16 Arizona	2nd, 195.025	11-8
<i>Senior/Fan Appreciation Night</i>			
Mar. 9	BYU	1st, 196.650	12-8
Mar. 15	at No. 28 Washington	3 p.m.	
Mar. 17	at Air Force	6 p.m.	
April 3	NCAA Regionals	TBA	
April 16	NCAA National Championships	TBA	

All Times Mountain
ALL HOME MEETS IN BOLD CAPS

PIONEER NOTES

Last time out: On Senior Night, the Pioneers posted a season-high 196.650 to defeat BYU. Denver (12-8) posted season-high team scores on each event: vault (49.325), bars (49.050), beam (49.250) and floor (49.025) en route to its best team total of the season. The Pioneers tallied seven career-high scores and won all five events, led by senior **Jessica López's** (Caracas, Venezuela) sixth all-around title of 2009 with a career-best 39.625. At the conclusion of the meet, Denver honored its four seniors, **Nikki Brown** (Louisville, Ky.), **Lauren Garan** (Cos Cob, Conn.), **Liz Meals** (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and López for their contributions to Pioneer gymnastics.

Senior Night recap: A trio of Pioneers posted career-high scores on vault. Junior **Kelley Hennigan** (The Woodlands, Texas) tied for first place with **Jessica López** (Caracas, Venezuela) with a career-high 9.900, while freshman **Brianna Springer** (Arvada, Colo.)

was third with a career-best 9.875. Freshman **Louise Mercer** (Nottingham, England) scored a career-high 9.825 to tie for fourth place with **Liz Meals** (Pittsburgh, Pa.). López led Denver on bars with a first-place 9.975, tying her career-high score. Mercer and **Nikki Brown** (Louisville, Ky.) tied with BYU's Madeleine Johnson for second with scores of 9.800. Brown also earned her second consecutive beam title with a season-high 9.925. BYU's Kaylee Gallup was second with a 9.875, while López and sophomore **Taylor Sanford** (Omaha, Neb.) tied for third at 9.850, a career-best for Sanford. López picked up her third event title of the night on floor, tying her season-best score with a 9.900. Sophomores **Amanda Johanson** (Park City, Utah) and **Kristina Coccia** (Bethlehem, Pa.) took second and third, respectively, with a pair of career-highs at 9.875 and 9.825.

Exhibition bests: Three Pioneers earned

2009 PIONEERS

NAME	EVENTS	HT	CL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL (CLUB PROGRAM)
Nikki Brown	UB/BB/FX	5-0	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.	Sacred Heart Academy (Champion)
Kristina Coccia	AA	5-2	So.	Bethlehem, Pa.	Freedom (Parkettes)
Lauren Garan	V/BB/FX	5-2	Sr.	Cos Cob, Conn.	Greenwich (Galaxy)
Kelley Hennigan	AA	5-4	Jr.	The Woodlands, Texas	The Woodlands (Cypress Academy)
Amanda Johanson	AA	5-3	So.	Park City, Utah	Park City (Olympus School of Gymnastics)
Danielle Kirchof	AA	5-0	So.	Norwood, N.J.	Northern Valley Regional (Galaxy)
Jessica López	AA	5-0	Sr.	Caracas, Venezuela	Liceo Caracas (Venezuelan National Team)
Annamari Maaranen	AA	5-0	So.	Tampere, Finland Hervanta	Upper Secondary (Tampereen Voimistelijat)
Ellen McCarthy	UB/BB/FX	5-2	Jr.	Aurora, Ontario	Northview Heights (Seneca)
Liz Meals	AA	5-3	Sr.	Gibsonia, Pa.	Pine-Richland (Jewart's)
Louise Mercer	AA	5-0	Fr.	Nottingham, England	The Becket School (Notts Gymnastics)
Taylor Sanford	V/BB/FX	5-2	So.	Omaha, Neb.	Millard North (Premier)
Brianna Springer	AA	5-1	Fr.	Arvada, Colo.	Ralston Valley (5280 Gymnastics)
Alex Winslow	AA	5-2	Fr.	Broomfield, Colo.	Broomfield (Gymnastics Unlimited)

Head Coach: Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart (Florida '93) • **Assistant Coaches:** Carl Leland, Nilson Savage

PIONEER NOTES CONT.

career-high scores for their exhibition performances at the Senior Night meet. Freshman **Alex Winslow** (Broomfield, Colo.) posted a 9.725 on beam, while sophomore **Amanda Johanson** (Park City, Utah) scored a 9.875 on bars and fellow sophomore **Taylor Sanford** (Omaha, Neb.) turned in a 9.725 on floor.

DU vs. Washington all-time: Denver is 6-5 all-time against Washington. The last meeting saw DU post a 194.900-190.475 win over the Huskies on Jan. 12, 2008.

Scouting the Huskies: No. 28 Washington averages 194.244 this season. The Huskies come off a second-place 192.925 finish in a tri-meet with Seattle Pacific and No. 9 Oregon State. Samantha Walior led Washington with a third place 9.850 on floor.

DU against Top 25 opponents: The Pioneers have faced 10 top-25 opponents this season, including six in the top 10. Denver is 4-6 against ranked opponents in 2009.

Pioneer team leaders: Senior All-American **Jessica López** (Caracas, Venezuela) leads the team in vault average (9.868), bars average (9.892), beam average (9.811) and all-around average (39.454). Freshman **Brianna Springer** (Arvada, Colo.) is the team leader with a 9.794 floor average, and junior **Kelley Hennigan** (The Woodlands, Texas) is close behind averaging 9.725.

2009 Pioneer All-Arounders: A trio of Pioneers has competed in the all-around competition in 2009. Senior **Jessica López**

(Caracas, Venezuela) scored a career-best 39.625 on Senior Night to improve to six-for-six in all-around titles this season. Freshman **Brianna Springer** (Arvada, Colo.) posted a career-best 38.675 in the Winterfest Invitational, and junior **Kelley Hennigan** (The Woodlands, Texas) scored a personal-best 39.250 against TWU.

2009 American Cup: Senior All-American **Jessica López** (Caracas, Venezuela) competed in the 2009 Tyson American Cup at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates, Ill. on Feb. 21. López placed 10th in the all-around with a score of 51.600. She took fifth on vault (14.250), sixth on bars (13.300), tied for eighth on beam (11.950) and 10th on floor (12.100).

Program-record performance: Senior All-American **Jessica López** (Caracas, Venezuela) has scored two program-record scores this season. On Senior Night, she earned a 9.975 for a near-perfect bar routine, marking the second best in program history, a record score López has earned three times in her career. She also posted a first-place 9.975 on beam in the Winterfest Invitational. The score tied the second-best beam mark in Pioneer gymnastics history. López tied fellow senior **Nikki Brown** (Louisville, Ky.) and Emily Bankhead with her 9.975. On March 14, 1997, Robyn King scored a perfect 10.0 on the beam to set the DU program record.

On the horizon: Denver ends the 2009 regular season at Air Force on Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

GYMINFO NAT. POLL

3/9/09 Poll

No. Team	RQS	Reg.	High	Tm. Avg.
1 Georgia	197.210	SE	196.867	198.200
2 Utah	196.985	NC	196.889	197.525
3 Stanford	196.825	W	196.269	197.175
4 Alabama	196.720	C	196.382	197.350
5 Florida	196.530	SE	196.375	196.875
6 LSU	196.490	C	196.102	197.400
7 UCLA	196.430	W	196.400	197.125
8 Auburn	196.390	C	196.245	196.575
9 Oregon State	196.370	W	196.070	197.500
10 Oklahoma	196.365	SC	196.189	197.175
11 Arkansas	196.290	SC	196.095	196.900
12 Nebraska	195.830	SC	195.617	196.225
13 Missouri	195.665	SC	195.497	196.625
14 Michigan	195.595	NE	195.197	196.325
15 Penn State	195.560	NE	195.339	196.650
16 Ill.-Champaign	195.485	SC	195.125	196.700
17 Minnesota	195.370	NC	194.650	195.850
18 Ohio State	195.310	C	195.072	196.475
19 Arizona	195.140	SC	194.812	195.750
20 West Virginia	195.105	SE	194.872	195.925
21 Iowa State	195.070	NC	194.592	195.700
22 Kent State	194.960	C	194.086	196.150
23 Boise State	194.810	W	194.453	195.925
24 Kentucky	194.785	C	194.117	195.250
25 Iowa	194.720	NC	194.470	196.525

Rankings are tabulated each Monday morning by the following schedule:

Jan. 12 - Feb. 9, by Season Average

Starting Feb. 16, by Regional Qualifying Score



PIONEER NOTES CONT.

Olympic Connections: The Pioneers hosted 2008 Olympic gold medalist Nastia Liukin as their special guest at the Alumni Classic meet earlier this season, and 2008 Olympic bronze medalist Sasha Artemev was Denver's guest of honor on Colorado Club Night. The Pioneers also boast their own Olympic gymnast in senior All-American **Jessica López** (Caracas, Venezuela). López competed for her native Venezuela at the 2008 Olympic Games, placing 43rd in the all-around with a score of 56.175. She became the first DU gymnast to ever compete in the Olympic Games.

International Flavor: The 2009 Denver gymnastics squad represents five different countries. Senior **Jessica López** hails from Caracas, Venezuela, while sophomore **Annamari Maaranen** comes to DU from Tampere, Finland. Junior **Ellen McCarthy** represents Canada, hailing from Aurora, Ontario, and freshman **Louise Mercer** is from Nottingham, England. The remaining 10 gymnasts come from eight different states in the U.S.

DU at NCAA Nationals All-Time: Denver has made three NCAA National meet appearances in school history, all under head coach **Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart**. Denver's first appearance was in 2001, when the Pioneers became the first small private school to ever qualify and finished 12th. DU made its second appearance at Nationals in 2007, where the team finished a program-best No. 10 in the country. Last season, the team made its second straight appearance and placed 12th overall.

2009 DU EVENT TITLES

GYMNAST	SCORE	DATE	GYMNAST	SCORE	DATE
All-Around			Beam		
Jessica López	39.625	3/9	Nikki Brown	9.925	3/9
Jessica López	39.450	3/6	Nikki Brown	9.825 (T)	3/6
Jessica López	39.400	2/28	Lauren Garan	9.850	2/21
Kelley Hennigan	39.250	2/21	Jessica López	9.900	1/31
Jessica López	39.250	2/14	Jessica López	9.975	1/17
Jessica López	39.500	2/6	Jessica López	9.900	1/10
Jessica López	39.500	1/31	Floor		
Vault			Jessica López	9.900	3/9
Kelley Hennigan	9.900 (T)	3/9	Jessica López	9.875 (T)	3/6
Jessica López	9.900 (T)	3/9	Kristina Coccia	9.800 (T)	2/21
Jessica López	9.900 (T)	3/6	Louise Mercer	9.800 (T)	2/21
Jessica López	9.900	2/28	Amanda Johanson	9.850 (T)	2/14
Kelley Hennigan	9.825 (T)	2/21	Jessica López	9.900 (T)	2/6
Lauren Garan	9.825 (T)	2/21	Jessica López	9.900	1/31
Jessica López	9.900	1/31	Brianna Springer	9.825	1/17
Kelley Hennigan	9.875	1/17	Amanda Johanson	9.825	1/10
Bars			Amanda Johanson	9.850	1/3
Jessica López	9.975	3/9			
Jessica López	9.900	3/6			
Jessica López	9.925	2/28			
Kelley Hennigan	9.825 (T)	2/21			
Nikki Brown	9.825 (T)	2/21			
Louise Mercer	9.825 (T)	2/21			
Jessica López	9.925 (T)	2/6			
Jessica López	9.800 (T)	1/31			
Louise Mercer	9.800 (T)	1/31			
Nikki Brown	9.850 (T)	1/17			
Amanda Johanson	9.850 (T)	1/17			
Nikki Brown	9.800 (T)	1/10			
Louise Mercer	9.800 (T)	1/10			

PIONEER BESTS

Name	2009 Season-Best Scores					Career-Best Scores				
	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FX	AA	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FX	AA
Nikki Brown	-	9.850	9.925	-	-	-	9.900	9.975	9.800	-
Kristina Coccia	-	-	9.800e	9.825	-	-	-	9.800e	9.825	-
Lauren Garan	9.875	-	9.875	-	-	9.875	-	9.900	9.550	-
Kelley Hennigan	9.900	9.825	9.825	9.825	39.250	9.900	9.825	9.825	9.825	39.250
Amanda Johanson	9.750	9.875e	-	9.875	-	9.750	9.875e	-	9.875	-
Jessica López	9.900	9.975	9.975	9.900	39.625	9.925	9.975	9.975	9.950	39.625
Annamari Maaranen	-	9.800	-	-	-	-	9.800	-	9.775	-
Ellen McCarthy	-	9.825	9.875	9.800	-	-	9.850	9.925	9.975	-
Liz Meals	9.825	-	-	9.775	-	9.900	-	9.250	9.800	-
Louise Mercer	9.825	9.850	-	9.825	-	9.825	9.850	-	9.825	-
Taylor Sanford	9.750	-	9.850	9.725e	-	9.800	-	9.850	9.725e	-
Brianna Springer	9.875	9.875	9.800	9.825	38.675	9.875	9.875	9.800	9.825	38.675
Alex Winslow	9.625e	-	9.725e	-	-	9.625e	-	9.725e	-	-

HEAD COACH MELISSA KUTCHER-RINEHART

Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart enters her 11th season at the helm of the University of Denver gymnastics program on the heels of back-to-back appearances at the NCAA National Championships. Since arriving in 1999,



Kutcher-Rinehart has led Denver to 10 consecutive appearances in NCAA Regionals and three NCAA National Championships berths. In her 10 years at the helm of the Pioneers, she has made believers out of skeptics that a

small private school in Denver could compete alongside traditional collegiate gymnastics powers and the proof is in those three Nationals appearances.

Kutcher-Rinehart has compiled an impressive 180-86-2 (.675) overall record in her 10 seasons at Denver and has returned the once-proud Pioneer program back to prominence for gymnastics fans in Colorado. Her goal at DU is simple, to become the first team ever to win national championships at both the Division II and Division I levels. With the first already accomplished in 1983, her ultimate goal gets closer with every appearance at NCAA Nationals.

In the last five seasons, Kutcher's team has set team records on two events and broken the previous team record five times, including the school's first-ever score of 197 or higher, a feat they've accomplished five times since 2004. Also during that span, Kutcher-Rinehart has helped guide six individuals to Nationals for a total of nine in her career, six more than the Denver program had in its first 16 years of Division I.

The Pioneers have finished among the top-25 teams in the country in each of the last eight seasons. Under Kutcher-Rinehart's tutelage, the Pioneers have broken the team scoring record on every event - including a team total of 197.875 on February 14, 2004 - and each of the top 15 scores in school history have come under her watch. In 2004, the Pioneers set school marks on vault (49.425) and balance beam (49.525) and recorded the top two road scores in program history.

Kutcher-Rinehart was named the program's fourth head coach on August 17, 1998. She came to Denver from the University of Michigan, where she was an assistant for five seasons. During her tenure at Michigan, the Wolverines won four consecutive Big Ten Conference championships (1994-97) and placed as high as second at the NCAA National Championships (1995).

An all-around competitor with the University of Florida women's gymnastics squad from 1989-92, Kutcher-Rinehart helped the Gators to four straight top-12 NCAA Championship finishes. The Gators' best national finish during her career was sixth in 1991.

A native of North Miami Beach, Fla., Kutcher-Rinehart holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Florida (1993), and earned a master's degree in athletic administration from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. (1996). She is a professional member of USA Gymnastics.

Kutcher-Rinehart and her husband Todd Rinehart, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment at DU, celebrated their eighth anniversary last August. The couple has two children, William (4) and Ella (3). The family resides in Aurora.

SEASON HIGHS

Top Team Scores		
TOTAL	OPPONENT	DATE
196.650	BYU	3/9
Vault	BYU	3/9
49.325		
Bars	BYU	3/9
49.050	Arizona	3/6
49.050		
Beam	BYU	3/9
49.250		
Floor	BYU	3/9
49.025		
Individual Top 5 Scores		
TOTAL	GYMNAST	DATE
ALL-AROUND	Jessica López	3/9
39.625	Jessica López	2/6
39.500	Jessica López	1/31
39.500	Jessica López	3/6
39.450	Jessica López	2/28
39.400	Jessica López	
Vault	Kelley Hennigan	3/9
9.900	Jessica López	3/9
9.900	Jessica López	3/6
9.900	Jessica López	2/28
9.900	Jessica López	1/31
Bars	Jessica López	3/9
9.975	Jessica López	2/28
9.925	Jessica López	2/6
9.925	Jessica López	3/6
9.900	Jessica López	1/3
9.875	Brianna Springer	1/3
Beam	Jessica López	1/17
9.975	Nikki Brown	3/9
9.925	Jessica López	1/31
9.900	Jessica López	1/10
9.875	Lauren Garan	1/31
9.875	Ellen McCarthy	1/31
Floor	Jessica López	3/9
9.900	Jessica López	2/6
9.900	Jessica López	1/31
9.875	Amanda Johanson	3/9
9.875	Jessica López	3/6

DU IN THE NATIONAL RANKINGS

(courtesy of www.troester.com/gym)

2009 Team Rankings by RQS (as of 3/9/09)

Event	RQS	Team	Region	Nation	National Leader
Team Total	194.535	Denver	6	33	Georgia, 197.210
Vault	48.845	Denver	3	27	UCLA, 49.385
Bars	48.590	Denver	5	36	Georgia, 49.445
Beam	48.805	Denver	4	19	Georgia, 49.400
Floor	48.775	Denver	5	33	Georgia, 49.290

2009 Individual Rankings by RQS (as of 3/9/09)

Event	RQS	Name	Region	Nation	National Leader
All-Around	--	--	--	--	Courtney Kupets, Georgia, 39.665
Vault	9.855	Jessica López	5	T-35	Vanessa Zamarripa, UCLA, 9.945
Bars	9.790	Louise Mercer	T-13	T-94	Courtney Kupets, Georgia, 9.960
Beam	9.850	Jessica López	T-5	T-29	Courtney Kupets, Georgia, 9.955
Floor	9.810	Amanda Johanson	13	T-90	Ashleigh Clare-Kearney, LSU, 9.935