



Meet Our Team

Tami Jacobs

Tami is our head team coach here at Champion. Tami competed for 13 years and has been involved in gymnastics since age 8. Tami competed for and later coached at the University of Nebraska, where she graduated with a degree in Advertising/Marketing. Tami was a 4 year letter winner and a 4 time all conference and academic all conference winner. Tami was Nebraska's first gymnast to win more than one All-American honor. Tami has coached on and off since 1991 and has coached at Kentwood Gymnastics, US Airborne and in her earlier days coached Olympian Jaycie Phelps at Gym Nest. Tami is a Master staff, coach and clinician at Woodward Gymnastics Camp and has been invited to coach at other camps and clinics in Region 5.

Tami is currently the Chair of the USA Gymnastics State Committee.

Tami is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is also USA Gymnastics Safety Certified as well as being a USA Gymnastics Meet Director. Tami enjoys getting to work with so many great kids and watching them grow into successful young adults.

Bonnie Buis

Bonnie competed for 12 years through club, high school and college. Bonnie was a scholarship gymnast at Western Michigan University. Bonnie was the MAC Gymnast of the year in 1991 and is a member of the Western Michigan University Hall of Fame. Bonnie graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from WMU.

Bonnie has been coaching for almost 20 years. Bonnie has coached all levels from preschool to high school (Holland High) and up to level 10 in club. Bonnie currently coaches our Optionals team here at Champion. Bonnie has a great eye for details and she loves to watch children grow and learn physically and emotionally through the sport. Bonnie is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USA Gymnastics Safety Certified.

Missy Thompson

Missy competed in club for 12 years, with the last six years at Level 10. Missy also was a 3 time High School All American at East Kentwood. Missy was a captain of the State Championship team in 2000. Missy was a scholarship athlete at Eastern Michigan University where she competed in every meet for four years. Missy graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from Eastern and is currently finishing her Masters in Reading at GVSU. Missy also works in the Kentwood school system during the day teaching reading. Missy really enjoys seeing kids grow through gymnastics and is a great motivator. Missy is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USA Gymnastics Safety Certified.

Janel Folkert

Janel was active in gymnastics for 14 years. Janel finished her career in high school as a class II gymnast and letter winner in high school. Janel has been coaching for 18 years and coaches everything from Pre-school to level 4 team here at Champion. Janel works in our preschool program and is great with the little ones. Janel enjoys seeing children develop new skills and build confidence in themselves. Janel is USA Gymnastics Safety Certified and is a USA Gymnastics Instructor member.

Kelly DeVisser

Kelly has been in gymnastics since she was 3 years old. Kelly tells us Mom first put her in gymnastics because she had too much energy. Sound familiar? Kelly has been coaching for 11 years and works with our class level kids here at Champion. We trust Kelly to do all of our evals for new students. Kelly also works in the office and is our Jill of all trades. Kelly is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USA Gymnastics Safety Certified.

Kelly really enjoys seeing the kids faces after they learned a new skill that they have worked so hard on getting. Kelly loves having the opportunity to be a positive influence and role model.

Kerrie Esmeier

Kerrie is our newest staff member and comes with great experience. Kerrie was in gymnastics for 11 years total with 8 of those years in competitive gymnastics. Kerrie was the 1998 NorCal IIC State Champion on floor and 2 nd all around. Kerrie competed though level Advanced Optional. Kerrie has been coaching for 6 years and has coached numerous State and Regional power tumbling and tramp champions and has also coached National Champions in Trampoline and Tumbling.

Kerrie graduated from DePauw University and is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and also USA Gymnastics Safety Certified. Kerrie is a USA Gymnastics certified trampoline and tumbling coach and is also a Level 2 judge in Trampoline and tumbling. Kerrie is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USAG Safey Certified.

Bethany Cole

Bethany competed for 15 years in gymnastics. Bethany was a High School state champion in 1995. Bethany's USAG career was highlighted by multiple state, regional and Level 9 National Championships. Bethany had 4 top 10 finishes at Level 10 Nationals. Bethany competed for Central Michigan and was a 4-time All MAC selection as well as an Academic All American.

Bethany was an assistant coach at CMU in the 2005-2006 season. Bethany graduated from CMU with a degree in Cardiac Heath Promotion and Rehabilitation.

Bethany is a USAG Gymnastics professional member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Lindsey VanDellen

Lindsey started gymnastics when she was just a toddler. She spent a lot of time growing up in the gym since her mom was co-owner of a gymnastics facility (G.U.). Lindsey competed in gymnastics through Level 8 and was the Level 6 State Floor Champion and 2nd AA. In middle school Lindsey decided to give gymnastics a break and do school sports where she held the Hudsonville High School long jump record until 2007.

After High School Lindsey got involved with gymnastics again by coaching. She has coached for 7 yrs now, working with USAG up through level 7/8. Lindsey really enjoys getting to help kids reach their goals!

Lindsey attended GRCC and attends Davenport. In her spare time she loves to be out in the sun and her favorite place to travel is Jamaica! Lindsey is a USAG Professional Member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Megan Luyk

Megan started club gymnastics when she was 3 years old and competed through level 8. In middle school Megan decided to try some other sports and wanted to put her gymnastics skills to use so she tried diving. She continued to dive until her junior year in high school where she placed 11th in the state. Megan also ran track and held the pole vault record until recently.

After high school, Megan decided she wanted to put her 9 years of gymnastics to good use by coaching USAG gymnastics. She coached for 5 years, through level 5, before taking a break when her daughter was born. Megan coaches our compulsory teams at Champion and has a great eye for detail and motivation.

Megan attends Grand Valley State University where she majors in English and social studies. She is currently finishing up her teaching degree and hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

Megan is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Brian Thompson

Every gym needs an M&M guy. Motivation and Muscle! Brian brings his football background as a motivator into the gym. Brian works with our team athletes and is an excellent spotter. Brian is also our gym nerd working our video replay systems and making sure that all of our equipment is safe and in working order. Brian coaches in almost all of our team groups. Brian is the head coach for our Xcel program. Brian is a USAG Professional member and is also USAG Safety Certified.

Rachel Merz

Rachel competed through Level 10 here at Champion Gymnastics. After her career in gymnastics we twisted her arm hard and got her to come back to work with us while she attends college, pursuing her degree in nursing. Rachel was a great competitor in club and she passes that grit on to her team athletes in her coaching. Rachel works with our compulsory teams and is a USA Gymnastics professional member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Stephanie Hipp

Stephanie has worked with the Thompson family for many, many years, helping to coach some amazing club, college and National level athletes. Steph joined us in our Kentwood Gymnastics USA gym for years and has coached every level from level 1 to Elite. Steph works with almost all of our team kids at Champion and has a very keen eye for details. Steph is a graduate of WMU in PE.

A NAWGJ member Stephanie judges levels 1-8 and again we take advantage of that knowledge here in the gym. Stephanie has coached at Karolyi and many other camps. Stephanie is a USA Gymnastics Professional member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Meanie Strickland

Melanie coaches our rec classes at Champion and is an amazing coach. Melanie can relate very well to young children and get them to trust her and teach them things that they never thought they could do. Melanie is a college student majoring in Exercise Science at Hope. Melanie always has a smile on her face and is a great role model to her students. Melanie is a USA Gymnastics Instructor Member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Brandi Larsen

Brandi has been at Champion since she was just a little squirt. Brandi grew up in the gym and did a great job. Brandi finished her career as an Xcel and was a huge asset to our program. Once again after graduation she started college and is now working part time for us. You will find Brandi to be very detail oriented and a sweet coach. Brandi is a USA Gymnastics Instructor member and is USAG Safety Certified.

Erica Kuipers

Erica is a college student at Hope College. Erica was also a state champion at the Xcel level while competing here at Champion in the All Around and usually at most every event. We call that a gamer!! Besides working here and going to college Erica is also on the Hope College cheer team. Erica is very good with children of all ages and we are very excited to have her with us. Erica is a USA Gymnastics Instructor member and USAG Safety Certified coach.

Are YOU a coach looking for a job? If you are interested we are always looking to hire the BEST so drop us a resume or call us..