

I joined Gold Medal All stars when I was 15 years old. I was entering into my junior year of high school. I was looking for a team with good coaches and teammates who were hard working, fun, and supportive. Try outs were held in May and the turn out seemed promising, but by November our team had dwindled to only 8 girls and two coaches. Despite the fact that we were a small brand-new team we continued on practicing and preparing for our first competition.

During our first year we experienced many set backs and had to overcome many obstacles. Through our hardships we began to build the foundation of GMAS and the beginning of a family. Although opposing teams viewed our lack of teammates as an advantage for them we too had an advantage as well. Our teams unity and dedication helped each of us at competitions. We believed in one another and we never gave up. We ended our season with pride and eagerness to begin again in the fall.

As our second season came around our team had doubled, we had twice the girls, twice the tumbling, and twice the talent. As our team grew we extended our family to anyone who was dedicated and willing to work hard and most importantly work as a team. Under our dedicated coaches we worked hard and prepared ourselves for each competition. After each competition we would watch our routine and point out the good and the bad, we improved on the bad and excelled on the good. We knew our team was good, and at each practice we worked hard to become better.

With Jamfest Nationals approaching we knew we had to step it up. Our coaches pushed us and we pushed ourselves, we had one thing in mind and we were ready to prove ourselves. Day 1 of Jamfest our routine was close to perfect, one fall and a few missed motions. The competition was close and it was anyone's game. As we stepped onto the mat on day 2 we knew there was nothing else to do but give it our all, and we did just that.

As the award ceremony began we sat anxiously hoping all our hard work had paid off. It was down to three teams and we were still in the running. Then when they announced the 2nd place winner, we knew we had won! As they called our teams name "1st place goes to GOLD MEDAL ALLSTARS!" The happiness that we felt shined through all our faces. For Gold Medal first place didn't just mean we had won a trophy, it meant we had come from being complete underdogs to national champions. A title we owed to our coaches who had faith in us, our parents who



supported us through the journey, and most importantly ourselves for never giving up. Jamfest taught us that "The difference between where we are & where we want to be, is what we do."



Gold Medal All star was the best team I was ever on, and Pat and Amanda have been the best coaches I've ever experienced. I learned lessons from them that went beyond cheerleading, and took with me long lasting advice. My teammates became some of my best friends, and I got to enjoy an experience I'll never forget.

So why should you join Gold Medal? Simple, we are a team that believes in one another. We have coaches that will push you because they know your talented and they know what you are capable of. Most importantly after you graduate from GMAS, like I have you'll always have a family to come back to and ever lasting memories that will bring a smile to your face.

From,
Maris Pribula
Senior - "Class of 2007"