



For Immediate Release

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Former National Champion to Direct Kauai Gymnastics Academy

Kauai, Hawaii, July 15, 2005—Kauai Gymnastics Academy, the only gymnastics school on the island of Kauai, has changed hands. It is now owned and operated by a former national gymnastics champion with more than 30 years of experience teaching and coaching the sport.

Jack Leonard, a nine-time national champion with medals in tumbling, vaulting and floor exercise, and his wife Kay, assumed ownership and operation of Kauai Gymnastics Academy (KGA) on July 1. The Leonards moved to Kauai from Maryland, where Mr. Leonard was a gymnastics teacher and coach since 1973.

Mr. Leonard will direct KGA's gymnastics program and teach many of the classes, while Mrs. Leonard will manage KGA's business operations. For 19 years, Mrs. Leonard was vice president and general manager of Beach Associates, a multimedia communications company based in the Washington, D.C. area. She continues to be a satellite videoconferencing consultant and virtual classroom facilitator.

Mr. Leonard began competing in gymnastics at the age of 11 and continued competing on the national level until he was 32. In addition to nine national championships, he was a Big 10 medal winner for his alma mater, The Ohio State University, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education (PE). Mr. Leonard also holds a master's degree in education from Bowie State University.

As a teacher and coach, Mr. Leonard's accomplishments include being named National High School Coach of the Year for Men in 1981, National High School Coach of the Year for Women in 2001, and an All-Metropolitan Coach in 2003 and 2005.

Entrepreneur and Olympian's Coach

Besides working as a PE teacher and coach in the Montgomery County school system, Mr. Leonard coached for many years at Hill's Gymnastics Training Center, where he was assistant coach of Olympic Medal winner Dominique Dawes, and where other Olympic champions Elise Ray and Courtney Kupets have trained. Mr. Leonard also owned and directed Jack Leonard Gymnastics since 1982. In this role, he led gymnastics classes for children, ages 5 - 12 and oversaw the instruction of as many as 250 students a week.

Mr. Leonard has written articles about the benefits of fitness and gymnastics in particular for children for *The Washington Post* and is a gymnastics expert for AllExperts.com, an international informational web site for which he answers questions from all over the world.

In 1992 the Leonards produced a video with Beach Associates. *“Toe Belly Up Belly,”* geared to children ages 5 to 10, featured Mr. Leonard teaching a class of youngsters how to make exercise fun by using their imaginations.

KGA is more than 10 years old and has a typical session enrollment of about a 130 students, ages three to adult. The former owner/operator, Lisa Fairchild, is returning with her son to her hometown of Chicago to help her mother run the family daycare business. Her KGA partner, Willie Berthantermonnae Washington is also returning to his roots in Chicago where he will be able to focus on his art, which is his passion.

Ms. Fairchild and Mr. Leonard met in the summer of 2004, while the Leonards were visiting family on Kauai and he went to the gym with his grandson. Ms. Fairchild and Mr. Leonard quickly discovered they shared the same philosophies about gymnastics education, and had similar teaching styles and approaches. Later in the year, when Ms. Fairchild decided to return to Chicago for personal reasons, she contacted Mr. Leonard about taking over KGA.

Gymnastics “Pied Piper”

Mr. Leonard said of their shared philosophy, “Lisa and I both believe that as educators, we should provide a safe environment in which children can have fun and become stronger through gymnastics.”

Mr. Leonard, who is referred to by his wife as the “pied piper of gymnastics,” said his approach to teaching and coaching the sport is to emphasize “artistic expression and to break down the process so students learn routines or ‘tricks’ in manageable parts, then communicate it effectively to them in an age-appropriate manner.”

The Leonards plan to hire more instructors with the hope to eventually double the size of the gym. Mr. Leonard said he also intends to continue Ms. Fairchild’s tradition of holding annual exhibitions at local venues on the island.

Kauai Gymnastics Academy is located at 1536 Haleukana Street, #104, Lihue, HI 96766. For more information about the academy and its programs, please call 808-245-8863, e-mail gym@kauaigymnastics.com, or visit its web site at www.kauaigymnastics.com.

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