

Meet Our Coaches

Marci Schneider, Tumblemania Owner

I grew up in Hamilton, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati. I could just as well say I grew up in my gym, Marilyn-Dennis School of Dance and Gymnastics. I am definitely what you would call a “gym rat”. The sports of Gymnastics and Trampoline and Tumbling are my passion. I was an elite athlete and completely dedicated. I started helping in the gym with preschool classes at the age of 10 in order to cover some of my fees and I loved coaching! My gym was my second home and we were a family. I knew when I was very little I wanted to own a gym and make it just the same as Marilyn-Dennis. Tumblemania is exactly like my small, tight-knit family gym I grew up in and loved so very much.

My coach is Dennis Harget. He was one of the founders of USTA serving as Technical Vice-President from 1979-1990. He is in the USTA Hall of Fame, a two-time recipient of the Presidential Coach of the Year Award, and trained innumerable National and World Champions. The Mayor of Hamilton designated Dennis Harget Day to commend Dennis for his myriad of contributions to the community. Dennis was completely dedicated to the sport and USTA. But, what was most important to him was helping the coaches, athletes, and parents. He brought everyone together and created a family in our gym and in the USTA. When Dennis passed away in 2015, we created a scholarship award in his honor, the Dennis Harget 4 D's (Dedication, Determination, Desire, Drive) Memorial Scholarship Award, that is presented each year at the USTA National Championships. I am proud and quite humbled to carry on Dennis' legacy in any way.

When we earned our first National Championship title, Dennis told us, “now that you are a champion, you must act like a champion.” He meant both as an athlete and in life. I have carried these words with me throughout my life. I pass them on year after year along with so many other things I learned from Dennis such as never use the “C” word (*Can't*), if you are focused on being scared you are not able to focus on what you need to do, and sometimes you just need to take a break and eat donuts☺

How did I get from there to here? I came to UF to go to college and never left! I earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance in 1993, a Master of Health Science in Occupational Therapy in 1998, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science in 2019. I am a triple Gator and avid Gator fan! GO GATORS!! In addition to Tumblemania, I am an adjunct professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at UF. My research interests are focused on establishing grip strength procedures and norms in children as well as the relationship between grip strength and children's health status with a primary emphasis on obesity and the metabolic syndrome. I have over 20 years of pediatric occupational therapy clinical experience specializing in school-based practice with children and youth ranging from age 3 through 22. I currently work at both P.K. Yonge DRS in Gainesville and Belmont Academy Charter School in Lake City. I am a member of the Florida Department of Education Working with the Experts for OT & PT Advisory Committee, Suwannee Valley Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee, and I am the USTA Florida State Chair.

I am incredibly lucky. I grew up in an extremely positive environment and most of all, I have an amazing, supportive and loving family. My sister Jill is there for me no matter what; my brother Greg designed that so familiar and fun logo; and my parents, Tom & Judy, will do absolutely anything to make my dreams come true. My dad always says “Go Get ‘Em!” and “How was gym tonight?” without fail. He instilled in us to live by the motto “Work Hard, Play Hard.” I have carried this tradition over to Tumblemania where we frequently have what we like to call “mandatory fun!” My mom always went out of her way to make sure I was set up to do my absolute best. I will never forget her getting up early to cook a hot breakfast for me in our hotel room before competitions! I am grateful and thankful. I am so appreciative for all of my family and friends who have been beside me every step of the way and for all the families who have helped make Tumblemania a success since 1996. Thank you for being part of our gym family! Love, Marci★

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