

# 2014 AVA Hall of Fame

## KENNY GEISLER

By Laura L. Bosco



them," commented Kenny. "I also had the privilege to vault with the Woodside and Mt. Eden teams."

When asked about the horses, Kenny revealed his top two picks and their impact on him.

"Goliath carried vaulters in 15 consecutive National Championships," he shared. "Campina was the best international vaulting horse that I ever vaulted on. We were not amazing in competition, but she was likely the best horse I ever vaulted on, and I cherish those few practices that we shared in perfect harmony."

Kenny is no stranger to hard work and determination. He continued his vaulting career while pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

When pressed to share his top highlights, he reflected on the 2006-2007 season with fondness.

"I developed an A Team from the ground up, bringing together a great group of vaulters with a common passion. Working together through the 2006-2007 season, we overcame many obstacles, had a great time and did some awesome vaulting," commented Kenny. "My strongest year as a vaulter was 2007."

He also coached and vaulted on the 2012 Woodside Greek Gods team, helping all of the vaulters achieve their varied and different

goals and realize their true potential as vaulters and as people.

"I just love vaulting; I don't have any super fun or interesting statistics," he said. "I competed with Devon Maitozo (arguably one of the greatest vaulters of all time) for 15 years. I had the opportunity to share the joy of vaulting with my older sister, Pam; sadly, we never won a Gold medal championship in the same year."

When asked to name a few people that made a difference throughout his career, he didn't miss a beat mentioning Kalyn Noah and fellow revered vaulters, Devon Maitozo (U.S.), John Alongi (U.S.), Matthias Lang, (France) and Christoph Lensing (Germany).

"I am so thankful for Kalyn and my daughter, my mother, my relatively healthy body and my best friends," he shared. "Today, CrossFit is how I keep in shape. That, and having two awesome Siberian Huskies."

Even though he may not be competing, Kenny will remain a vital member of our great sport by supporting vaulting in other ways including being active with the AVA board, coaching and mentoring other vaulters.

"Vaulting has taught me valuable life lessons including patience, planning, teamwork, the just 'go for it' attitude, as well as understanding you learn most when you lose. Vaulting internationally allowed me to build friendships all over Europe that I would have never known otherwise," he said.

"Vaulting has always been about a journey for me. There are no stops along the way that I prize over others."

When asked for tips to share with future champions in vaulting, coaching, and lungeing, he advised, "Study your craft, know the rules, and don't assume. Forward progress is often about resourcefulness rather than resources."

Kenny vaulted with strength and balance. With his final words of advice, we all can see his inner strength and balance.

"Personal development is the core of what defines us and redefines us as we grow. Each time lessons hammer home we redefine our priorities. Winning can be defined within each of us based on our goal structure and significant events. Then, as those goals grow outside the fabric of our subjective sport, the love, passion and enthusiasm that we all represent in each performance becomes our legacy. Medal or no medal, champion is a word I use to describe the heart."

