












Inducted into the greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. Manager for the US Olympic Team in 1960.


A prominent figure in women's modern gymnastics on the local, state and national levels for 30 years, she was manager for the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team, and served as an official, judge and chairwoman or meet director at every AAU national championship, Olympic Trials and World Games Trials for women's gymnastics from 1954 through 1970. Started the Cleveland-area AAU Junior Olympics gymnastics into the educational system at an AAHPER national convention that year. Awarded a Lifetime Membership in the Ohio Gymnastics Association in 1982 for service to the sport in Ohio.

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Hall of Fame



JANET BACHNA

CLASS:

INDUCTION: 1992

SPORT(S): Gymnastics

Janet Bachna, Kent State (Gymnastics)

Janet Bachna helped start the Kent gymnastics program in 1959 and was involved as the coach of the women's team until her retirement in 1991. During this time the Lady Flashes participated in the AIAW National Championships 11 consecutive years. She became the first female judge

from the United States to serve as a judge in international finals competition when she judged the World Gymnastics Championships held in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1962.

Bachna helped organize the Gymnastics in Motion program that was a highlight of Kent Gymnastics from 1964-1989. She guided the Lady Flashes to four consecutive Ohio State Championships (1975-78) and four MAC championships (1981-84-88-89). Bachna was named Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year in 1981 and 1984 and she coached both the United States Pan-American and Olympic Gymnastics Teams.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Bachna served as Kent's cheerleading advisor for five years. She was a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee for Women's Gymnastics for 12 years (1960-72) and Chair of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics for six years (1964-69). She received an Honorary Varsity "K" from secretary and vice president and received the Kent Distinguished Service Award in 1969.

Bachna attended Ohio Western University and also taught in the Canton Public Schools for eight years. She was inducted into the U.S. Gymnastics Federation Judges' Hall of Fame in 1979, the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame in 1992.

<https://kentstatesports.com/honors/hall-of-fame/janet-bachna/112>

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JANET BACHNA
CLASS: INDUCTION: 1993
SPORT(S): Coach

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Graduated from Canton Lincoln High School in Canton, Ohio...

KSU CAREER: Helped to start the Kent gymnastics program in 1959 and was involved as the coach of the women's team until her retirement in 1991...During this time the Lady Flashes participated in the AIAW National Championships 11 consecutive years...Became the first female judge from the United States to serve as a judge in international finals competition when she judged the World Gymnastics Championships held in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1962...Helped organize the Gymnastics in Motion

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PERSONAL: Born on September 29, 1928...Attended Ohio Western University...Taught in the Canton Public Schools for eight years...Inducted into the U.S. Gymnastics Federation Judges' Hall of Fame in 1979, the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame in 1992.

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Greater Cleveland
Sports Hall of Fame

ABOUT THE HALL INDUCTION CEREMONY JH YOUTH SPORTS FUND SUPPORT THE HALL



JANET BACHNA

Induction Year : **1984**
Sport: **Gymnastics**

A prominent figure in women's modern gymnastics on the local, state and national levels for 30 years, she was manager for the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team, and served as an official, judge and chair woman or meet director at every AAU national championship, Olympic Trials and World Games Trials for women's gymnastics from 1954 through 1970. Started the Cleveland-area AAU Junior Olympics gymnastics into the educational system at an AAHPER national convention that year. Awarded a Lifetime Membership in the Ohio Gymnastics Association in 1982 for service to the sport in Ohio.



SPORTS

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Joe Cowley, sports editor

DAILY KENT STATER

Two revered gymnastic coaches retire

By John Horton
Staff Writer

Memories

After 32 years as gymnastics coaches at Kent State, Rudy and Janet Bachna have plenty of memories.

The Bachnas announced their retirement from coaching earlier this semester, leaving a void in the gymnastics program that will not easily be replaced.

"They're two of the most highly regarded coaches in gymnastics," Robert Quatroche, vice-president for Institutional Advancement, said of the Bachnas at a retirement ceremony Thursday afternoon. "Both in Ohio and in the United States."

"They've made the gymnastics program proud, they've set the tone for the athletic department and provided us with a shining example of leadership."

Over the course of their 32 years at Kent, the Bachnas have compiled a record of 267-102-1, won four MAC Championships, won four state championships and made 11 consecutive appearances at the AAU National Championships.

The Bachnas have also been named MAC Co-Coaches of the year twice (1981 and 1984) and the MAIAW Regional Coach of the Year in 1979. In addition, they served as coaches for the United States Olympic and Pan-American teams.

Both have been inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame for their contributions to the sport of gymnastics. They are also certified as judges on the national and international level and Janet is one of only three women to be inducted into the Judges Hall of Fame.

"We've accomplished everything we've wanted to," Janet Bachna said. "There's no

new horizons left for us to conquer. I'm sad to be leaving, but there comes a time when you have to move on."

Associate coach Bruce Biggin has been named the new interim coach by the athletic department, and he knows the transition from the Bachna era will not be easy.

"It will be a big adjustment without the Bachnas here," Biggin said. "There's a lot of things we rely on them for and they mean a lot to this program."

"But we're not expecting them to just disappear. They'll still be around and will still make contributions to this team."

Both of the Bachnas agreed.

"We don't feel like we're leaving," Rudy Bachna said. "We feel more like it's just a vacation. We're going to stay with this program and keep an eye on it. We're nearby, and if we're ever called upon to help with anything we'll be here to help."

While the women's gymnastics team is definitely losing its head coaches, many on the team feel they are losing more than that. Many feel as if they're losing two friends.

"I would have never made it through this year without their guidance," freshman Stephanie Stadelman said. "They were always here, always around us. It will be weird not having them there for us."

Junior Pam Tenley remembers two specific things about the Bachnas: being recruited and the confidence they gave the team.

"They took me all around and showed me the campus," Tenley said. "They really made me feel like I was wanted here."

"And then they were always by you to give you confidence and make you feel better. Janet used to get us together before every meet and say a little prayer with us."

"Everything they did was for the team. We'll really miss them, and the program just won't be the same."

And as much as the women gymnasts will miss the Bachnas, the Bachnas may miss them even more.

"I'll miss the contact I had with the girls the most," Janet Bachna said. "I was their confidante, both for personal and gymnastic problems."

"Coaching here at Kent was probably the most rewarding experience of my life. We've had a lot of very special people come through this program and we've had a lot of good times."

Janet Bachna then paused for a moment to reflect.

"But most of all," she said, "we've made memories that will never fade."



Kent State University

Kent State Gymnastics Patriarch Bachna Honored with Service Excellence Award from Ohio USA Gymnastics
Posted: 7/30/2012 12:00:00 AM

The foundation to Kent State gymnastics since its inception in 1959, Bachna recognized for his passion and dedication to the sport in Ohio

KENT, Ohio – Former Kent State gymnastics coach Rudy Bachna was honored recently by Ohio USA Gymnastics, as Bachna received the organization's 2012 Service Excellence Award at its annual banquet held in Columbus, Ohio.

The award is presented annually to show appreciation to those who have helped shape the sport of gymnastics in Ohio.

Bachna, who mentored both the men's and women's gymnastics programs at Kent State, began both programs in 1959. He served as the head coach for both teams until 1978 and leading the women's program until retiring in 1991. During his coaching tenure, Bachna guided the women's program to four Mid-American Conference championships and four consecutive state championships from 1975-78.

Along the way, Bachna mentored two Olympic athletes and was a coach or judge at four Olympics, three Pan American Games and two World Championships.

Bachna and his wife, co-head coach Janet Bachna, were selected for the Kent State Varsity "K" Hall of Fame in 1993.

"The impact that Rudy Bachna has had on the gymnastics community is beyond measure," Kent State gymnastics coach [Brice Biggin](#) said. "For over seven decades, Rudy has been dedicated to the growth of our sport, and the entire Ohio gymnastics community is grateful for his passion and service."

Biggin competed for Bachna and Kent State in gymnastics from 1980-83 and served as an assistant coach for the Golden Flashes prior to taking the reins to the program in 1992.

For photos of the event, click [here](#).

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