# World silver-medalist Hernandez expected to compete at 2018 American Classic

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SACRAMENTO, June 29, 2018 – World gold and four American silver medalist Ely Hernandez, of Fort Ann, Arizona Yankees, is one of the seven Olympic and World Championship medalists expected to compete at the American Classic, scheduled for July 4-7 in Folsom, Calif. The American Classic is the culminating event of the season in Salt Lake City. The major classes in attendance are:

In addition to Cyang, U.S. National Team members and Olympic hopefuls in Salt Lake are listed below.

- Dallas Dance of Frisco, Texas/NCSA Gymnastics, sixth in the junior all-around at the 2017 World Championships.
- Ashton Locklear of Fort Worth, Texas/Cowtown Gymnastics, sixth in the senior all-around at the 2017 World Championships.
- Kara Eaker of Grain Valley, Mo./Great Lakes Gymnastics/Cincinnati Ohio, U.S. junior balance beam champion (tie) at the 2017 U.S. Championships, 2017 U.S. senior floor champion.
- Ashton Locklear, Fort Worth, Texas/NCSA, 2018 Pacific Rim all-around champion, 1st Team all-American, Pac-12 Gymnastics, 2017 Pac-12 Gymnastics Championships.

The complete field for both the Hopes Classic and American Classic is below.

Both competitions are competitive qualifiers for women's gymnastics, the Olympic Trials, Pan Am Games, the World Championships, the Pan American Games, August and the U.S. Classic in July. Hopes Classic and the Hopes Classic for the Hopes Championships, held in conjunction with the Hopes Classic.

Each competition will have two sessions, one for the Hopes Classic and one for the American Classic.

The Hopes Classic is a gymnastics competition for girls who are 10 years old or less.

The Hopes classification is just below the Olympic level and is for gymnasts ages 10 and under. The Hopes classification is one of the two classifications at which athletes in the Olympic Championships, Pan American Championships, World Championships, Pan American Games and the 2020 Olympic Games. The Hopes classification is the highest level at which athletes compete in the U.S. and American Classics, which are the two major competitions in the U.S. Championships by achieving the qualifying scores in the Olympic Trials and international sanctioned competitions.

## Background information

- **Jim M. Hunsinger Center.** The Jim Hunsinger Center is the University of Arizona's home of Salt Lake City's premier sports and recreation center. It is the only university in Arizona "also-named" after a U.S. Senator. The Jim Hunsinger Center, which has perhaps hosted a number of Olympic and World Championship commemorative events, is a special events. The arena hosted the 2012 Olympic Trials, the Olympic and the 1984 Western Athletic Conference. It is the largest arena in the state of Arizona and the 13th largest in the U.S.
- **USA Gymnastics.** Based in Indianapolis, USA Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics in the United States. The organization is committed to creating a culture that empowers athletes to achieve their dreams, focuses on its highest priority, the athlete, and ensures that athletes, USA Gymnastics has already taken specific, concrete steps to ensure that athletes are the organization's priority. The organization's disciplines include men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, acrobatic gymnastics and parkour. The organization's mission is to inspire a lifetime of excellence. USA Gymnastics is a congressionally chartered, 501(c)(3) organization.

## Field for the American Classic and Hopes Classic

Athletes listed in last name, indicates level and hometown.

### Arizona

Jade Carey, Phoenix, Arizona Yankees

### Arkansas

Ashton Locklear, Bentonville, Ark./Hopes and Elite/Gymnastics, Hopes 10-11

### California

Chiara Rabe, San Jose, Calif./West Valley Gymnastics, Hopes 10-11

Kara Eaker, Grain Valley, Mo./Great Lakes Calif./Precision Gymnastics, Hopes 10-12

Ely Hernandez, Fort Ann, Arizona Yankees

Ashton Locklear, Fort Worth, Texas/NCSA

Caspar Coleman, Anaheim Hills, Calif./Cypress Gymnastics, Hopes 10-11

Dallas Dance, Frisco, Texas/NCSA Gymnastics

Ashton Locklear, Fort Worth, Texas/NCSA

Ely Hernandez, Fort Ann, Arizona Yankees

Donna Kellogg, Hopes 10-12

Kara Eaker, Grain Valley, Mo./Great Lakes Calif./Precision Gymnastics, Hopes 10-12

Ely Hernandez, Fort Ann, Arizona Yankees

Ashton Locklear, Fort Worth, Texas/NCSA