

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH AND FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana State University women's gymnastics team on an outstanding 2016 season.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University (LSU) gymnastics team completed its season as the national runner-up at the 2016 Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championship in Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers tallied a score of 197.45 to place second, the best finish in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers used a solid 197.33 score in the Semifinal I to earn a spot in the Super Six to qualify for the national championship meet, the third time in the last four years and the fifth time overall; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in school history, LSU's women's gymnastics team reached the 30-win milestone with a 31-6 overall record; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers' postseason record was 18-4, and the eighteen postseason wins are the most in a single season in LSU history; and

WHEREAS, LSU ranked in the top five in all four events, one of only three teams in the nation to do so; and

WHEREAS, for the third consecutive season, the LSU women's gymnastics team finished with a perfect home record and compiled seventeen total All-America honors: eleven at the championships and six in the regular season; and

WHEREAS, LSU shattered the home attendance record for the fourth straight season; an average nine thousand nine hundred six fans attended each meet this season, and a school record of thirteen thousand two hundred ninety-six fans packed the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on March 4, 2016, to watch LSU defeat Alabama 197.925 to 196.225; and

WHEREAS, head coach D-D Breaux reached an exclusive milestone of seven hundred career wins at the national championships; and

WHEREAS, Ashleigh Gnat earned Southeastern Conference (SEC) Specialist of the Year and National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches / Women Central Region Gymnast of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gnat also won the SEC floor exercise title, the fifth gymnast in LSU history to claim the honor; and

WHEREAS, Sydney Ewing, Sara Finnegan, Ashleigh Gnat, Myia Hambrick, Lexie Priessman, and Jessica Savona earned a combined seventeen All-America honors during the 2016 season; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Finnegan and McKenna Kelley both earned SEC All-Freshman honors to become the seventh and eighth LSU gymnasts to earn the distinction since the honor began in 2009, and Ms. Finnegan, Ms. Gnat, and Ms. Hambrick tallied All-SEC honors, giving LSU a grand total of seventy in program history; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hambrick was the national runner-up for the floor exercise national title and placed third in the final all-around standings, and Ms. Gnat set the LSU single-season record with six perfect 10 scores, including a school single-season record of four perfect scores on floor exercise and two perfect scores on vault; and

WHEREAS, LSU won a total of nine SEC Weekly honors: Ms. Hambrick was SEC Gymnast of the Week three times, Ms. Gnat was SEC Gymnast of the Week once, Ms. Shae Zamardi was SEC Specialist of the Week once, Ms. Gnat was SEC Specialist of the Week once, and Ms. Sarah Finnegan was SEC Freshman of the Week three times; and

WHEREAS, six Lady Tigers finished the season ranked in the top twenty-five nationally in at least one category, a feat which tied a school record; and

WHEREAS, twenty routines and six All-Americans are expected to return for the 2017 season, as well as three talented newcomers, Kennedi Edney, Ruby Harrold, and Ashlyn Kirby, who will join the team; and

WHEREAS, the amazing accomplishments of the team could not have been achieved without the guidance and skills of head coach D-D Breaux, associate head coach Jay Clark, assistant coach Bob Moore, volunteer coach Ashleigh-Clare Kearney, and director of

operations Katie Copeland, along with all the other individuals who have contributed to the success of the LSU women's gymnastics program; and

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wish to recognize each of the coaches and the extraordinary Lady Tigers team members on their much deserved success throughout the 2016 season, which was earned through hard work, determination, and dedication to the great sport of gymnastics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the players and coaches of the Louisiana State University Tigers women's gymnastics team on an outstanding and memorable season and on becoming the national runner-up at the 2016 Women's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to head coach D-D Breaux.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES