

# **Steven Gluckstein earns U.S.A. men's trampoline berth to 2012 Olympic Games**

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LONDON, ENGLAND – Friday, January 13, 2012 - Steven Gluckstein (21) of Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey and Ultra Twisters Trampoline Team became only the second man in history to qualify the United States a spot to the Olympic Games in the sport of Trampoline. Gluckstein scored 48.060 points in his compulsory exercise and followed up with a 55.280 score on his optional routine, earning him a 10th place finish at the Olympic Test Event.

Steven has been a member of the United States national trampoline team since 2007, and trains at the Elite Trampoline Academy in Middletown, New Jersey. The Olympic test event in London, where Steven locked the Olympic spot for the Americans, was the second and final country trial event for the Olympic Games to be held this summer also in London.

“I feel extremely proud of myself, my country, and my team,” Gluckstein texts from London. “If there is anything that motivates one to pursue the Olympics- this competition was it. The stadium, the people, and atmosphere were incredible! It was such an amazing experience and honor to compete for and earn my country a spot to the 2012 Olympic Games. I am ready to come home and begin my next journey to the Olympic Trials and Olympic Games!”

The first country trial was held in November at the Trampoline and Tumbling World Championships in Birmingham, Great Britain. The top eight trampolinists in the world locked spots for their countries, while places 9-24 got the chance to fight it out again at the Test Event. The top eight from the Test Event filled the remaining eight slots to round out the roster for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games.

“We’ve known this day would come since Steven was 12 years old,” says Kyle Bowen, one of the two Ultra Twisters coaches and co-owner of the Elite Trampoline Academy where Gluckstein trains. “The guy works as hard, if not harder, than any other trampolinist in the world. He’s devoted his life to this sport, and he deserves this. He represents exactly what the Olympics are all about.”

Tatiana Kovaleva, former World Trampoline Champion and co-owner of the Elite Trampoline Academy has coached Steven since his first day on the trampoline in 1999. “We were so close in 2008,” says Kovaleva of Gluckstein’s performance in the 2008 Olympic trials where a then 18-year-old Gluckstein was ranked number one

going into the Final Selection Event. A fall in his optional routine would cost him the Olympic spot in Beijing. "But he was young then and it wasn't his time. We've worked day and night since then for this year. Now he is ready," says Kovaleva.

This is the just the beginning of the long journey to London, however, and there are still obstacles that Steven will need to overcome. Now that the United States has qualified a country spot, Gluckstein will need to prove he is the best American trampolinist at three selection events domestically between now and June, as only one American male may represent the United States in the Olympic Games. One of those obstacles just happens to be the 2011 US National Trampoline Champion – his younger brother, Jeffrey Gluckstein. The two brothers live and train together every day.

"It will be an interesting next six months, that's for sure," says Bowen. "Tatiana and I have watched these two talented kids grow up into accomplished athletes both competing for a single spot in the pinnacle of sporting events: the Olympic Games."

The three trials will be the U.S. Elite Challenge, March 30-April 1; the Stars and Stripes Cup, May 11-13; and a final selection event held in conjunction with the U.S. National Championships, June 27-28 where the 2012 Olympian will be named.