

IG News

Nguyen Narrows Focus to 2008 Success // December 17, 2007



After his team placed third at the world championships and fifth at the Good Luck Beijing meet this fall, Germany's **Marcel Nguyen** told IG he is optimistic for his squad and himself in 2008.

"I think I performed quite well and didn't make any big mistakes," Nguyen told IG of his performance at Good Luck Beijing, the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee's official test event for next summer's Beijing Olympic Games. "All in all, everybody did a great job. Fifth place is a good starting point, but we'll surely be able to improve till the Olympics."

Nguyen, who earlier this month made four apparatus finals at the Toyota International in Japan, said competing with some of the world's best gymnasts at the test event gave him a better idea of his readiness for the Beijing Games.

"I think it is important to do some more difficult routines, but at the same time perform them well and steadily," he said.

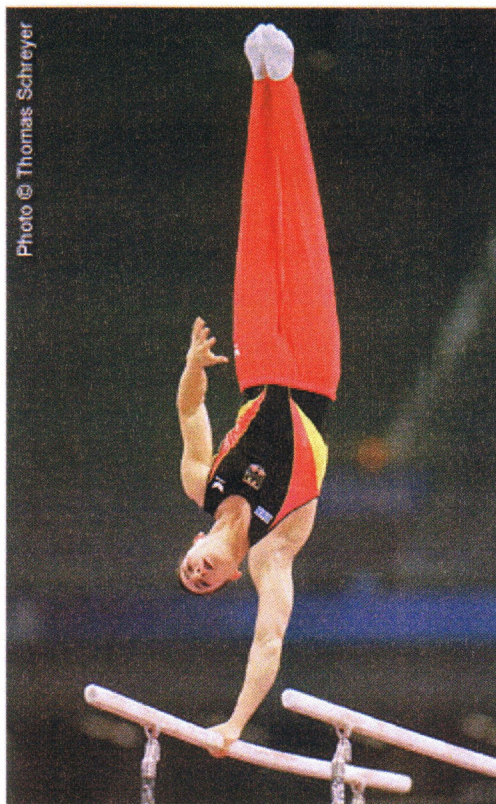
Nguyen, a member of the bronze medal-winning German team at this fall's World Championships in Stuttgart, said he will take a break from training over the holidays to spend time with his family.

"On Christmas Eve all the family members, including my aunt's family and my grandfather, will come to our place," said Nguyen, who has a Vietnamese father and a German mother. "We'll first give out presents and then enjoy a delicious dinner with weisswurst, a traditional Bavarian sausage, and lots of homemade cookies for dessert."

Following the New Year holiday, the 20-year-old Nguyen will resume training for 2008's major competitions — including the European Championships in April and the Beijing Games in August.

"I hope to qualify for the German team and present some new, more difficult routines," Nguyen said. "The main focus, however, is on the Olympics, where we'll hopefully be able to perform as strongly as in the 2007 Worlds. This leaves very little time for my 'regular' life - but my family will support me."

— *John Crumlish*



Marcel Nguyen (Germany)