

Discouraging the Double-Double

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STAFF WRITER

Although the 22-year-old gymnast Simone Biles continues to make history, especially with two new moves she unveiled in the 2019 Worlds Championship in Stuttgart, Germ., her difficulty value (DV) for her double-double beam dismount is causing controversy.

The new dismount, named “The Biles,” consists of a double-twisting, double somersault off the beam, according to The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).

FIG ruled the move an “H” in DV prior to the competition. The 2017–2020 Code of Points by FIG lists the difficulty value from A (.10) to I (.90). Biles earned a DV of .80. Based on the responses of this DV, Biles and others expected the dismount to earn an “I” or “J.”

“There is added risk in landing of double saltos for Beam dismounts (with/without twists), including a potential landing on the neck,” wrote FIG in April 2019 in a statement

about Biles’ balance beam dismount, “Reinforcing, there are many examples in the Code where decisions have been made to protect the gymnasts and preserve the direction of the discipline” — meaning to discourage other gymnasts from trying such dangerous tricks.

In a tweet, Biles referred to the ruling as “bullsh--t.” Five days later, the gymnast landed the same trick FIG considered too dangerous.

Ana Marie Buenviaje, the PLNU head cheer coach, said, “The cheer world is different than gymnastics, but there are some skills that you may think will score higher than another skill, but they count as the same points. The difficulty doesn’t change.”

As a high school and college cheerleader and a staff member of the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), Buenviaje said although she understands safety concerns and regulations, especially as a coach, “When it comes to gymnastics or really any sport, it really comes down to the athlete’s mentality and their

ability to get over fear.”

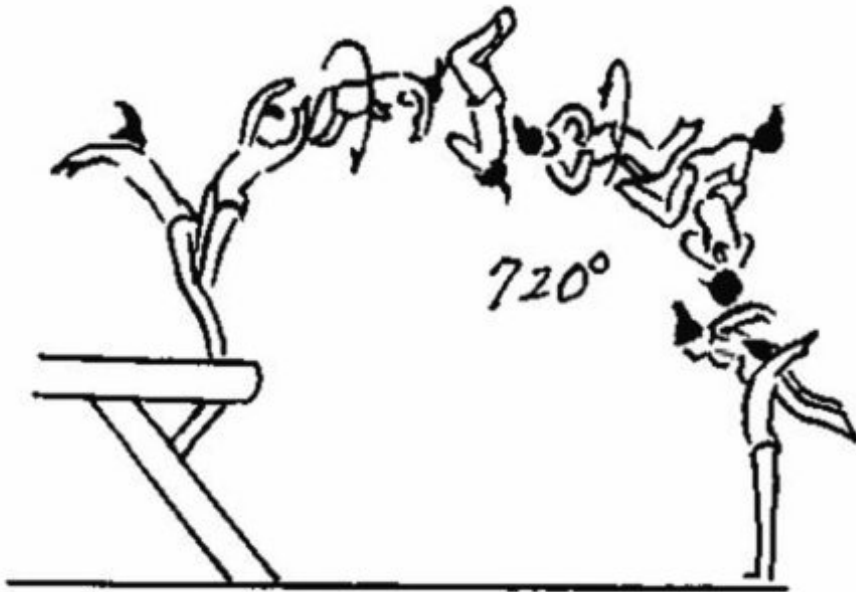
According to Buenviaje, Biles had to overcome many physical and mental challenges to successfully land “The Biles.”

Just as her athletes on the PLNU cheer team prove they can do the stunts and tumbling passes they never thought possible, Buenviaje thinks Biles and other athletes can achieve anything so long as they have the right mentality and work ethic.

She said, “I get the safety part, but at the end of the day, as long as you have the proper training and you have the drive to do it, that’s all that matters.”

In an interview with NBC sports, Biles said, “They keep asking for more, we give them more and they don’t credit it. So what’s the point of even asking? If you’re going to give it an H, nobody’s going to try it,” Biles said, “but if you give it a J, not saying people will try it more, but at least it makes sense to try it because it’s something to shoot for.”

Photo From International Gymnastics Federation (FIG)



The Biles

Submitted by: Simone Biles, USA

Apparatus: Balance Beam

Element description: DMT – Double salto backwards tucked with 2/1 twist (720°)

Element value: H

Green4Gold Raises \$324,000

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According to PLNU’s website, 90% of students are offered financial aid and \$40.6 million was awarded in grants and financial aid to students in 2017-2018. This aid makes attending PLNU a possibility for many students, including junior education major Katelyn Corral.

“Scholarships for me meant that I could even dream of applying to schools, like Loma. Without the aid of scholarships,

I probably wouldn’t have come to Loma because it would be a significant financial strain on my family and me,” Corral said. A fundraising campaign, like Green4Gold, turns attending PLNU from an impossible idea to an attainable concept.

Green4Gold is an annual campaign that started in 2015 and encourages PLNU alumni, community members, students, and students’ families to donate money which enables the school to give financial aid and scholarships to students.

This year’s Green4Gold raised \$324,000 on October 16 from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. The donations came from over 535 people in 34 different states and three countries. The gifts ranged from \$1 to \$50,000.

“We started our annual day of giving because we saw an exciting opportunity to bring together our community of supporters and help inspire them to make a significant impact on current and future students. This is one day when our entire community can rally together in support of PLNU students,” Vice President for University Advancement Kelly Smith said.

Green4Gold raised \$243,000 in 2018, which accounted for 6% of the total

money raised for the year. There was a 33% increase in donations in 2019. This campaign has raised over \$940,000 in since it began in 2015.

“We are so grateful to our family of generous and dedicated donors which include students, faculty & staff, parents, alumni and foundations. Every gift truly makes a difference. We have already started planning for next year’s campaign,” Executive Director of Annual Giving William Burfitt said.

According to Smith, the majority of the donations go to student scholarships. In the past, donations have also been given to athletics, the School of Nursing, the Writer’s Symposium and other academic areas across campus.

“I have found that there are so many alums, and parents both past and present, that experienced true life change on this campus, and when given a chance to express their thanks, they take it,” Smith said. “The PLNU community loves to have something to rally around. This day is one of my favorites because we get to hear stories of grateful PLNU family members who want to pay it forward!”



Photo From Point Loma Nazarene University Twitter

Crossing the Lines

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Last week, the Crossing the Lines conference took place on campus and brought an array of speakers to discuss interdisciplinary Christian conversations about difference.

These sessions included topics surrounding race, gender, disability, immigration and other social justice and cultural concerns.

According to Dr. Sam Powell, PLNU theology professor who helped organize the conference, the Wesleyan Center put on the event to “raise the level of discourse and awareness” about these topics at PLNU.

“We selected these themes because of the theological and social importance at this moment in U.S. history,” Powell said via email. “Three of the sub-themes (immigration, gender, race) are currently matters of intense debate and controversy both in the U.S. [and in] Christian churches particularly. The fourth sub-theme (disability) is a topic that many churches either ignore or feel helpless to deal with. Those who planned the conference felt that we should raise Christian awareness of the issues and provide resources for Christians to think about the matters.”

Here are a few highlights from the week.

Race
Lisa Sharon Harper, author and founder of Freedom Road LLC, spoke about the politics of race in our country and our cities. She began the conversation with acknowledging that Point Loma is on Kumeyaay land and took a moment to honor their land and their people. Harper deconstructed our conceptions of race in America and said these notions are built on what she called “The Core Spiritual Lie,” which is that white, able-bodied Christian men were created by God to exercise dominion in the world, with everyone else created to be ruled. This lie, she said, has manifested itself in political injustices as well as explicit and implicit bias that we have — all built on a lie. The “Core Spiritual Truth,” then, is that all humanity is created in the image of God, called by God and created by God to steward the world, and we need to begin making reparations and living in a way that embodies this truth.

Disability

The speakers on disability included Dr. Denise Neccochea, author Andrea Moriarty, Thomas Reynolds, Dr. Rebecca Laird, Tatum Tricarico and more. A common theme that ran throughout these discussions was the idea of Imago Dei, or Image of God, and that all people, including those with disabilities, bear the image of God. In Wednesday’s discussion, Laird emphasized that the resurrected Jesus still bears wounds and scars, showing that wholeness does not mean bodily perfection. In understanding ourselves as God’s image-bearers, Laird said, we are invited to celebrate being human together, recognizing our need for one another in the inclusive Body of Christ. Tricarico spoke about the Imago Dei as well in her discussion about living with a disability and the fact that God’s very character is displayed in and through disabilities.

LGBTQIA+

The LGBTQIA+ sessions included the science of LGBTQIA+ sponsored by PLNU’s biology department and a discussion about LGBTQIA+ theology and ways to create more affirming faith communities. Mark Miller, a gay Methodist music minister and professor at Yale, was supposed to speak at this panel as a main speaker to talk about his experience. PLNU administration asked him to be a panelist instead of a main speaker, because according to Powell, administration wanted all viewpoints to have an equal representation in the discussion. Miller did not respond to this request and did not attend the conference. Emily Reimer spoke as the third panelist in the LGBTQIA+ theology session. She is a theologian at USD and talked about the ways in which Scripture references homosexuality. She spoke about how LGBTQIA+ questions are not a major scriptural preoccupation, and ways of reading Scripture in a more affirming lens emphasizes God’s celebration of difference and the goodness of all creation. She also talked about how sexual diversity is a part of natural creation, as we move away from embodied shame toward embodied celebration of sexuality and diversity.

Powell said the Wesleyan Center plans to host conferences with topics like this in the future.



(Top) Photo of Lisa Harper Speaking Courtesy of Izabelle Murphy



(Bottom) LGBTQ+ and theology panel, photo courtesy of Sam Powell