

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GK Elite Sportswear Introduces Special Edition Gymnastics Legends Leotards**

READING, Pennsylvania (June 18, 2012) – As the excitement builds for the Summer Games in London, GK Elite Sportswear, L.P., the world's leading supplier of gymnastics apparel, chose five iconic gymnasts to tell their story through a personally designed GK gymnastics workout leotard which will be featured as part of its Gymnastic Legends Special Edition Catalog. Continuing its charitable tradition, GK will donate 10% of sales of each leotard sold to the Collegiate Development Fund within the National Gymnastics Foundation. Made in the USA, the leotards are available for sale now through August 15, 2012 at [www.gkelite.com](http://www.gkelite.com).

Gracing the pages of this Special Edition Catalog are GK gymnastics leotards designed by Champions for Champions. The most well-known names in Women's Gymnastics history share the inspiration behind their leotard design in their own words. All five Legends have worn and endorsed GK leotards, and some of them even sell GK gymnastics apparel in their own gyms.

### **Svetlana Boguinskaia**

*Svetlana burst on to the gymnastics scene at an early age and remained there, as a champion, for an unprecedented three Olympic games.*

When Svetlana Boguinskaia competed as a gymnast, she preferred leotards with a dark color on the bottom and a light color on top to create stand-out contrast. Being a study in contrasts herself on the competition floor, the combination suited Svetlana well. Svetlana's gymnastics were a contrast of graceful artistry and intense drama. That same grace and drama served as inspiration for her 2012 GK Legends Collection Leotard. Her design inspiration comes to life with Black Mystique throughout the body and Charcoal Mystique and Berry Mystique near the neckline in a rolling flame design on the front and back. Svetlana said the "berry, silver and black combination looks great together and makes a perfect leotard for gymnasts of all ages."

### **Kim Zmeskal**

*Kim was the first-ever American woman to become All-Around World Champion in 1991 and is still winning today.*

Kim's inspiration for the design of her 2012 GK Legends Collection Leotard came from the logo design of the 1991 World Championships. Kim said, "During that competition, I experienced the highest of highs with an amazing American audience cheering me and my teammates on all the way! Winning the All-Around title and toppling the Romanians for a Team Silver are tremendous memories that have not faded one bit! The color blue, besides being a favorite of mine, is synonymous with being the best, which is a constant, driving force in my life."

### **Shannon Miller**

*Shannon, the most decorated gymnast in US Olympic history, is a gymnastic legend both individually and as a member of the US Women's Gymnastics Team, fondly referred to as the "Magnificent Seven."*

It's no surprise that when asked about the design inspiration for her 2012 Legends Collection Leotard for GK, Shannon chose a "modern take" on the 1996 Olympic team leotard. US Olympic athletes are an inspiration when they wear the red, white and blue and represent their country with grace under pressure, in heartbreak, and in success. Shannon's Legends Inspired Workout Leotard is the epitome of patriotism. Her design is rich with Navy, Red, and Silver Mystique echoing Old Glory. The Stars & Stripes motif is perfected with clear rhinestone star transfers over the right side of the front bodice and right shoulder.

**Amanda Borden**

*Amanda was Team Captain of the 1996 Magnificent Seven, the first U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team to win Gold in all of Olympic history.*

When asked about her gymnastics career, Amanda Borden seems to have developed a theme upon answering... it's all about the team! Amanda's inspiration for her 2012 GK Legends Collection Leotard stays true to her team theme and the source of her 1996 Olympic fame – her Magnificent Seven teammates. Amanda described the experience as, “the biggest moment of my gymnastics career and one of the biggest moments in women's gymnastics history.” Amanda honors each of her team members with her GK design saying, “There are 7 stripes to represent the 7 members on the team.” Always having favored red, white and blue, Amanda's Legends Inspired Workout Leotard is a shimmering and brilliant combination of Silver Mystique and White Nylon/Spandex. The stunning red Sequinz stripes are artfully laid out across the front of the leo paired with brilliant blue and silver Sequinz stars.

**Carly Patterson**

*Carly competed in the Athens Olympics in 2004 and became only the second American woman to capture Olympic Gold for the Individual All-Around. Carly hit that pinnacle after a fast and furious gymnastics career with an impressive medal count at a young age.*

Carly Patterson found inspiration for her 2012 GK Legends Collection Leotard in revisiting the culmination of her gymnastics career – the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Carly won the Individual All-Around Gold medal, making her only the second American woman to do so, 20 years after Mary Lou Retton first did in 1984. According to Carly, “The Olympic rings wrapping around the leotard are an awesome representation of what I achieved in my gymnastics career.” The foundation for Carly's take on the rings is Silver Mystique and each ring is created with Ocean, Black, Red, Yellow and Kelly Green Mystiques.

**ABOUT GK – ELITE SPORTSWEAR, L.P.**

GK is the world's leading brand of gymnastics apparel and is recognized around the world for superior variety, quality, fit and service. Elite Sportswear, L.P. is proud to have been chosen by adidas® to manufacture the US National Team Competitive apparel for USA Gymnastics since 2000 and is the sole producer of adidas® brand gymnastics apparel worldwide. Based in Reading, Pennsylvania, Elite Sportswear, L.P., the company behind the GK brand, continues its commitment to American-made quality and continuous innovation in designs for Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Dance, and Drill Team apparel. For more information about GK Elite, visit <http://www.gkelite.com>.

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL GYMNASTICS FOUNDATION**

The National Gymnastics Foundation was created from the energy and excitement generated by the gold medal Olympic effort of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Proceeds totaling \$1.4 million from the 1984 Olympics were used to establish the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Today, the Foundation's assets total more than \$5.5 million. Under the able leadership of Robert Wood, a newly elected Board of Directors is looking to increase both the assets of the Foundation and the opportunities for assisting USA Gymnastics and its programs.

**Media Contact:**

Kelly McKeown  
Executive Vice President of Design & Corporate Relations  
GK Elite Sportswear  
[kmckeown@gkelite.com](mailto:kmckeown@gkelite.com)  
610.921-1469

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