



Amy Ferguson

5-3

Palm Harbor, FL

In 1999, snugly packed into the car with Crumbs, the family Border Collie-Black Labrador mix, Amy Ferguson and family made the 2,100 mile drive from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Florida.

Since then, the Ferguson family has expanded by one member. "My dad swore we would never get another dog; but one time we were at a flea market and he took us to this one stand. He picked up an Australian Sheppard to show us and that's how we got Bandit.

Secretly I think my dad was really the one who wanted another pet," Ferguson says with a smile. "We like to think we rescued her, because a few weeks later that pet stand was closed down for failing to feed the animals."

The Palm Harbor, Fla., resident's parents are close enough to make the trip to cheer on their daughter's performances with the Gator gymnastics team and attend the team dinners where the families have the opportunity to mingle after the meets. With her older siblings, Sarah and Stuart, and twin sister Jessica currently enrolled at UF, coming to Florida has become a family affair.

"My whole family is athletic and competitive in a fun way. Even though we are twins, Jessica and I are pretty different. We have different personalities, our own styles and have our own ways of doing things. We always try to correct each other. We used to race all the time and she is pretty fast, so she gives me a run for my money," Ferguson said of her life as a twin.

Not limiting her definition of family to next of kin, Ferguson takes her relationships on the team to heart. "I definitely consider my teammates family. We are a very close knit group," the sophomore stated.

"We like to dance a lot; everywhere there is music you will see us dancing. We also like to come up with characters, voices or accents and try to carry-on conversations or perform skits. We are very creative and usually end up rolling on the floor laughing," Ferguson said of the team's personality. "We played charades at the last team Christmas party. I picked the piece of paper with one of our favorite movies written on it. They guessed it really quickly because that is a movie everyone on our team quotes a lot."

Entertaining herself and her teammates is an important part of Ferguson's innate personality. She simply loves to get others involved and bringing smiles to their faces.

“Floor and vault have always been my favorite events. I feel like your personality can shine through on a floor routine. You get to show your originality and personality through dance. It’s fun. You don’t worry so much on the floor, so you get to have a really good time while you are doing it.”

She’s been a part of Florida’s floor lineup for every meet of her collegiate career. Ferguson posted her collegiate best of 9.875 as a freshman at Georgia.

Ferguson is now pushing herself to compete in her other favorite event. The task has proven to be more challenging than garnering applause from faithful Gator fans.

“I was never afraid to try skills, until something clicked in my head during my senior year of high school. It told me I was scared to back tumble. I couldn’t train it because I had a stupid fear. This past summer I took my time, told myself I could do it and got over it by learning how to perform a Yurchenko vault,” Ferguson said of conquering her fear.

“I love to compete, but I also love to learn stunts I’ve never done before. I knew it was something that would make my routine better. With things like that you have to have a positive attitude, because you know you can do it. You just have to believe in yourself and want it for yourself.”