

Written by dwight normile
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Riley McCusker placed third all-around at the last two U.S. Championships, and she placed second all-around as a junior in 2016.

“Consistency is one of my goals,” says McCusker, who is coached by **Maggie Haney** and **Victoria Levine** at Monmouth Gymnastics (MG Elite) in Morganville, New Jersey.

“I think what’s so special about her is her look,” Haney says. “It’s definitely different and stands out. I think she has amazing flexibility and amazing lines on bars, and even on beam and floor.”

You would think Haney would like to create a floor routine for such a gorgeous dancer. Not so. [*Haney laughs*]

“You would think I would be but choreography stresses me out a lot,” Haney says. “I actually don’t enjoy it because I guess I feel like the expectations are so high. I guess my kids are known for their choreography, which is a major compliment, but I would be lying if I said I’ve enjoyed it. I really don’t ... I don’t have background in dance at all.”

Asked about her favorite social media platform, Riley says she uses “Snapchat like every day [*giggles*] ... and I use Instagram a lot, too.”

Yes indeed, Riley McCusker is some kind of gymnast!

Read the whole story in the November 2018 issue.

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