

Written by John Crumlish
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International Gymnast Online's annual series of holiday-themed features continues with this interview with Bulgarian gymnast and University of California-Berkeley freshman Yordan Aleksandrov. Pictured: Aleksandrov, second from left, with the Bulgarian team at the 2014 European Championships in Sofia.

*International Gymnast Online's annual series of holiday-themed features continues with this interview with Bulgarian gymnast and University of California-Berkeley freshman **Yordan Aleksandrov** who reflects on his international achievements of the past year, and reveals his goals for success at both the international and U.S. collegiate level in 2015.*

Born August 20, 1995, in Bulgaria, Aleksandrov has been living in the U.S. since age 7 and holds dual citizenship. He enrolled at UC-Berkeley this fall, prior to which he trained under his coach and father, **Dimitar Aleksandrov**, at Novato Gymnastics in Northern California.

In 2013 Aleksandrov placed eighth all-around, first on high bar and second on parallel bars in the 17-18 age group at the U.S. Junior Olympic championships; and finished a credible 68th place all-around at the world championships in Antwerp, where he scored 72.864 points.

This spring Aleksandrov returned to his homeland to compete at the European championships in Sofia, where he score an impressive 79.031 point to finish 17th among the gymnasts who competed on all six apparatuses in qualifications. (No separate all-around competition took place in Sofia.) Shortly after beginning his freshman year at UC-B, where the competition season does not start until winter, Aleksandrov scored 75.630 points in all-around qualifications at the worlds in Nanning in October.

IG: Yordan, looking back on 2014, what was the most important or satisfying moment of your competitive year, and why?

YA: Looking back at my 2014 competitive year, I would say that the most satisfying thing that happened was qualifying to the 2015 European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan as a whole team. We were able to qualify to this first-ever prestigious event after we placed 16th at the European championships in Sofia.

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