

Mark Coyle, the U of M athletic director, accomplished his mission.

At least part of it. He dropped three non revenue programs, which includes the men's gymnastics program, to reduce expenses. Yet the women's gymnastics team stays on campus which keeps the U Title 1X compliant.

Eliminating mens gymnastics saves 0.64 percent— a sliver of the the athletic department's \$125 million budget.

This means:

No more is the mens gymnastics team completing under the U of M banner, yet the women's team is still there.

And no more will the mens team carry on the legacy of over 20 Big Ten championships.

And no more champions will follow the footsteps of John Roethlisberger, celebrated internationally as an all-around performer. Or Shane Wiskus who has already won two national titles in his emerging career.

No longer will Mike Burns, a highly respected coach by his team, by the gymnastics community and his peers be able to recruit and develop young athletes for the U. Yet he he still serves as chair of the USA Gymnastics Advisory board.

No U of M gymnast to my knowledge has ever had his name on the rap sheet of any local police department. These young men have graduated with high academic ratings, except for a very few with medical, financial and other problems. And now they are role models in their communities.

As other colleges have done, please decide to reinstate these three programs.

Sincerely,

Al Hietala

Supporter and donor

Presidents Club member