

## Linda's Beijing Journal: Day 10

By Charles F. Gardner

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*Editor's note: Linda McDonald is writing a daily journal for JSOnline, tracking the progress of West Allis gymnast Chellsie Memmel and commenting on the Olympic scene in Beijing. Linda is a nationally rated gymnastics judge, clinician and choreographer and close friend of the Memmel family. Originally from Green Bay, Linda now lives in Aurora, Ill.*

**Beijing** - We just returned from the first night of event finals at the gymnastics venue, and there were a few surprising results.

Women's vault was interesting, and I believe U.S. gymnast Alicia Sacramone should have been on the award stand, although she finished fourth.

There were a few falls on pommel horse in the men's competition, including a heartbreaking fall for American Alexander (Sasha) Artemev. Women's floor also had surprising falls. Shawn Johnson and Nastia Liukin won the silver and bronze medals, in that order.

Earlier on Sunday, we went to the Old Summer Palace. The grounds were amazing. Bridges and temples were surrounded by a beautiful lake, which occupies three-quarters of the grounds. There were a few small islands out there and boats were everywhere.

We climbed up a steep mountain to get to the largest temple. Inside was a Buddhist statue. Everywhere you looked the flowers were more and more spectacular. The lilly pads were huge, the size of kitchen tables.

Chellsie's two sisters, Mara and Skyler, joined me in buying Chinese Princess headpieces. We wore them around and must have been stopped to have our picture taken 100 times. The Chinese people thought we were pretty funny!