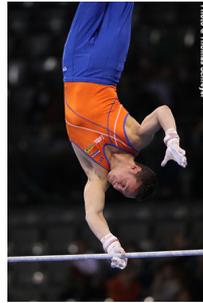


Written by John Crumlish
Friday, 21 December 2012 16:00

IG Online's annual tradition of holiday-themed features continues with this profile of Dutch gymnast Bart Deurloo, who plans to use his 2012 accomplishments as a launch for new successes in 2013.

Capping his year with a gold medal on high bar at the Challenger Cup of Ostrava last month, Dutch gymnast **Bart Deurloo** told IG he is pleased with his 2012 successes and eager to achieve more in 2013.



Bart Deurloo (Netherlands)

"It was great to win my first World Cup (FIG Challenger Cup), and it gives me a boost to train even harder," Deurloo said. "2012 began with an injury on my ankle that started in November 2011, so at the European championships (in April) I did basic routines. But after that I won the Dutch nationals and made the finals with my German (Bundesliga) team, TV Weztgau, and won a World Cup. So the last half of the year was great."

Born Feb. 23, 1991, in Ridderkerk, Deurloo trains under head coach **Jeroen Jacobs** and assistant coach

Jos Eigenbrood

at the O & O Zwijndrecht club. He finished 14th all-around at the 2011 European Championships in Berlin, and seventh all-around in qualifications at the 2012 Europeans in Montpellier, where no all-around final was contested. Deurloo also competed in the all-around at the 2009 and 2010 World Championships.

Deurloo said that, despite his break-out success on high bar late this year, he will continue to train as an all-around gymnast.

"I will perform all-around as long as I can, and, as I get older, I will probably focus on a few apparatuses - high bar for sure," he said. "At the 2016 Olympics I will do all-around if I qualify."

Deurloo said he has gained confidence through teammate **Epke Zonderland's** gold medal-winning performance on high bar at this summer's Olympics in London.

"Epke inspires a lot of people, I think, and his win really motivated me," Deurloo said. "Because, if he can do it, why can't I?"

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Deurloo plans to celebrate Christmas with family, and New Year's Eve with friends. He is looking forward to new achievements in 2013.

"My goals for the new year are to make lot of finals and win a lot of medals," he told IG. "I hope for a healthy year with no big injuries or sickness. And I wish everybody a good year."