

Written by John Crumlish  
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IG Online continues the annual tradition of holiday-themed features with this update on 2008 Ukrainian Olympian Dariya Zgoba, whose new coaching career recently benefited from a stint in Sweden. Pictured: Zgoba with young gymnasts at her club in Ivano-Frankivst, Ukraine. *IG Online continues the annual tradition of holiday-themed features with this update on 2008 Ukrainian Olympian*

**Dariya Zgoba**

*, whose new coaching career recently benefited from a stint in Sweden.*

"I have been to many countries but I'd never been in Sweden before," she said. "Of course it is winter now and I wished to do more work at the gym than sightseeing."



Zgoba and new husband Oleg Zaits

Zgoba said she enjoyed her visit to the Eskilstuna Gymnastics Club, where she coached with the club's head coaches, **Sebastian Melander** and **Helena Andersson**, from Dec. 9-16.

"Everyone there was polite, friendly and respectful to me and the work I did with gymnasts," she said. "The most important thing is the system that that two coaches of this club, Sebastian and Helena, has built. They are continuing to perfect their skills and develop the staff."

Zgoba said the training system she experienced in Sweden was impressive and comprehensive.

"During the week I saw that they work so hard, and now many countries should pay attention," Zgoba said. "They have a perfectly mixed system of training, and rightly divided according to the seasons. In this club I saw that they are all very hard workers. Nowadays, Swedish coaches, gymnasts and the government really believe in gymnastics. They support it and have

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such strong wishes to be the best."

Now retired from competition, Zgoba won the 2007 European title on uneven bars and finished eighth on uneven bars at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. In World Cup meets, Zgoba won eight medals on uneven bars and five medals on balance beam.

Earlier this year she married **Oleg Zaits**, an oil field engineer who also works in winter as a ski instructor. The couple spent their honeymoon in Tenerife, Canary Islands.

Zgoba's holiday plans include celebrating Christmas with Zaits and friends at Bukovel Ski Resort in the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine. She has ambitious plans for the new year, as well.

"In 2013, I dream of more traveling abroad," she told IG. "I would like to get an opportunity to work abroad as a gymnastics coach-choreographer, and be together with my husband."