

Written by dwight normile
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The April 2018 issue of *International Gymnast* is coming out soon, and will include a feature on **Kohei Uchimura** of Japan. Its title is “Snapped Streak: At age 29, can Kohei Uchimura win another World all-around title?”

It’s a question worth pondering, especially since more men’s all-arounders are closing in on him.

Recently, IG was able to secure an exclusive interview with Uchimura.

Following are a few excerpts.

“My ankle (which he injured on vault during the 2017 Worlds qualifications) is recovering well,” says Uchimura, who plans to begin his 2018 season at the Doha, Qatar, World Cup this week. That will enable him to get a feel for the Aspire Dome, the same arena that will host the 2018 World Championships in Doha, Oct. 25 - Nov. 3.

Of his ankle injury he says, “I am very frustrated with myself that I could not compete in all six events (at the 2017 World Championships).” Asked if he plans to do the all-around at the 2018 Worlds, he says, “Yes, of course.”

Even at his age, Uchimura says he is not training fewer hours than he did when he was younger. “It hasn’t changed much.”

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But the aches and pains are always a factor. “As a gymnast, everyone has nagging injuries. In my case, it’s back pain.”

Uchimura’s consecutive world all-around titles ended at six, but his gymnastics philosophy just might have been the reason for such an amazing, unprecedented streak.

“I think the performance that touches people’s hearts is beautiful,” Uchimura says.

Read the whole story in the April 2018 issue. To subscribe to the print and/or digital edition, or to order back issues of *International Gymnast* magazine, [click here](#) .