

Erna Wachtel



Class of [1974](#)

Program(s): [Women's Artistic](#)

Inducted as: [Athlete](#), [Coach](#), [Contributor](#)

Lifespan: 1907-1995

After coming to the U.S. at the age of 19, Erna Wachtel put her Turner training to use as an athlete, coach and judge during her career. Fifteen years following Wachtel's arrival, she earned National AAU medals and in 1944 earned an Honorary Olympic Team membership for the cancelled games that year due to World War II. The following decade after her retirement from competition, Wachtel was the Central AAU Chairperson and served as a committee post with the National AAU. She coached the 1956 US Women's Gymnastics Olympic Team in Melbourne, Australia where it placed ninth. Beyond coaching

and instructing pre-schoolers, young children and inexperienced adults at Chicago's Lakeshore Park, Wachtel also served as international Brevet Judge.