she'ssoskirt

Interview by Aleigh Acerni, skirt!Charlotte

Nastia Liukin | gymnast | olympian | gold medalist | role model

[because she's a role model for girls of all ages] [because she reached for the gold in Beijing] [because she's not stopping]

You might not recognize 19-year-old Nastia without a leotard, but there's a good chance you cheered her on last summer during the Olympics in Beijing, where she represented the U.S. on the Women's Gymnastics Team. The daughter of two accomplished gymnasts, Nastia immigrated to the United States from Russia at two years old, spent her childhood watching her parents coach aspiring gymnasts at their gym in Dallas, Texas and decided to pursue her parents' gymnastic legacy, earning five medals in Beijing, including a gold medal in the coveted all-around competition. Since returning to the U.S., Nastia has been on a whirlwind 37-city gymnastics tour, has been featured on boxes of Wheaties, has volunteered for various organizations including the Susan G. Komen Foundation and has even launched her own line of clothing, Nastia Gold, through Vanilla Star Jeans, a brand that provides scholarships to young women. While she doesn't rule out another appearance at the Olympics in 2012, she's not sure what—aside from starting college in Texas—the next four years will hold. But she can't wait to get back to the gym. "I haven't had much time to train since the Olympics," Nastia says. "I'm ready to get back in there."