

MIXED-PAIRS

A first-ever for our Sport.

It was in Atlanta, Georgia in the beautiful Omni Arena...CBS-TV was there for the "Sports Spectacular series... and they were all there to see 18 mixed-pairs take part in the worlds FIRST MIXED-PAIRS GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

All the gymnasts from the recently concluded American Cup traveled to Atlanta and we conducted a coaches-delegation leaders meeting. We explained the concept of an event that had never been done before. Mixed-Pairs, was just what it sounded like. Two gymnasts compete. The man first, in an event he selected, and then his partner in her pre-selected event. The scores came up together...and the score for the pair was the combined score of the two that were flashed. Groups of judges sat at either end of the floor in order to see whichever event the gymnasts had chosen without moving chairs. They sat together. It was fun. Terribly unofficial according to the Code of Points, and designed to be enjoyable for gymnasts and spectators. It turned out to be just that but a whole lot more. It was a great competition. We think it has a great future.

Rick Appleman, who has done so much for our promotional fortunes in years past thought of the idea. One would figure it wasn't a gymnast...we always think of standard events and the Code of Points. This idea sounded good so we tried it. CBS-TV, and their boss Eddie Einhorn (Sports) also thought it sounded interesting. Our promotion agency 20th Century-Fox Sports liked it. Everything was positive so it was green and go.

We have 18 pairs. 13 of them were truly national pairs, that is both gymnasts were from the same nation. The other five mixed available men and women gymnasts depending upon which gymnasts represented nations alone. Thanks here to Francis Allen and his great young performer, Jim Hartung who flew in and competed virtually at a moment's notice when we found we had one young lady from Czechoslovakia without a partner for the competition. Thanks Francis, thanks Jimmy, thanks Nebraska University.

The competition went basically this way. Two preliminary rounds. During these first two rounds, each gymnast had to designate which two (different) events they intended to work. They did just that. The total score of the two events each for the male and female gymnast were announced after each round. Then we cut to the top 8 mixed-pairs teams. Then those pairs had to select one more routine...to perform...but this time they could be one of the same selected before. Then that score was added to the first two scores...but don't forget the pairs score...the male and female scores count together...then we narrowed it to three pairs. This time they had to select one more routine...and again it could be one they had previously performed. The competition was fierce...the interest was high and the gymnasts pressed on. Finally, with the fourth round of scores for the final pairs added with the previous three rounds...the Pair from the German Democratic Republic, was declared winner...by

.05 points above the pair from the USSR....which pair was only .10 points ahead of the pair of Johnson and Thomas from the U.S.A.

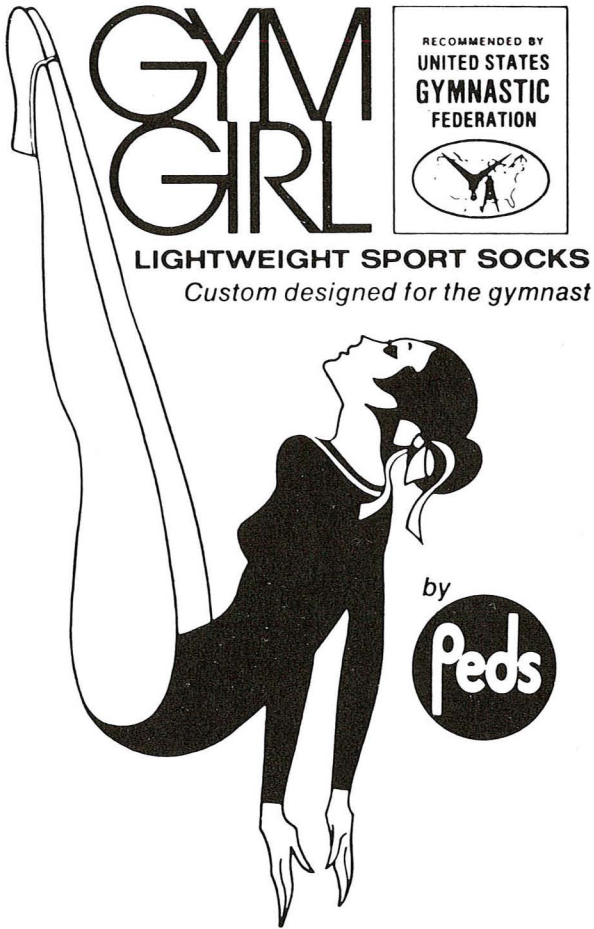
DDR 1stMaxi Gnauck and M. Nikolay
USSR Second ... Stella Zachorova and Bogdan Makuts
USA Third Kathy Johnson and Kurt Thomas

Results follow for this most interesting event. We contemplate some changes already, but it has a future in the area of shows for gymnastics. A fun, sporting competition with real gymnast and spectator interest. Watch CBS-TV beginning April 21st for the first of seven (7) weeks of this great event. Let us know what you think of it...everyone who participated loved it.



Winners in the first Mixed-Pairs Championships, Maxi Gnauck and Michael Nikolay of the German Democratic Republic.

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DIAL-AMERICAN CUP MIXED PAIRS COMPETITION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

March 13, 1979

1ST ROUND

Mr. J. Geiger, FDR	37.00	13th
Ms. K. Ujszigeti, Hungary		
Mr. J. Shimizu, Japan	37.30	8th
Ms. Y. Kawai, Japan		
Mr. J. Hartung, USA	37.40	7th
Ms. R. Zemanova, CSSR		
Mr. P. Gaille, Switzerland	37.15	11th
Ms. E. Canevascini, Switzerland		
Mr. J. Davis, Great Britain	36.55	15th
Ms. S. Cheesebrough, Great Britain		
Mr. J. Migdau, CSSR	37.25	9th
Ms. A. Sauerova, CSSR		
Mr. H. Taguchi, Japan	36.80	14th
Ms. A. Saito, Japan		
Mr. Z. Magyar, Hungary	38.05	3rd
Ms. E. Gabonyui, Hungary		
Mr. H. Boerio, France	37.20	10th
Ms. C. Coutinho, Brazil		
Mr. P. Cahoy, USA	37.80	5th
Ms. T. Talavera, USA		
Mr. L. Pettersen, Norway	35.70	18th
Ms. R. Grabolle, GDR		
Mr. J. Cano, Mexico	36.00	17th
Ms. B. Vos, Holland		
Mr. P. DeLasalle, Canada	37.45	6th
Ms. S. Hawco, Canada		
Mr. K. Thomas, USA	38.00	4th
Ms. K. Johnson, USA		
Mr. A. Anisimov, USSR	36.40	16th
Ms. E. Naimushina, USSR		
Mr. W. Moy, France	37.05	12th
Ms. A. Herve, France		
Mr. M. Nikolay, GDR	38.55	1st
Ms. M. Gnauck, GDR		
Mr. B. Makuts, USSR	38.40	2nd
Ms. S. Zakharova, USSR		

FINAL ACCUMULATED SCORES

Mr. M. Nikolay, GDR	77.45	1st
Ms. M. Gnauck, GDR		
Mr. B. Makuts, USSR	77.40	2nd
Ms. S. Zakharova, USSR		
Mr. K. Thomas, USA	76.55	3rd
Ms. K. Johnson, USA		