

*Kathy Johnson*

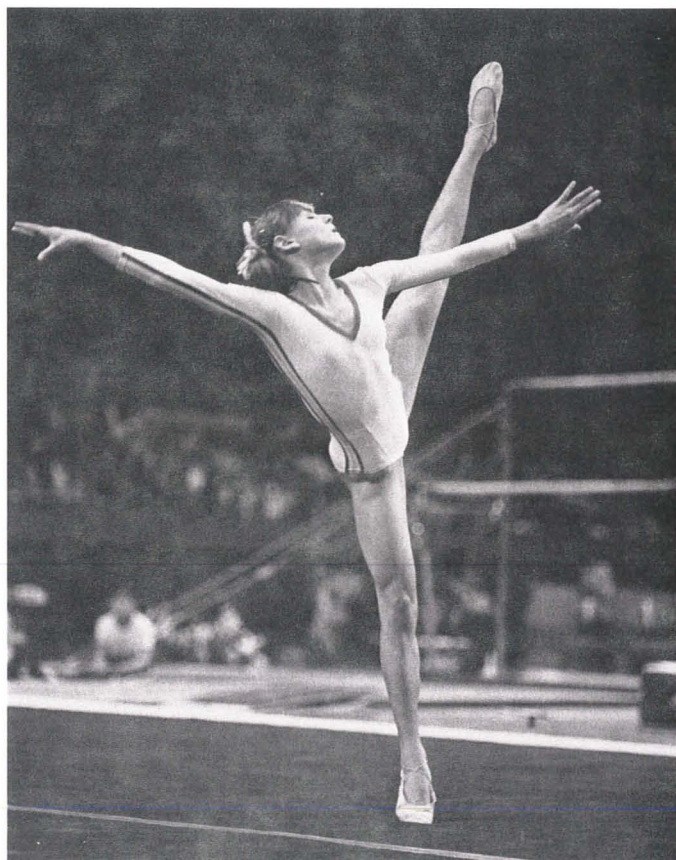
# **CHINESE PAIR WIN '81 INTERNATIONAL MIXED-PAIRS**

"Maybe I can set an example. Maybe if I keep competing, other girls won't quit at such an early age. I hope I can change the trend. I feel stronger than ever right now. I feel I'm a better gymnast than I've ever been. That's why I'm still competing. I feel like my best meets may be ahead of me. It boggles my mind to think about how good gymnasts could be if they kept with it and let their bodies mature."

*Florida Times-Union — March 22, 1981 — Pat Dooley*



*University of Nebraska's All-American Jim Hartung dismounting rings with double-twisting double-back.*



*Romania's Mihaela Stanulet scored a 9.70 V, 9.60 BB and 9.50 FX in Jacksonville, FL at the 3rd International Mixed-Pairs.*

In Fort Worth at the American Cup, the weekend prior to the Mixed-Pairs competition, the Chinese and Americans took top honors. In Jacksonville, Florida the Chinese and Americans once again dominated the competition. The winners of the 3rd Annual International Mixed-Pairs were Huang Qun and Yuejie Li from the Peoples Republic of China. Second went to Americans Kathy Johnson and Jim Hartung, followed in third by Marcia Frederick and Phil Cahoy.

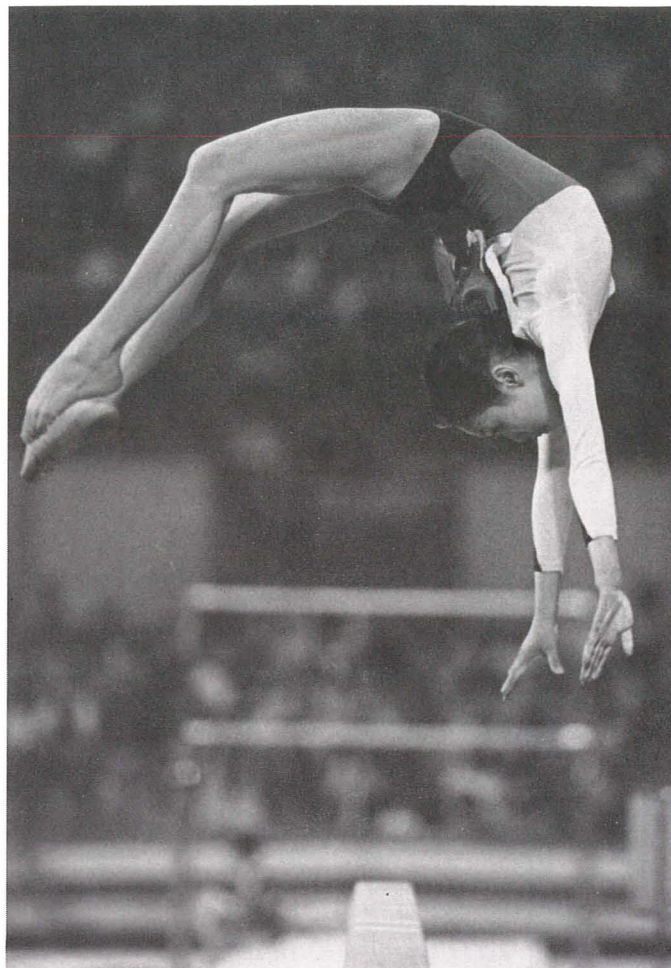
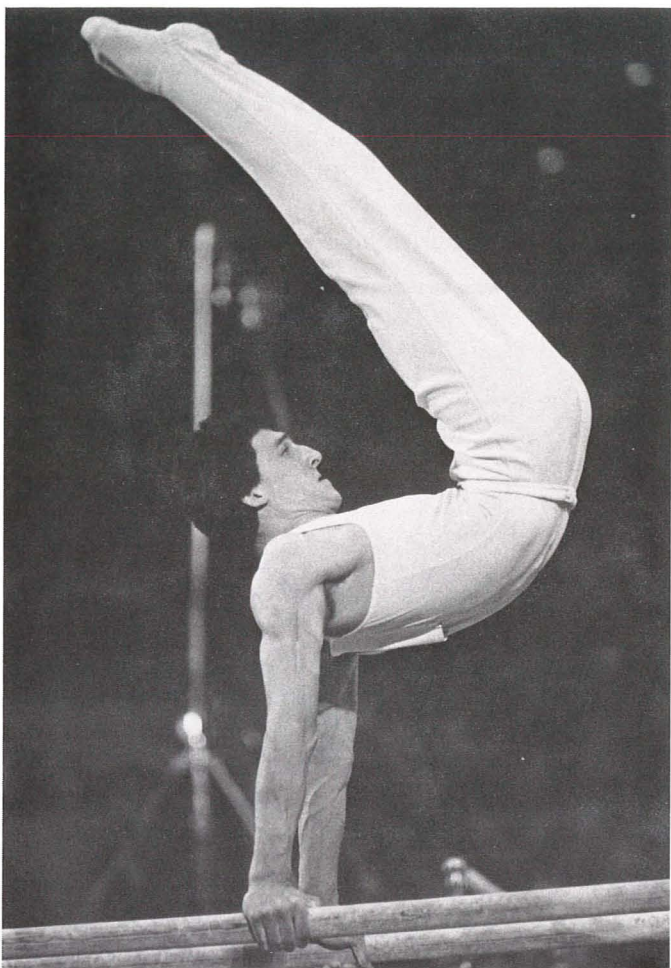
Following American Cup over 100 athletes, coaches, judges and meet personnel boarded an Air Florida jetliner and headed for Jacksonville and the "Sunshine State." The International Mixed-Pairs was co-hosted by the Charter Company and the City of Jacksonville. The event was covered by CBS-TV, with Muriel Grossfeld and Dick Stockton.

Mixed-Pairs is unique. In a Times-Union interview with Pat Dooley prior to the competition Kathy Johnson viewed the meet as, "A fun event, but that doesn't mean we won't be trying. Anytime

we step on the floor, we're trying to win. But this kind of event doesn't have the pressure that some have."

The atmosphere and attitudes of all the delegations was relaxed. Mixed-Pairs is intended to be a friendly competition, designed to promote goodwill throughout the gymnastics world. The quality of competition has been, and is excellent. International Mixed-Pairs Champions have included World Champions Maxi Gnauck, Marcia Frederick, Kurt Thomas . . . and now Yuejie Li.

The format for Mixed-Pairs' teams together one male and one female gymnast in a three-tier elimination competition. In all, 22 teamed-pairs enter the first round of competition with each gymnast choosing one event to perform on. Each gymnast competes, is judged, and their scores are added for a composite score for each pair. The top 12 pairs qualify for an alike second round, of which the top 6 pairs advance to finals. In each round the gymnasts must choose a different event, and the final score for each pair is cumulative through the three rounds.



USA Junior Champion Dianne Durham (Bottom-left), Olympian Phil Cahoy (top-left) and 13 year old Huang Qun from the Peoples Republic of China.



There were 9 Americans in the field of 44 gymnasts, representing 16 countries. Joining USA Olympians Johnson, Frederick, Hartung, Cahoy, Julianne McNamara and Tracee Talavera were USA Junior National Champion Dianne Durham (Gary, IN) and juniors Nicole Kushner (Allentown, PA) and Dee Jacques (Jacksonville, FL). In unavoidable last minute scheduling McNamara, Talavera and the junior girls were not paired with American male gymnasts, a circumstance USGF officials feel, "... should and will be corrected in future Mixed-Pairs' events."

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*"International Mixed Pairs Champions have included World Champions Maxi Gnauck, Marcia Frederick, Kurt Thomas . . . and now Yuejie Li."*

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In this pairs competition, advancing to the next round depends not only on how gymnast performs but on both partners. In Round 1, fine routines as Talavera's 9.50 UB, Jacques' 9.40 V, Durham's 9.25 UB and Kushner's 9.25 FX unfortunately were combined with major and minor routine breaks from their respective partners; causing these 4 Americans not to qualify for Round 2.

Going into the final round .60 separated the top five pairs. The six final teams included Mihael Stanlutz and Dan Odorhean (ROM), Jiang Wei (PRC) and Michel Boutard (FRA), Marcia Frederick and Phil Cahoy, Julianne McNamara and Jurgen Geiger (FRG), Kathy Johnson and Jim Hartung and Huang Qun and Yuejie Li.

Qun and Li were leading after Round 2 (Li - 9.70FX/9.90 V and Qun - 9.35 V/9.75 FX), and entered finals with a .25 lead over Johnson (9.70 V/9.55 UB) and Hartung (9.50 PH/9.70 R). In third was McNamara (9.60 V/9.75 UB) and Germany's Geiger (9.30 FX/9.60 V). In the last round Li, the reigning World Cup PB Champion, choose PB as his final event scoring 9.75, and combined with Qun's 9.45 BB totaled 19.10 to insure their victory. Johnson (9.70 FX) and Hartung (9.50 PB) also totaled 19.10 in the final round. Moving into third were Frederick (9.55 BB) and Cahoy (9.60 HB) as Julianne McNamara's 9.70 FX combined with Geiger's 9.10 HB came up short of the other competitors and dropped them to 5th overall.



On behalf of the Chinese Gymnastics Association, China's Delegation leader Mr. Jian Gao accepts the Charter-Star—presented to the winning country of Mixed-Pairs by the Charter Company.

'81 INTERNATIONAL MIXED-PAIRS JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA MARCH 24, 1981						
		Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	TOTAL	
Huang Qun	PRC	V 9.35	FX 9.75	BB 9.45		
Yuejie Li	PRC	FX 9.70	V 9.90	PB 9.75	57.90	
Kathy Johnson	USA	V 9.70	UB 9.55	FX 9.70		
Jim Hartung	USA	PH 9.50	R 9.70	PB 9.50	57.65	
Marcia Frederick	USA	V 9.70	UB 9.50	BB 9.50		
Phil Cahoy	USA	PB 9.30	PH 9.65	HB 9.60	57.25	
Jiang Wei	PRC	V 9.50	FX 9.50	BB 9.60		
Michele Boutard	FRA	PH 9.70	V 9.30	PB 9.40	57.00	
Julianne McNamara	USA	V 9.60	UB 9.75	FX 9.70		
Jurgen Geiger	FRG	FX 9.30	V 9.50	HB 9.10	56.95	
Mihaela Stanulet	ROM	V 9.70	BB 9.60	FX 9.50		
Dan Odorhan	ROM	FX 9.40	V 9.40	R 9.20	56.80	

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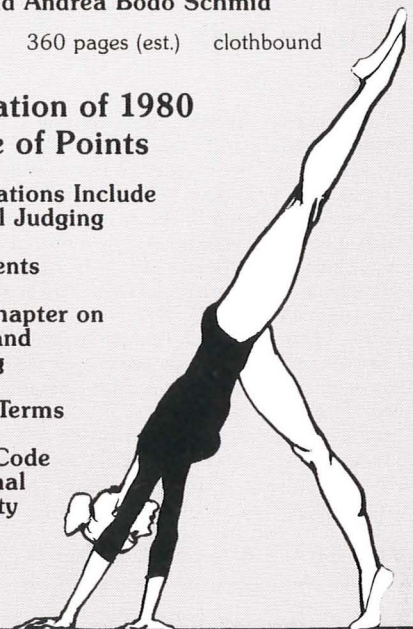
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