

USGF GYMNASTICS

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



1982
INTERNATIONAL
MIXED-PAIRS

Photography by Dave Black

Jacksonville — For the second year in a row the International Mixed-Pairs competition was hosted by the city of Jacksonville and the Charter Company. This fourth annual meet had 38 gymnasts entered from 13 countries, including the Soviet Union, Japan, the Peoples Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, England, Canada, Hungary and Bulgaria. The defending champion Chinese pair — Qun Huang and Li Yuejie — winning last year's competition over the USA's Kathy Johnson and Jim Hartung — were not present to defend their title.

The gymnasts competing had traveled to Florida from New York City, where over the previous weekend they had participated in the seventh McDonald's American Cup. Cup Champions Bart Conner and Julianne McNamara and women's co-champion Zoja Grantcharova (BUL) were in Jacksonville to compete for individual honors as well as to represent their country in challenging for the prestigious Charter Star — an eight pointed lead crystal star of tapered prisms made by Steuben Glass.

The International Mixed-Pairs is a unique event. A one-of-a-kind, original gymnastics competition designed to be creative, fun and competitive. The format for Mixed-Pairs teams together one male and one female gymnast in a three-tier elimination meet. In all 19 teamed-pairs entered the first round of optional competition, with each gymnast choosing one event to perform on. Each gymnast competes, is judged, and their scores are added for a composite team score for each pair. The top 12 pairs qualify for an alike second round, of which the top 6 pairs advance to the finals. In each round the gymnasts must choose a different event, and the final score for each pair is cumulative through the three rounds.

“Julianne McNamara and Bart Conner became the second American pair to win the competition . . .”

In last year's competition, an average team score of 18.90 qualified for the final round; this year the first two teams to compete — Bulgarians Grantcharova and Banquiev and Russians Shishova and Tumilovich — started out scoring with a 19.20 and 19.00 respectively. They were followed by Gina Stallone and Jim Hartung both on floor exercise — score 19.30. And then the Chinese pair of Tang and Zou also on FX — score 19.40! Zou mounted floor with a “moon-salto,” a piked full-in, and tumbled just as high throughout his routine. Mixed-Pairs is an ideal competition for a gymnast of Zou's abilities — he has four high-powered events; FX, PH, V and HB — and two events not yet at the standards he has achieved in the others. These event choices each gymnast is faced with, and the added variable of how well your teammate also performs helps to make this competition unique and differently competitive.

Peter Vidmar chose rings as his first event and scored 9.70, but teammate Tracee Talavera had trouble on floor. She over-rotated a piked double-back mount and went out-of-bounds — score 9.10. They didn't qualify for round two. Other top paired-teams who ended the night early were Ohara and Goto (JPN) and Zsilinski and Guczoghy (HUN).

In the second round, Julianne McNamara's 9.90 uneven bars routine helped move her and teammate Bart Conner into the finals tied for second place. Gina Stallone's fine beam routine also helped to place her and Jim Hartung in the last round. Others to make it to finals were Tang and Zou (CHN) leading by .20, Frolova and Pogorelov (URS) were fifth and Bulgarians Grantcharova and Banquiev were fourth.

Six paired teams for the second round were eliminated by the six strong final teams. Consistency of both gymnasts made the difference. Shishova's missed double-back on floor cost her and teammate Tumilovich a place in finals, as did the German Democratic Republic's Freiderike Danz's missed beam routine kept her and World Champion Michael Nikolay from finals. Japan's Shinji Morisue had scored a 9.70 HB and a 9.70 V in the first two rounds only

Jim Hartung (left) and Mixed-Pairs teammate Gina Stallone finished third in the competition.



1982 International Mixed-Pairs Champions, California's Julianne McNamara and Oklahoma's Bart Conner.



to have teammate Ayumi Shinohara's weak 9.10 V in the second round keep them from the finals.

In the finals, five teams were in the running for the championship. The Russians were first to compete with two solid routines — Frolova scoring 9.75 on beam and Pogorelov perhaps under-scored on pommel horse at 9.75. He mounted with five immediate moves on one pommel and his routine included flair travels and a handstand dismount. Their combined total of 19.50/58.00 gave them the lead.

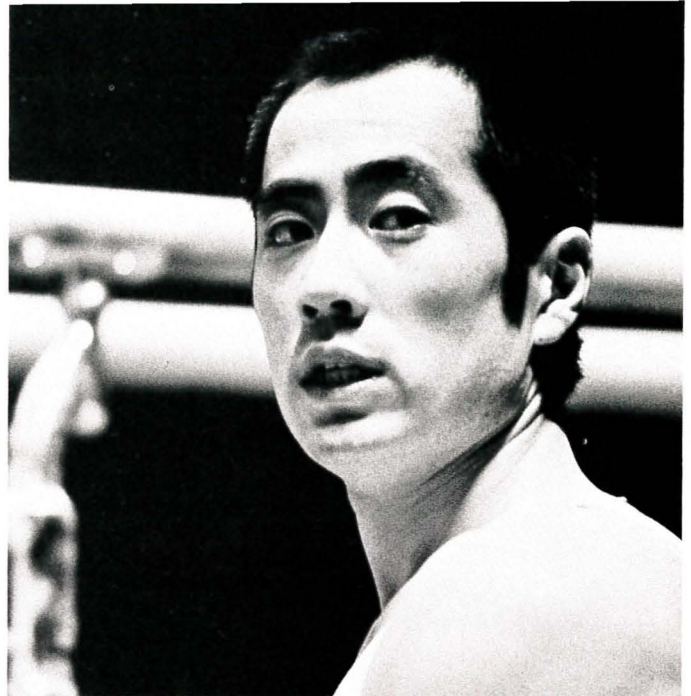
The Bulgarians were next. Grantcharova had scored 9.80 FX and 9.65 V, and in this last round hit uneven bars for a 9.65. But Banquiev's weak Tsukahara vault allowed them only 19.20 and a 57.75 total.

The Chinese pair had competed on their strongest events in the first two rounds, while Americans Hartung and Conner had saved a strong event for finals. McNamara had competed uneven bars in round two, her strongest event, and Gina Stallone had competed BB-9.80. Tang Xiaoli had competed FX-9.75 and BB-9.70 and Zou Limin scored 9.70 FX and 9.90 HB. Zou is a six-time National High Bar Champion in China. His routine included one-arm giant combinations and a one-arm giant to Gienger, straddle front catch and full twisting double-back dismount.

Gina Stallone's 9.70 uneven bar routine, however, was off-set by Jim Hartung's miss on rings. Jim was a little short on his double-twisting double-back dismount and scored only 9.50. Their event-score was 19.20, good enough to take the lead 58.05 over the Russians 58.00, but two pairs were yet to compete.

McNamara and Conner were next. Julianne on floor and Bart on parallel bars. Both hit excellent sets to tie the Russian pair for the last round score of 19.50 — McNamara 9.65 FX and Conner 9.85 PB. They were the leaders at 58.35, but the Chinese had a .20 lead going into finals.

Both Chinese gymnasts chose vaulting. Zou's tucked brani-out was very low in the landing, but scored well at 9.75. However, Tang's layout-pike Tsukahara was not very high or long and scored



Japan's Kiyoshi Goto demonstrated why the Japanese men appear to be rebounding after their 1979 loss to the Soviets in the World Championships.

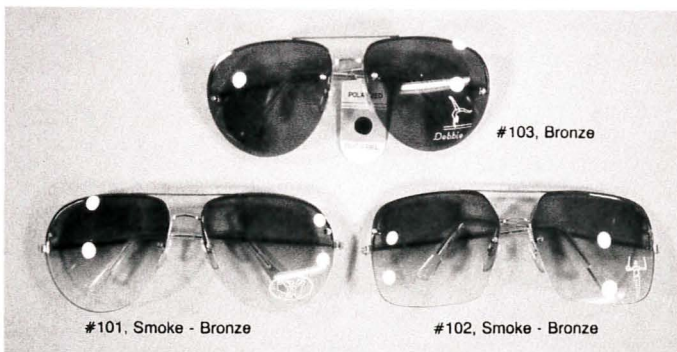
9.45. The Chinese had scored 19.20 and lost the final round to McNamara and Conner by .30.

Julianne McNamara and Bart Conner, the 1982 International Mixed-Pairs Champions, had won a close competition by .10 — 58.35 to 58.25 — and became the second American pair to win this competition in its four year history. Kurt Thomas and Marcia Frederick had won in 1980 at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. The first year in Atlanta, World Champions Maxi Gnauck and Michael Nikolay were winners, and the champions in Jacksonville last year were Li and Qun from the Peoples Republic of China.

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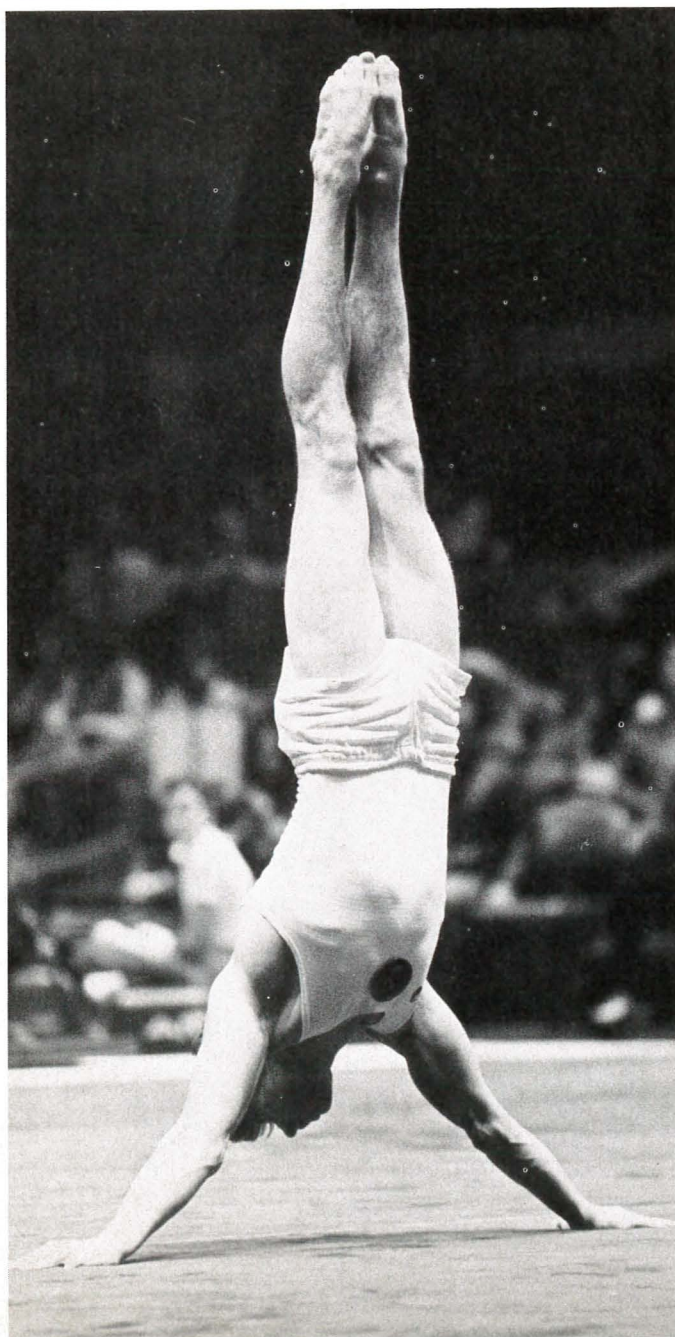
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**International Mixed-Pairs
Gymnastics Championships
Jacksonville, Florida
March 9, 1982**

Place	Name (women/men)	Country	1st event score	2nd event score	3rd event score	total
1	Julianne McNamara	USA	BB/9.60	UB/9.90	FX/9.65	58.35
	Bart Conner	USA	PH/9.60	V/9.75	PB/9.85	
2	Tang Xiaoli	PRC	FX/9.75	BB/9.70	V/9.45	58.25
	Zou Limin	PRC	FX/9.70	HB/9.90	V/9.75	
3	Gina Stallone	USA	FX/9.65	BB/9.80	UB/9.70	58.05
	Jim Hartung	USA	FX/9.65	V/9.75	R/9.50	
4	Tatyana Frolova	USSR	V/9.40	FX/9.75	BB/9.75	58.00
	Alexander Pogorelov	USSR	R/9.60	FX/9.75	PH/9.75	
5	Zoya Grantcharova	BUL	FX/9.80	V/9.65	UB/9.65	57.75
	Ognjan Banguiev	BUL	FX/9.40	HB/9.70	V/9.55	
6	Martina Polcrova	TCH	V/9.40	BB/9.60	UB/9.70	57.20
	Juergen Geiger	FRG	R/9.55	HB/9.70	V/9.25	
7	Albina Shishova	USSR	V/9.60	FX/9.30		38.00
	Alexander Tumilovich	USSR	FX/9.40	PH/9.70		
8	Freiderike Danz	GDR	V/9.35	BB/9.20		37.95
	Michael Nikolay	GDR	HB/9.65	PH/9.75		
9	Ayumi Shinohara	JPN	FX/9.40	V/9.10		37.90
	Shinji Morisue	JPN	HB/9.70	V/9.70		
10	Zhou Xingping	PRC	BB/9.35	FX/8.90		37.65
	Xu Zhongxuan	PRC	PH/9.70	R/9.70		
11	Michael Ertel	GDR	V/9.50	FX/8.95		37.40
	Bernd Jensch	GDR	V/9.60	FX/9.35		
12	Lisa Young	GBR	FX/9.35	UB/9.30		36.95
	Andrew Morris	GBR	V/9.60	PH/8.70		
13	Anna Marie Deserres	CAN	V/9.40			18.90
	Brad Peters	CAN	PH/9.50			
14	Tracee Talavera	USA	FX/9.10			18.80
	Peter Vidmar	USA	R/9.70			
15	Franziska Schenk	SUI	BB/9.30			18.75
	Markus Lehmann	SUI	V/9.45			
16	Mieko Ohara	JPN	FX/9.50			18.70
	Kiyoshi Goto	JPN	HB/9.20			
17	Bonnie Wittmeier	CAN	FX/8.95			18.65
	Jean Choquette	CAN	PB/9.70			
18	Tuende Zsilinszke	HUN	FX/8.75			18.50
	Gyoergy Guczoghy	HUN	PH/9.75			
19	Sandrine Vacher	FRA	UB/8.60			18.20
	Jean Luc Cairon	FRA	V/9.60			