

Mixed Pairs

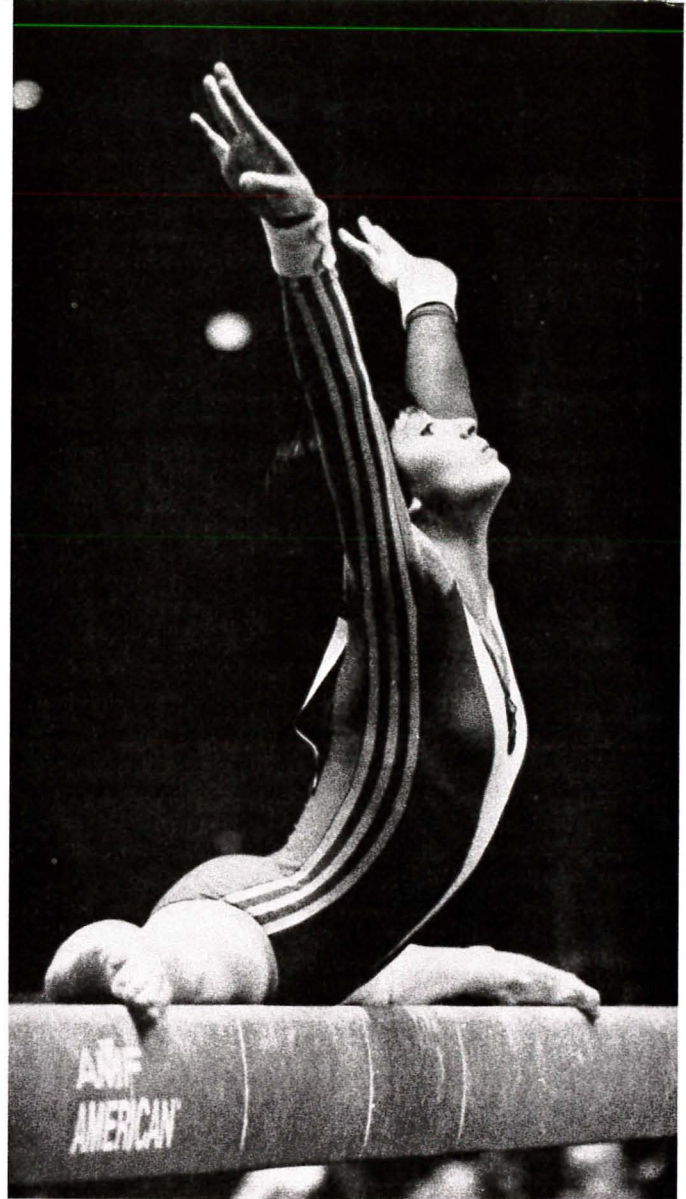
Jacksonville, Florida — The sun, surf, and warmth of Florida's northeastern Atlantic shoreline again welcomed the American Cup Tour gymnasts for the third year in a row. And once again Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold and the town's citizens made everyone feel right at home during festivities prior to this Charter Company sponsored International Mixed-Pairs competition.

This fifth annual meet had 38 gymnasts entered from 14 nations including — Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Romania, Soviet Union, Switzerland and West Germany as well as four pairs from the United States. American pairs were Dianne Durham and Jim Hartung, Tracee Talavera and Mitch Gaylord, Mary Lou Retton and Peter Vidmar and 1982 defending champions Julianne McNamara and Bart Conner.

The people of Jacksonville were first introduced to this International competition in 1981 when the People's Republic of China's Qun Huang L. Yuejie were the victors in a close competition over the USA's Kathy Johnson and Jim Hartung. The towns folks immediately took the Chinese gymnasts into their hearts; which they enthusiastically demonstrated the following year as they cheered Tany Xiaoli and Zou Limin into a close .10 competition with Julianne and Bart. Surprisingly this extremely warm



The proud coach, Bela Karolyi, stands with his prize pupil, Mary Lou Retton as she acknowledges her victory during the McDonald's American Cup.



the school by teaching at Sam Houston State three mornings a week. Associate professors in physical education, they make the 50-mile drive to Huntsville and are in the gym by early afternoon. Workouts with the elite gymnasts go to 9 p.m.

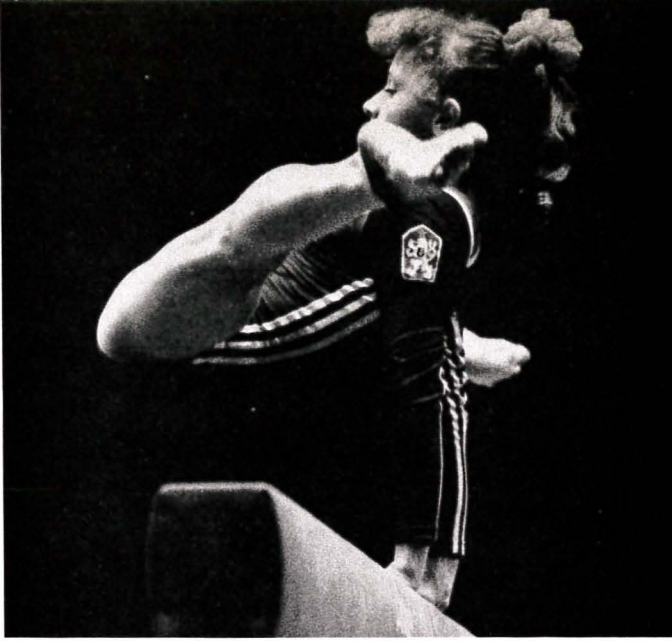
"This is my property," he says. "That's a very good feeling. But there's a little pressure, with traveling, the facilities. We started a non-profit organization, to try to get sponsors to help for the Olympics. But — hah — we have no sponsors!"

Bela is easily caught up in the excitement of the future, of medals for America and for Texas, the state whose healthy ego matches his own. Then his strong face turns down when asked about differences in the two places.

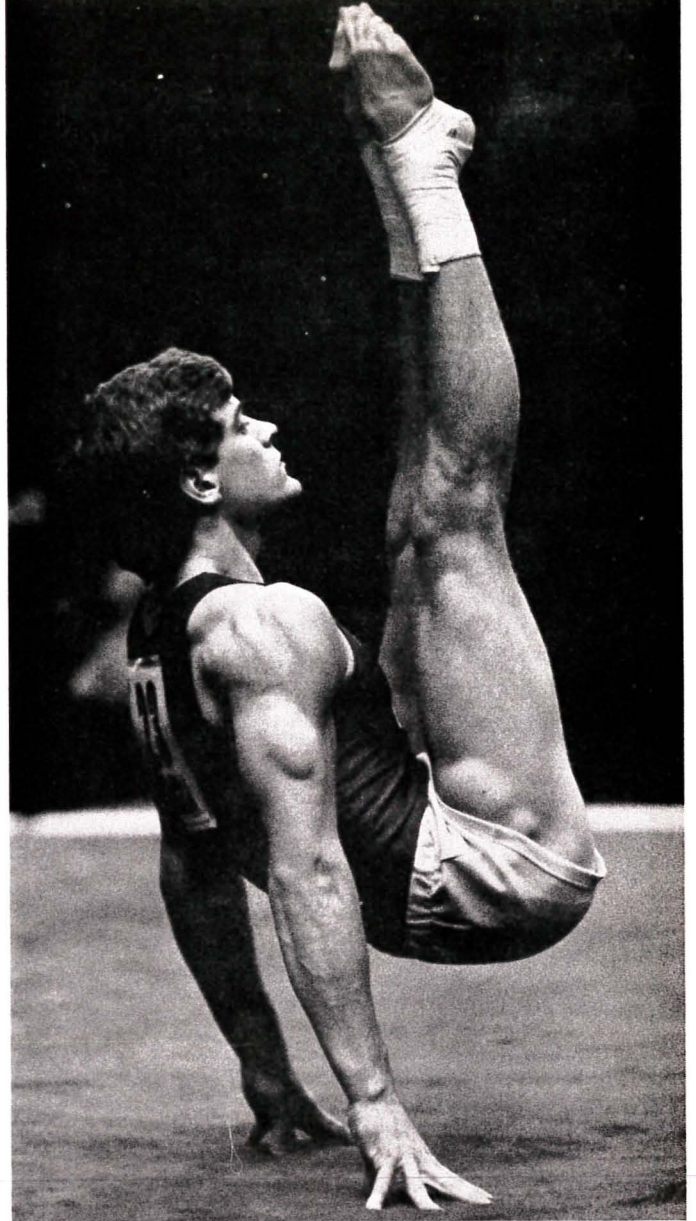
"It's another world," he says. "We miss the family, the relationship with the kids. They were part of our life, not just our profession. Can you imagine if one man in his lifetime could have, at a little club, seven world champions?"

He shakes his head. He is up again, just as quickly. He says he feels very comfortable in Houston, one of the free world's most discombobulated cities, thanks to loose zoning laws. This, coming from a man who adored the woods, the isolation of a Romanian countryside, who hunted for ducks, geese and wild boar on days off.

"I went to New Mexico to hunt in October, for antelope," says Karolyi. Then he adds, raising an eyebrow playfully, "I got a trophy. It's not a gold medal, but I'm very proud. Very proud."



Albina Shishova of the Soviet Union (left), Alena Drevjana of Czechoslovakia (above) and Peter Vidmar of the United States (right).



and friendly atmosphere of competition negated any home turf advantage for the Americans. The foreign delegations have always enjoyed the competition, due partly to this friendly environment. (However, Jacksonville's favorites — the Chinese — were not on that year's tour.) In recent weeks, clarification has been well defined as to their unexpected absence in early March. The American government's decision give asylum to a Chinese tennis player who defected last year has thus caused the Chinese to freeze any cultural — including sport — exchanges with the U.S. Yet, when the Chinese gymnasts refused their two invitations for U.S. competition on the American Cup Tour and the USA/China Dual Meet in San Francisco last February, it was speculated that after the Chinese men's domination of last October's World Cup, they were not hiding out until the World Championships in the fall. It would have been an interesting strategy, but it was international political strategy, not competitive. How the Chinese will then approach the '84 Olympics will be most interesting.

Karolyi 'preparing' U.S. gymnasts for '84

Sally Wilson

©1983 Dallas Morning News

HOUSTON — At the 1978 World Championships in Strasbourg, France, Bela Karolyi carefully watched a young Californian named Rhonda Schwant. The Romanian coach thought he saw the next Nadia Comaneci.

"I said that nobody could beat her," said Karolyi. "She was one of the most talented kids I'd ever seen."

Karolyi looked for her at the next World Championships, at Fort Worth. He never saw her again. She was going through the first of several knee injuries.

"They're trying to do too much in a hurry and there's not consistent preparation for a long period."

Karolyi, who in 1981 defected to the U.S. and now runs a gymnastics school and Olympic training site in Houston, used to be mystified by U.S. gymnasts. They were as talented if not more so than the Russians or the Romanians, but they often dropped out of the sport because of injury. He understands the problem now.

"It's the inconsistency of preparation," said Karolyi. "They're trying to do too much in a hurry, and there's not consistent preparation for a long period. Everybody works on their own, follows their own ideas. That's not bad, but unfortunately, everybody's not on the right track."

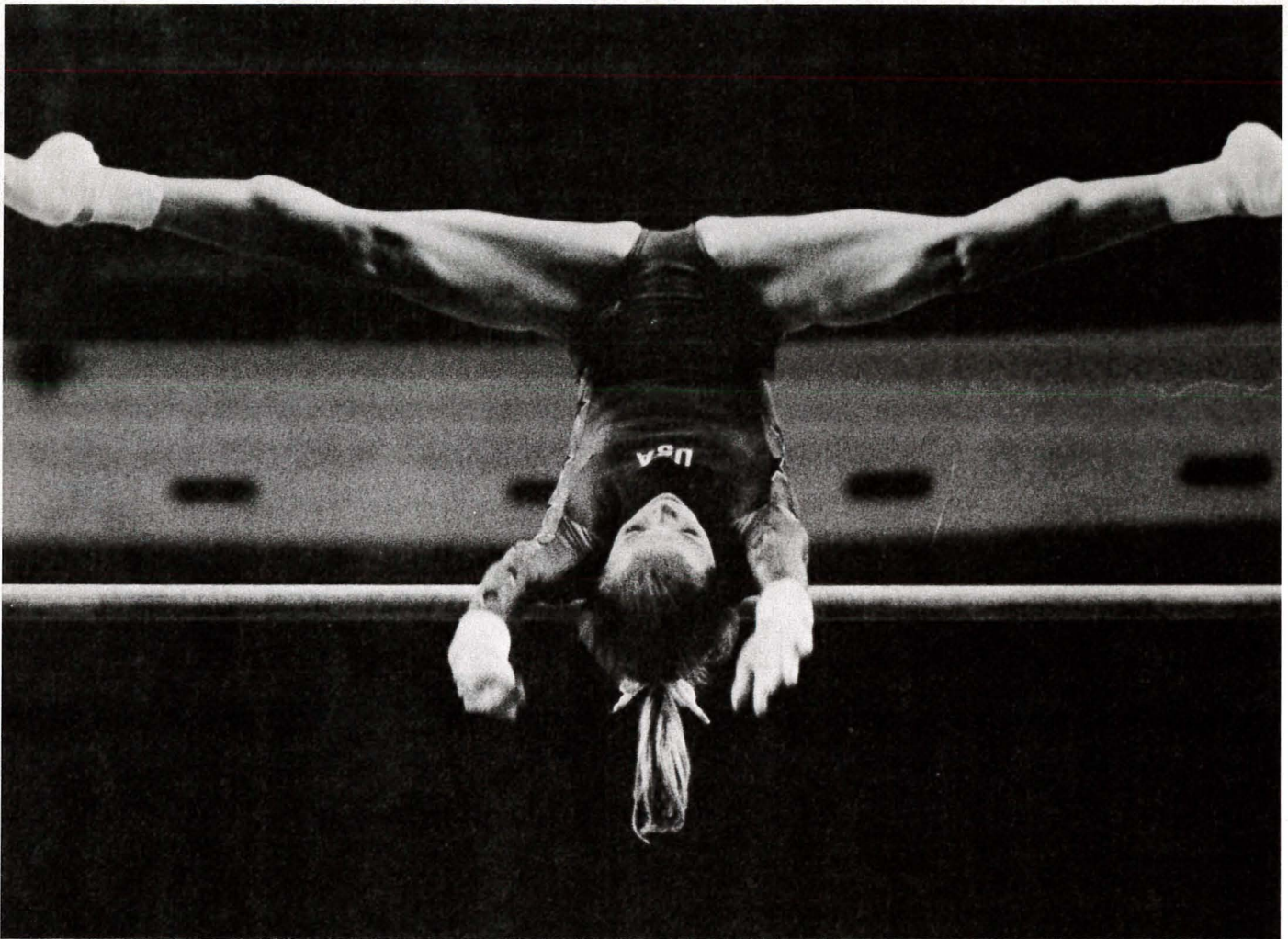
One of the most established gymnastic schools in the U.S. is the SCATS club, run by U.S. national coach Don Peters in Huntington Beach, Calif. Julianne McNamara, the Americans' top prospect for an Olympic medal right now, trains there and was recently joined by Amy Koopman of Chicago.

In less than a year, Karolyi has established himself as the main rival to SCATS by drawing U.S. elite gymnasts Dianne Durham, Mary Lou Retton and Beth Pope to his program. The lure, Retton and Durham say, was his excellence in technique and preparation.

"Nobody pays attention to basic preparation," said Karolyi. "They teach them how to do hard tricks. I'd like to give a certain example."

Karolyi would like to see his example come forth as early as the 1984 Olympics.

"There's no Olga or Nadia now," he said. "If they're very prepared, somebody can become a star in 1984. I hope it's going to be an American."



Julianne McNamara competes on the uneven bars, an event in which she garnered a score of 9.85. She, and her partner Bart Conner, made it to the second event in the

International Mixed Pairs Gymnastics Championship, but failed to make the final six. They placed seventh in the competition.

Train under Fritz Reiter and Tamara Biggs

concept olympica

Olympic Training Development

26 NATIONAL LOCAL GYMNASTS INCLUDING THE 1976 NATIONAL AA CHAMPION, DENISE CHESHIRE, HAVE COME FROM IT.

Train to Win and Enjoy

Basic Training Development

THE 1982 CLASS III CALIFORNIA STATE AA CHAMPIONS ARE A RESULT OF THIS PROGRAM

FRITZ REITER

COACH OF MANY USA TEAMS AND AUTHOR OF JUNIOR OLYMPIC UNEVEN BARS COMPULSORIES 1981 - 1984

TAMARA BIGGS

NATIONALLY APPLAUDED FOR HER FLOOR AND DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Greg Lane
Karin Marin
Jeff Mallian

Linda Ramirez
Lloyd Wiltfong
Debra McCurdy

LIVE-IN WITH TEAM FAMILIES POSSIBLE ENROLLMENT LIMITED FOR INFORMATION WRITE

Call 213/785-1537 **GYMNASTICS OLYMPICA USA**
7735 Haskell Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Special Opportunity
USA INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL IN LOS ANGELES
THIS IS A PREVIEW OF THE OLYMPIC COMPETITORS FOR 1984
August 26/27, 1983

Come **train** with the **best** and join us to **see** the **best**.

continued from page 6

ation with regard to solving USGF office problems is to be in the office and see what happens, because that reality greatly differs from the perception of one on the outside.

I have had many, many more good relationships in my life in the sport of gymnastics than I have had bad ones. I have, however, attempted to identify what, in my personal opinion, can be done to make the USGF a better organization. Unfortunately, when coaches represent athletes and want them to win, the anxiety and irrational behavior that is sometimes elicited as an outgrowth of the competitive environment, has many negative effects on the smooth operation of the national organization.

From a comparative standpoint, the United States Gymnastics Federation has as respectable a stature as any other sports governing body in the United States, and we have much to be proud of. We have a sport that we believe in, that the public believes in, one that has proven to be one of the most popular sports at the Olympic Games, and one which is followed by the world amateur sporting community in general with great adulation. We have a commodity or a property that is so precious that we must constantly analyze the framework within which that property exists to be sure that the very framework upon which it hangs — the United States Gymnastics Federation — is not damaging to that property. It is healthy for us all to engage in self-analysis from time to time, and I think that as a collective organization, it is time for that self-analysis so that we can re-evaluate and correct in a positive manner these areas where we need to make improvements.

The Competition — 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.

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. Because of this competition format and several days rest after New York City, the gymnasts were much more consistent and in turn competitive. The three-event format also allowed an injured gymnast a better opportunity — as was the case for Bulgaria's Stojan Delchev. He finished last in American Cup due to a bad wheel but made finals at Mixed-Pairs.

**International Mixed-Pairs Gymnastics Championships
Jacksonville, Florida March 11, 1983**

| Place/Name | Country | 1st Event Score | 2nd Event Score | 3rd Event Score | Total |
|--|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 Natalia Yurchenko Vladimir Artemov | URS URS | V/9.70 PH/9.80 | BB/9.85 V/9.85 | FX/9.90 PB/9.85 | 58.95 |
| 2 Mary Lou Retton Peter Vidmar | USA USA | V/9.90 R/9.75 | UB/9.90 PH/9.90 | FX/9.60 V/9.70 | 58.75 |
| 3 Tracee Talavera Mitch Gaylord | USA USA | UB/9.70 R/9.75 | BB/9.70 HB/9.85 | FX/9.80 PB/9.65 | 58.45 |
| 4 Albina Shishova Stephan Martsinkiv | URS URS | V/9.80 HB/9.90 | BB/8.80 FX/9.85 | FX/9.35 PH/9.90 | 57.60 |
| 5 Lavinia Agache Dan Odorhean | ROM ROM | V/9.55 FX/9.55 | FX/9.80 V/9.55 | UB/9.15 R/8.95 | 56.55 |
| 6 Zoja Grantcharova Stojan Delchev | BUL BUL | V/9.70 R/9.45 | FX/9.20 HB/9.80 | UB/9.70 PB/8.00 | 55.85 |
| 7 Julianne McNamara Bart Conner | USA USA | V/9.80 HB/9.85 | UB/9.40 R/9.55 | | 38.60 |
| 8 Dianne Durham Jim Hartung | USA USA | UB/9.75 R/9.70 | FX/9.35 PH/9.70 | | 38.50 |
| 9 Sae Watanabe Koji Sotomura | JPN JPN | FX/9.25 PB/9.45 | UB/9.40 R/9.45 | | 37.55 |
| 10 Franka Voigt Michael Nikolay | GDR GDR | FX/9.55 HB/9.00 | V/9.20 PH/9.20 | | 36.95 |
| 11 Martina Jentsch Frank Bouschardt | GDR GDR | FX/9.50 PB/9.35 | UB/9.05 FX/8.85 | | 36.75 |
| 12 Anya Wilhelm Philippe Chartrand | FRG CAN | V/9.45 HB/9.70 | FX/8.85 R/8.55 | | 36.55 |
| 13 Patrizia Luconi Gabrielle Bianchi | ITA ITA | V/9.45 PB/9.05 | | | 18.50 |
| 14 Aniko Juhasz Jeno Papriko | HUN HUN | FX/9.25 FX/9.25 | | | 18.50 |
| 15 Florence Laborderie Warren Long | FRA CAN | V/9.50 PH/8.95 | | | 18.45 |
| 16 Monika Beer Marco Piatti | SUI SUI | UB/8.90 V/9.55 | | | 18.45 |
| 17 Tomoko Okabe Hiroyuki Onoda | JPN JPN | BB/8.70 V/9.60 | | | 18.30 |
| 18 Cheryl Weatherstone Tony Griffiths | GBR GBR | UB/9.55 PH/8.65 | | | 18.20 |
| 19 Alena Drevjana Janis Kasapidis | TCH TCH | UB/8.75 R/8.90 | | | 17.65 |

Elite Expressions

Orchestrated Competitive Music

**FLOOR EXERCISE MUSIC
EXCEPTIONAL IN**

- ARTISTIC STYLE
- SOUND
- RHYTHM
- VARIATION

Pick one of our existing selections or we will produce your music "Especially For You."

Free master tape for coaches ordering 3 or more selections

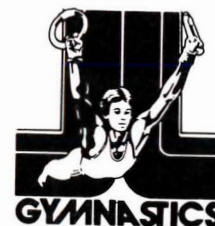
Call or write today for our New Demonstration Tape. (\$2.00 applicable towards purchase.)

2201 SHAD CT. NAPLES, FL 33942 (813) 775-2921

GYMNASTICS!

AT LAST!...Innovative Designs on Quality T-Shirts

☆ OVER 40 DIFFERENT DESIGNS TO CHOOSE FROM! ☆



CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG:

TOLL FREE 800-228-4261

☆ **Encore Screen Printing** ☆

P.O. BOX 80496 LINCOLN, NE 68501