

ZMESKAL-RINGNALD A PAIR OF WINNERS

This year's McDonald's International Mixed Pairs competition was held in Villanova, Pa. at Villanova University's duPont Pavilion. A total of 6,084 enthusiastic fans watched as the U.S.'s Kim Zmeskal and Lance Ringnald captured the all-around title with a combined score of 58.20. The victory was the seventh in 12 mixed-pair competitions for the U.S. in this event.

The McDonald's International Mixed Pairs competition was first organized in 1979 as a unique, friendly competition in which one man and one woman from each country are paired together to compete against other pairs. Each gymnast from the pair competes on three events during three rounds of competition, and their scores are combined to determine the winning pair.

After round one of the Mixed Pairs competition, Hilary Grivich, 12, from Karolyi's Gymnastics and Felix Aguilera from Cuba were in the number one position.



Lance Ringnald and Kim Zmeskal were the winning pair at the McDonald's International Mixed Pairs Competition.

Grivich and Aguilera were paired together because Cuba did not send a female gymnast to the competition. Aguilera chose to do parallel bars for his first event and scored

9.850, while Grivich opted to do beam for her first event and scored 9.875.

"I did beam first because I'm less nervous on it," said the 4'5" and 72 lb. Grivich.

Hilary said she has a beam in her backyard and beam is her favorite event.

Wendy Bruce from Brown's Gymnastics in Altamonte Springs, Fla. was in second place with her partner, Conrad Voorsanger from Stanford University. Bruce scored a 9.875 on her first event, vault, and Voorsanger scored 9.70 on parallel bars. The pair from China, Chen Cuiting and Li Ge, were in third place after round one scoring a 9.875 on vault and 9.65 on pommel horse. Fourth place went to the pair from Bulgaria — Milena Mavrodi-eva scored a 9.875 on vault and Dian Kolev scored a 9.60 on still rings. Sandy Woolsey and her partner Kevin Davis were tied for fifth with another U.S. pair, Zmeskal and Ringnald. However, only two pairs per country may advance to the second round of competition, therefore, Zmeskal and Ringnald advanced due to their higher individual event scores. Woolsey, from Desert Devils in Scottsdale, Ariz., scored a

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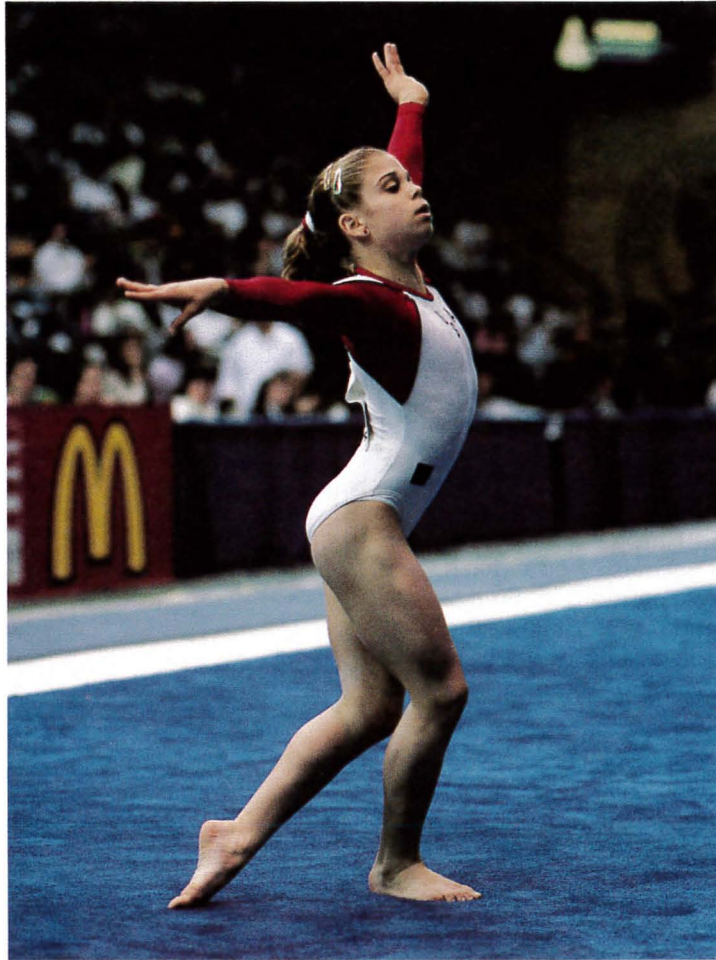
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9.85 on vault and Davis, from the University of Nebraska, earned a 9.60 on high bar. Zmeskal, from Karolyi's in Houston, Texas, received a 9.90 on vault and Ringnald's high bar routine landed a 9.55. Ringnald trains at Gold Cup Gymnastics in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I just kept saying to myself, make it through the first round because that's the best part of the event, but we almost didn't make it," said Zmeskal.

In sixth place with a vault score of 9.75 and a high bar score of 9.65 was the pair from France, Karine Mermet and Christian Chevalier. The pair from Japan both chose floor as their first event and were seventh after the first round with a 9.75 from Mari Kosuge and a 9.60 for Hideyuki Shinohara.

There was a three way tie for eighth place with the couple from Romania, Lavinia Molosovici and Marian Stoican, scoring a 9.85 on vault and 9.45 on high bar, Kim Kelly from Parkettes in Allentown, Pa. scored a 9.65 on



Hilary Grivich and her partner, Felix Aguilera, from Cuba placed third all-around.

floor and her partner, Joo Hyung Lee from Korea, scored a 9.65 on high bar, and the pair from Italy, Selena Celotto and Boris Preti scored a 9.50 on vault and a 9.80 on rings. All three pairs had a combined score of 19.30, however, the Romanian pair advanced to the second round because they had the highest individual event score.

The top eight pairs advanced to round two! A major highlight of round two was Zmeskal's outstanding floor routine that scored a 9.90.

Ringnald scored a 9.4 on vault to pull the team up from fifth to second in the all-around standings. Their total score was now 38.90. First place in the standings after round two was the pair from China with a 39.050 and third in the standings went to Grivich and Aguilera with a 38.875. These top three pairs then advanced to the third and final round of competition with only tenths separating them.

Bela Karolyi, who coaches Zmeskal and Grivich, said, "I'm very happy having two of my gymnasts in the final

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round of competition. I see a new generation growing up in front of my eyes. I'm especially glad today for little Hilary. It is good she is in the finals."

Grivich was first up on bars and scored a 9.80, however, her partner, Aguilera, had a miss on high bar and scored only an 8.95 for a total score of 57.625.

Karolyi said, "This little thing (Hilary) is strong but she has room to improve and next year she will be as strong as Kim (Zmeskal)."

Cuiting was next up on beam and she, too, had a fall on her flip flop, back tuck salto kick-out and scored only a 9.375. Her partner, Ge, scored a 9.70 on rings to put their total score at 58.125.

Zmeskal was last up on beam but obviously ignored the pressure and hit a solid set for a 9.90, while Ringnald scored a 9.40 on his last event, floor, for a total score of 58.20. Zmeskal and Ringnald became the 1990 McDonald's International Mixed Pairs Champions!

"I saw Chen fall off beam and I knew it opened up the door for us," said Zmeskal.

"I saw Chen fall off the beam too, and I was having a coronary watching Kim up there (on beam)," added Ringnald.

Karolyi said, "Kim and Lance also won a Mixed Pairs competition in Switzerland and I think it shows the overall strength of the U.S. gymnastics program."

RESULTS

ROUND ONE STANDINGS

1. Hilary Grivich/Felix Aguilera	USA-CUB	19.725
2. Wendy Bruce/Conrad Voorsanger	USA-USA	19.575
3. Chen Cuiting/Li Ge	CHN-CHN	19.525
4. Milena Mavrodieva/Dian Kolev	BUL-BUL	19.475
5. Kim Zmeskal/Lance Ringnald	USA-USA	19.450
5. Sandy Woolsey/Kevin Davis	USA-USA	19.450*
6. Karine Mermet/Christian Chevalier	FRA-FRA	19.400
7. Mari Kosuge/Hideyuki Shinohara	JPN-JPN	19.350
8. Lavinia Molosovici/Marian Stoican	ROM-ROM	19.300
8. Kim Kelly /Joo Hyung Lee	USA-KOR	19.300*
8. Selena Celotto/Boris Preti	ITA-ITA	19.300*

*When a tie occurs the couple with the highest individual score advance to the next round of competition. Only two pairs per country may advance to the second round.

ROUND TWO STANDS

1. Chen Cuiting/Li Ge	CHN-CHN	39.050
2. Kim Zmeskal/Lance Ringnald	USA-USA	38.900
3. Hilary Grivich/Felix Aguilera	USA-CUB	38.875
4. Milena Mavrodieva/Dian Kolev	BUL-BUL	38.725
4. Wendy Bruce/Conrad Voorsanger	USA-USA	38.675*
5. Lavinia Molosovici/Marian Stoican	ROM-ROM	38.600
6. Mari Kosuge/Hideyuki Shinohara	JPN-JPN	38.300
6. Karine Mermet/C. Chevalier	FRA-FRA	38.300

*Only one pair per country can advance to the finals round of competition.

ROUND THREE STANDINGS

1. Kim Zmeskal/Lance Ringnald	USA-USA	58.200
2. Chen Cuiting/Li Ge	CHN-CHN	58.125
3. Hilary Grivich/Felix Aguilera	USA-CUB	57.625

DUANE HOLLAND



Duane Holland was an alternate for the McDonald's International Mixed Pairs competition, but didn't get to compete because there were no open teams. However, he did do an outstanding exhibition in front of his hometown fans at the competition.

Holland is 12 years old from Devon, Pa. and is the Class II Pennsylvania State Champion. He's definitely the new generation in men's gymnastics. At 4'8" and 89 lbs., Holland is loaded with talent.

Duane performed a floor exercise routine that, in terms of difficulty, matched many of the routines performed by the

international competitors. He did a double layout for his first pass and showed an incredibly flexible balance position. He also did a round off, flip flop, whip to double back and dismounted with a full-in back-out.

Holland trains at John Pancott Gymnastics and is coached by Joe O'Laughlin. He placed second all-around at the 1989 Canadian Invitational and first all-around (class II) at the 1989 S.A.B.I. Championships.

Those who were in attendance at the McDonald's International Mixed Pairs got a glimpse of the future in U.S. men's gymnastics!