

Mohini Bhardwaj began gymnastics when she was four years old in her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. "My mom said that I just came up with the idea to start gymnastics on my own."

Mohini moved from Cincinnati to Altamonte Springs, Fla., in 1993 to train at Brown's Gymnastics. She made the move along with her mother and brother, while her father maintains their home in Cincinnati.

Bhardwaj enjoys training at Brown's because she said she likes her coaches—Ray and Joan Gnat and Rita Brown. She and national team member Jenni Beathard are also great friends. She admits that she does miss her dad and best friend in Cincinnati.

1992 Olympian Wendy Bruce is some-

one that Bhardwaj looks up to. Bruce came out of retirement in 1994 and made the 1994-95 USA National Team. "I see what Wendy has done so far in the sport and I know that if she can do that well and stay in the sport so long, then I hope to also. I think she's a really good gymnast."

Bhardwaj's goals in the sport are to get a higher ranking on the national team, hopefully make the Olympic Team, and earn a college scholarship. Her short term goal is to do well in the China Cup, May 24-29, in Chengdu Sichuan Province, China.

MOHINI BHARDWAJ

Pronounced
Mo Hee
Knee Ba
Hard Wa

USA GYMNASTICS PHOTO © DAVE BLACK

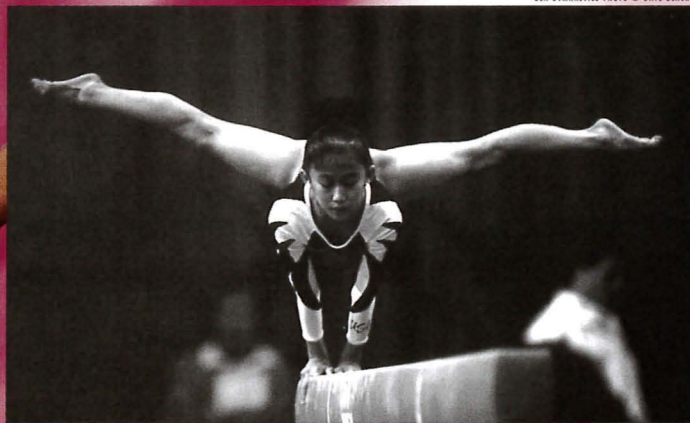
ROMANIA'S ANA MARIA BICAN AND ITALY'S MARCELLO BARBIERI WIN THE 1995 INTERNATIONAL MIXED PAIRS

Ana Maria Bican from Romania and Marcello Barbieri from Italy won the International Mixed Pairs competition in Seattle, Wash., March 5, at the Seattle Center Arena.

The silver medal went to Ukraine's Irina Bulakhova and Rustam Sharipov. USA's Mohini Bhardwaj from Brown's Gymnastics in Altamonte Springs, Fla., and Rob Kieffer from Gold Cup Gymnastics in Albuquerque, N.M., won the bronze medal.

This unique event combines one male and one female gymnast representing each country to compete as a team. There are three rounds of competition, and the winners were determined after round three.

USA GYMNASTICS PHOTO © DAVE BLACK



Mohini comes from a unique background. Her mother, Indu, is from Russia and her father, Kaushal, was born in India. Mohini and her 15-year-old brother Arun have Indian names. Mohini means "illusion" and Arun is the color of the sun right before dawn, a reddish color. Mohini's parents met in Canada and eventually moved to the U.S. to start their family.

Being from such a diverse background, we asked Mohini if she had special traditions that her family follows.

She said, "We celebrate all the regular holidays. We celebrate some Indian holidays like Holli. It's like a festival. My mom cooks a lot of Russian and Indian foods."

FINAL RESULTS

1. Ana Maria Bican Marcello Barbieri	Romania Italy	56.900
2. Irina Bulakhova Rustam Sharipov	Ukraine Ukraine	56.461
3. Mohini Bhardwaj Rob Kieffer	United States United States	55.625
4. Mari Kosuge Hikaru Tanaka	Japan Japan	37.812
5. Ceile Canqueteau Jay Thornton	France United States	37.587
6. Ji Liya Fan Bin	China China	37.487
7. Mina Kim Brian Yee	United States United States	37.325
8. Adrienne Nyeste Zoltan Supala	Hungary Hungary	36.250
9. Jaycie Phelps Josh Stein	United States United States	18.500
10. Svetlana Tarasevitch Alexander Shostak	Belarus Belarus	18.425
11. Elena Dalgoplova Dmitri Vasilenko	Russia Russia	18.150
12. Brenda Magana Antonio Fernandez	Mexico Spain	18.100
13. Natalia Mendy Darren Bersuk	Argentina Canada	12.550

ROB KIEFFER

FUN FACTS ROB KIEFFER

Birth date: October 4, 1972

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Current Residence: Albuquerque, N.M.

Coach: Ed Burch

Club: Gold Cup

School: University of New Mexico

Year in School: Senior

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Years in Gymnastics: 13

Favorite Event: Floor and parallel bars

Fun Fact: Rob has a twin brother named Ricky who also does gymnastics.

MOHINI BHARDWAJ

Birth date: September 29, 1978

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Residence: Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Coach: Rita Brown, Ray and Joan Gnat

Club: Brown's Gymnastics

School: Lake Brantley High School

Year: Junior

Years in Gymnastics: 12

Favorite Event: Bars

Hobbies: Going to the beach and hanging out with friends.

Fun Fact: Mohini is nicknamed "Mo."

Rob and his twin brother Rick started gymnastics when they were 9 years old. "My older sister started gymnastics, and my brother and I were doing flips on the couch. My parents bought the family a trampoline and then my brother and I started gymnastics, too."

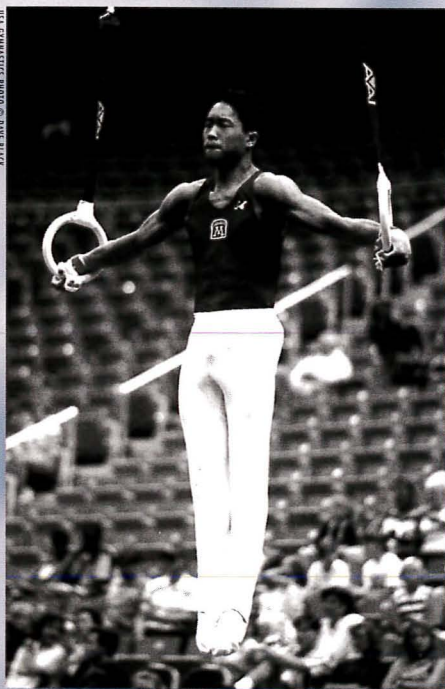
Rob moved from his home in Austin, Texas, to Albuquerque, N.M., in 1994 to train at Gold Cup Gymnastics. When asked why he made the move, Rob said, "It's a better training facility here because there are other elite athletes like Chris (Waller), Mihai (Bagiu), and Trent (Dimas). In Austin I was the only elite training there."

Kieffer said that his coach, Ed Burch, is a really good coach and knows how to prepare gymnasts for a meet. "It's a different environment, and I'm a lot more motivated," said Kieffer.

Kieffer's goals are to make the 1995 World Championships team and the 1996 Olympic Team.

Rob's twin brother Rick competes for the University of Nebraska. Unfortunately, Rick seems to always get hurt before the Winter Cup Challenge and the U.S. Championships. "Hopefully this year he'll be healthy for championships," said Rob.

When asked what it's like to grow up with a twin in the same sport, Rob said, "That's hard to answer because that's just the way it was. He was in the gym with me all the time. We're pretty competitive. We don't want to get beat by one another. When he does well, I'm happy for him, but it also makes me work harder."



Far left: Mohini Bhardwaj pictured at the 1994 Coca-Cola National Championships

Left: Mina Kim pictured at the 1995 McDonald's American Cup

Above: Brian Yee pictured at the 1994 Coca-Cola National Championships

Right: Rob Kieffer pictured at the 1994 Coca-Cola National Championships

