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By Luan Peszek

This unique competition utilized a men's artistic, women's artistic and rhythmic gymnast in a three-on-three format at the Omni in Atlanta, Ga., March 5. An audience of 4,038 watched this inaugural gymnastics event.

Eighteen pairs of men's and women's artistic gymnasts began in round one. The top eight pairs advanced to round two and a rhythmic gymnast joined the group to form a trio. The top three trios moved to round three, the gold medal round.

ANDREA SEBESTOVA

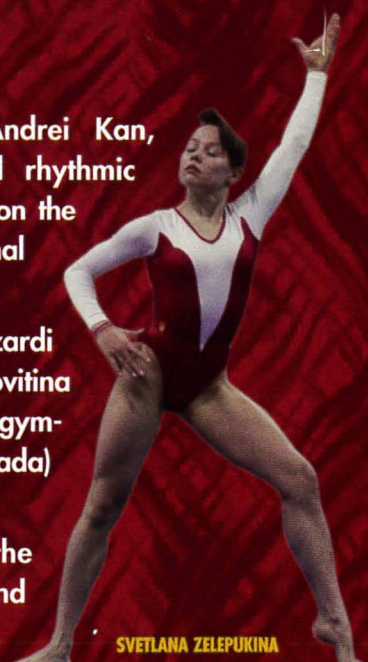
Athletes from 22 countries competed in the competition for prize money totaling \$2,550.00.

The Belarus trio of Andrei Kan, Svetlana Boguinskaia and rhythmic gymnast Eugenia Pavlina won the 1996 McDonald's International Gymnastics Championships.

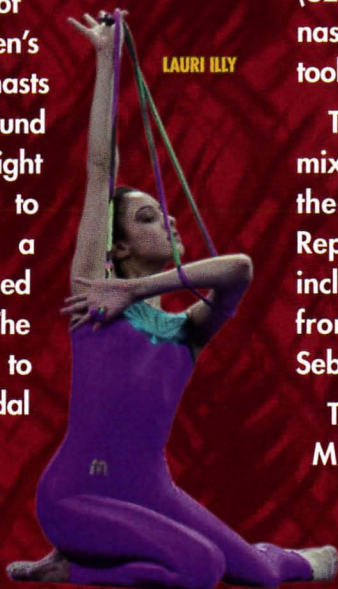
The mixed trio of Diego Lizardi (Puerto Rico), Oksana Chusovitina (Uzbekistan) and rhythmic gymnast Camille Martens (Canada) took second.

Third place went to the mixed trio from Ukraine and the Czech Republic. Representing the team included Svetlana Zelepukina and Valery Goncharov from Ukraine and rhythmic gymnast Andrea Sebestova (Czech Republic).

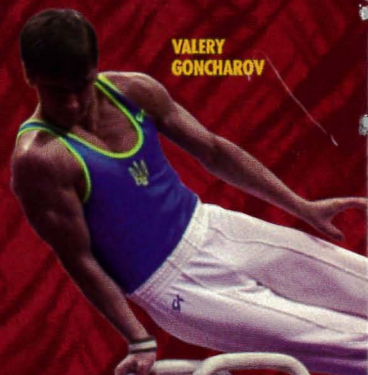
The USA trio of John Roethlisberger (Minneapolis, Minn.), Kerri Strug (Tucson, Ariz.) and Jessica Davis (San Anselmo, Calif.) took fourth place.



SVETLANA ZELEPUKINA



LAURI ILEY



VALERY GONCHAROV

# BELARUS TRIO WINS THE 1996 McDONALD'S INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

AMERICAN TEAM (FROM L TO R): KERRI STRUG, ANDREE PICKENS, JESSICA DAVIS, LAURI ILEY, JAIR LYNCH AND JOHN ROETHLISBERGER



## ROUND 3

|                         |     |    |       |               |
|-------------------------|-----|----|-------|---------------|
| 1. Svetlana Boguinskaia | BLR | FX | 9.525 | <b>57.450</b> |
| Andrei Kan              | BLR | HB | 9.300 |               |
| Eugenia Pavlina         | BLR | BA | 9.600 |               |
| 2. Oksana Chusovitina   | UZB | FX | 9.775 | <b>56.600</b> |
| Diego Lizardi           | PUR | FX | 9.300 |               |
| Camille Martens         | CAN | CL | 9.250 |               |
| 3. Svetlana Zelepukina  | UKR | BB | 9.100 | <b>56.200</b> |
| Valery Goncharov        | UKR | PB | 9.450 |               |
| Andrea Sebestova        | CZE | RI | 9.300 |               |

## ROUND 2

|                         |     |    |       |               |
|-------------------------|-----|----|-------|---------------|
| 1. Svetlana Boguinskaia | BLR | BB | 9.750 | <b>29.025</b> |
| Andre Kan               | BLR | PH | 9.675 |               |
| Eugenia Pavlina         | BLR | RI | 9.600 |               |
| 2. Svetlana Zelepukina  | UKR | FX | 9.600 | <b>28.350</b> |
| Valery Goncharov        | UKR | HB | 9.400 |               |
| Andrea Sebestova        | CZE | RO | 9.350 |               |
| 3. Oksana Chusovitina   | UZB | BB | 9.575 | <b>28.275</b> |
| Diego Lizardi           | PUR | HB | 9.350 |               |
| Camille Martens         | CAN | BA | 9.350 |               |
| 4. Kerri Strug          | USA | FX | 9.600 | <b>27.950</b> |
| John Roethlisberger     | USA | PB | 9.100 |               |
| Jessica Davis           | USA | RI | 9.250 |               |
| 5. Julia Korostileva    | RUS | FX | 9.625 | <b>27.775</b> |
| Oleg Kuzmin             | RUS | SR | 9.200 |               |
| Akane Yamao             | JPN | BA | 8.950 |               |
| 6. Andree Pickens       | USA | FX | 9.700 | <b>27.750</b> |
| Jair Lynch              | USA | PB | 9.050 |               |
| Lauri Illy              | USA | RO | 9.000 |               |
| 7. Joanna Juarez Roura  | ESP | BB | 9.550 | <b>27.750</b> |
| Ortzi Acosta            | ESP | HB | 9.000 |               |
| Alba Caride             | ESP | BA | 7.800 |               |
| 8. Alexandra Dobrescu   | ROM | BB | 9.575 | <b>26.625</b> |
| Adrian Ianculescu       | ROM | HB | 9.250 |               |
| Marcela Salinas         | MEX | CL | 9.200 |               |

## ROUND 1

|                         |     |    |       |               |
|-------------------------|-----|----|-------|---------------|
| 1. Kerri Strug          | USA | UB | 9.800 | <b>19.400</b> |
| John Roethlisberger     | USA | SR | 9.600 |               |
| 2. Alexandra Dobrescu   | ROM | UB | 9.600 | <b>19.175</b> |
| Adrian Ianculescu       | ROM | PH | 9.575 |               |
| 3. Andree Pickens       | USA | UB | 9.500 | <b>19.150</b> |
| Jair Lynch              | USA | FX | 9.650 |               |
| 4. Oksana Chusovitina   | UZB | UB | 9.675 | <b>19.025</b> |
| Diego Lizardi           | PUR | SR | 9.350 |               |
| 5. Svetlana Boguinskaia | BLR | UB | 9.750 | <b>19.000</b> |
| Andrei Kan              | BLR | FX | 9.250 |               |
| 6. Julia Korostileva    | RUS | UB | 9.600 | <b>19.000</b> |
| Oleg Kuzmin             | RUS | PB | 9.400 |               |
| 7. Joanna Juarez Roura  | ESP | UB | 9.625 | <b>18.875</b> |
| Ortzi Acosta            | ESP | SR | 9.250 |               |
| 8. Svetlana Zelepukina  | UKR | UB | 9.650 | <b>18.750</b> |
| Valery Goncharov        | UKR | PH | 9.100 |               |
| 9. Ana Dastefano        | ARG | UB | 9.500 | <b>18.750</b> |
| Ilia Giogadze           | GEO | FX | 9.250 |               |
| 10. Yvonne Tousek       | CAN | FX | 9.475 | <b>18.725</b> |
| Kris Burley             | CAN | FX | 9.250 |               |
| 11. San Lan             | CHN | FX | 9.425 | <b>18.675</b> |
| Chen Zhenyu             | CHN | SR | 9.250 |               |
| 12. Joanna Hughes       | AUS | BB | 8.975 | <b>18.525</b> |
| Valeri Belenki          | GER | SR | 9.550 |               |
| 13. Orelie Troscompt    | FRA | UB | 9.425 | <b>18.225</b> |
| Sebastien Darrigade     | FRA | PH | 8.800 |               |
| 14. Brenda Magana       | MEX | UB | 8.700 | <b>18.150</b> |
| Francisco Lopez         | MEX | FX | 9.450 |               |
| 15. Giordana Rocchi     | ITA | UB | 9.000 | <b>18.100</b> |
| Boris Preti             | ITA | SR | 9.100 |               |
| 16. Yuuki Ohhata        | JPN | UB | 8.625 | <b>18.025</b> |
| Sigeru Kurihara         | JPN | SR | 9.400 |               |
| 17. Nikolett Krausz     | HUN | FX | 9.200 | <b>17.750</b> |
| Raouf Abdelraouf        | EGY | FX | 8.550 |               |
| 18. Soraya Carvalho     | BRA | UB | 8.300 | <b>17.350</b> |
| Abdelouahab Mammeri     | ALG | FX | 9.050 |               |

Each gymnast in the winning trio earned \$500, each gymnast in the second place trio earned \$250, and each gymnast in the third place trio earned \$100.



JESSICA DAVIS

EUGENIA PAVLINA



When asked how it felt not to advance to the final round, Strug said, "I was a little disappointed but I did my job. This event is a fun event so it's ok."

The other USA trio of Jair Lynch (Washington, D.C.), Andree Pickens (Houston, Texas), and Lauri Illy (Virginia Beach, Va.) took sixth.

Lynch said, "I could have used a D dismount on parallel bars, instead I went for the E dismount in order to upgrade my routines for Atlanta." Lynch fell on the dismount landing on parallel bars.

AWARD STAND (FROM L TO R):  
DIEGO LIZARDI, CAMILLE MARTENS,  
OKSANA CHUSOVITINA, ANDREI KAN,  
EUGENIA PAVLINA, SVETLANA BOGUINSKAIA,  
AND SVETLANA ZELEPUKINA

