

# American gymnasts shine in Fort Worth

United Press International  
FORT WORTH — Americans Kurt Thomas and Bart Conner produced the greatest day in United States gymnastics history Sunday, winning three titles and six medals between them on the concluding afternoon of the 20th World Championships.

Nelli Kim, meanwhile, won two silver medals and a bronze Sunday night after capturing the women's all-around championship for the Soviet Union the night before.

It had been expected as the week began that the highlight of Sunday night's performance would be Romania's Nadia Comaneci. But she was lying in a hospital bed recovering from surgery on her infected left hand and the No. 1 show, instead, came in the form of a gold-medal winning effort in the floor exercise by Comaneci's teammate, Emilia Eberle.

In addition, Yanhong Ma, a petite youngster from China, brought her country its first gold medal ever at the world championships with a win in the uneven parallel bars.

"This is just great," said Thomas, who won two gold and two silver medals out of the six apparatus finals on the last day of the week-long meet. "For so long our flag has been down in a box somewhere. Today, for once, it was up there almost every time."

The United States men won their first world gymnastics medal of any kind at last year's meet in Strasbourg. This week the men won eight. The only American performance in international competition to rival this one came in the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles, when the U.S. won six individual medals.

But the quality of world gymnastics in that era nowhere approached today's caliber and neither Japan nor the Soviet Union was represented at those Games.

"To see us grab all those medals is wonderful," said Conner, who captured a gold and a bronze Sunday. "We always wondered if we could do it. When the Russians go home they are going to be watching films of us. God knows I've watched lots of films of Russians."

Alexandre Ditiatin, the Soviet who edged Thomas for the all-around title on Friday night, managed two golds and a silver Sunday, but even that performance was overshadowed by the Americans in general and Thomas in particular.

"Naturally," said Soviet coach Leonid Arkajev, "the United States

has progressed tremendously. We were impressed."

The Soviet Union men finished the championships with 11 medals, four of them being gold, and the United States had eight, three of them for first place. No other country — including traditional powerhouse Japan — could manage more than two medals.

On Sunday Thomas won first places in the horizontal bar and floor exercise (sharing it with East Germany's Roland Bruckner), and picked up silver medals in the parallel bars and side horse. Conner was a gold medal winner in the parallel bars and took a bronze medal in the vault.

Ditiatin won the rings and vault while the other gold medal went to Zoltan Magyar of Hungary in the side horse.

In the women's events, Dumitrita Turner of Romania won the vault, Vera Cerna of Czechoslovakia took the balance beam and Eberle captured the floor exercise gold medal with a 9.95 score in the final performance of the meet.

And on the uneven parallel bars the title was shared by Maxi Gnauck of East Germany and Yanhong Ma of China, whose showing represented one of the major gymnastics events ever for her country. Both the Romanians and Russians won seven medals overall, but three of the Romanian medals were gold while the Soviet Union women could win only one first place all week — that being Kim's triumph in the all-around.

"All I wanted to do was win one

event," said Thomas, who will next battle Ditiatin at the Moscow Olympics in July. "Last year I was the first to win a medal for the United States (a gold in the floor exercise) and now I'm the first to win any kind of medal in the all-around."

"It's important in sports, especially where being first is everything and second is nothing."

Concerning the team's impressive overall performance, Thomas said: "I think that says something for our gymnastics team. For years we've needed guys to keep coming back like Bart and myself and now it's giving us all this international experience."

"I think for one thing, this (winning of medals) is going to send us into the Olympics on a positive note. I think we can really do well."

A trend was set early Sunday when Thomas, going into the floor exercise finals deadlocked for the lead with Bruckner, scored a 9.9 to tie Bruckner for first place. Separate medals are awarded in case of ties.

Thomas came back in the next event — the side horse — to get second place. Ditiatin won the next two exercises, the rings and the vault, but the Americans, saving their most dramatic for last, electrified the crowd with back-to-back gold medals.

Conner, a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, needed a score of 9.9 to win the gold medal in the parallel bars and that is exactly what he got with Thomas equaling the final score posted by Tkachev to share the silver medal.



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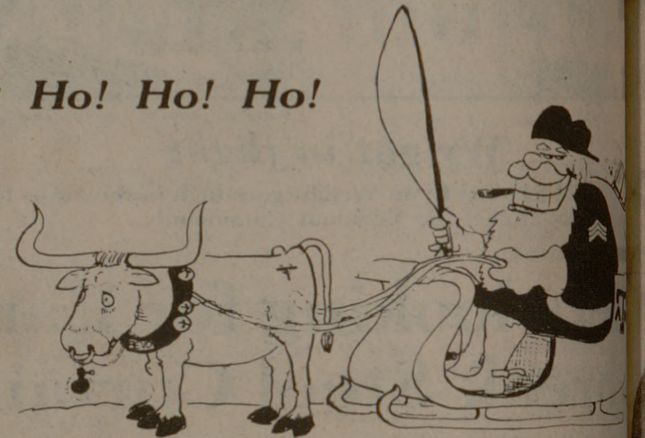
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# MCDONALD'S INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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## Football Champs

The All University games have all been played and they were great games. Here are some highlights.

The Men's Class A game was a major defensive battle as Crocker III skinned by the Rutting Bucks 6-0. Jeff Brown scored the only touchdown for Crocker III. This game was a model of good sportsmanship and is also the first time in three years a men's dorm team has taken the All University title.

In Men's Class B the game was as close as a game can come, 13-12, with Dun Chaos topping M. Bombers. Another fine example of good sportsmanship, the defense was intense on both sides throughout the game.

The game in Men's Class C was a less equal battle as Moses' Come Mesas outran Dom-N-8, 13-8. The scores were close but penetration wise Moses had 3 the first half and 2 the second half to Dom-N-8's 1 in the second half.

The Jokers edged over the Six Packs in Women's Class A 7-0 with only 1 penetration per team. Debra Takacs made the winning touchdown for the Jokers.

BSU was on the offense and the Mosher Maggies on the defense throughout the Women's B championship game. The close score of 6-0 belies the true tale told by penetration tallies; 5 for BSU and none for Mosher.

In Co Rec Class A Running Does stampede over J-K Marbles 24-0. The Running Does penetrated 4 times into the Marble's territory. Running Does scorers included Brent Butler, Randy Ellison, and Mary Myers who each scored 8 points by a touchdown and extra points.

The game was closer than close in CoRec B as Dr. J. and Variations tied 6-6 in a penetration decision for Dr. J. Dr. J had 3 penetrations to Variations' 1 penetrations. Scorers were Clay Wheat for Dr. J. and Jim Richardson for Variations.

For CoRec C, Looney Tunes came back in the second half for a 12-6 victory over Byrdie White after trailing 0-6 at the half. Ben Kerger and John Haldad each scored a touchdown for Looney Tunes. Janet Wilder scored Byrdie White's only touchdown.

Congratulations are in order to all the officials who refereed these games, for they all received top ratings from the participating teams.

### Attention: Runners

Listed are the times and names of area runners who competed in the 10th Annual Dallas White Rock Marathon held Saturday, December 1, 1979 at 9:00 a.m. The weather was perfect.

Adelaide Bratten 3:12:24 (3rd place age 19 and under); Keith Bratten 2:40:30; Barbara Collinsworth 3:39; John Crompton 2:51:10; Carl Gabbard 2:53:12; Ralph Havens 2:38:30; Walter Kuklinsky 2:56:20; Lane Mitchell 2:38:35; Tinker Murrey 2:34; Mike Timmons 2:56:40; Doug Unger 2:56:30 and Steve Zinkraf 2:53:20.

1st place overall went to former A&M student Kyle Heffner. 4th place woman overall went to former A&M student Martha Sartain. — By Road Runner Club

## Flickerball Finishes

In Women's Class A the Musty Ho's aggressed over the AFC Saints 5-1 in a mainly defensive championship game. Scorers for the Musty Ho's were Becky Darle, JoBeth Greebon and Cindy Bartlett. De De Breaux tallied the only point for the AFC Saints.

Class B Men's was an exciting game as the Crocker Shuttlecocks faced Only Fun for the All University title.

The game went to Only Fun 17-9 after an intense hour of play. High scorers of the game were Only Fun's Robert Wallace with 6 points, Crocker's Jeff Brown with 5 points, and Only Fun's Mike Marguardt and Mike Parker each with 4 points each. Other scorers for Crocker were Jay Lunelschen, reg Thorne and Andy Giles. For Only Fun, other scorers were Mike Larsen and Kevin Kosan.

The Men's Class A Championship game was a fairly close battle as the Buffaloes stepped over Spam III 14-10. High scorers for the game were the Buffalo's Ross Hunter with 7 points, Spam III's Richard Porter with 5 points, and Spam III's Dale Cornegie and Buffaloes's David Teague each with 3 points. Arthur Edwards, Scott Lee and Cliff Johnston also scored points for the Buffaloes as did Billy Ellerbrock and Ardell Schaffer for Spam III.

The officials in the final games were excellent, receiving high ratings from the team captains.

### Acknowledgments

This ad is sponsored by your local McDonald Restaurants at University Drive and Manor East Mall. Stories by Michelle Wolstein, Pictures by Gary Reyes.



Football? Rugby? No, it's Flickerball, one of the more popular Intramural sports on the Texas A&M campus.

## Your Picture of Fame

Class A, B and C All University Intramural Champions who did not have your picture taken should stop by the Intramural Office and see Pat Fierro this Tuesday or Wednesday between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Teams should try to be complete and doubles partners must both be there.

## In The Winner's Circle

Flag Football Champions: Class A: Corps - B-1; Fish - F-2; Dorm - Crocker III\*; Men's Independent - Rutting Bucks; Women's Independent - Briggs; Women's Independent - Jokers\*; CoRec - Running Does\*. Class B: Corps - M-1; Fish - I-1; Men's Dorm - Dunn Class; Men's Independent - SFS; Women's Dorm - Mosher Maggies; Women's Independent - BSU\*; CoRec - Dr. J.\*. Class C: Corps - Mesas\*; Women's - 2 Min. Warning\*; CoRec - Looney Tunes\*.  
Flickerball Champions: Class A: Corps - M-1 Meds; A-1; Men's Dorm - Puryear Players; Men's Independent - Buffaloes; Women's Independent - Musty Ho's\*. Class B: Corps - A-1; Fish - Sq-3; Men's Dorm - Crocker Tapa Kegda, Men's Independent - Only Fun\*, Jay Hawks. Class C: Men's - Alpha Gamma Rho.\*  
\*Indicates an All University Champion.



The "I Spy" photographer this week selects Cheryl Northam to be eligible for a Be Our Guest card for free food from McDonalds. Cheryl is pictured here ready to return a serve in recent Intramural volleyball action.