

## U.S. medal count runs to 26; Women gymnasts get silver

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — American athletes, demonstrating awesome power and skill in events both familiar and foreign to the Yankee sporting tradition, ran their medal count to 26 Wednesday after only four days of Olympic competition, and appear to be headed for an unprecedented sweep.

The Peoples' Republic of China, participating for the first time since 1952, is second overall with 11 medals, five of them gold. West Germany and Canada each have won three gold medals.

As expected, the U.S. team all but swept the early swimming competition, a traditional American strength, by winning 11 of 15 gold medals.

The American harvest of gold medals was due in part to the Soviet-led Olympics boycott. Soviet and East German swimmers and gymnasts dominate their sports and have posted better times and scores than many Americans who won in Los Angeles.

If Americans continue to ring up wins at the rate of the first four out of 12 days of competition, they could emerge more dominant in Olympic prowess than even the Soviet Union was in 1980. The Soviets had the luxury of not competing against the boycotting U.S. and claimed 80 gold medals during the Moscow Games.

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pic competition Wednesday, with no activity in two glamour events — swimming and track and field. Counting the gymnastics, medals were decided in Greco-Roman wrestling, a very weak sport for the United States, the pentathlon, and one each in shooting and weightlifting.

The U.S. men's basketball team routed Uruguay 104-68 to improve its record to 3-0.

It was the third straight decisive victory for the Americans, who are looking to reclaim the gold medal they last won at Montreal in 1976. The latest decision assured them of a berth in the tournament's next round.

The United States previously defeated China by 48 points and Canada by 21. Against Uruguay in this Group B meeting, the Americans settled the outcome within minutes.

"At no time did I think we would win," Uruguay Coach Ramon Etchamendi said. "Perhaps if we played five against seven."

The one-sidedness of the game was such that the Forum was lulled into passivity. There was no fervent flag-waving and not a single chant of "U-S-A" during the first half.

Jerry Page kept America's winning streak alive in boxing, pounding out a 5-0 decision over West Germany's Helmut Gertel and running the U.S. streak to 7-0.

"The important thing is to win," Page said. "The pressure is on us now not to be the first American to lose. No one wants to be the first one."

The Americans also emerged dominant in Olympic gymnastics and cycling for the first time ever.

In a heartbreaking defeat Wednesday night at Pauley Pavilion on the campus of UCLA, the U.S. women's gymnastics team settled for the silver medal in team competition behind the gold medalist Romanian team.

The women's team had hoped to duplicate the gold medal performance of the men's team, which

edged out the favored Chinese team Tuesday night. The team, led by Mitch Gaylord and Peter Vidmar, took the first gold medal for American men in Olympic history.

The American women entered the final Wednesday with a bleak history that included a single medal — the 1948 team bronze — since beginning Olympic competition in 1936.

Led by Mary Lou Retton, Julianne McNamara and Kathy Johnson, the United States women had entered Wednesday optional exercise round in second place, trailing heavily favored Romania by less than half a point.

In a sport traditionally dominated by other nations, Alexi Grewal won the gold medal in the men's road race cycling event Sunday to capture the first Olympic medal of any kind that an American has won since 1912.

Two American women won the gold and silver in distance cycling in the Olympic debut for the women's event.

Two more American men won cycling medals Wednesday when Steve Hegg, of Dana Point, Calif., captured the gold in the 4,000-meter individual pursuit and Leonard Nitz took home the bronze medal.



Photo by PETER ROCHA

### A Delicate Shot

Chuck Young, a senior physical education major from Hondo, Texas practices hitting chip shots onto the green.

## Orioles blast Rangers 7-2; Cubs take over first in NL East

United Press International

In the American League, Fred Lynn had two hits and scored twice and Rob Picolo drove in two runs with a pair of infield outs Wednesday to give the California Angels a 6-4 victory over the Oakland A's.

The victory, coupled with the Twins' 5-1 loss to Seattle, moved the Angels within a half-game of first-

place Minnesota in the AL West.

At Minneapolis, Spike Owen drove in two runs and Orlando Mercado had three hits to help the Mariners halt the Twins' five-game winning streak. Salome Barojas (4-1) pitched the first five innings for the triumph.

Elsewhere, Toronto downed Kansas City 4-1, Cleveland beat Detroit

4-2, Baltimore defeated Texas 7-2, New York downed Milwaukee 7-3 and Chicago topped Boston 5-3.

At Detroit, George Vukovich led off the seventh inning with his second home run of the game to snap a 2-2 tie and Steve Farr and Ernie Camacho combined on a three-hitter to lift the Indians.

At Baltimore, Cal Ripken and

Wayne Gross slammed two-run home runs to highlight a five-run third inning to spark the Orioles. Storm Davis (11-4) overcame early control problems to salvage Baltimore's only victory in the three-game series.

At New York, Phil Niekro scattered five hits for his 13th victory

and Ken Griffey hit a three-run homer to power the Yankees to a three-game series sweep.

At Chicago, Ron Kittle slammed his 24th homer of the year in the third inning off loser Bob Ojeda (9-8) to give LaMarr Hoyt (9-11) and the White Sox an early 4-0 lead.

In the National League, Jody Da-

vis hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly with one out in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Chicago Cubs into first place in the National League East with a 5-4 triumph over the Philadelphia Phillies.

The victory, coupled with New York's 11-2 loss at St. Louis, gave the Cubs a half-game lead over the Mets in the NL East.

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