

U.S. boxers win ninth straight

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Meldrick Taylor of Philadelphia, the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic boxing team, kept the American win streak alive Thursday with a 5-0 thrashing of Romania's Nicolae Talpos in the 125-pound division.

Taylor, just 17, blistered the Romanian with seven and eight-punch flurries to the body throughout the second-round bout to extend the American unbeaten streak to nine.

Robert Shannon tried to make it 10 straight Thursday night when he made his Olympic debut with a second-round bout in the 118-pound class against Sammy Mwangi of Kenya. Both Taylor and Shannon drew first-round byes.

Taylor, a product of the gym of former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, began tentatively against the Romanian southpaw, but soon began sliding underneath his opponent's lazy right jab and scoring heavily with the combinations to the body.

He hurt Talpos early in the final round and then chased him around the ring for the final two minutes as the Romanian tried desperately to stay out of Taylor's reach.

"I'm pretty proud that I am the youngest fighter on the team," Taylor said. "Maybe I can go down in history as the youngest if I win the gold medal."

Jackie Fields, the 1924 Olympic featherweight champion, holds that American record. He was 16 when he won his medal. But Taylor could become the youngest since then.

The minimum age for making the United States Olympic boxing team is 17.

Taylor's next opponent will be Mexico's Francisco Camacho, who stopped Jean Luc Bezoky of Madagascar in the bout preceding Taylor's. That fight will be held Sunday.



Photo by SUZANNE FISK

A&M Basketball Camp

From left to right, high school students Michele Hartman from Nassau Bay, Leesa Hawkins from Robinson, Lori Mobley from Lake Jackson and Kim Brown from Mansfield get in position for a rebound during a scrimmage.

U.S. gymnast gets silver in Olympic all-arounds

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Japan's Koji Gushiken earned one perfect 10 and scored no less than 9.9 in the other five events Thursday night to edge American Peter Vidmar for the Olympic gold medal in men's individual all-around gymnastics competition.

China's crowd-pleasing Li Ning earned the bronze medal in a competition decided by hundredths of a point.

Seven men entered the competition separated by two-tenths of a point coming from team competition Tuesday night. Those seven finished separated by just 0.475 points.

Gushiken, at 27 the oldest of the all-around finalists, defeated Vidmar by 0.025— with 118.7 of a possible 120 points to 118.675 for the UCLA product. Li had 118.575.

"I didn't come here to lose," Gushiken had warned after finishing team competition ranked fifth behind Vidmar and Li.

Gushiken, runnerup to the Soviet Union's Demetri Belozherchev at the 1983 World Championships in Budapest, was a model of consistency in

the competition at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion.

He earned his perfect score, one of three awarded Thursday night, in vaulting and picked up 9.95 on the still rings and horizontal bar. He settled for 9.90 on pommel horse, floor exercise and parallel bars.

Gushiken made no major breaks or errors. Rather, his failure to earn 10s across the board stemmed from a couple minor missteps and a lower degree of difficulty for his routines.

Through the luck of the draw determining order of performance, Gushiken didn't take over the lead until the fifth of six rotations.

Until that point, the competition appeared to be a duel between Vidmar and Li. Vidmar led Li by .05 entering Thursday night's competition and picked up another 10th of a point on the 20-year-old Chinese star on the first rotation by earning the first 10 of the night, on the horizontal bar, while Li earned 9.90 in floor exercise.

The largely pro-American crowd knew that Vidmar and Li were tied for first entering the fifth event and, when Vidmar scored a 9.90 in vault-

ing while Li earned 9.80 on parallel bars, they went wild.

It became evident when the new leaders were posted on the scoreboard after the fifth rotation that Vidmar was going to be looking for a 10 in his last event, parallel bars, in order to overtake Gushiken.

Vidmar came close. He was flawless until his dismount, but he lost his balance slightly and scored a 9.90.

Each nation qualified three gymnasts into the all-around competition, but all three Americans managed to finish in that tight top seven of the 36 participants.

Mitch Gaylord, tied for sixth with China's Xu Chiqing entering the finals, finished fifth behind Tong. Conner took sixth, just ahead of Xu.

"I think it's amazing, it's great," said Conner, a three-time Olympian, referring to the closeness of the competition. "For a gymnast, the all-around is like the Heisman Trophy. For the three of us Americans to be that high is just fantastic."

U.S. beats South Korea in women's hoop action

United Press International

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — The U.S. women's basketball team, tested briefly in the first half, improved its Olympic record to 3-0 Thursday by pummeling previously undefeated South Korea 84-47.

Cheryl Miller had 16 points and Janice Lawrence added 13 for the Americans, who play China Friday night.

In qualifying for a spot in the next round, the U.S. squad broke to leads of 12-2 and 20-6 before the South Koreans made their only run and pulled to 20-14 midway through the first half.

The teams then exchanged baskets before an 18-4 burst — keyed by 4 points each by Lawrence, Lynette Woodard and Cindy Noble — put the Americans in control at 40-20.

South Korea, expected to give the Americans some trouble with their zone press, was taken out of the game as a result of shooting 35 percent in the first half making 13 turnovers.

Lawrence hit four fouls shots and Miller had three baskets early in the second half to make it 50-24. U.S. Coach Pat Head Summitt played her reserves the rest of the way.

The Americans, bidding for their

first Olympic gold medal, previously routed Yugoslavia and Australia. South Korea, with victories over Yugoslavia and Canada, fell to 2-1. The Americans have won their three games by a total of 99 points.

Earlier Thursday, Canada improved its record to 2-1 with a 56-46 triumph over Australia. Bev Smith and Andrea Blackwell had 12 points each for the winners and Robyn Maher scored 12 for Australia, 0-3.

The top four teams in the six-team tournament advance to the next round with the gold medal to be decided Aug. 7.

Swim relay team posts world record, takes gold

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The American 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay team, mirroring the electric performance of their 800-meter counterparts, continued the United States' gold medal harvest in swimming Thursday by establishing a world record in the final race of the day.

The relay quartet, anchored by 100-meter freestyle gold medalist Rowdy Gaines, overtook Australia in the final 100 meters to push the United States' gold medal total in swimming to 14. The United States' time of 3:19.03 lowered the previous world best of 3:19.26 set by the

Americans in the 1982 World Championships.

Americans went 1-2 in both the women's 100 butterfly and the 400 freestyle. Mary T. Meagher, world record-holder in the 100 butterfly, edged teammate Jenna Johnson to capture the gold in that event and George DiCarlo nipped fellow American John Mykkanen in the 400 freestyle.

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The Americans also came up empty in the women's 100-meter breaststroke, won by Holland's Petra Van Staveren in Olympic record-setting time.

The American 4 x 100 meter relay

team took an early lead behind Matt Cavanaugh but the Aussies caught up halfway through the race. The race was nearly dead even when Gaines hit the water and the veteran sprinter held off the Aussies before a flag-waving, partisan American

crowd at the pool at the University of Southern California campus.

Sweden won the bronze while West Germany, anchored by double gold medalist Michael Gross, could not overcome a large deficit.

Meagher had broken East Germany's Kornelia Ender's Olympic record in the prelims but she spotted Johnson, who had upset her in the Olympic trials, the early lead and had to overcome the 16-year-old California swimmer in the final 25 meters to win the gold.

DiCarlo, a University of Arizona senior, had set an Olympic record in winning his race in 3:51.23, eclipsing

Soviet Vladimir Salmikov's previous mark of 3:51.31 set in 1980. But West Germany's Thomas Fahrner, who had finished ninth in the prelims, came back minutes later to swim a 3:50.91.

After a consultation by FINA, the international governing body for swimming, Fahrner was awarded the Olympic record. DiCarlo still is the medal winner.

"When I saw DiCarlo's time, I was convinced I could beat it," he said. "I should have swum as hard as I could this morning instead of just trying to take it easy and just qualify."

U.S. basketball team rates its performance '9.6'

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — If gold medals were awarded for practice, Bobby Knight might be resting easier.

"The best basketball we've played so far has not been in the games," the U.S. Olympic basketball coach said Thursday, "but on the practice floor after playing China."

It's not as if the score with China was close and the Americans needed to whip their game into shape — they won easily 97-49. Next came Canada and an 89-68 victory, followed by a 104-68 blitz of Uruguay.

The 3-0 record leaves the United States tied with Spain for first place

in Group B with each assured a berth in the next round. The top four teams from Groups A and B advance. The Americans next face France Friday.

France, with losses to Uruguay, China and Spain, could face its coup de grace against the United States. The French are led by center Philippe Szanyiel and forwards Eric Beugnot and Herve Dubuisson, recently signed by the NBA's New Jersey Nets. Knight respects their capabilities.

"They've got excellent personnel," he said. "They shoot well and

get up and down the floor well."

Despite the lopsided scores, Knight has not relented in his drive for execution and his insistence on fundamentals.

"He's always striving for perfection," said SMU center Jon Koncak. "We were up by 25 at the half against Canada and I thought we were playing pretty well. But he came in the locker room and jumped all over us. He never lets us get complacent."

Thus far the games — from a purely athletic standpoint — have

been little more than anti-climaxes to Knight's practices. The teams from Yugoslavia, Italy and Spain figure to provide the most serious tests.

Wayman Tisdale, who has played well underneath, likened China to a junior college team and Canada to a Division I team. He said any Big Eight Conference school could beat Uruguay.

"At this point, we feel if you take the scoreboard away, I think we feel that we've been losing the games, all three of them," the Oklahoma All-America said. "We still have a lot of

tough games. The American people can't get too overconfident now. I think they're more overconfident than we are because we know we have to still go out and still work at it."

Leon Wood, who has run the fast break masterfully, said the first three opponents have presented few problems.

"I've been able to do anything I want so far as the break goes," he said. "I usually throw one move and I'm gone."

Wood said basketball is not the

only event on the players' minds.

"We've been sitting around watching the gymnastics competition," he said. "Me, Michael (Jordan), Steve (Alford) and Vern (Fleming), we're sort of becoming judges ourselves. After a competition, we'll kind of rate the performance. We were jumping off the chair when Mary Lou Retton got a 10. How would I rate our team so far?"

"Well, obviously we can't play a perfect game. I would rate it a 9.6, but maybe Coach Knight would rank it lower."

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