

Japan and Canada display talents at York's Tait gym

By LORNE MANLY

The event was billed as an "evening of gymnastics" and the 1500 spectators who crammed into the Tait McKenzie gym Monday night witnessed some of the best gymnasts in the world displaying their talents.

The Japanese and Canadian men's and women's world teams, fresh from the week-long World Championships in Montreal, exhibited their art before an enthusiastic crowd in a demonstration of the best in gymnastics Canada and Japan could offer. Performing for the Canadians were past, present and future York students including Frank Nutzenberger, Daniel Gaudet, Allan Reddon, Brad Peters and Lorne Bobkin. The Japanese contingent contained some of the prime talent in the world such as Koji Gushiken, the 1984 Olympic champion and the bronze medal winner in the parallel bars event in Montreal, and Morio Maiko, the Japanese national champion.

Tom Zivic, the Canadian team leader, along with the men's coach Naosaki Masaaki, were the masterminds behind the arranging of the demonstration. Both are long-time friends with many people in the Japanese gymnastic federation and the Japanese have hosted Canada four out of five times. The Japanese team was here

once before in 1969, and they consented to present this showcase at York after the World Championships. "They did us a favour (by coming)," said Zivic, "even though they were super-tired after being in Canada for four weeks."

Due to the fact that the exhibition was not a competition and that it was held immediately after the long and tiring World Championships, the gymnasts' routines were not up to their usual level. The physical and mental fatigue of the athletes had started to catch up with them but they still managed to put on a good show.

Lorne Bobkin, who is looking forward to attending York starting this January, thought the evening went well.

"We were very tired," Bobkin said, "but we wanted to give a good show. We had to get up for the demonstration."

Helping the gymnasts cope with their tiredness and the emotional let-down from the World Championships was the size of the crowd. "I was really surprised that so many people showed up," said Bobkin. "It really helped us get up for it."

The size of the crowd was a surprise to everyone. Zivic was "really excited" about the large turnout, even though there was limited publicity for the event. Coach Masaaki, as well, was "surprised and happy at the number of people that turned out."

The evening, despite its imperfections, contained some stunning acrobatics on the various routines. Lorne Bobkin, on the horizontal bars, drew gasps from the audience on his landing as he performed three somersaults before nailing his landing perfectly. Eileen Oka, the diminutive nine year old Canadian gymnast, captivated the crowd with her floor routine performed to the tune of the Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night."

Brad Peters, who finished 14th overall at the World Championships and qualified for the World Cup next year in China, performed a move named after himself on the parallel bars. There are very few gymnasts that have had this honour bestowed on them and Peters is the first Canadian to have a move named for him. The Japanese contingent boasted some very distinguished athletes that have had moves named in their honour as well, including Koji Gushiken, Yukio Endo (the chief of the Japanese delegation), and Mitsuo Tsukahara (one of the Japanese women's coaches).

The funniest moment of the evening occurred after Gushiken finished one of his routines. The commentator, David Steeper, announced that Gushiken would be 29 the next day (Tuesday) and the crowd spontaneously broke into a rendition of Happy Birthday.

PHOTOS BY ROBERTA DI MAIO



JUST HANGING OUT: Several members of the Japanese gymnastics delegation stretch out before Monday night's demonstration at the Tait gym.

Canadian gymnasts made strides at world championship competition

By EDO VAN BELKOM

According to Tom Zivic, the World Gymnastics Championships held in Montreal last week were a success for Canadian gymnasts. Zivic is the coach of the York men's gymnastic team and was also the national team's leader at the World Championships.

"It was very successful for us because we improved over the last four world championships from 14th place to 11th," Zivic said.

Although the competition was held in Canada, this did not give the Canadian team an advantage according to Zivic. "It would be an advantage to be the host country, but because we were the home country we got a bad draw."

"On the first day for example we had to compete early in the morning instead of the afternoon," Zivic added. "If it wasn't for that we could have finished seventh overall instead of 11th."

The competition was dominated by the Eastern bloc countries led by the Soviet Union as well as China. Soviet competitors won both all-round golds as well as numerous other medals. There were also a number of strong showings by Canadian competitors.

The best Canadian overall was York student and Brampton native Brad Peters who finished an impressive 14th in the men's all-round competition. This placing was the best placing ever by a Canadian in the all-round competition. "I've been trying to place in the top twenties for the past few years, but I've always had bad injuries just before the major competitions," Peters said.

"In this competition I was really healthy and I knew I could place well if I hit all my routines

with no major breaks," he added.

Peters, who took the first part of the school year off to prepare himself for the World Championships will be returning to York in January to continue his Business and Math degree.

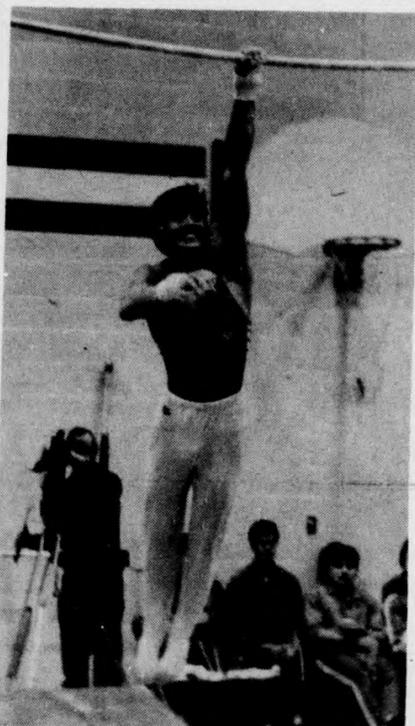
Phillipe Chartrand of Montreal also did well in the men's all-round event placing a respectable 19th. Curtis Hibbert was the only Canadian to come close to final round competition tying for eighth place in the vault. Hibbert missed the final because the competitor who matched his score had a better score in the all-round and therefore advanced to the final in the vault. Only the top eight gymnasts in each event advance to the final.

York University was represented well at the World Championships as York student Allan Reddon and York alumni Dan Gaudet and Frank Nutzenburger competed in the games along with Peters.

Despite the fact that Nutzenburger's placings were not that high he felt that he had a good meet. "Although my finishes weren't very high I felt really good with my performances at this meet," Nutzenburger said. "I was the starting man in the rotation, so I didn't score as high as I would have if I went later in the rotation," he added.

The Canadian women placed in the top 30 in the all-round event led by Christina McDonald of Whitby who finished 26th.

The impact of the Canadian gymnasts on the world was summed up by Peters who said, "I think our performers opened a lot of eyes in the world."



LOOK MA, ONE HAND: York gymnast Allan Reddon in action.



HEAD OVER HEELS: Canadian team member Monica Covacci performs back flip on balance beam routine Monday night in front of an appreciative crowd.



REAL SWINGER: York gymnast Brad Peters finished 14th overall at the World Championships last week in Montreal.

Sports Briefs

FOOTBALL

• York runningback Joe Pariselli was a major presence in the final OUA statistical categories. His 112-yard kickoff return (which is the longest in the league's history) in York's final game of the season against Western was Pariselli's third return for a touchdown this season. That established a new (OUA) record as well. Pariselli led the league in kickoff returns gaining 387 yards on nine returns, for an average of 43 yards per return. This mark is almost 24 yards per return better than the next best player, Noel Beaulieu of Toronto.

SWIMMING

• Last Friday night the York swim team travelled to Waterloo to challenge the team that finished one spot above them in last year's finals. The men's team was most impressive winning seven events and placing first and second in two events. Bruce Kaufmann, and Robert Kerwin finished first in two events while Keith Reynold and Adam Robinson won a first and second placing each.

The women also did well winning three events. Nicole MacPherson, who according to assistant coach Steve Ratz is improving in every meet won the 400 m freestyle and

placed second in the 800 m freestyle. Anne Brummer also placed first and second in individual events. Brummer also qualified for the CIAU championships and is the first to do so.

Overall York defeated Waterloo by a score of 81-32.

"The meet will give our guys some confidence," Ratz said. "It won't be easy to beat them at the OUA's but they're definitely not out of reach."

BROOMBALL

• *Excalibur* evened its lifetime record at 1-1 with a 9-4 trouncing

over hapless CYSF in weekend broomball action. The winners were led by editor Elliott Shiff who scored the game's first three goals. Rookie left-winger Kevin O'Neill made a sparkling debut for the local scribe. Elise Hallewick was the lone member of CYSF who displayed any semblance of "broom dexterity." "We're looking ahead to a clean sweep of our remaining opponents," said editor Shiff.

CHEERLEADING

• After doing their best to cheer on the Yeomen in their playoff defeat at the hands of the Laurier Golden

Hawks, York's cheerleading squad travelled to the University of Western Ontario to compete in the Canadian University Cheerleading Championships.

The squads performed inside Western's Alumni Hall, completing two routines, one of which was accompanied by music. York finished second overall in the all female division behind the squad from Laurier. It was York's second loss at the hands of a Laurier team in as many days.

First place finishers in the co-ed division were the University of Western Ontario.