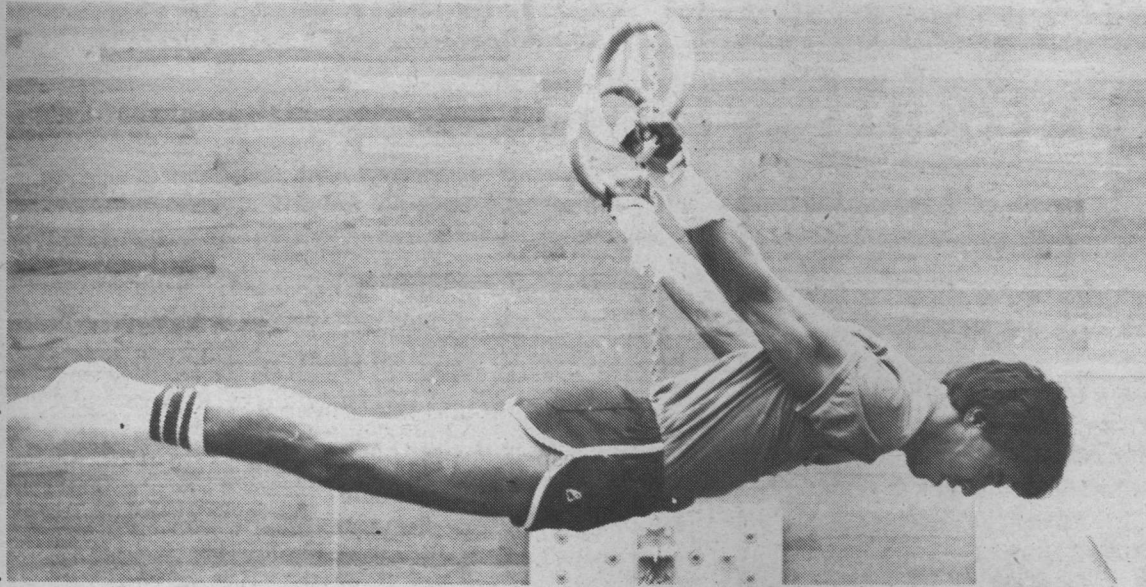


Gym men ready

photo Russ Sampson



Bears pre-season is over and CWUAA meets start this weekend.

In spite of a third place last weekend in Calgary, mens gymnastic coach Francis Tally was not disappointed. First of all the U of A's James Hamilton finished sixth and qualified for the nationals. In addition, the competition was tough with two US schools participating.

In fact Tally has come to expect Eastern Montana college to present a skilled team and he calls their meeting "our annual lesson". Three schools in total participated in the invitational meet.

Tally also mentions the Alberta Gymnastic Federation entered Alberta's best in the meet, and planned to use the results as rankings to send a team of six to California. Hamilton made the team and will be heading south.

In any case the season has just begun and in the CWUAA Tally sees UBC as the most serious threat. Tally states the Bears are in good shape and major injury has been avoided. Tally gives credit to two trainers, Doug Gilroy and Ron Hauck, for helping prevent chronic injury. Tally adds "this is the first time we have not problems with injury".

The team has a lot of work to do, in particular with polishing routines. Tally also mentions he is looking for two specialists for the high and parallel bars. Tally suggests junior team members could fill the roles. Hopefully, the team will soon carry two specialists as well as four all-rounders.

In total Tally seems optimistic, but warns he is waiting until the UBC meet next weekend before making any changes in the program's direction. Still, the season, especially for James Hamilton, is off to a good start.

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