

1979 Pacific Gymnastic Championship

China's first championship competition



photo Debbie Jones

1979 Pacific Rim Gymnastics.

by Rick Tom

China gave an excellent performance in the 1979 Pacific Gymnastic championship last Tuesday, despite the cold coliseum floor, and the low turnout of 3,000 people.

"The Chinese have shown a remarkable change, not in style but in their continuity of style" commented the Chairman of Judges, Francis Tally.

Their training was extensive, consisting of styles from different countries making their own style unique."

With the spotlight on China, competing in the championship for the first time, they came in second with an overall total of 186. The United States proceeded in first with 189.3. China's Zhou Xingpin was performing with a bruised arm, but still, with a determination to

finish. She was third in the women's individuals: Zhao Xue-qin (China) took the second and Chan Hung (China) came in fourth.

"Training in China was different," continued Tally. It involves the training of thousands of people, in one aspect of gymnastics. As the student grows older, they are chosen according to their level of performance and then train extensively for international competition with the required routines rather than individual's combining their own. Therefore competitors at age 12 were doing routines exceeding the standards of our culture. It was this type of training which probably placed China in the upper standings in the competition.

With 42 tired gymnasts, Friday's competition in Van-

cover concluded the tour. Totals from meets in Hawaii, Portland Oregon, Seattle, and Edmonton gave the team title to the United States with 952.86 points, China with 935.1 followed by Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico.

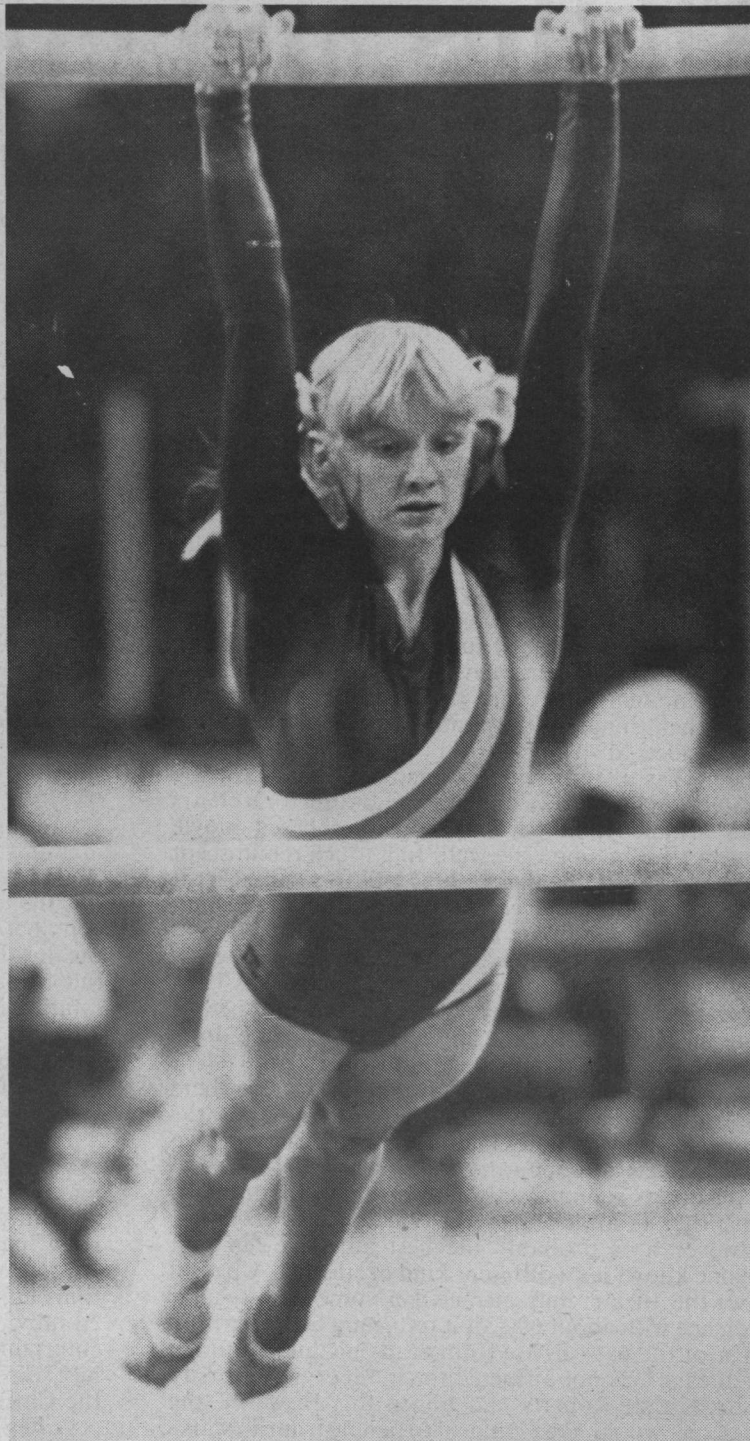
For China competition has just begun. Twelve teams, from various countries, will be chosen for the Olympics from a Fort Texas meet, late in December. Tally concluded, "we will not see less of China, but rather we will see more, and certainly we should expect to see them in Moscow Olympics in 1980."

Photo feature by
Rick Tom and
Debbie Jones



Chen Hung (China)

photo Rick Tom



Jan Edelsten (Aus.) on the uneven bars.

photo Rick Tom