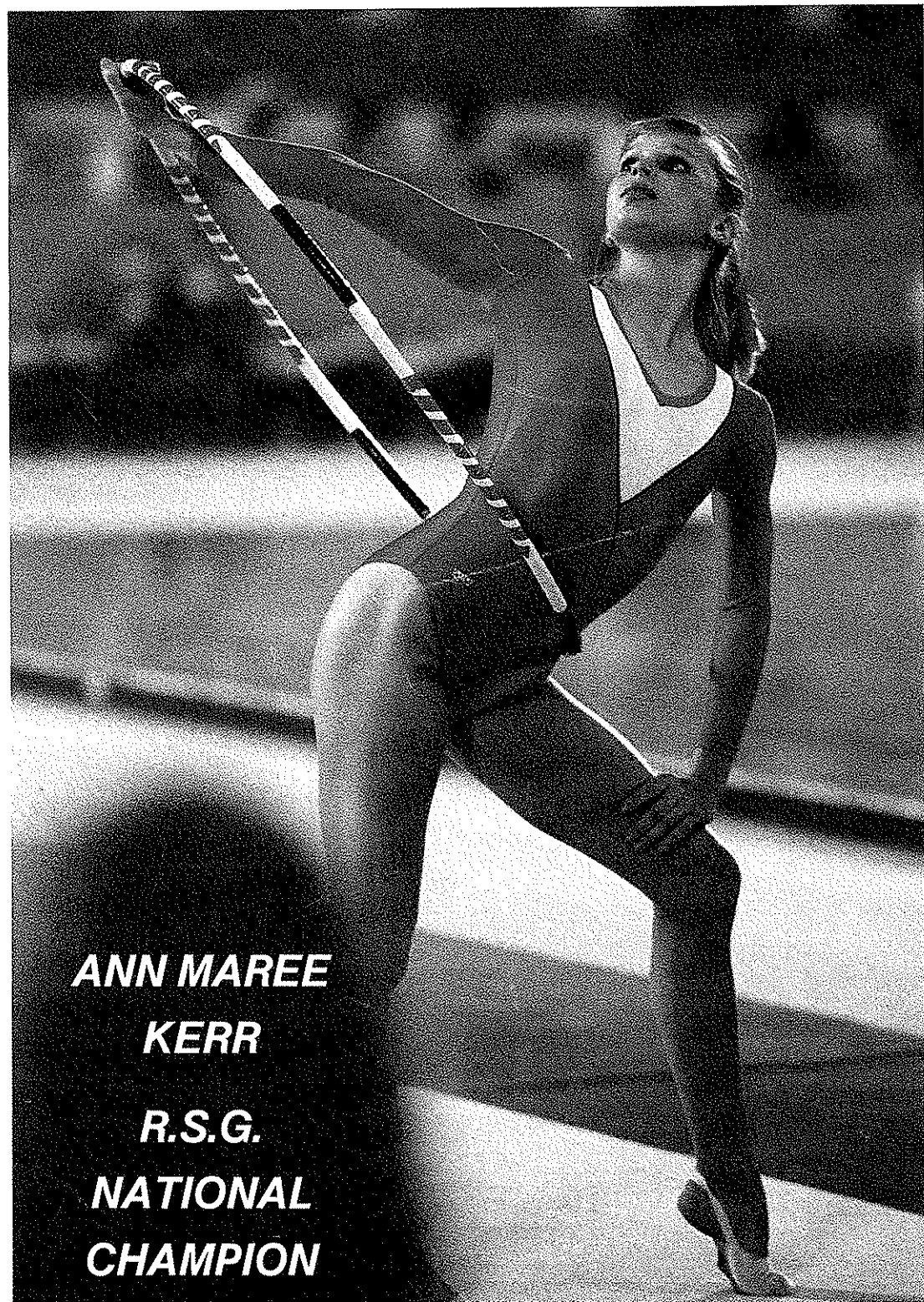


THE AUSTRALIAN GYMNAST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GYMNASTIC FEDERATION



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R.S.G.

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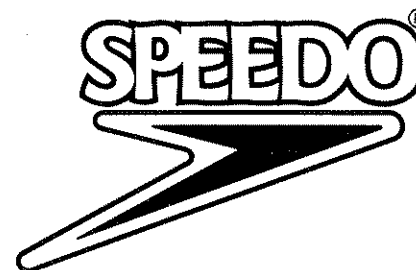
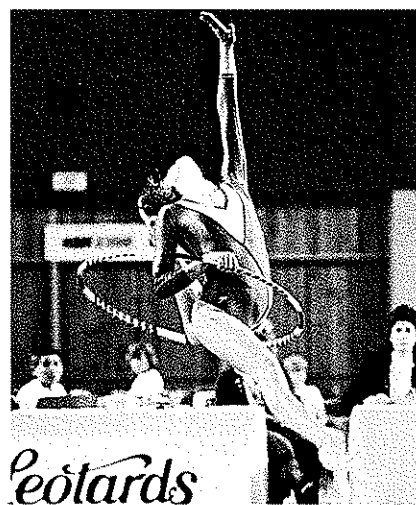
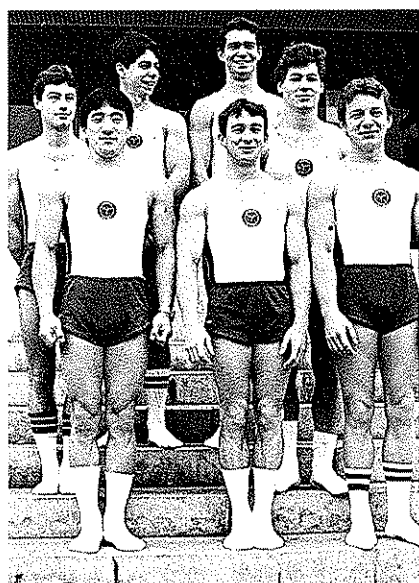
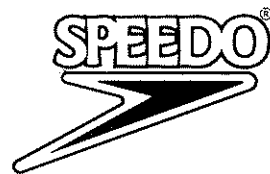
CHAMPION

Vol.10. No.20. DECEMBER 1984/JANUARY 1985 Subscription: \$12.00 year
Individual Copy: \$2.60

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VBQ0561



All International Teams both Rhythmic and Artistic were outfitted by "Speedo" Australia.



EDITORIAL

"International" is the dominant theme at the beginning of '85. "It" will begin the new year on a very exciting note.

Our International competition which forms part of the Australia Games programme brings together a range of gymnastic nations. To have the opportunity to see the World Champion nations as well as to compete against them will give us a good benchmark in our lead up to the '85 World Championships. The gymnastic community is to be acknowledged for their dedication and support of this inaugural Games festival. Many willing workers are giving up holiday time to ensure its success. Also to the coaches, competitors and judges who must prepare themselves for this event goes our encouragement for their sacrifice of a rest period. January was one a rest month for our sport: it is no more.

In keeping with the "International" theme, we note that Jim Barry and Lance Otto formally accept their responsibilities on their respective International Committees. We wish them every success.

Visiting Australia in January to be involved in judges or administration courses will be gymnastic personnel from Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Malaysia and New Zealand. January will be time for an exchange of information and goodwill. It will certainly start off the gymnastic calendar on a very high note.

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Front Cover:

Ann Maree Kerr — RSG National Champion

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Ross Gould
Peter Meyers
Warwick Forbes

DEADLINE DATES 1985

22nd February 1985
14th June 1985
6th September 1985
22nd November 1985

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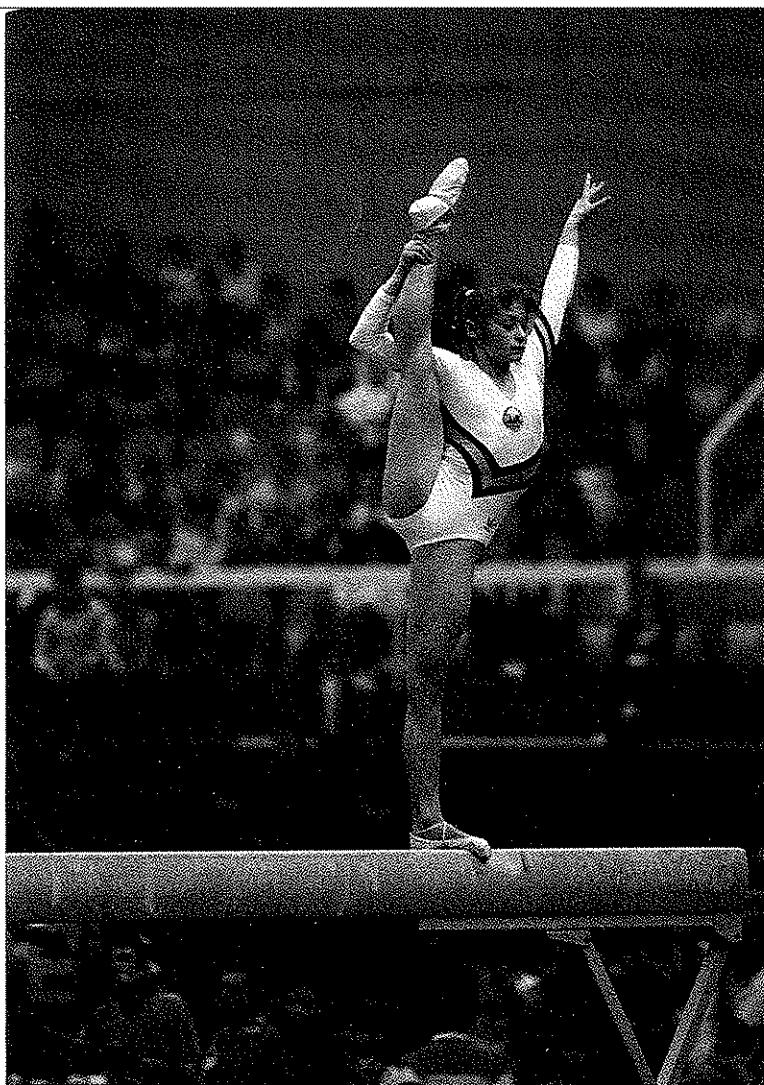
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The Australian Gymnast is published quarterly in Melbourne and printed by

ENNIS & JARRETT PTY. LTD.
35 Advantage Road, Highett 3190.

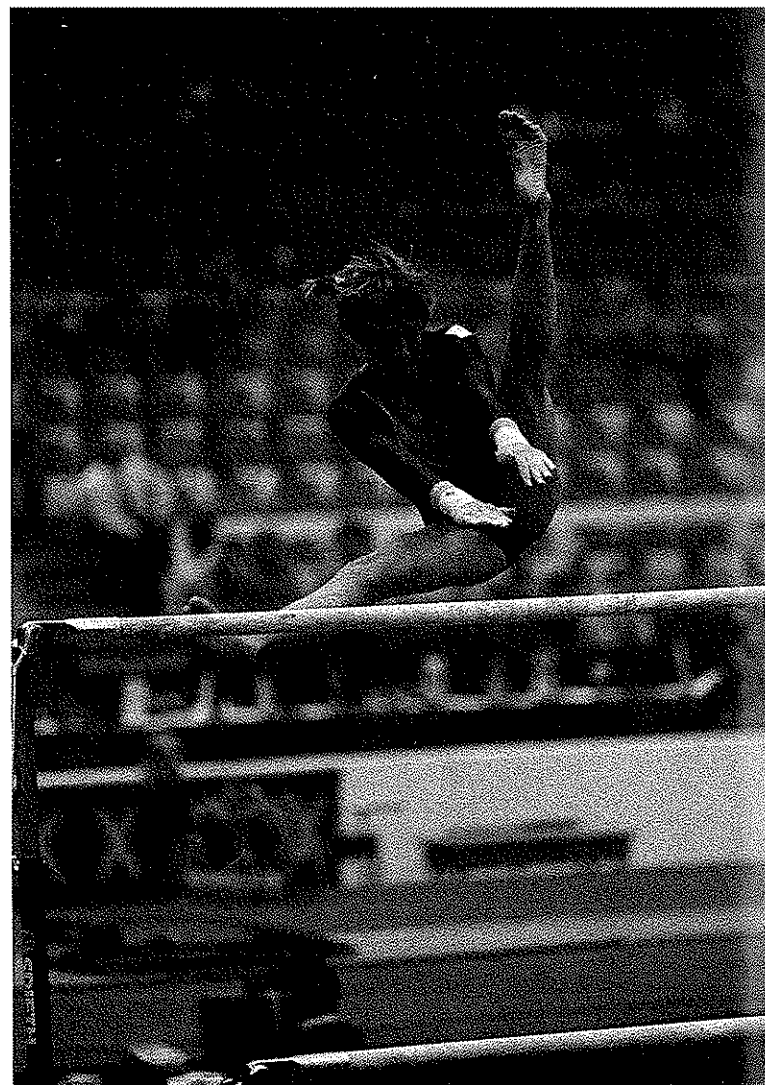
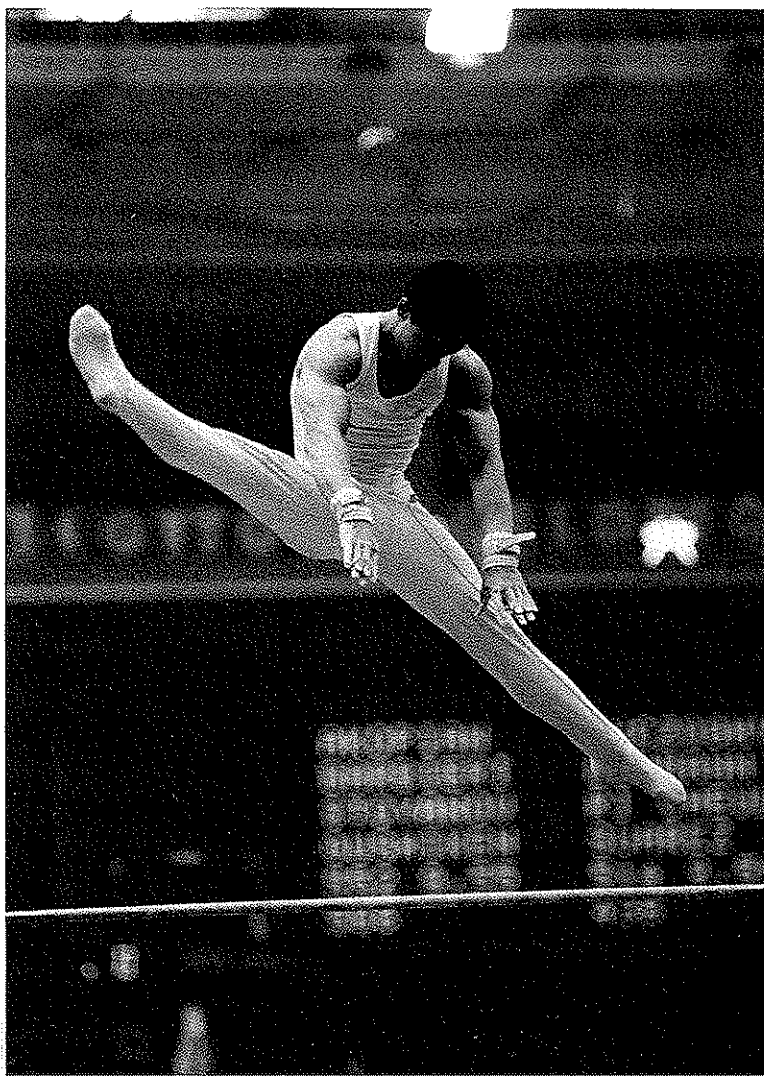
AGF SPORTS AWARDS — 1984

Gymnast of the Year	Werner Birnbaum
Male Gymnast of the Year	Werner Birnbaum
Female Gymnast of the Year	Debbie Graham
Rhythmic Gymnast of the Year	Karen Ho
Coach of the Year	Warwick Forbes
Male Coach of the Year	Paul Szyjko
Female Coach of the Year	Danica Mladenovic
Rhythmic Coach of the Year	Yvonne Bradley
Junior Male Gymnast of the Year	Mark Mommsen
Junior Female Gymnast of the Year	Monique Allen
Junior Rhythmic Gymnast of the Year	Antonietta Guida



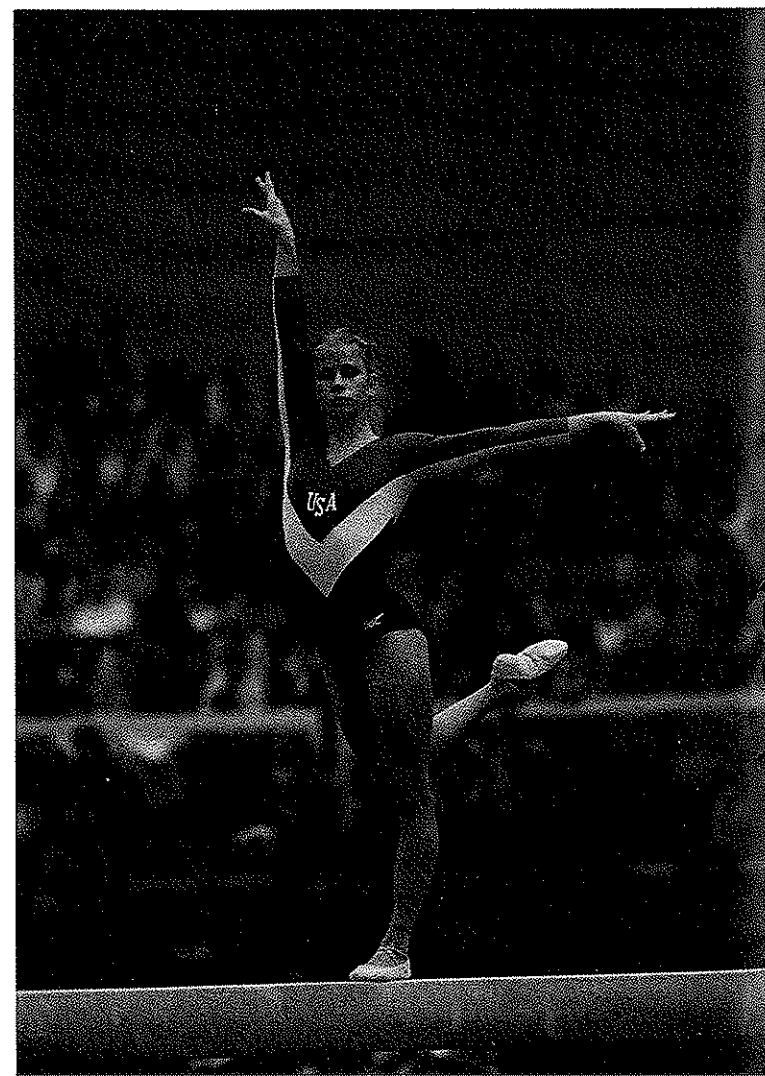
Ecaterina Zabo (ROM)

Li Ning (CHN)



Keri Battersby (AUS)

Kathy Johnson (USA)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The RSG Four Continents Competition is held every 2 years and the third championship was held in Indianapolis in October. It is a very expensive exercise but it is essential that Australia is represented at these events. As the name implies, Gymnastic Federations' from all Continents, other than Europe, have the right to participate.

As far as the Pacific Alliance Competition series is concerned, (the first official competition was hosted in Australia in 1982), we are now proceeding to the second competition series hosted by the U.S.G.F. in both Reno and San Francisco during December. It is worth noting that the U.S.G.F. is hosting both regional competitions in 1984. This is an enormous cost and organizational burden and they are to be commended for taking on the task.

Another important development is that the elections at the F.I.G. Congress at Los Angeles in July saw Australia, The People's Republic of China to the Executive Committee for the first time. The United States also gained a seat on the Executive Committee, thus removing the domination of Europe. I believe that this regionalization development will assist gymnastics right around the world and aim for a more balanced development.

In the Technical Committee's the same changes have occurred. Of particular interest is the new Technical Committee for General Gymnastics which sees both Australia and the United States represented. In the RSG Technical Committee the U.S.A's Andrea Schmid has been elected as well as being appointed coordinator for Four Continents Championship.

Much has happened in 1984 to make it another very busy year including a complete update of our constitution during the Annual General Meeting in Brisbane during our Senior National Championship week. Much more work needs to be done and as far as the international calendar is concerned, 1985 will commence with the exciting concept of the Australia Games which could establish an International event in the name of the Australia Cup hosted by our Federation in future years, running right through to World Championships for RSG in Spain and in Artistic in Canada at the end of the year.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all our colleagues in gymnastics for the tremendous work that has gone into the year 1984 and I trust the Christmas Break will allow us to re-charge our batteries and tackle the challenges of 1985.

Also on behalf of the Federation, I extend Christmas Wishes to All and a safe and prosperous New Year.

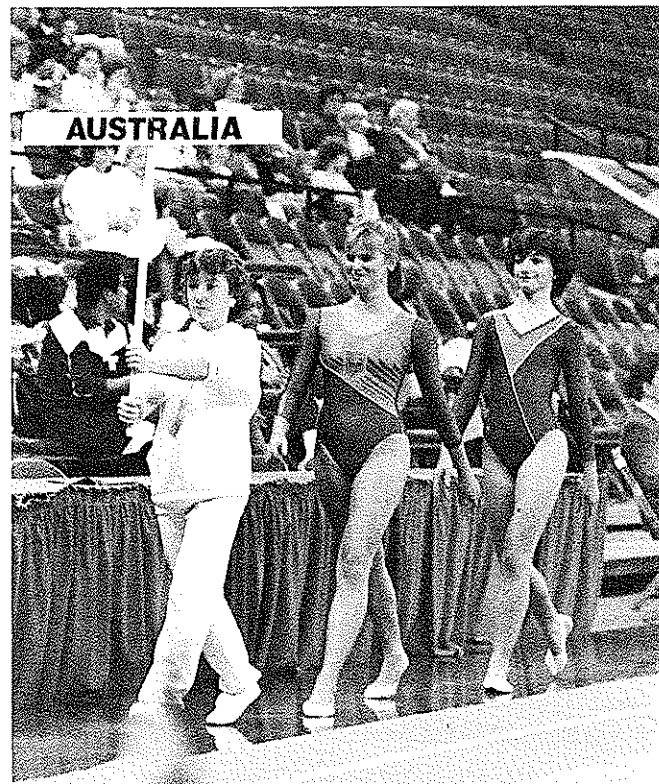
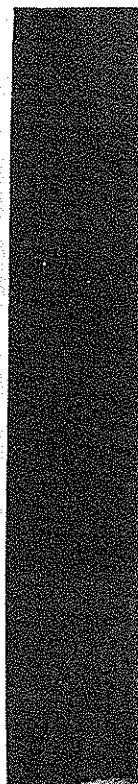
James E Barry
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1985

International Competition	American Cup	2-3 March	Indianapolis
	Moscow/Rica News	March	Moscow/Rica
	Hungarian Invitational	April	Budapest
	RSG Tour of North America	April	
	WAG Junior Invitational	6th May	Canberra
	Brother Cup	May	Tokyo
	Corbeil Essones	17-19 May	Paris
	Pan Am Clubs	8th June	Canberra
	Golden Sands	June	Varna
	Pre World Champs. Comp.	2-4 July	Montreal
	Maccabiah Games	15-25 July	Israel
	Universiade	25-28 August	Tokyo
	MAG Trans Tasman	August	
	RSG World Championships	10-13 October	Valladolid
	FIG Congress/Technical Assemblies	October	Montreal
	Artistic World Championships	3-10 November	Montreal
	Chinuchi Cup	November	Japan
	WAG Junior Development Tour	December	
National Competition	WAG Coaches Clinic	4-8 April	Canberra
	WAG Coaches Symposium	6-10 May	Canberra
	WAG Junior Nationals	6-10 May	Canberra
	RSG Junior Nationals	1-2 June	Perth
	MAG Junior Nationals	8-9 June	Adelaide
	National Championships (MAG/WAG/RSG)	26-31 August	Melbourne
	National Team-World Championships Training	October	Canberra

FOUR CONTINENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

1984



L—R: Ann Maree Kerr, Antonietta Guida—Australia

INDIANAPOLIS 1984

The Four Continent Championships for Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics were held in Indianapolis, Indiana; the home of the United States Gymnastic Federation.

The Four Continent Championships were initiated to offset the dominance of the European Nations and the overwhelming concern of the F.I.G. for the European Championships alone. Major problems confronting the Four Continent Championships are naturally related to geographical distance which impinges on finance. Although these problems will always exist, representation in the last competition included 20 individuals and 5 groups from:—

Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, People's Republic of China and United States of America.

It was the first major competition for Olympic Champion Lori Fung since the L.A. Olympic Games and tremendous pressure was on her to again take the gold medal. One must admire her vivacious presentation as well as her skill in handling the apparatus. She clearly demonstrated that without doubt she was the best gymnast in the competition by finishing with 38.60—1.10 points ahead of the silver medalist. In ensuring her dominance, she also won 3 of the 4 gold medals for the finals. These were in: Ball, Clubs and Ribbon. Her performances were dynamic and well choreographed which reinforced why she, through her consistency, was chosen not only Olympic Champion but also Four Continent Champion. Canada's future

looked bright when another Canadian, young 15 year old Adrienne Mark competing in her first major international competition, placed 5th overall. Her presence on the competition floor and her maturity in "covering up" any preceived errors were remarkable. She not only placed 5th overall but also made 3 of the 4 finals.

The Chinese and Japanese were strong contenders in the Four Continent Championships with the Japanese again demonstrating their superiority particularly through their skills and tricks performed. Chieko Hirose (JPN) finished second overall with 35.70 and won the gold in hoop and bronze in the ball.

Her compatriots, Keiko Hamada, and Erika Akiyama, also had good results finishing 6th and 7th respectively. Akiyama took the silver in the ball and clubs and the bronze in ribbon. A technical deduction in the hoop in general competition prevented her from making that final as well.

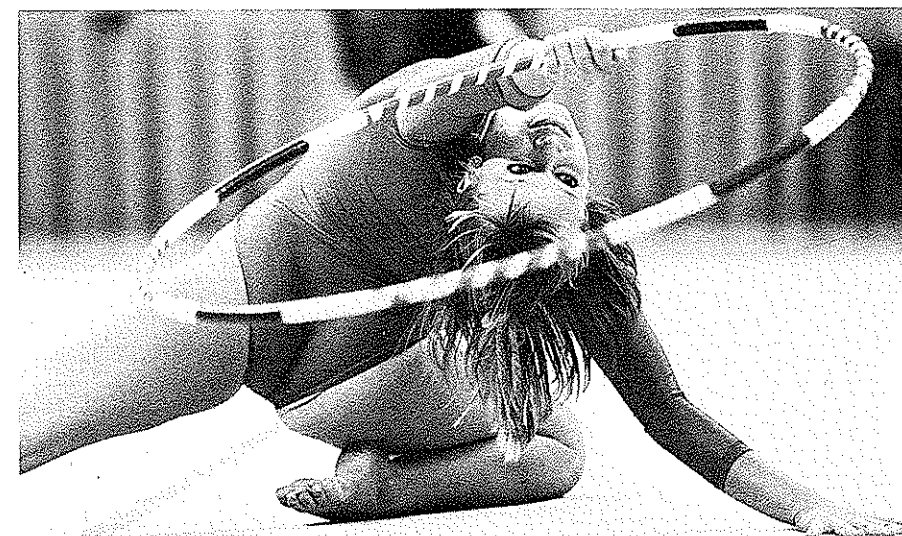
The Chinese were graceful throughout each routine but lacked the necessary showmanship to overtake the Japanese and Lori Fung. Yanfei Xia (CHN) finished 3rd overall with 37.45 and won the silver medal in ribbon and the bronze in hoop and clubs.

Lydia Bree (USA) placed the highest in the U.S. competitors finishing 4th. After the competition, Lydia announced her retirement and must be congratulated for her long career in Rhythmic Gymnastics. Her work showed us the maturity which

we have come to expect from the sport of Rhythmic Gymnastics and showed us the consistency of a seasoned performer. She made all 4 finals and demonstrated poise. Australia's 2 gymnasts, Ann-Maree Kerr and Antonietta Guida, performed creditably finishing 14th and 19th respectively.

In all, 5 groups entered the competition and it was a close contest between the top three nations for the medals. The group from China with their precision and difficulty of tricks won the competition. It was a close and exciting competition between Japan and Canada for second and third place. The final results saw Japan in second with 37.40; .25 ahead of Canada who finished third. The improvement in the Canadian group in particular is to be noted as well as the flexibility of the Chinese. Although the contrast of styles in the 3 groups was marked, the skill level and composition was affected by execution errors only. Again, the flexibility of the Chinese cannot fail to be noticed and certainly enhanced their performance. The U.S.A. group finished 4th with 33.675 and Mexico finished 5th with 33.075.

The Four Continent Championships were without Brazil who hosted the event in 1980 but withdrew from this competition due to financial constraints. It is indicative of the problems encountered by this large nation. However, the interest in the nations in this region is heartening and we look forward to a large representation when Australia hosts this event in 1986.



Ann Maree Kerr (Aust). Reprinted courtesy of the Indianapolis News: Photographer Tim Halcomb.



Antonietta Guida—Australia



Adrienne Mark—Canada



1st Lori Fung—Canada; 2nd Chieko Hirose—Japan; 3rd Yanfei Xia—Canada

Name	Country	Hoop	Ball	Clubs	Ribbon	Total	Place
Lori Fung	CAN	9.650	9.600	9.700	9.650	38.600	1
Chieko Hirose	JPN	9.400	9.500	9.350	9.250	37.500	2
Yanfei Xia	CHN	9.400	9.300	9.350	9.400	37.450	3
Lydia Bree	USA	9.350	9.350	9.300	9.250	37.250	4
Adrienne Mark	CAN	9.300	9.300	9.300	9.100	37.000	5
Keiko Hamada	JPN	9.150	9.350	9.250	9.200	36.950	6
Erika Akiyama	JPN	8.850	9.400	9.300	9.300	36.850	7
Yan Li	CHN	9.300	9.250	8.950	9.200	36.700	8
Angela Walker	NZL	9.150	9.050	9.250	9.050	36.500	9
Lise Gautreau	CAN	8.700	9.300	9.300	9.200	36.500	9
Tanya Moss	NZL	9.350	8.750	9.150	9.200	36.450	11
Marina Kunyavsky	USA	9.300	9.150	9.200	8.750	36.400	12
Lisa Aaronson	USA	9.200	9.250	9.050	8.800	36.300	13
Ann Maree Kerr	AUS	9.200	9.100	9.000	8.650	35.950	14
Patria Hume	NZL	8.900	9.000	8.950	9.000	35.850	15
Jun Tan	CHN	8.500	9.200	9.100	9.000	35.800	16
Laura Ayola	MEX	8.400	8.700	8.700	8.700	34.500	17
Minerva Quintana	MEX	8.400	8.600	8.450	8.650	34.100	18
Antonietta Guida	AUS	8.100	8.950	8.500	8.400	33.950	19
Diana Velarde	MEX	8.350	8.400	8.400	8.550	33.700	20

Name	Cty	Final	Place
------	-----	-------	-------



HOOP FINAL

Chieko Hirose	JPN	18.950	1
Lori Fung	CAN	18.800	2
Yanfei Xia	CHN	18.750	3
Yan Li	CHN	18.700	4
Tanya Moss	NZL	18.650	5
Marina Kunyavsky	USA	118.600	6
Adrienne Mark	CAN	18.500	=7
Lydia Bree	USA	18.500	=7



BALL FINAL

Lori Fung	CAN	19.300	1
Erika Akiyama	JPN	19.000	=2
Chieko Hirose	JPN	19.000	=2
Yanfei Xia	CHN	18.800	4
Lydia Bree	USA	18.700	5
Yan Li	CHN	18.650	=6
Adrienne Mark	CAN	18.650	=6
Lisa Aaronson	USA	18.500	8



CLUBS FINAL

Lori Fung	CAN	19.400	1
Erika Akiyama	JPN	18.850	2
Yanfei Xia	CHN	18.800	3
Chieko Hirose	JPN	18.700	4
Lydia Bree	USA	18.600	5
Angela Walker	NZL	18.550	6
Marina Kunyavsky	USA	18.450	7
Adrienne Mark	CAN	18.400	8



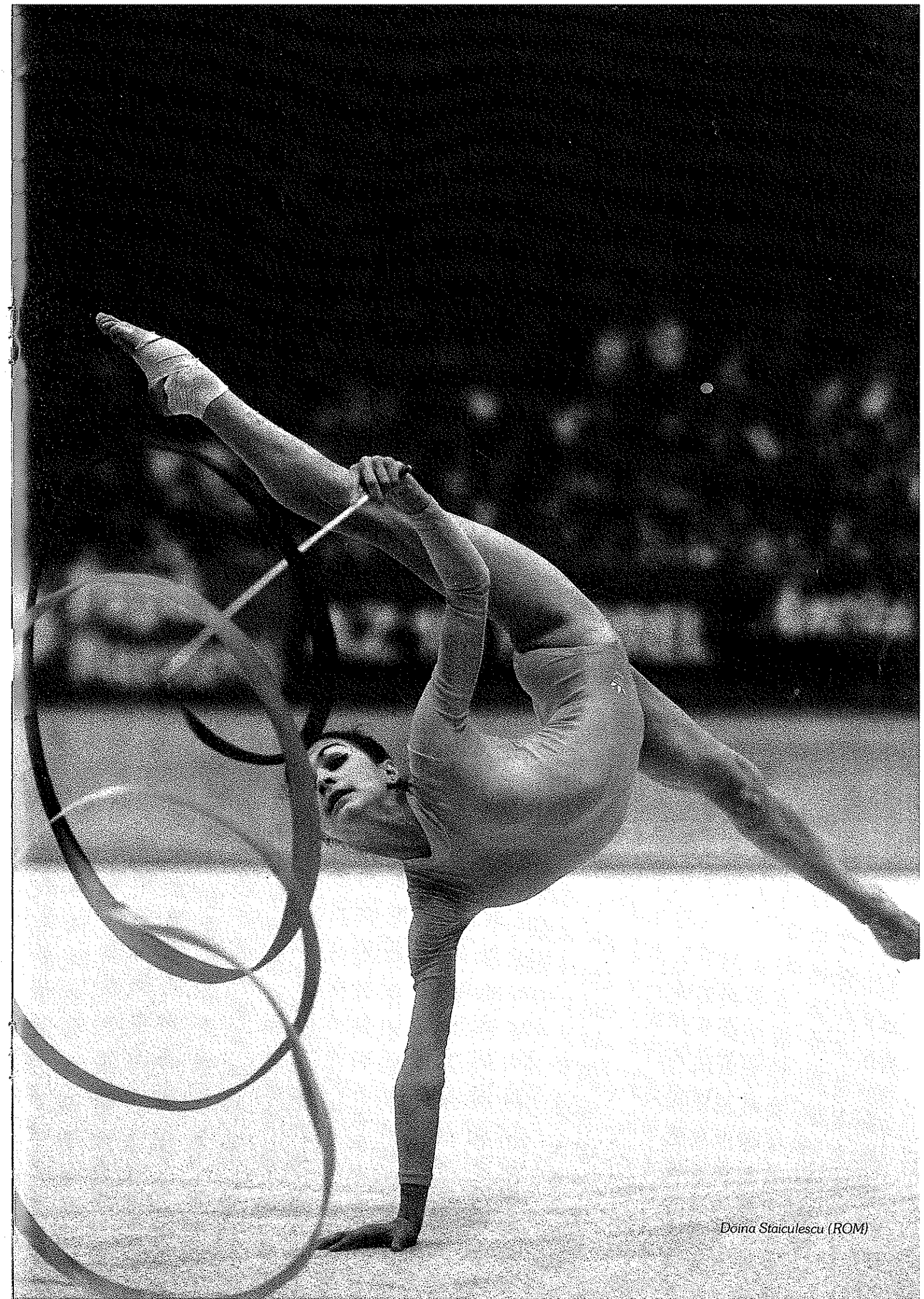
RIBBON FINAL

Lori Fung	CAN	19.350	1
Yanfei Xia	CHN	18.900	2
Erika Akiyama	JPN	18.650	3
Chieko Hirose	JPN	18.600	4
Tanya Moss	NZL	18.500	=5
Lise Gautreau	CAN	18.500	=5
Lydia Bree	USA	18.500	=5
Yan Li	CHN	18.250	8

CHN	38.400	1
JPN	37.400	2
CAN	37.150	3
USA	36.675	4
MEX	33.075	5



Ann Maree Kerr—Australia



Doina Staiculescu (ROM)

AUSTRALIAN SPORT

Extract from speech of the Hon. John Brown, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism. 23rd November, 1984.

...Mr Brown said the Government's objectives were threefold:

- to encourage the development of excellence in Australian sportsmen and sportswomen;
- to encourage and support all Australians who wish to participate in sporting and recreational activities, whatever their economic circumstances, ability or level of aspiration may be; and
- to encourage all Australians to appreciate the value of and to adopt a healthy active lifestyle.

The significant actions already taken across a diverse range of policy areas have reflected, and been built upon, a willingness to accept the proper role and responsibilities of a Commonwealth Government in unifying the nation. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the area of sport and recreation.

The establishment of a separate Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, an Australian Sports Commission, and massive increases in Budget allocations for sport and recreation bear testimony to our unequivocal commitment in this area.

More specifically, the Government has achieved:

- Substantially increased funding of:
 - national sporting organisations (particularly for administration and coaching)
 - Olympic and other international teams
 - sport and recreation for disabled people
 - awards to highly talented athletes
 - aspects of junior sport participation (including modified rules)
 - community participation in sport
 - seminars and workshops.
- Reintroduction of Federal funding of recreation programs, including:
 - national recreation organisations
 - innovative community activities
 - joint pilot recreation projects with the States
 - Life. Be In It, Australia activities
 - physical fitness and recreation projects
- Substantially increased funding for organisations involved with safety in recreation, including for:
 - upgrading Surf Life Saving programs and improved water safety education by Royal Life Saving Society, funding has increased spectacularly from \$0.6m to \$1.1m in our first two budgets
 - the activities of Ski Patrol Association
- Sports science and sports medicine activities including:
 - a new sports science research program to help solve practical problems
 - grants for the expansion of drug educational programs
- Substantially increased activity at the Australian Institute of Sport, including:
 - introduction of five new sports to the AIS—hockey at Perth as the first 'satellite' sport, diving and squash in Brisbane and rowing and water polo in Canberra
 - greatly increased activities under the National Training Centre Program covering non-resident sports
 - construction of additional facilities and athlete accommodation
- Introduction of a new National Standard Sports Facilities Program to provide \$33m over the next three years for the construction of top class sports facilities in conjunction with the States.
- Inaugural Australia Games to be held in Melbourne in 1985.
- Appointment by the Government of a Working Group in Women in Sport.
- Preparation of a book entitled "Australian Sport: A Profile".
- Development of a program of activities for a "World Week of Sport" in 1985 under the aegis of UNESCO.

Trans Tasman Competition Auckland, N.Z. October 1984.

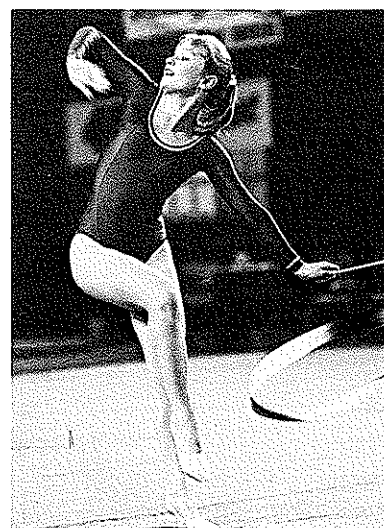
INTERNATIONAL			
New Zealand		177.40	
Australia		173.65	

JUNIOR			
Australia		170.00	
New Zealand		169.90	

GROUP			
New Zealand		17.025	
Australia		16.600	

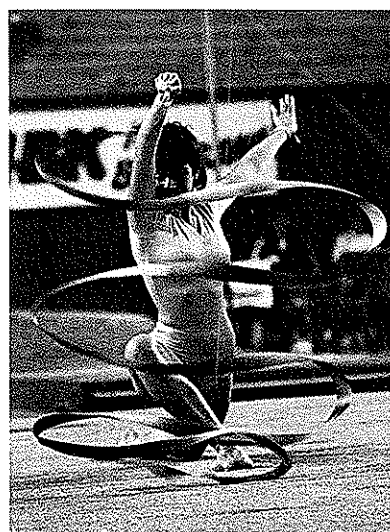
INDIVIDUALS			
INTERNATIONAL			
A. Walker	NZL	37.55	1
T. Moss	NZL	37.00	2
P. Hume	NZL	35.80	3
L. Douglas	AUS	35.50	4
L. Bradley	AUS	35.00	5
A.M. Kerr	AUS	34.60	6
T. Playford	AUS	34.20	7
M. Shields	AUS	32.80	8
A. Pellow	AUS	32.55	9

JUNIORS			
B. Cousin	NZL	34.80	1
N. Higham	AUS	34.70	2
A. Guida	AUS	34.50	3
K. Baker	AUS	34.00	4
M. McDonald	AUS	33.40	5
S. Goodwin	AUS	33.00	6
S. White	AUS	32.60	7



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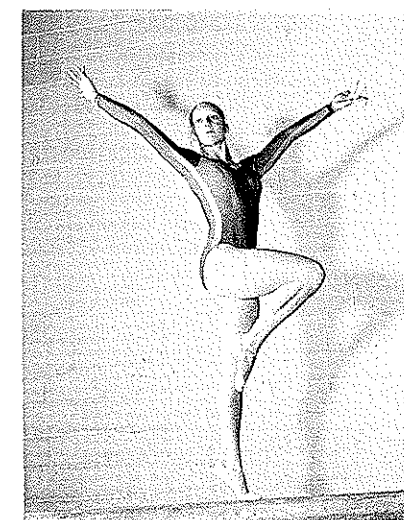
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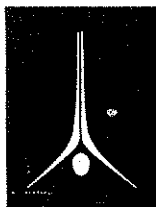
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