

Talent Brings Success!

A still horse, two uneven poles, a four-inch wide wooden beam, and a square mat. What do these things have in common? They are all pieces of equipment used in girls gymnastics- vault, bars, beam, and floor.

Using all this apparatus, the Sycamore gymnasts began their season in early November preparing for their first meet. Coach Debbie Stagge commented, "At first my hopes for the team were to get everyone into routines in time for our first meet."

The team took first place in almost all of their meets, placing second once behind Lakota. Stagge thought the highlight of the season for the team was a second place finish in the Franklin Invitational. In this meet, the gymnasts beat some of the top teams, including Lakota and Centerville.

There were also many individual highlights. Stagge said, "All-arounders Pam Willinger, Stephanie Blasberg, Jessica Fridman, and Amy Moeddel played key roles in the team's success. It was rare to have four gymnasts on a high school team able to go All-Around (compete in each event). Individual highlights included Pam Willinger placing first All-Around in the Miamisburg meet and third All-Around in the Lakota/Fairborn tri-meet, Stephanie Blasberg placing second All-Around in the Miamisburg meet, Amy Moeddel placing second All-Around in the CCD/Franklin tri-

meet and third All-Around in the Turpin and Anderson meets, and Jessica Fridman winning first place in vault and first place All-Around in the Franklin Invitational Finals.

A lot of time was spent in practice improving the gymnasts' routines and skill. "We spent time taping the meets and reviewing the films. I felt this was very helpful to us. When you compare the first meets to the last, the difference and improvements toward the end of the season are remarkable," said Stagge.

The team ended the regular season with an outstanding 11-1 record. The gymnasts then went on to districts. Sycamore was in second place until the last rotation, where Lakota edged

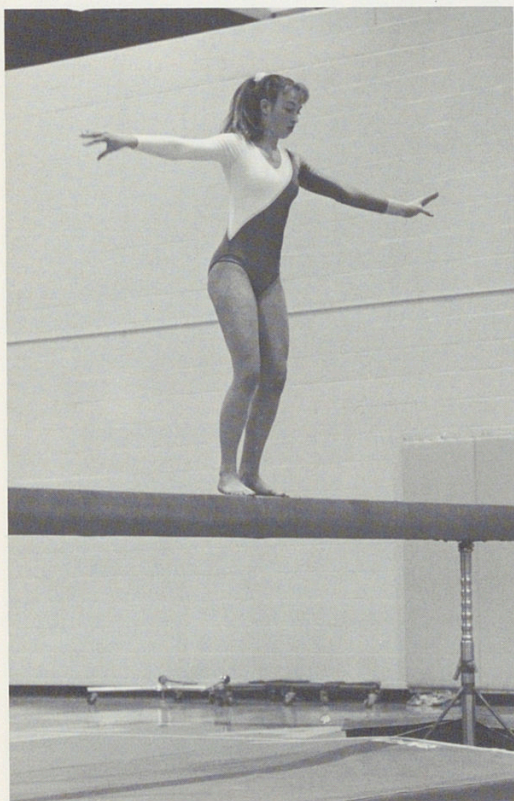
them out by .8 of a point. Only the top two teams out of 21 teams went on to State and Sycamore came in a very close third. Freshman gymnast Fridman qualified for the state meet in the All-Around, placing ninth there. When asked what made the team so successful, Team Captain Willinger replied, "We have a lot of talent on the team, but we owe a lot to the coaches. They were new, but they did a terrific job."

Fortunately, this is a very young team and all key members will return next year. Stagge closed by saying, "I'm very proud of everyone who has made the commitment and lasted the entire season. Our record speaks for itself. We have finally begun to function as a team and I feel that is as significant as any win/loss record."

by Amy Willinger

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Concentration! Freshman Jessica Fridman finishes doing a jump full turn and prepares for her next move.

