

sports

U.S. team beats Japan

By BARRY BREEDE
Of The Emerald

With all the color and excitement of an Olympiad, the United States Men's gymnastics team Friday night ended the world-wide dominance of the Japanese by squeaking out a 279.35-277.8 upset victory before 7,825 fans at Mac Court.

On the same card, the Eugene Academy of Artistic Gymnastics, the local women's development club topped the Japanese women in an exhibition meet, 186-179.3.

An excited and somewhat bewildered Bill Ballester, Flying Duck head coach and coach of the U.S., called the men's performance "just a super job."

"These guys are just remarkable. Especially considering how young some of them are."

The U.S. fell behind after the opening floor exercise competition as the Japanese showed some impressive aerial stunts to keep a slim lead.

However the remainder of the meet belonged to the Yanks, as eventual all-around champ Kurt Thomas started things moving for the U.S. by posting a 9.7 in the side horse. He was followed closely by teammates Phil Cahoy and Jim Hartung, both still attending South High School in Omaha, Neb. Each pulled a 9.5 to help sweep the first three places for the Americans.

Next up came the ring competition where muscular Olympian Mike Carter, who Ballester calls "one of the strongest gymnasts ever," used his power to brag first place with a 9.45, to slip past the Japanese contingent.

The Americans saw their slim

lead start to crumble in the parallel bars but thanks to strong efforts by Carter and Hartung in the vaulting they were able to keep the advantage over the Japanese.

The final event of the night, the high bar competition, proved to be the most spectacular as Thomas, the last American competitor, used some amazing a la Ringling Brothers moves to capture a meet high score of 9.8 and take first for the U.S.

After the meet a jubilant Ballester said, "they (the U.S. team) knew they had a chance, especially as the meet started to close. The guys sensed that we could take it at the end."

"We went into the meet with the idea of having fun and just trying to do the best we could," he said. "The Japanese are the best there is, so we had everything to gain and nothing to lose."

"We prepared the best we could both mentally and physically," Ballester added, "and that's all we could do. The final score would tell us how good a job we did."

Where does the win leave the American squad in the eyes of the rest of the gymnastic world? According to Ballester the victory in-

olved a lot of prestige for us. This showed the world we are a power in the sport.

U.S.A. 279.35, Japan 277.8

Floor Exercise—1, (tie) Jim Hartung, USA, and Junichi Shimizu, Japan 9.55. 3, (tie) Kurt Thomas, USA and Nobuhiro Okuma, Japan, 9.4.

Pommel Horse—1, Kurt Thomas, USA, 9.7 2, (tie) Phil Cahoy and Jim Hartung, USA, 9.5

Rings—1, Mike Carter, USA, 9.45 2, (tie) Nobuhiro Okuma and Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 9.6 2, Jim Hartung, USA, 9.55 3, (tie) Kurt Thomas, USA, and Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 9.5

Vault—1, Akio Karuma, Japan 9.6 2, Jim Hartung, USA, 9.55. 3, (tie) Kurt Thomas, USA, and Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 9.5

Parallel Bars—1, Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 9.55. 2, Akio Karuma, Japan, 9.5 3, (tie) Phil Cahoy and Gene Whealan, USA, 9.45

High Bar—1, Kurt Thomas, USA, 9.8 2, Phil Cahoy, USA, 9.6 3, (tie) Ikutaro Kawaguchi and Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 9.55

All-around—1, Kurt Thomas, USA, 56.95. 2, Junichi Shimizu, Japan, 56.3 3, (tie) Nobuhiro Okuma, Japan, and Jim Hartung, USA, 56.05

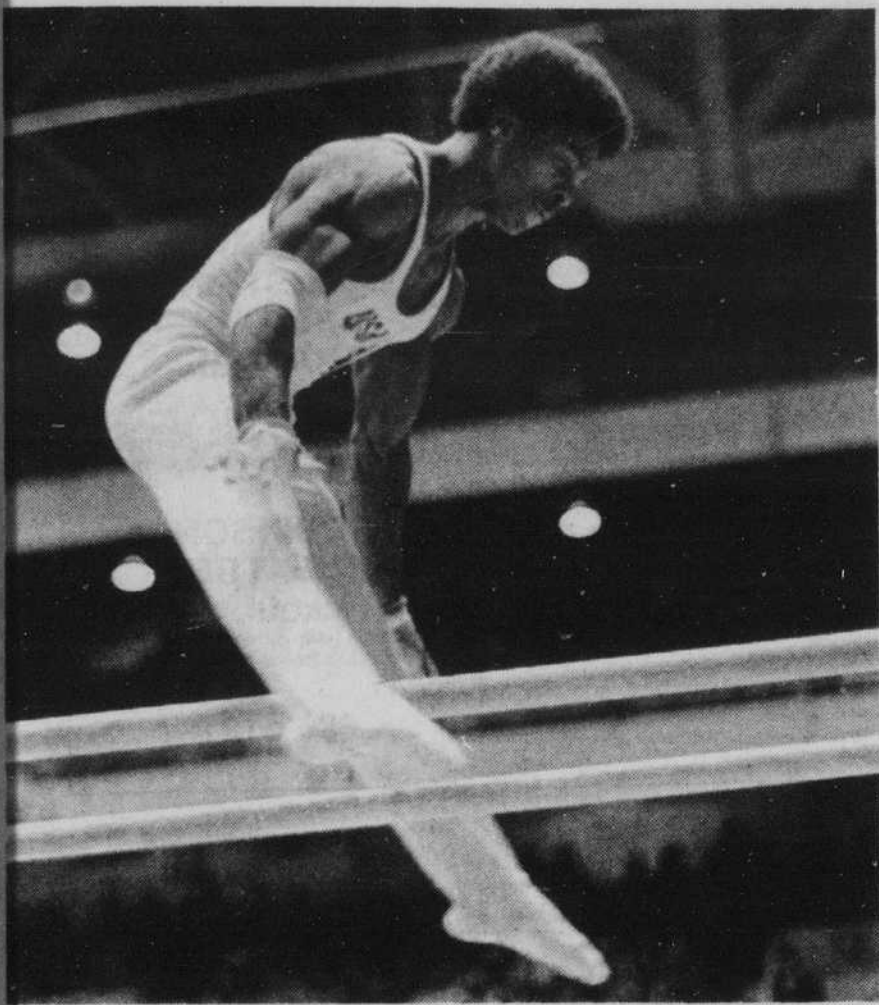


Photo by Steve Schneider

Mike Carter, who scored a 9.25 on this parallel bars routine, finished fifth all-around and helped the U.S. to its monumental win over the Japanese before a packed Mac Court crowd Friday.

Dolphin meet has record

An American record in the women's 200 meter back-stroke highlighted the 15th Annual Dol-

Women cagers have tough trip

Oregon's women's basketball team found they were all too human over the weekend, as they dropped back-to-back losses to Boise State and Washington State in Northwest league action.

The Ducks came close to Boise, but lost in the stretch, 69-65. They hit a cold streak in Pullman, losing 87-67.

phin Swimming Championships, this weekend at Leighton Pool.

Linda Jezek, 17, of Santa Clara Swim Club in California, broke the two minute barrier, the first time by a U.S. woman, to set the American standard. Her official time was 1:59.90.

In the team competition, Oregon's men finished fourth behind winner DeAnza Swim Club of Southern California, Ladera Oaks Swim Club and Santa Clara Swim Club.

The Oregon effort was led by Steve Hamilton, who finished first in the 100-yard backstroke.

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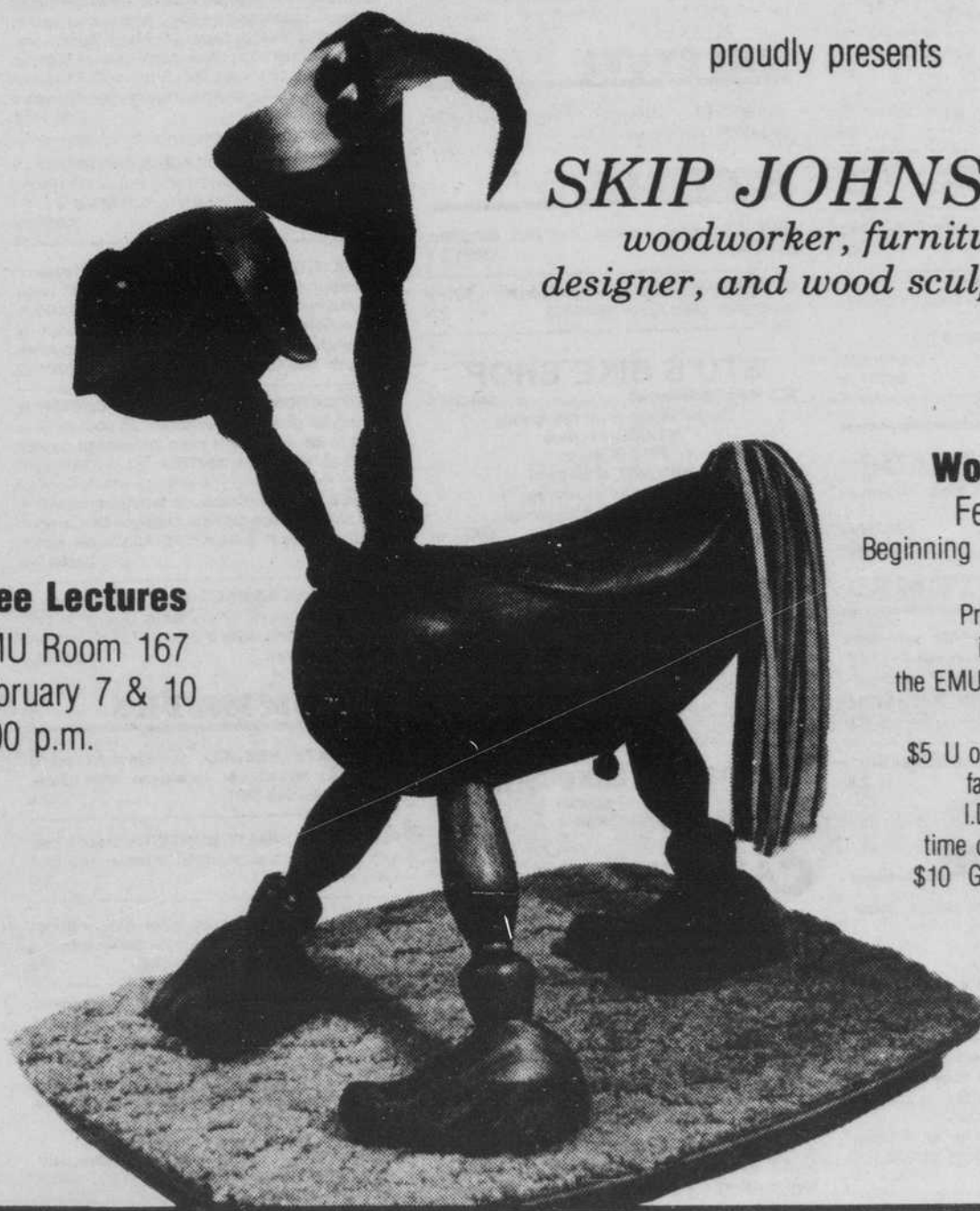
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