

Dethroned Ducks begin NCAA meet

By DOUG LEVY
Of the Emerald

After losing the Pacific-10 championship for the first time in five years, Oregon's men's gymnastics team makes its customary trip to the NCAA tournament, held this year in Lincoln, Neb., today through Saturday.

The Ducks' four-year lock on the conference ended last month when UCLA, a team Oregon coach Bill Ballester has called "the class of the West,"

Swartz named A.D. at UTEP

Associate Athletic Director Ed Swartz, who said earlier he wanted his own "ship," has been named athletic director at University of Texas-El Paso.

Swartz, whose University contract runs out June 30, has held his current position since 1978. He supervises the coaching staffs, business office and sports news bureau.

edged Oregon for the team title.

Despite the loss, Oregon will be one of 10 teams at this, their fifth straight NCAA meet. The Flying Ducks have finished third once and fourth three times in the last four years.

The 10 squads which earned spots at nationals are UCLA, Oregon, Arizona State, and Cal-State Fullerton from the Western Region; 1980 champ Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Iowa State from the Midwest Region; Illinois from the Mideast Region; and Penn State and Ohio State from the Eastern Region.

The Ducks have faced all three of their western rivals, defeating Cal-State Fullerton but suffering losses to UCLA and Arizona State.

On Oregon's chances at Lincoln, Ballester says, "We'll be pleased to finish around fifth. This is a building year for us, and I'm happy we're in this position."

Ballester picks defending champ Nebraska, Iowa State (last year's second-place fin-

isher), Oklahoma, and UCLA as the teams which will battle for the team title.

"Individually, we have some gymnasts who are potential All-Americans," says Ballester. "James (Yuhashi) and Alex (Schwartz) definitely have a shot at winning, and we have a few others that may place well."

Yuhashi, the school record-holder in the floor exercise with a 9.9 and an All-American last year, won his second straight Pac-10 title last month. The sophomore Schwartz gained the school record as well as the highest U.S. score this year by virtue of a 9.8 performance on the rings.

Other Oregon gymnasts who have a shot at All-America status (the top five NCAA finishers gain All-America ranking) are Dan Johnson (12th on the high bar at last year's NCAA's), Randy Jepson (ninth on the rings at last year's meet), and Kelly Crumley, who has a 56.15 in the all-around, an Oregon school record.

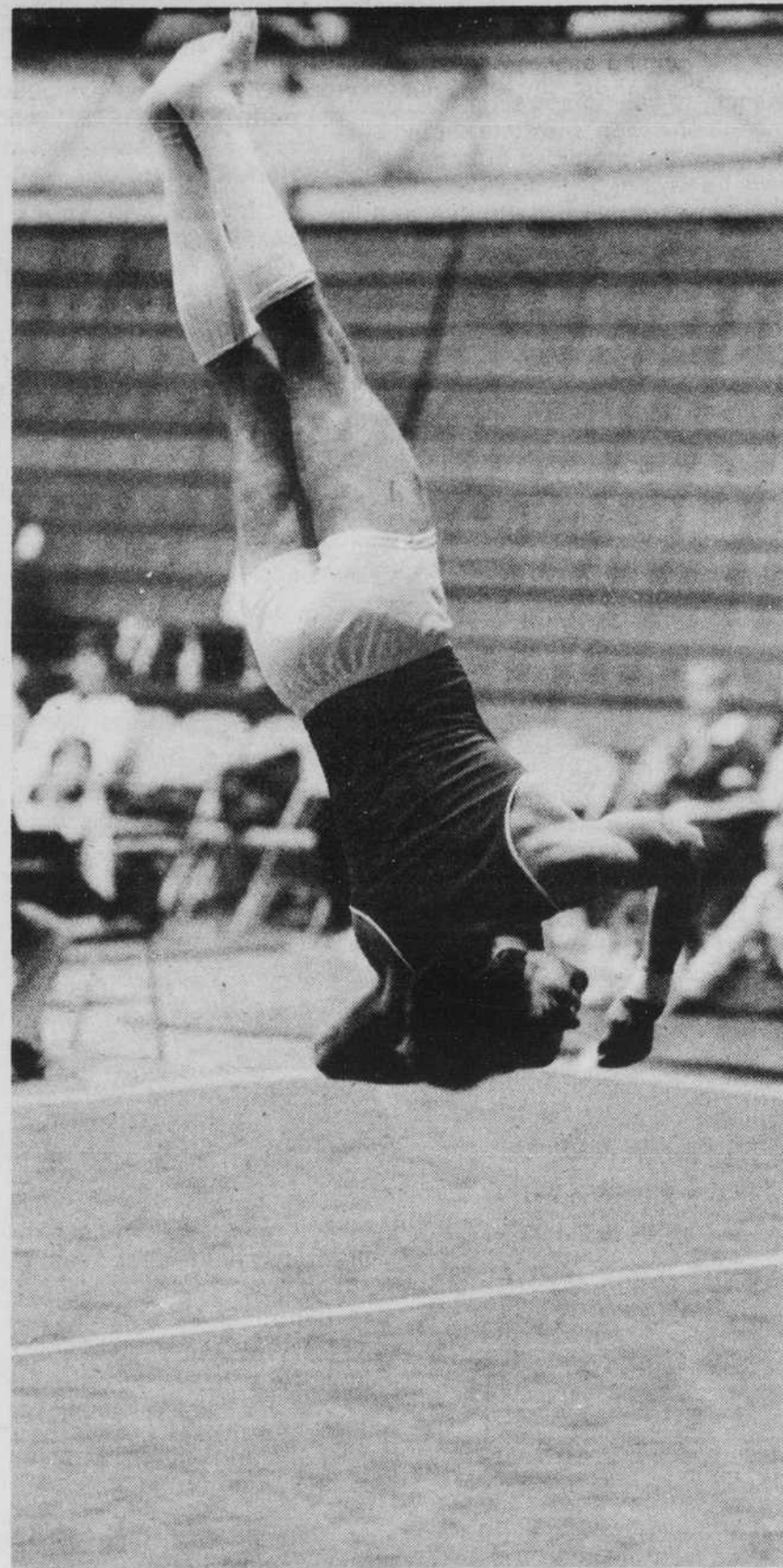


Photo by David W. Zahn

James Yuhashi, Pac-10 champion in the floor exercise, will probably be Oregon's best chance at an individual championship at the NCAA meet.

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