

GYMNAST

June - July / 1973 / 75¢

CHINA
&
JAPAN
tours



Technical BULLETIN

By Jackie U Fie, Technical Chairman
U.S.G.F.

TECHNICAL BULLETIN ON MEDIUM AND SUPERIOR DIFFICULTIES

Page references refer to the Women's
F.I.G. Code of Points.

1. UNEVEN BARS A. Mounts

1. Squat vault over LB catch HB (p. 24 M 6 without $\frac{1}{2}$ turn) — Medium — (See p. 22 Medium)
2. Jump over low bar with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn catch high bar and kip up to the high bar without the body resting on the LB at any time — (p. 23 Medium No. 3) — Superior combination.
3. Glide kip — no difficulty unless in a combination with another movement such as squat through, back hip circle, etc.
4. Glide single leg overshoot — no difficulty

unless into an immediate split/circle catch, or similar movement

5. Glide double leg overshoot — Medium
6. Glide kip catch high bar as a mount (p. 25M No. 10 p. 26 M No. 1) — Medium.
7. Jump to back sole circle (stoop or straddle) on low bar to underswing catch on high bar — Medium. However, the jump to a straddle is not suited to bars as a mount unless preceded by a horizontal cast.
8. Why is a back kip superior only as a mount and not in a routine? — There is no logical technical explanation and this inconsistency should be corrected by the FIG.
9. Facing the high bar, jump to hang in a pike position, $\frac{1}{2}$ turn over the low bar to beat on low bar (underswing $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to stomach whip) — Medium.
10. Jump from the board to a free back hip circle on low bar to glide — Superior.
11. Jump from board to free back hip circle to handstand on low bar — Superior.
12. Straddle over low bar $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to eagle catch on high bar — Superior — Straddle over low bar $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to mixed grip on high bar — Medium.
13. Glide kip $\frac{1}{2}$ turn catch high bar — Medium.
14. Jump with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn and back straddle over low bar catch low bar — Medium.
15. From a running approach, jump full twist catch low bar glide kip — Superior.

16. Facing high bar, jump to high bar kip with leg straddled or closed to free front support on high bar — Medium.

...

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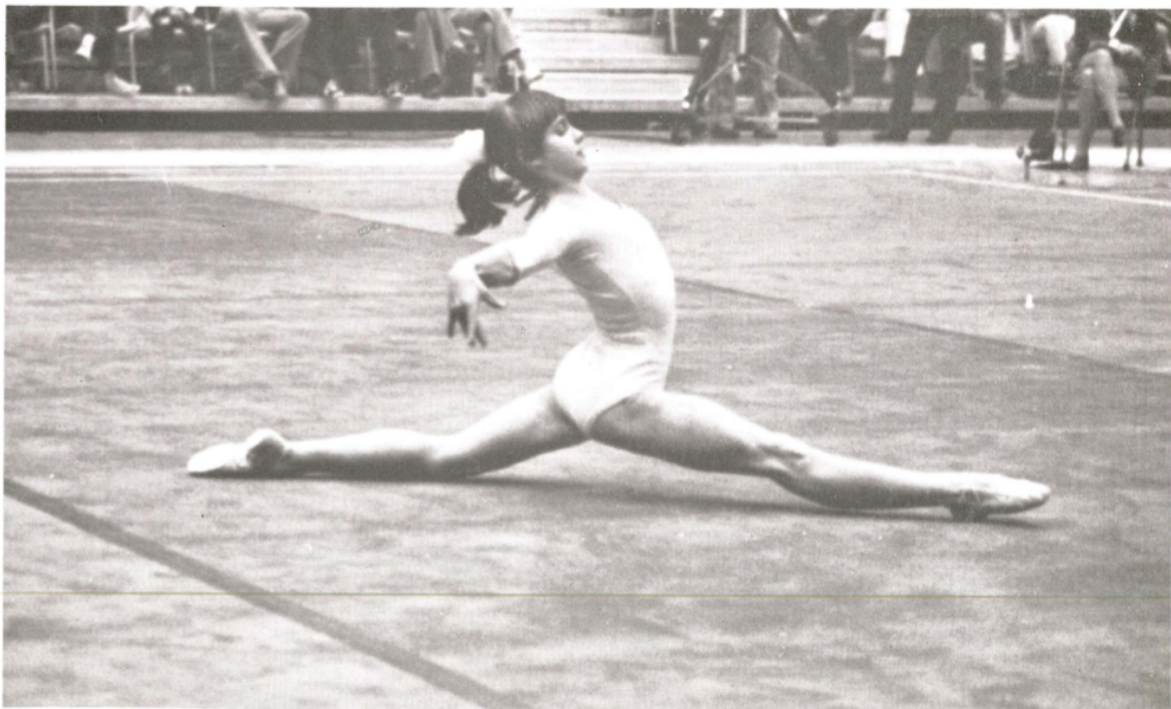


The
**UNITED STATES
GYMNASTICS
FEDERATION**

USGPF
NEWS

March 1976

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NADIA COMANECI

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ELITE QUALIFICATION PROGRAM BY MRS. JACKIE FIE

USGF Women's Tech. Com.

What is an Elite gymnast? The required 8.75 average score represents a level of achievement and performance that might indicate an approach to excellence that can well be respected. Beyond this, "elite" represents a quality of striving that merely begins with that 8.75 score. Several levels of commitment exist which seem to be the key to the Elite Program.

The commitment is assumed by the gymnast and coach to improve, to excel and not just to "be" in the program. Striving for the best techniques right from the beginning with much perseverance will foster that commitment. This commitment should be "total" and planned rather than the result of a moment of excellence that is seized upon without the proper understanding of the program.

Coaches, judges, and administrators must work together to do everything possible to commit to a concept of Elite that will put the U.S.A. in its proper place world wide at any given point in time... the "best" of the Elite must be ready...

The Regional Pre-Qualification System offers opportunity for early commitment to the Elite Program and can give perspective to what skill level and potential a gymnast has at that time. Regional concept and a chance to get information and guidance "at home" rather than waiting for information, etc. to filter down from the National level, as in the past. Each region has a Regional Head Coach who represents that region on the Women's Technical Committee and who is in continual communication with the National Head Coach on all matters that pertain to the Elite Program.

A gymnast can commit to pre-qualifying without losing the chance to compete in other competitive programs. Therefore, there is no "double jeopardy" if a gymnast is almost ready, but perhaps not quite there. And yet the purpose of the program can be defeated very easily if too many gymnasts are encouraged to enter before they are ready. Every good gymnast cannot necessarily become an elite gymnast.

The National Elite Qualification Meets afford two opportunities for the gymnast who appears to be ready score-wise to compete with the best in the nation and thereby gain further perspective and experience, even if she does not qualify for the Elite National Championships. This meet can be viewed, perhaps, as an end in itself — but it should be more than that — a stepping stone to becoming one of those "best."

Once a gymnast becomes nationally qualified for the Elite Championships, the commitment becomes even greater, as does the jeopardy and hopefully, above all, the rewards. That reward of membership on a National Team, the possibility of international competition, and the chance to be No. 1. Training for this level of competition means not just doing enough to score well and meet minimum standards, but working ceaselessly for the future in a way which would insure doing well for oneself and the country on the floor of an international competition — well enough to garner some of those coveted medals for the U.S.A.

The whole qualification system, as it is now set up, gives equal opportunity to all those gymnasts at an 8.75 level to proceed through their regional meet (after one or two attempts) to either or

both of the National Qualification Meets and, if successful in re-earning their 8.75 average, continuing to the Elite Championships of the USGF.

The training and development of gymnasts in this program is being more and more coordinated from the National Head Coach, the eight Regional Head Coaches, and the Foreign Relations Board of the USGF so that everything pertaining to the present and future of Elite gymnasts is being very well thought out so that it can be instituted in a systematic manner. This systematic approach insures that each gymnast can be individually serviced in the best way for her.

The program has been set up to give equal opportunity to all gymnasts who are ready to be involved. The Committee feels that the Elite Program is an all-encompassing program that should be entered on the regional level as a result of designated commitment. Coaches and administrators involved in the Elite Program are then in a position to return that commitment.

Much though, then, must be given to the concepts outlined above before a coach and gymnast consider themselves truly working and committed towards Elite goals. In this way, a realistic exchange between the gymnast and the program can occur.

Note to Women's Technical Committee:

Administrators and workers, as well as the gymnasts and coaches must be well aware of the goals and aspirations of this program and just how high the stakes are, for we cannot afford to do a poor job in translating these concepts.

Policy Approved by:

USGF WTC — (Nov. 1975)

Submitted by: S. Valley RTD VI

HALL OF FAME

Clara Schroth Lomady

Born in Philadelphia, Clara Schroth (Lomady) participated in a number of sports in junior and senior high schools — basketball, hockey and track and field. She competed in gymnastics as a member of the Leader Club, and later the Philadelphia Turners, under the Guidance of Gustav Heineman. She was National A.A.U. balance beam champion in 1941. This spurred her on to greater heights, as she continued to score in National Championship competition. So versatile

Games at Helsinki, Clara returned to America with her husband, by ship. En route home, the ship crashed into another, and caught fire, but the blaze was subsequently controlled. Clara is a talented secretary, but devotes much of her time, currently to the teaching of gymnastics for children. When she won the All-Around Medal in the National Turnfest in 1954, she was the mother of a daughter born in 1953.

was Clara Schroth, that she was a medalist in the standing long jump in the National A.A.U. Track and Field Championships in 1945. She was a bronze medalist in Team Gymnastics in the Olympic Games of 1948 at London. She was also a member of U.S. Olympic Teams in 1952 and 1956. She was married to Wendell Lomady, now a Physical Education teacher at Sandy Run Junior High School in Upper Dublin, in 1951. Following the 1952 Olympic

ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY COMMITTEE

Representing 13 Nations

Mrs. Jackie Fie, Chairman USA

KEY TO NEW ENGLISH GYMNASTIC TERMINOLOGY AS APPEARS in 1976 ENGLISH EDITION OF THE FIG CODE OF POINTS

Please read carefully the key to terminology which precedes each event, since this will provide you with necessary terms and definitions indispensable to the easy understanding and interpretation of the English Terminology. All terms and wordings are in English with the exception of the words "hecht," "flic-flac," "Tsukahara," "Yamashita" and "Stalder," which have other language origins. However, it was recommended to use these words for the sake of brevity.

I. TERMINOLOGY – TABLE OF HORSE VAULTING

- KEY: A. Hyphen indicates separation between movement in first and second flight.
B. "Outward" indicates direction of turn in second flight.
C. "Out" indicates that the movement in the second flight is done out of an inverted position – handstand – and does not indicate direction of turn.

II. TERMINOLOGY – BALANCE BEAM AND FLOOR EXERCISE

- KEY: Below is a list of terms and movements to assist in understanding the listing of medium and superior difficulties. The most common term, as a result of the study, is stated in the left column and is used throughout the uneven bar section of the CODE OF POINTS.

A. DANCE AND MODERN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

MOST COMMON TERM	LEAST COMMON TERM OR DESCRIPTION
arch jump (body stretched with legs together or body arched with rear foot to head height)	hollow jump or sheep jump
cabriolet	leap with beat of legs
cat leap	leap with flexing of legs in front of body or foal leap
corkscrew 1½ turn	1½ turn on one leg descending from stand to squat
scale (an arabesque performed with upper body lowered forward and balletically termed an arabesque penchee)	arabesque (or low arabesque (balletically: an arabesque is performed with an erect torso and free leg raised at least to right angle to support leg)
scissors leap	ciseau or hitchkick
series	2 or 3 movements in succession and refers to medium and superior elements
stag leap	deer leap
stag-split	bending, then stretching of forward leg during split leap
split leap (180°)	grand jete
stride leap	denotes less than 180° split during leap
tuck jump	squat jump with legs bent forward in front of body
waltz	three moving steps in rhythm

B. GYMNASTIC AND ACROBATIC MOVEMENTS, SUPPORTS AND MOUNTS

arabian	jump with 1/2 turn into somersault forward piked, tucked, stretched, of with step-out
aerial walkover	free walkover
bridge stand	crab stand

cartwheel forward	cartwheel forward or 1/4 turn into cartwheel, 1/4 turn out of cartwheel facing start (inward)
flic-flac	back handspring or back flip
flic-flac step-out	flic-flac on one leg
flic-flac or handspring	denotes landing on 2 legs
flyspring	denotes handspring from 2 legs (tuck or pike) to step-out
step-out	a separation of legs during the flight phase and landing on one leg (in particular the flic-flac and handspring)
illusion	turn on one leg passing through a scale forward into a scale backward
knee scale	knee stand
kneeling lunge	kneeling sit on one leg with the other leg stretched backward
limber	turnover backward or forward with legs together
needle scale	vertical standing split with forward grasp
pike-stretch somersault	pike somersault
pike support (clear)	"L" support or leg lever support
press	raise legs to handstand without spring
roll backward or handstand	back extension roll
round off	arabspring
snap down	courbette or 1/2 flic-flac
split sit	split
split forward	cross or transversal split
split lateral	split sideward
stands: 1. cross	when the breadth axis of the gymnast is at right angles to the length axis of apparatus
2. side	when the breadth axis of the gymnast is parallel with length axis of apparatus
stag handstand	lunge handstand
straddle support (clear)	straddle "L" support
stretched somersault	layout somersault or hollow back somersault
thief mount	jump passing one leg stretched, the other bent to a rear support
tinsica	arabwheel
"V" support (clear)	kid support
valdez	backward tinsica to or through handstand position from sit or tuck stand
walkover	turnover forward or backward from 1 leg stand to 1 leg stand
whip back	flic-flac without hand support
wolf mount	squat stand with support leg bent and free leg stretched sideways

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

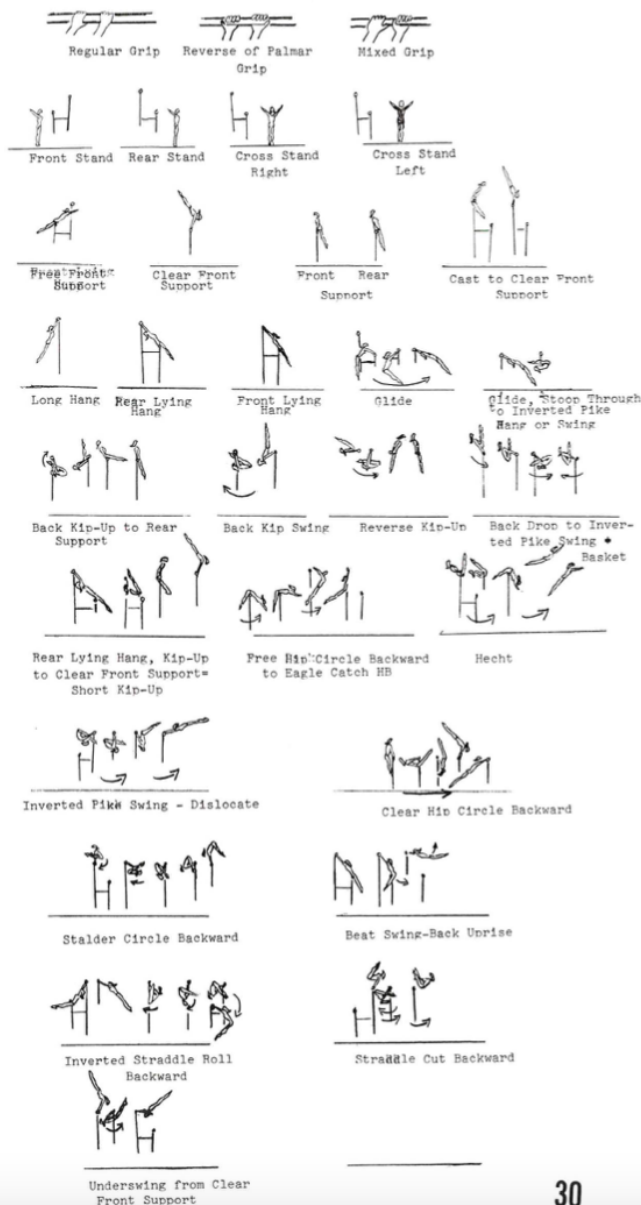
aerial	denotes a tumbling or acrobatic movement performed in the air
clear	designates a position with a hand support with body and legs not touching apparatus or floor
free	designates a position or movement accomplished without hand support
turn	used when a minimum of 1/2 turn is described and specifically used to describe a revolution around the long axis in vaulting
twist	used to describe a full revolution around the long axis in tumbling and in uneven bar movements where a full turn is demanded
pirouette	used to describe a full turn on one foot or tour en l'air in dance or occasionally to describe a full turn to catch HB on the uneven bars (around long axis)
to squat	tuck
to stoop	verbs the adjectives describing that position in relation to another, e.i.: clear pike support, etc.

ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY (contd)

III. TERMINOLOGY – UNEVEN BARS

stoop	designates action
pike	designates position
free	designates movement without hand support
clear	designates a hand support with body away from the bar
kip-up	designates a kip onto the bar to a front or rear support
kip	designates a kip movement only, not onto the bar to a support

KEY TO UNEVEN BAR TERMINOLOGY



HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME Herbert Vogel

As Women's Gymnastic Coach at Southern Illinois University, 1962 to present, his teams posted dual match records of 116 wins and but four losses. From 1956 to 1962, he served as coach at Mott Foundation, Flint, Michigan, building the program which included 2,200 participants, and 90 advanced participants. He held special classes for the blind, handicapped and mentally retarded, and also served the Michigan School for the Deaf. During the years from 1946-1956 he was identified with the Chicago Turners, Illinois Turners Camp, Indiana U., Dade County, Florida. In 1957-1962 he was coach of U.S. teams which participated in the USA-Canada dual matches. He has produced numerous National, Pan-American, and Olympic Games gymnasts, eight National Championship teams, at A.A.U., USGF, and collegiate levels, including 21 All-Americans. He has contributed many articles on Gymnastics to magazines and publications. Over the years, he has participated in Gymnastic Clinics in the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico and South America. He has been responsible for many innovations for the benefit of Gymnastics, and was one of the founders of the United States Gymnastic Federation.



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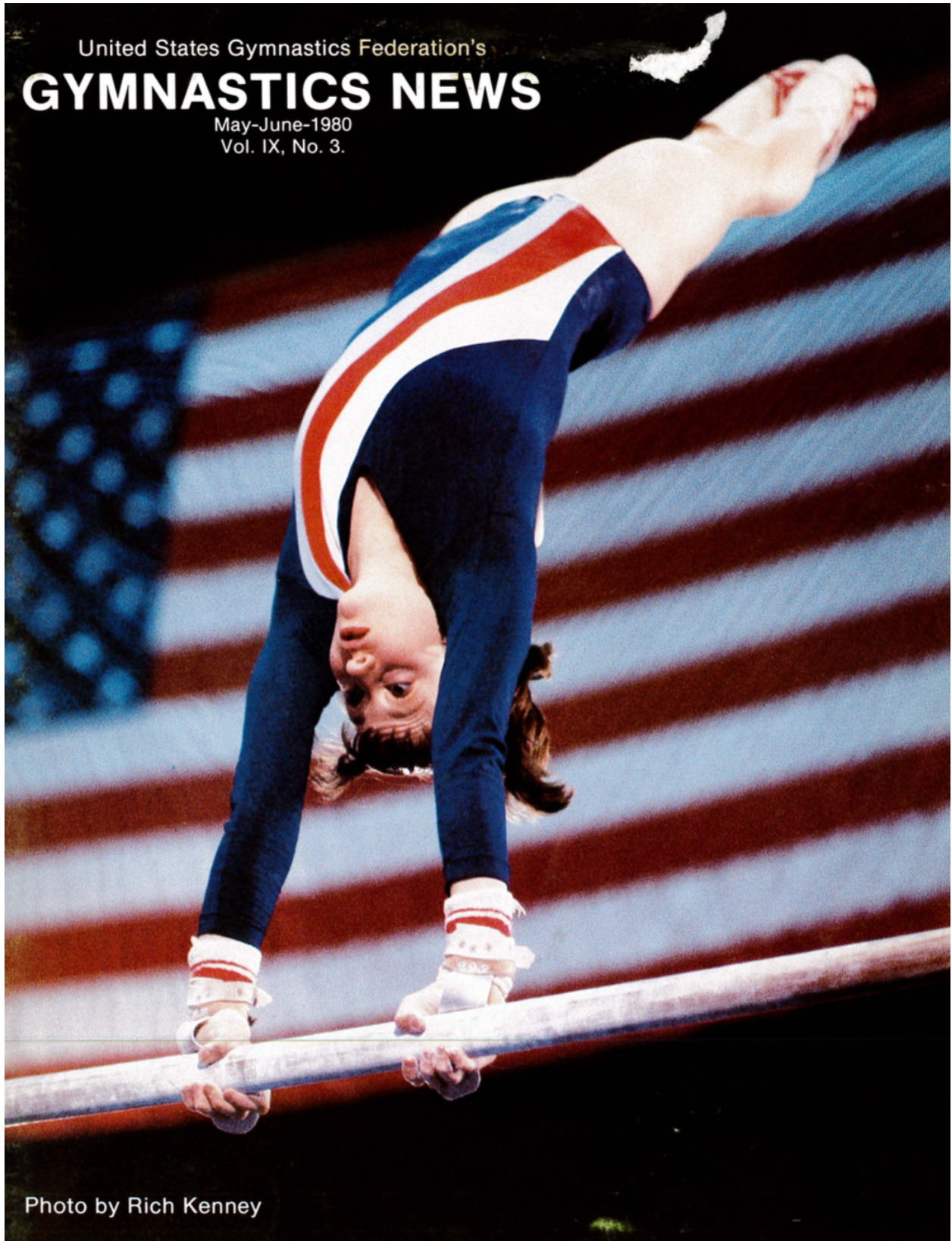


Photo by Rich Kenney

**FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
FOR WOMEN
Ft. Worth, Hilton
Jan. 20, 1980**

Members present: Sue Ammerman, Linda Chencinski, Delene Darst, Jackie Fie, Cheryl Grace, Ed Knepper, Bill Strauss, Connie Maloney.

Guests: Frank Bare, Jay Ashmore, Marlene Bene, and Bill Valentine.

1. The minutes of the December 7, 1979 meeting were read and accepted as corrected. (Opinions was changed to read-discussion followed)
 2. *Olympic Trials*
 - a. Meet format-The Olympic Trials would consist of 1 day of compulsory competition (May 26) and 1 day of optional competition (May 27). The training squad would be made of gymnasts 1-10.
 - b. The FRC discussed the fact that with the Olympics in Moscow, Carol Stabisevski would not be able to represent our country as the official pianist. We must look carefully into the selection of a new pianist. Those to be considered were Sheila Simpsen and Art Maddox. Other suggestions will be taken by the FRC.
 - c. The Executive Committee of the USGF has given the FRC for Women the authority prior to departing to the Olympic Games if deemed necessary, to change members of the team for just cause. Any member that has a gymnast on the squad would not take part in the evaluation.
 - d. Training Camps and International Competition prior to the Olympics.
 1. The FRC selected to accept West German's invitation to train and compete in West Germany prior to the Olympic Games.
 2. The Following program will be used for our Olympic Training Squad:
The Training squad will travel to the training camp on June 26, 1980. (site not yet determined)
June 27-training
June 28-29-the squad will be reviewed by the FRC and coaches (head and assistant Coach). It will then be decided what 8 gymnasts will travel to West Germany.
June 30-Last minute preparations
July 1-Travel to West Germany
July 2-4 Training and observation by Coaches (head and assis.) the two judges and Chairman of the FRC. Discussion will be held, but the final decision of who competes is that of the coaches. They will determine which gymnasts returns home.
July 7-12-Training and travel to Berlin for processing to Moscow.
July 19-26-Gymnastics part in the Olympics (Coach and Assist.) will consult with the Judges (Delene and Jackie) but will decide who the alternate will be for the competition.
Removal of gymnast is only due to just cause.
- *DUE TO THE BOYCOTT THIS PLAN WILL BE ALTERED. WEST GERMANY HAS REQUESTED THAT THE COMPETITION DATE BE MOVED UP TO June 28 AND THE COMPETITION BE OPTIONAL ONLY.
3. Mr. Bare showed the display prints of the proposed training center being discussed by the people of Ft. Worth.
 4. Mr. Carol Stabisevski gave a brief report to the FRC on his observations and opinions concerning the World Championships Team. One major recommendation was make sure of our Olympic Squad having a complete physical prior to June 26, 1980.
 5. Olympic Coach-The FRC decided that due to the authority to be given to the coach and assistant coach, no coach would be selected by the FRC and then that individual would select the assistant coach.

Ernie Weaver Olympic Coach and she selected as her assistant coach Paul Ziert.

6. The gymnasts selected by the USGF office for the American Cup were Tracee Talavera and Marcia Frederick.
7. A special thanks to Marlene Bene for the computation of the gymnasts international scores. It took a great deal of time and is greatly appreciated by the FRC.
The charts gave the gymnasts all around scores, optional scores and compulsory scores. Then each gymnasts ranking according to an optional average, compulsory average and all around average.
8. The FRC has instructed the National Program Director for Women to make all the official USGF International Meet invitations in writing, and be sent to the coach and copy sent to the gymnasts parents. Response from the coach should be in writing to the National Program Director for Women. The letter sent to the gymnasts parents should be the letter appearing in the 6 year plan. Copies of the letters of invitation should be sent to the FRC chairman.
9. International Meet Selection
 - a. Moscow & Riga-cancelled due to National Security
Lisa Shirk and Susie Van Slyke Coach Jim Gault
 - b. Puerto Rico
Lisa Zeis and Lucy Collins Coach Kathy Tibbets
 - c. DDR-Rhonda Schwandt Coach Bruce Burns
 - d. Romanian Invitational-Marcia Frederick Coach-Rich Carlson
 - e. Hungarian Invitational-Kathy Johnson Coach-Tom Cook
 - f. CSSR-Leslie Russo Coach-Rich Wagner

(Continued p. 39)

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FRC/Women, Jan. 20, 1980

10. Injury Petitions

- The FRC will consider Jeanine Creeks injury petition to the Olympic Trials of one Week prior to the Championships of the USA medical validation is received by the FRC stating the reason or reasons she is physically not capable of competing in the Championships of the USA.
- Kelly McCoy's petition was directed to the FRC stating their decision. Not under the control of the FRC.

New Business

- Bill Valentine presented plans for the development of a preelite program. He requested that the FRC send written comments to him concerning the plan. Bill plans to present this program to the Elite Development Committee at the Championships of the USA. Coaches to assist in screening as selected by Bill are Bill Strauss, Danny Warbuton, Nancy Roach, and Patsy Westra.
- Jackie Fie's presentation
 - Bill Valentine to send to all the regions the 81-84 Elite Compulsories. Give them to all coaches who have qualified gymnasts to the Championships of the USA. Give them out at the 1st Nat. Elite Meet.
 - Clinic for the new Elite Compulsories some time in September.

To be decided at the next FRC meeting.

- Judges course for the USA around August 1980.
 - Interpreter for the judges course in Moscow requested.
 - Invitation for Carol Ann Lethran to the American Cup.
 - New Code will be used at the Olympics in Moscow.
 - All routines will be taped at the Championships of the USA for study.
 - The National Program Director for Women is responsible for sending report forms to judges going on international trips as well as to the coaches and gymnasts. Judging report is returned to Fie, Bare and Ammerman. Confidential goes to Bare and Fie.
- The next meeting of the FRC will be held at the Championships of the USA, 9:00 A.M., April 19, 1980.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
NIAGARA, NEW YORK

1st National Elite Qualification Meet

Members Present: Sue Ammerman, Linda Chencinski, Delene Darst, Cheryl Grace, Bill Strauss

Guest: Bill Valentine.

It was brought to our attention that Lisa Shirk, who was in the Championships of the USA 79 and was selected to attend the Barcelona Invitational Meet that was cancelled, never received an international meet and those placing lower in order received trips.

The FRC decided due to this oversight of Lisa Shirk not being able to attend her assigned international meet (cancelled) that she be allowed to be the 1st alternate to scheduled meets in the spring of 80 up to the Championship of the USA.

FRC Policy for Cancelled meets-If a girl is given a meet and it is cancelled, the FRC will make all attempts to re-assign her even if we have entered another selection period. Nothing will be published until the official invitation has been received from the host country. Then the selection may be announced.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

April 19, 1980

Salt Lake City, Utah

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue Ammerman, Linda Chencinski, Delene Darst, Jackie Fie, Jim Gault*, Ed Knepper, and Don Peters**.

GUESTS: Jay Ashmore, Frank Bare, Marlene Bene, Roger Council, Bill Valentine.

*-Elected representative from coaches for a two year term.

**Elected representative from the coaches for a one year term.

1. The minutes were read from the previous meeting on Jan. 20, 1980, Ft. Worth, Texas and accepted as corrected. (Dates of the Olympic Trials-May not June) Dates-25, 26, 27

2. Discussion was held concerning the cancellation of the Moscow-Riga meet. The FRC decided that the entire party would be sent to the Golden Sands Invitational in June. (Susie Van Slyke, Lisa Shirk and Jim Gault as coach)

3. The minutes of the FRC meeting held at the First National Elite Qualification meet, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Jan. 25, 1980 were read and accepted.

4. Discussion was held concerning the term "Just Cause" in relation to the Olympic Team. It was decided that we should not attach a specific set of causes, and thus enable the Olympic Coach and her assistant the freedom the FRC feels is necessary.

5. The following agenda items were tabled until our next meeting at the Trials.

- a. Pianist vs orchestration
- b. Training Camps
- c. Exhibition offers-(Athens)
- d. International gymnast selection

6. Mr. Bare spoke to the FRC concerning several tours that will be provided by various business firms. He stressed that these are not USGF events, but are sanctioned by the USGF.

Thus a gymnast of our National Team may attend the events, but it is not a mandatory event. The goal of these tours is to promote gymnastics and recognize our gymnasts not attending the Olympics.

Mr. Bare stated that Pacific Championships will be held Oct. 4-9. The meet format will be improved over last years championships.

7. West Germany has requested that the dates for our competition with them be moved up to June 28, 1980. Thus our team would leave around June 24th or so. The FRC accepted this recommendation and will be sending our Olympic Team Plus 2 alternates. (Mandatory competition for gymnasts 1-8) Optional competition only.

A motion to send our Olympic Team to West Germany and make it optional for the gymnasts to attend was defeated.

8. Ernie Weaver was invited to the meeting and the West Germany competition was explained along with her responsibilities. Ernie and Paul will receive from the FRC chairman, the coach and assistant coach duties and responsibilities as listed in the 6 year plan. One concern Ernie had was that of uniforms. Marlene Bene explained that Gym Kin would be providing a National Team uniform for the next 4 years. All the National Team members would have this uniform. (3 warm ups and about 6 leotards)

Gary Seibert was invited to the FRC meeting to show the warm ups that are being considered. The FRC appointed a wardrobe committee to assist Gym Kin in the selection of leotards and warm ups for our teams. Chairman-Marlene Bene, Delene Darst, coaching staff of specific event and 2 athletes. This selection should be done 6 months prior to the event.

9. The FRC passed the motion to purchase film for Jim Gault to film the finals of the Championships so that Ernie and Paul may study the routines. (\$100.00 to \$150.00 worth of film.)

10. An update on the gymnasts performance chart was presented by Bill Valentine.

11. Injury petitions were received by the FRC for the following gymnasts: Tory Wilson, Lisa Shirk, Jeanine Creek, Gigi Ambandos, Sandy Wirth, *Linda Kardos and *Heidi Anderson. (*Members of the World Championships Squad of 1979 and thus are taken to the Trials)

A motion to accept all injury petitions to the Trials was defeated.

Discussion was held concerning if a member of the FRC has a gymnast in question should they be allowed to vote on that issue. It was found that under Robert's Rules this would not be legal to deprive a voting member a vote.

Bill Strauss and Don Peters removed themselves from voting on their gymnast. A secret ballot request was passed.

Much discussion and consideration was given over each petition. The results are as follows:

(Continued next col)

NACGC-HONOR COACH AWARD

The National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches has presented its 1980 HONOR COACH AWARD, to Dr. Otto E. Ryser and Frank Wolcott.

The Honor Award is given to coaches who have made an outstanding contribution to gymnastics for over a period of 25 years.

Dr. Ryser is a Professor of Physical Education at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. He coached gymnastics at Indiana from 1948 to 1970.

Mr. Frank A. Wolcott is the gymnastics coach at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. Mr. Wolcott has coached gymnastics there since 1955. He is currently the gymnastics coach and a Professor of Physical Education.

Tory Wilson-denied
Lisa Shirk-passed
Jeanine Creek-passed
Gigi Ambandos-passed
Sandy Wirth-passed

12. Discussion was held concerning the official letter of invitation to an international event going to parents and coaches. It was agreed that the letter should first be sent to the coach and 2 days later the letter to the parents. This allows coaches time for discussion with the parents and the gymnast.

It was requested by the FRC that Don Peters and Jim Gault notify the coaches that they should be responding in writing to the National Program Director for Women either their acceptance or rejection of the invitation for themselves or the gymnast.

Bill Valentine was instructed to include a response form with the letter of invitation.

Report forms must be sent to the USGF office following the event. It is coaches first obligation to give the results and report first to the USGF for publication before any other source is given a report. This was stressed because of the complaint from Jack Mertes that USGF received meet reports after other publications had the report in print.

13. The need was felt that a highly qualified doctor or trainer accompany our team on international or domestic trips. This person should be highly skilled in the specific needs of gymnasts and particularly athletic injuries.

Bill Valentine was requested to contact leading sports medicine doctors and trainers to see if any would be interested in traveling with our team on trips.

14. The FRC asked that the opinion of the Elite Development Committee and Elite Coaches Association be asked concerning when Trails in 1981 should occur. An attempt will be made to coordinate dates with the USGF office prior to setting up the schedule.

15. Bill Valentine requested that the FRC support his attending international events such as the European Championships and West Germany Meet.

The FRC has made the following recommendation to the Executive Director to the USGF: That the National Program Director for Women attend all National Elite Qualification Meets, Championships, domestic international competitions and that international championships be alternated between the Men and Women's Program Directors. So that tal Program Director for Women can fulfill the job responsibilities as stated in the job description of the 6 Year Plan.

16. Next FRC meeting will be at the Olympic Trials, May 27, 1980 at 9:00 A.M.

INTERNATIONAL Scoring Method?

By Jackie Fie and Lance Crowley

In response to requests by members of the gymnastics technical community and to satisfy our own curiosity, a study was undertaken to determine if there was a way to improve on the current method used to determine the average score with a six-judge panel. I offer the following to the entire gymnastics community for consideration.

As you are aware, the method of arriving at

the final score for a competition/event in which a six judge panel is used is to eliminate the high and low score and average the middle four scores (Avg Mid 4).

same validity. It is for this reason that I think the score in the above example should be 9.8. The fact that they (the judges) may not be equally qualified cannot be established at the moment of judgment; it takes the accumulation of a significant number of "sets" to make that determination. That being the case, why do we arbitrarily throw out the high and low score? On what scientific basis are the high and low scores deemed to be incorrect? The answer to these questions may go back to the days before computer scoring, it represented the easiest method of arriving at a final score, quickly.

I submit that the "Avg Mid 4" is arbitrary and is not based on logic or science. Given that our scoring computers can calculate scores instantly, why not consider other methods?

Over the years there have been several proposals for different methods to use the six judgments:

Since 1990 I have analyzed scores from numerous international competitions while working with, and developing, the *WTC Judges' Evaluation System*. During these studies I have often questioned the validity of the "Avg Mid 4" method. As an example of this questioning, consider the following "set" of six scores:

9.8 — 9.8 — 9.8 — 9.8 — 9.65 — 9.6

The average score from this "set", with the present method, would be 9.7625. Actually the final score would be 9.762, but that's a subject of another dissertation. When I study these scores, I think the final score should be 9.8. Four of the six judges, 2/3's of the panel, thought the score was 9.8. So why isn't the score

It has been proposed that we use the average of the middle two scores. The concern with this method is that you lose the expert opinion of two judges. It also, by its nature, generates many more ties (a very real problem).

Using all six scores has also been discussed. The concern with this method is that the judges are human beings and make honest mistakes. To affect the ranking of an athlete because of a mistake is wrong, in my opinion.

The method that averages the Chair's score with the score from the "Avg Mid 4", the so called "base score" has been used in special circumstances. 9.8?

To try to answer this question let's start with some basic thoughts on statistics. Statistics teaches us that, in a *subjective judgment by a number of equally qualified observers*, each of the judgments carries the same weight, has the

Given the events of the past Winter Olympic Games, it is appropriate to address the issue of cheating, particularly considering the shortcomings of the current method and the ease with which it can be changed, for the better. No one likes the term cheating, so allow

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me to borrow a term coined by Dr. William Sands, "human engineered scores."

The "set" example used above, 9.8 — 9.8 — 9.8 — 9.8 — 9.65 — 9.6, can be arrived at by a panel of judges for one of several reasons. One, it could be their actual subjective scores for that particular exercise. Two, it could be that the judges with the 9.65 / 9.60 were working together to give that gymnast a lower score than she'd earned, i.e. "human engineered scores." What you may find is another "set" of scores where these same judges were the two high scores on some pre-selected, athlete. Again, while very few like to talk about it, two judges working together to "hit" one gymnast and "bump up" another gymnast is the most

There are only three possible combinations of *rejected* scores; this system selects which of the three fit the statistical model for each "set":

1. The high and low scores (same as the current method)- OR
2. The two high scores — OR
3. The two low scores.

The actual calculation method is a bit more complex. The software must look up or down the sorted order based on the direction of the third score selected, in order to determine which score to use in the fourth position.

common method of "human engineered scores."

There have been proposals that increased the number of judges on a panel. That is not acceptable due to many considerations, not the least of which is the cost of the travel and housing for the judges.

Given all of the above, I offer the following scoring averaging method for consideration. The method/system is called the

If the third score is in the high direction: the system first looks in the low direction to determine if there is a score that is equal to or less than the next score in the high direction.

If the third score selected is in the low direction: then the system looks to the high side to determine if that score is equal to or less than the next score in the low direction.

"Most Significant Method" (MSM). This averaging method was written into the *WTC Judges' Evaluation System* in early 1999, and has been used to analyze the results for a significant number of international competitions.

Using the six judges scores, the method starts the calculation by sorting them into descending order. The average of the middle two scores is calculated. It then uses these two scores (the middle two) plus the

next two scores closest to this average. It then averages these four scores, to arrive at the final score. Thus, the two scores farthest from the average of the middle two scores are eliminated.



Again, the system will select which of the three options, listed above, fits each particular case.

Why is this system better than the current method? First, it has a scientific/mathematical base and more precisely reflects the statistically correct opinion of the judging panel. Using the above example, the final score would be 9.8. The other major advantage is that “human engineered scores” become a much more difficult task. It now requires three judges working together to affect a score. I submit that this is extremely difficult, for several reasons:

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 7)

- There are very few judges who “human engineer scores.” • By some remote chance, if three judges “human engineer scores” on the same event, the coordination required to affect the final score would be difficult.

It is hoped that once the judges, coaches and national officials understand the difficulty of “human engineering scores” using this system, the judges will simply submit their honest judgment. We will then be rid of a problem that has plagued us for years.

I submit that this method –

- Has a sound scientific/mathematical basis
- It is easy to implement, no changes are required to the structure of existing judging panels
- Costs very little to do, no more than an hour or two of software programming
 - Will make scoring much fairer to our athletes, and
- May prevent the type of publicity that has hit figure skating recently.

Analyses of international competitions show significant differences in results. While analysis is interesting, there is no “gold standard” on which to base the *absolute correct* score/rank for a given

routine. For this reason, the *scientific and logical merits* of this system must be the deciding factor as to whether or not it is better than the current method. I submit that it is, in fact, a significant improvement.

Anyone who would like to discuss additional details of this method, please contact Lance Crowley via email at lpcrowley@worldnet.att.net.

Note: The above method is now referred to as MSM6. A similar method for 4 judge panels MSM4, has been submitted to FIG, USAG and the USECA for publication.



An Improved Method for SCORE AVERAGING WITH A FOUR-JUDGE PANEL?

INTRODUCTION

In response to requests by members of the gymnastics technical community and to satisfy our own curiosity, a study was undertaken to determine if there was a way to improve on the current method used to determine the average score with a four-judge panel. It was thought that the same general principles discussed on page 6, 7, and 10 for an improved system for six judge panels could be applied to four judge panels. The proposed change to the six judge panel score averaging method is referred to as the “Most Significant Method” (MSM). For purpose of this discussion that system will be renamed MSM6 and this newly proposed four judge panel system, MSM4.

It must be clearly understood that there is no system/method that will ever allow a four-judge panel to be as effective as a six-judge panel, regardless of the score averaging technique used. That said, this study indicates that significant improvements can be made to the four-judge standard method. (STD-4).

In addition to the standard method (STD-4) of averaging the middle two scores, these alternatives were considered:

- Average all 4 scores

- Average the closest 3 scores (using the MSM method)
- Preferred MSM4-1 (explained below)
- Non-preferred MSM4-2

The WTC Judges' Analysis was amended to generate results for each of the above score averaging scenarios. The statistical analysis was done in Excel. Well over 3000 panel judgments were used from 3 World Championships and 2 Olympic Games.

However, the primary studies were done using the C-I scores from all four events from the 2001 World Championships. The middle four "sorted" scores were used to calculate results for the STD-4 and four proposed methods. The following statistics were tabulated:

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- Correlation coefficients against the MSM6 scores.
- Summary statistics (average, standard deviation, maximum, minimum, etc.).
- The number of times scores were unchanged, higher, or lower.
- Number of tied scores.

EXPLANATION OF THE PREFERRED MSM4-1 METHOD

The calculation process starts by sorting the four scores into descending order. To make this explanation easier to understand, these scores are labeled: **H** = the highest of the four, **HM** = the high middle of the four, **LM** = the low middle of the four and **L** = the lowest of the four.

The first two scores used to calculate the final average score are the two middle scores, **HM** and **LM**. The third score selected, is the one closest to average of the **HM** and **LM**. If the **H** and **L** are equidistant from the middle average, the final score is simply the average of the two middle scores (the STD 4 method). If the **H** score is selected, that score is averaged with the **LM** score, and then that average is averaged with the **HM** score. If the **L** score is selected, then it is averaged with the **HM** score, this result is then averaged with the **LM** score.

Consider the following judge's scores and averages (STD-4) from a recent International competition that used four-judge panels:

	<u>J1</u>	<u>J2</u>	<u>J3</u>	<u>J4</u>	<u>AVG</u>
Gymnast #1	9.6	9.0	9.35	9.35	=9.35
Gymnast #2	9.3	8.8	9.5	9.4	=9.35

Using the preferred MSM4 method, the Final Scores would be:

Gymnast #1 9.6 9.0 9.35 9.35 • Sorted into descending order: 9.6 9.35 9.35 9.0

- Average of middle two scores = 9.35
- $9.6 - 9.35 = 0.25$ and $9.35 - 9.0 = 0.35$, thus the 9.6 is closest to the average of the middle two scores and will be used in the calculation, the 9.0 will be dropped.
- $(9.6 + 9.35) / 2 = 9.475$
- $(9.475 + 9.35) / 2 = 9.4125$, the Final Score

Gymnast #2 9.3 8.8 9.5 9.4 • Sorted into descending order: 9.5 9.4 9.3 8.8

- Average of the middle two scores = 9.35
- $9.5 - 9.35 = 0.15$ and $9.35 - 8.8 = 0.55$, thus the 9.5 is closest to the average of the middle two scores and will be used in the calculation, the 8.8 will be dropped.
- $(9.5 + 9.3) / 2 = 9.4$
- $(9.4 + 9.4) / 2 = 9.4$, the Final Score

The above formula is: $((H + LM) / 2 + HM) / 2$. If the H score is discarded, the formula is: $((L + HM) / 2 + LM) / 2$.

CONCLUSION

As pointed out in the previous paper, there is no “gold standard” for a correct score. Gymnastics is subjectively judged, thus is subject to all the nuances associated with that fact. Since the MSM6 has been shown to generate the best possible results for a six-judge panel, the MSM4 study used results from MSM6 as the basis for the analysis and comparison.

PREFERRED MSM4-1 VS. NON-PREFERRED MSM4-2

Of the four possible methods studied, the two MSM4 methods are the best and very similar in overall effectiveness. However, the final decision to use the MSM4-1 method was based on a significantly reduced number of ties and a correlation coefficient that was only slightly lower than the MSM4-2. There is no significant difference between the average score of the MSM4-2 method and the STD-4 method, thus there would be no significant changes to the average score of a competition expected.

The major benefits derived from the preferred MSM4 method, over the STD-4 method are:

- Significantly reduced number of ties, thus the method is more discerning. Check this with Excel!
Using as an example the UB from the 01 WC – 151 judgments, the STD-4 method generated 60 ties, nearly 40% of all the scores. The MSM4-1 method generated 30 ties, nearly a twofold reduction.
- High correlation to MSM6 with final rank placement of the competitors
- Reduced possibility of “human engineered scores” since the methodology makes it more difficult to guess which will be the counting scores.

We offer this method to the gymnastics community for their consideration; we believe it is a major improvement over the current method. Anyone who would like to discuss additional details of this method, please contact Lance Crowley via email at ipcrowley@worldnet.att.net.

NOTE

Paper emailed to FIG President Bruno Grandi, the FIG Executive Committee, and the FIG Women's and Men's Technical Committees on July 6 and 7, 2002, titled, “A Fairer International Scoring Method?”

An edited version was published in the November issue of International Gymnast magazine, titled “The Best Average” (page 34).

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Jackie Fie has been deeply involved with gymnastics for many years, first as a competitor and later as an internationally recognized judge and administrator. The 1956 USA Olympian has judged at three Olympics (1968, '72 and '76) and four World Championships (1970, '78, '79, and '81) as well as numerous other international and national events. Mrs. Fie is one of seven world members of the FIG Women's Technical Committee, which is responsible for World Competitions, Code of Points (rules), compulsory exercises, judges training and technical regulations. She has written two books on gymnastics, and has lectured and taught courses all across the United States and in many international sessions as well. Mrs. Fie has received numerous awards and is consultant to several groups.

Mrs. Fie currently lives in Jefferson, Iowa.

Interview: Jackie FIE (USA)

Rotterdam, 2010, October 19: * GYMmedia exclusive interview with the long-time President of women's Technical Committee of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), Jackie Fie (USA) (C) GYMmedia INTERNATIONAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTiA59FxN-g>