

1978 all-area gymnastics team

By MARTY BUDNER

Fortunately for Karyn Kokeny, Bloomfield Hills Lahser's athletic department decided to give girls' gymnastics a full play on this winter's varsity schedule.

Kokeny dazzled a lot of coaches with bubbly performances throughout the season, and for her outstanding efforts, was picked as the best all-around gymnast on the 1978 Observer & Eccentric all-area girls' gymnastics team.

Others picked for the first team were Beth Raymor (vault), Denise Denman (uneven bars) and Lisa Scardina (floor exercises) from Troy Athens High School, and Karen Marzolf (beam) from neighboring Troy.

The squad was selected by area gymnastics coaches, who voted by mail ballots for a first- and second-place team in each of the four gymnastics events, plus all-around. Each first-team choice was awarded two points, and second-team selections were given one point.

Only a junior, Kokeny, along with classmate and second-team all-around selection DeeDee Johnson, helped lead Lahser to a 7-2 record in its first full season of competition. The Knights' only losses this year were to Troy Athens in the Metro-Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) championship meet, and North Farmington.

AT THE STATE meet, Kokeny finished as the fifth best all-around gymnast, with her top performance a second on the beam. At the regionals, the former Steve Whitlock school gymnast was second to Johnson as she gained a second place in the floor exercises and third on the beam.

In the MSAA meet, she was first on the bars, and second on the beam, vault and floor exercises. Kokeny said her favorite event is the beam, "because it's challenging."

Of the three Athens gymnasts who made the team, Denman is the only senior. A four-year performer for coach Pam Henderson, Denman has always been a strong athlete on the bars.

Her highest point total on the bars this year was an 8.35, and she averaged in the low eight's. Denman was first on bars in the Metro '8' League meet, and second in the regionals.

"She's (Denman) always had a lot of turns and tricks, but they never seemed to flow right," said Pam Henderson. "This year we took a few of the difficulty tricks out and she scored higher. Her execution was so much better with the difficulty out."

Denman hopes to attend Northern

Michigan University on a gymnastics scholarship.

RAYMOR STARTED as a vaulter in ninth grade, and has improved to a point where she now scores an average of 8.2 with every jump. She was first in the vault at the Metro '8' League meet, and she finished as the seventh-best vaulter at the state level.

Henderson said Raymor basically goes through two vault routines, with a good pre-flight and height the key to her success. Even though her beam needs work, Raymor will probably be an all-around performer for the Redhaws next season.

Scardina is a sophomore who placed fifth in the Metro '8' League meet, fourth at the regionals and 10th at state in the floor exercises. Her main asset, according to Henderson, is tumbling.

"Her (Scardina's) tumbling carries her routine through," said Henderson. "It's smooth and high, but it does need a twist. She'll also have to work on her dance a little."

Marzolf is a senior who has been with coach Sandy Smith for four years at Troy. She finished seventh at the state meet on the beam, and was sixth at the regionals.

Marzolf's beam routine was highlighted this year by a pair of back handsprings. She was consistently around the seven-point mark in every meet.

"Her total routine was a lot stronger this year," said Smith. "She hit the qualifying score (6.4) on the beam almost every time. I think there was only one time—if that—when she didn't hit it."

"She improved all over on the beam this year, from staying on the beam to general composure," said Smith.

HENDERSON, WHO WAS picked as the Observer & Eccentric's gymnastics coach of the year, has compiled a 58-6 record in her four years at Athens. In the past two years, Henderson's teams have lost only one dual meet—to arch-rival Troy.

This past winter, the Redhaws came in first in the MSAA, won the Metro '8' League meet and took third place in the state. Last year, Athens was first in the Metro '8', second at the regionals and fifth in the state.

Henderson is a graduate of Birmingham Seaholm High School and Western Michigan University.



Lahser's Karyn Kokeny was the state's fifth-best all-around gymnast this season.



LISA SCARDINA
Troy Athens



BETH RAYMOR
Troy Athens



KAREN MARZOLF
Troy



DENISE DENMAN
Troy Athens



PAM HENDERSON
Troy Athens

FIRST TEAM		
Name	Event	School
Karyn Kokeny	All-around	B.H. Lahser
Beth Raymor	Vault	Troy Athens
Denise Denman	Uneven bars	Troy Athens
Karen Marzolf	Beam	Troy
Lisa Scardina	Floor exercises	Troy Athens
SECOND TEAM		
DeeDee Johnson	All-around	B.H. Lahser
(tie) Summe Castillo	Vault	N. Farmington
(tie) Mary Porretta	Vault	B.H. Andover
Lisa Bees	Uneven Bars	Troy
Mary McCarty	Beam	Troy
Sue Shoflik	Floor exercises	B. Seaholm
HONORABLE MENTIONS		
Martina Cecato (vault), Birmingham Groves; Diane McLean (beam), North Farmington; Lori Ann Bacca (vault), Birmingham Groves; Janet Thibodeau (beam), Farmington Harris; Ann Schene (all-around), Bloomfield Hills Andover; Lisa Ezema (beam), Troy Athens; Alyson Trevelyan (vault), Rochester Adams; Katherine Briggs (floor exercises), Troy Athens; Michelle Segal (floor exercises), Troy; Kay Zarbas (vault), Troy Athens; Gail Berry (floor exercises), Bloomfield Hills Andover; Wendy Letimer (floor exercises), Birmingham Groves; Lori Quate (beam), Bloomfield Hills Andover; Kathleen Briggs (floor exercises), Troy Athens; Peg Peterson (floor exercises), Bloomfield Hills Andover; Tammy Hankin (floor exercises), Rochester.		

ATTENTION TENNIS PLAYERS!!

Centaur Racquet Club has Great plans for the 1978-79 Season

Only \$8 an hour
Saturday & Sunday
from 12:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
and much more

CALL FOR INFORMATION 661-2000