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(F11C)

# MSU gymnast beginning to 'feel old' at 19

By GREG ZOTT

Lori Boes is just 19, but she is already an "old lady" in the gymnastics world. That's the way it is in a sport where an athlete's golden years are the middle teens.

"Believe me, I'm getting old," said Boes, with a smile. "My body can't do the things it used to as easy anymore."

While at Troy High School, Boes was the epitome of excellence in Southeastern Michigan for all high school gymnasts. She won state titles in 1974 and 1977 and captured second place in 1976. Only an ankle injury kept her from a possible third state title in four years of high school competition.

Last year as a freshman at Michigan

State University, Boes set the school record on the balance beam. She was one of the main reasons MSU won the Big Ten Gymnastics Championships and finished 11th in the NCAA Gymnastics Tournament.

To stay in shape over the summer months, she teaches gymnastics at Athens High School, and at the Glen

Riley school of gymnastics in Rochester.

"Teaching is really fun," said Boes. "There are really many students who want to learn about gymnastics. I feel good being able to show them what I know."

The Athens program is run through the Troy Parks and Recreation Department. This is the program's fourth year and the second year that Boes has been a part of it.

"The number of students has picked up every year," said Boes, who generally works with 60 to a 100 students a week on the mats. "Michigan has finally caught up with the rest of the country in gymnastics enthusiasm."

Boes' sister Lisa, a sophomore at Troy High School, also teaches at Glen Riley. The gymnastic atmosphere is essential for keeping Boes sharp for collegiate competition.

"Gymnastics in college is a year-round commitment," said Boes. "You never stop practicing, working-out, or whatever. It's like a full-time job. You have to be dedicated to stay with it."

Now that Boes is getting a partial scholarship from MSU, and is receiving some pay for her services this summer, all the hard work and dedication is paying off.

"It's great to be getting things from gymnastics after all these years," said Lori. "I always enjoyed the sport, but when you work hard for something, and spend countless hours at it, you feel good when you gain something from it. That's the way I feel at Michigan State right now."

Boes first became interested in gymnastics as a 12-year-old. When her family moved from Madison Heights to Troy, she enrolled in an area gymnastic club.

After a few years in a private club in Birmingham, she started school at Troy High, and her career as a star gymnast began. Her talent and attitude have been a major impetus for

gymnastics in Oakland County.

"It's hard to say how much Lori Boes has meant to gymnastics in this area, except that it is a lot," said Troy gymnastic coach Sandy Smith. "Every girl who is trying to improve in the sport looks up to her accomplishments."

Boes seems immune to all the attention. While she is proud of her feats, in high school and college she has been more concerned with team rather than individual goals.

"I don't really keep up on my personal accomplishments all that much," said Boes. "I just look at it from a team point of view. If the team does well, as it did last year, that makes the season a successful one."

By participating at the private club and collegiate level, Boes also has a view from both sides of gymnastic competition: one individual, the other team.

"I feel sorry for the kids who never do anything in gymnastics but private club competition," said Boes. "The competition is intense and everybody is just out for themselves. It breeds good competition but bad feelings between people at the club. I like the team concept better."

Though she admits that U.S. gymnast Kathy Rigby, "was a great inspiration and a great person to watch," Boes doesn't think she herself will try to make the U.S. Olympic team.

"It really takes too much training

and too much time," said Boes. "Besides I'm beyond the age of the current top gymnasts. Fourteen or 15 is the best time, and at 19, I'm already going down hill."

Lori's studies are also important. She is majoring in dietetics, a schedule that requires rigorous study of nutrition and medical subjects. Gymnastics may continue for another year or so, but eventually her degree will become her primary concern.

"I'll be on the team again this year, but after that I just don't know," said Boes. "It will depend on my schedule and what I want to do in college."

For the present she is contemplating a trip to Europe for college credit next summer and concentrating on her studies and gymnastics. The future may hold a dancing career, or further teaching in her favorite sport.

"I'm very interested in dancing, and I might want to get into something like that after my gymnastics are over," said Boes. "Dancing and gymnastics are a lot alike. And besides, want to keep my body in shape, I'm not a runner, so I have to do something else that is physical."

Boes has until Sept. 13 before work-outs begin at MSU. Until then she'll spend much of her time showing other kids how to get started in a gymnastic career.

"I don't regret all the time I spent with gymnastics," said Boes. "It's been great for me. I hope some of these kids will get the same experience."



Lori Boes watches as eager Rae Carter finds out that it's sometimes necessary to go down on all fours in gymnastics. (Photo by Randy Bort)

## Bonanza-Express Soccer League could be farm system for Americans

By MARTY BUDNER

Finding American-born players in a North American Soccer League lineup is about as rare as strawberries in December.

On the Detroit Express team, for example, there are only six active U. S. players. Only one of them—striker Danny Vaughan—played more than 200 minutes this season.

The Express normally satisfies NASL guidelines of having two North Americans in the starting lineup by playing Canadians Paul Hunter and Angus Moffat. The remaining team members are primarily British.

Realizing a need to attract more Americans to the game for future stability and exposure, Express created a type of feeder system, the Bonanza-Express Soccer League (BESL).

The BESL played all summer in the shadow of the Express, and recently crowned league champions in two separate divisions. The league was composed of an Under-22 Division, and an Under-17 Division.

Teams provided their own transportation to the games—most of which were played at Oakland University. The team rosters were filled mostly with players from lively suburban soccer leagues in Troy, Livonia, Birmingham, Farmington, Sterling Heights, Utica and Warren.

And, despite limited publicity and occasional performance problems the under-22 Macomb Cosmos were kicked out of the playoffs for rough play, BESL officials are calling their premier season a success.

"We (the BESL) would like to see ourselves as a farm system for the Express—or any other team that's interested," said Becky Kapsalis, the league's administrative coordinator. "This is an unprecedented league around the country, and people from Philadelphia and Chicago have inquired to see how the Detroit league is doing."

"We think the league may expand to Canada next year. We had one team from Windsor which participated this year because of a shortage of teams in the under-22 group."

"The Canadians seemed to enjoy the competition, and they even showed the Americans some new wrinkles," she said. "They will hopefully come back with another team next year as an official member of the league."

THE BESL held tryouts earlier this summer at Oakland University for anyone interested in

expanding their soccer talents. The players were then pooled together, and "drafted" to certain teams.

The league was then divided into the two five-team age divisions.

The Westside Diplomats, Shore Pointe Tornado, Macomb Kicks, Oakland Hurricane and Ann Arbor Aztec teams comprised the Under-17 Division. The Flint Fury, Macomb Cosmos, Westside Southsiders, Oakland Strikers and Shore Pointe earthquake teams made up the older division.

According to Kapsalis, professional scouts seemed more interested in the 13-17 age group.

"The younger players have not developed many bad traits, and are still susceptible to coaching changes," said Kapsalis. "With the continued competition, they could move into the under-22 league and eventually onto a pro team."

"The Bonanza-Express League gives the good player the option to play and improve his skills with some of the best soccer players in the area," she said. "Pro contracts, scholarships and recognition are all part of what we are hoping will happen within the next few years."

Even though the various youth leagues were reluctant to allowing their better players to participate, Kapsalis believes that next year will be different.

Once we get established, and with a few more years of competition behind us, this will be the best competitive soccer in the state," she said. "This year we didn't have all the good players in the league, but next year we'll probably get more cooperation from the youth leagues."

Bill Drake, a Troy resident who played on the Oakland Hurricane team, was impressed with the caliber of competition.

"It was good fun and tough competition," said Drake, who lived in New Jersey and was a Cosmos fan. "The Bonanza-Express League is almost as good as some of the leagues we had in New Jersey."

Other local players in the BESL this year included Troy's Bruce Kay and Birmingham's Pete Iverson and John Loessler. Mike Ruddy, who lives in Rochester and coaches Bloomfield Hills Rogers' soccer team, also coached one of the BESL teams.

Vaughan and Hunter of the Express both played active roles in helping the BESL establish itself this season. With that kind of professional enthusiasm, maybe the league can supply a few more American-born players to the NASL.

## Lucci golf tournament set; proceeds help 'special' kids

The Eighth Annual Mike Lucci Celebrity Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, Aug. 21, at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Spaulding for Children society.

The list of celebrities participating in the event will include Carole Mann and four LPGA pros, as well as Dave DeBuschere, Bill Cunningham, Johnny Orr, Nick Libbert, Jimmy Rutherford, Norm Cash, Jim Northrup, Bill Freshman, Ron Kramer, Joe Schmidt, and many others.

Each celebrity will be on a team together with four amateurs; they will compete in a scramble format for a host of prizes.

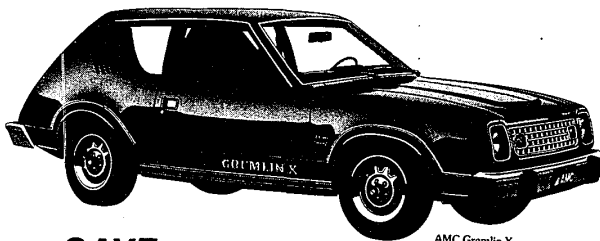
The Spaulding for Children society is a unique adoption agency serving scores of older and handicapped children. Youngsters of school age, children with physical, mental, and emotional conditions, and other children with special needs find permanent families through the efforts of the Spaulding program. The Lucci tournament is the major source of funds for the agency.

The field for the tournament is completely filled. However, any business or individuals wishing to "sponsor" a celebrity may do so by sending \$150 to: Spaulding for Children Celebrity Golf Tournament, 22340 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI, 48124. For further information, call Nora at 561-1700.

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