

All-star gymnasts luminate O&E land

By MARTY BUDNER
staff writer

High school gymnastics in Michigan is on the upswing.

Well, take a look at this year's state championship meet at Troy High School.

It was one of the most competitive ever.

That's why we believe the 1981 Observer & Eccentric All-Area gymnastics team is perhaps the best we've ever presented.

Kathy Temple was selected by a panel of three coaches as the area's top all-around gymnast. She's joined on the first team by Troy's Lisa Boes (floor exercises) and Kathy Michaels (balance beam), Walled Lake Central's Celeste Harrington (uneven bars) and Birmingham Seaholm's Jill McBride (vault).

Temple and her North Farmington teammates won the state title with 193.25 points — its best mark of the season. However, the next two teams — defending state champion East Kentwood and Troy — finished with 182.70 and 181.10 points respectively.

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL, which finished second to Troy in the Freeland Regional Tournament, was fourth with 99.15 points.

The remaining four teams — Ann Arbor, Huron, East Lansing, Jackson Lumen Christi and Ludington — all had scores of 94.80 or better.

Taken one step further, three of the state's top eight prep gymnastics teams were from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area (North Farmington, Troy and Walled Lake Central).

"It's nice to bring the (state-title) trophy back to this area," said North Farmington Coach Mary Johnesse.

"The teams from this area did very well at the state meet, and I think it says a lot (for this area), I think it shows the people in this area take gymnastics seriously.

"Gymnastics has improved a lot over the five years that I've been a coach. The girls are doing a lot harder tricks now than they've ever tried before," she said.

"And, I think the clubs and the Y's have a lot to do with it because the kids can get an earlier start."

Following is a brief outlook at each of the first-team members:

KATHY TEMPLE

Temple, a senior, had an outstanding career at North Farmington.

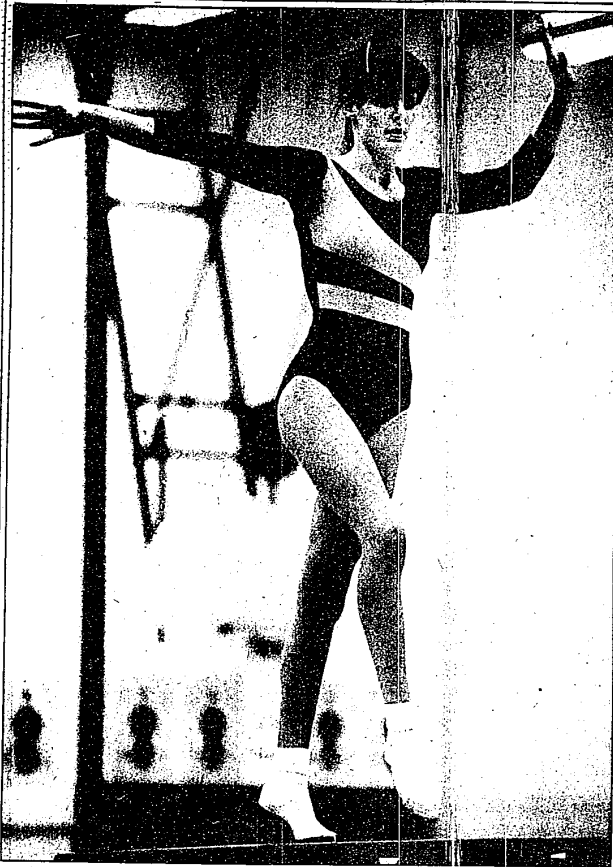
As a sophomore, she finished first all-around at the state meet. Temple

was second all-around the past two years.

Temple never has been beaten at the state meet on the uneven parallel bars. And, she finished first the last two years on the balance beam.

Voted the most outstanding senior gymnast in Michigan, Temple led North Farmington to a 10-2 overall record this season. She rebounded from a mid-season back injury to help the

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Veteran Kathy Temple of North Farmington was voted senior gymnast of the year by Michigan coaches.



JOHN STANCO/staff photographer

Troy's bubbly Lisa Boes excelled on the floor mat.

All-Area gymnastics team

FIRST TEAM

GYMNAST	SCHOOL	EVENT
Kathy Temple	North Farmington	All-Around
Jill McBride	Birmingham Seaholm	Vault
Celeste Harrington	W.L. Central	Uneven Bars
Kathy Michaels	Troy	Balance Beam
Lisa Boes	Troy	Floor Ex.

SECOND TEAM

Jenny Matz	Birmingham Seaholm	Vault
Christy Schwartz	Bloomfield Hills Andover	Uneven Bars
Dona Kebrdle	North Farmington	Balance Beam
Missy Otterbein	Bloomfield Hills Andover	Floor Exercises

HONORABLE MENTION: Vault — Barb Burke, Walled Lake Central; Julie Sherman, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Patsy Milne, Rochester; Holly Heisterkamp, Troy Athens. Uneven Bars — Beth Clauss, Birmingham Groves; Sharon Shifra, North Farmington; Michelle Segal, Troy; Sue Bentley, Troy Athens. Balance Beam — Kim Edwards, North Farmington; Jane Dauch, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Lora Ohanian, Troy; Anne McKnight, Southfield-Lathrup. Floor Exercises — Julie Tischler, Rochester Adams; Bridget Dunn, Troy Athens; Michele Smith, Troy; Jami Woodrow, Bloomfield Hills Andover.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Jumping Jill McBride was a Seaholm standout off the vault.



JOHN STANCO/staff photographer

Senior Celeste Harrington sparked Walled Lake Central to second place at the Freeland regional meet.



JOHN STANCO/staff photographer

Free-spirited Kathy Michaels was Troy's top all-around performer.