

Athens delivers clear message to challengers

By Jim Toth
staff writer

The message has been sent. The Troy Athens gymnastics team is prepared to fend off all opponents in defense of its state championship.

Squaring off against some of the finest competition in the state Saturday afternoon, the defending Class A champion Red Hawks saved their best for last — the floor exercise — to capture their second straight title at the 15-team Athens Invitational.

Coach Frank DiVito's tumbler, who moved into the No. 1 spot in the state following the meet, tallied 136.75 points to outdistance runner-up Holland's 137.95 total. Freeland was third with 131.25, Jackson County Western fourth with 130.85 and Dearborn Edsel Ford rounded out the top five with 126.20.

Other area finishes included Troy High in seventh place (124.70), Plymouth Canton ninth (123.70), Birmingham Seaholm 10th (123.65), Plymouth Salem 12th (120.90), North Farmington 13th (118.85) and Rochester Adams 14th (110.40).

Winning the Athens Invitational by such a slim margin is nothing new to the Red Hawks, who last year slipped past runner-up Freeland by .15.

"WE THOUGHT it would be tight with Athens, Holland and Freeland," explained DiVito. "We were playing catch-up with Freeland all day. We knew we needed a 36 or better on floor to win the meet and that requires four nines. I never saw the girls so determined then they were before the floor. They didn't want to lose their own invite."

The fate of the tournament rested in the performance by the Red Hawks in the floor exercise. Trailing Holland by a substantial margin, sophomore Melissa Miller and junior Natalie Leich spearheaded the comeback by posting scores of 9.45 and 9.4, respectively. Further support came from Tiffany Kinala and Janice Greff who compiled scores of 8.9 and 8.8, respectively. Kinala's previous best on floor had been 8.05.

"It sure was an exciting finish," DiVito said. "Besides winning the state meet, this was probably the most exciting thing that has happened to us. This will surely give them a big boost in confidence because now they know they can beat the best in the state."

DiVito, who had been concerned with the girls' lackluster effort for

gymnastics

much of the season, said one of the keys to their performance was getting back to the basics.

"What we tried to do was cut out the tricks we had not been doing very well and get back to the basics that worked for us last year," DiVito said. "Another factor was the competition. When you have the best competitors, it brings out the best in everybody. Mentally, this should get us ready for other meets."

IN ADDITION to their performance on floor, the Red Hawks' dynamic duo of Leich and Miller enjoyed a solid all-around tourney. Leich finished third in all-around with 35.55 while Miller was fourth with 35.40.

All-State candidates Jennifer Dube (37.30) of Grosse Pointe North and Jamie Nieman (36.55) of Freeland claimed the top two spots while Rebecca Blauwkamp (35.10) of Holland rounded out the top five spots.

Dube and Nieman split the blue-ribbon finishes as Dube captured the uneven parallel bars and balance beam and Nieman won the vault and floor.

Miller chalked up a runner-up showing on bars (8.95) and third-place showing on vault (9.10), while Leich finished third on bars (8.75).

The only other area tumbler to finish in the top five was Troy's Tracy Berger, who finished in a tie for fourth on vault with 9.10.

The Red Hawks also received strong performances from Michelle Riera, Kristi Strobel and Deanna Lawson.

"I never saw so much determination in all the girls," DiVito said. "They were clapping and hugging each other. They all did an outstanding job, but if there was one key, I think it may have been Janice Greff," DiVito continued. "She's the only senior on the team, and she has been down on herself trying to go out with a bang. (Assistant coach) Kathy Michaels and I sat her down and talked with her about going back to the basics and doing what she can to help the team."

Greff's accomplishments included an 8.8 on vault and floor, 8.75 on bars and 8.5 on beam.

gymnastics

1988 TROY ATHENS
GYMNASTICS INVITATIONAL

TEAM RESULTS

1. Athens, 136.75; 2. Holland, 137.95; 3. Freeland, 131.25; 4. Jackson County Western, 130.85; 5. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 126.20; 6. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 125.85; 7. Troy, 124.70; 8. Grosse Pointe North, 124.00; 9. Plymouth Canton, 123.70; 10. Birmingham Seaholm, 123.65; 11. Royal Oak Gordons, 120.95; 12. Plymouth Salem, 120.90; 13. North Farmington, 118.85; 14. Rochester Adams, 110.40; 15. Grosse Pointe South, 100.55.

ALL-AROUND

1. Jennifer Dube, Grosse Pointe North, 37.30; 2. Jamie Nieman, Freeland, 36.55; 3. Natalie Leich, Athens, 35.55; 4. Melissa Miller, Athens, 35.40; 5. Rebecca Blauwkamp, Holland, 35.10.

1. Jamie Nieman, Freeland, 9.55; 2. (tie) Jen-

nifer Dube, Grosse Pointe North, Amy Golbe, Dearborn Edsel Ford, 9.40; (tie) Keri Berger, Troy, Melissa Miller, Athens, 9.10.

UNEVEN BARS

1. Jennifer Dube, Grosse Pointe North, 9.20; 2. Melissa Miller, Athens, 8.95; 3. (tie) Natalie Leich, Athens, Jamie Nieman, Freeland, 8.75; 5. Tracy Weber, Holland, 8.65.

BALANCE BEAM

1. Jennifer Dube, Grosse Pointe North, 9.40; 2. (tie) Wendy Ferguson, Jackson County Western, Rebecca Blauwkamp, Holland, 8.90; 4. Andi Veurink, Holland, 8.80; 5. Jamie Nieman, Freeland, 8.75.

FLOOR EXERCISE

1. Jamie Nieman, Freeland, 9.50; 2. Melissa Miller, Athens, 9.45; 3. Natalie Leich, Athens, 9.40; 4. Jennifer Dube, Grosse Pointe North, 9.30; 5. Andi Veurink, Holland, 9.15.



Carrie Lee tips the ball over the net, hoping to catch the Spartan defense off guard. Lee was 15-of-15 serving and led a third-game rally.

Stevenson foils bid by Raiders to topple champs

Continued from Page 1

volleyball

'I thought we were building back into it in the third game, but we had a couple key things at the net go against us. I really thought we were going to make a run at them.'

— Sandy Lubienlecki
North volleyball coach

Zatorski was 27-of-31 as an attacker with 15 kills, and Laura Brown, whose attacks Cagle credited the Raiders for defending well against early in the match, was 15-of-17 with six kills. Cibor recorded 12 assists while setting up the hitters.

Lubienlecki said the Raiders didn't expect to be able to "stuff" block Zatorski, but they were able to slow down their powerful opponent by getting a piece of the ball at the net. North's offense, however, never showed itself in the effective manner it had in tournaments.

"WE REALLY never did get our hitting going," Lubienlecki said. "The setters weren't quite getting the sets to the hitters."

She added the passing and communication broke down after the first game, and "it's just something we have to snap them back out of," she said.

"I thought we were building back into it in the third game, but we had a couple key things at the net go against us. I really thought we were going to make a run at them."

Boscawen led North's offense with 15 attacks in 18 attempts, resulting in six kills, four of which

came in the first game.

Lee was 15-of-15 serving for 10 points, Knapp 9-of-11 with three aces and seven points, Konjarevich 11-of-11 with three aces and six points. Defensively, Donna O'Brien had 14 digs and Knapp seven.

"Even though we never really got our offense going, the kids hung together on the court," Lubienlecki said. "If they bungle and play together, they can do a lot of things."

SEARS

Fine Jewelry and Watch Repair Department

Keep your jewelry looking like new! Sears Watch and Jewelry Repair offers this home cleaning package:

"Gemsonic" ultrasonic cleaning tank, Reg. \$19.95... \$16.95

"Blitz" gemstone cleaner, Reg. \$4... \$3

"Blitz" polishing cloth, Reg. \$5... \$4

Buy the entire Package **21.95** Reg. \$29.95

We also offer these fine services:
• Battery Installation • Watch Band Replacements
• Expert Watch and Jewelry Repair • Jewelry Appraisals
• 14kt and Gold-Plated Settings • Free Estimates
Sole until January 27, 1988

Watch and Jewelry Repair Department at all Metro area Fint, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Mishawaka, Jackson and Saginaw Sears Stores. (not at Ann Arbor or Bay City)

CHIMNEYS

Cleaned
Screened
Repaired
New

Roofs

- Repaired
- Re-Roofed
- New
- Leaks Stopped

Karney Denderlian's
CROWN CONTRACTING, INC.
427-3981
LICENSED • INSURED • GUARANTEED
SINCE 1952

EVERYTHING FOR OUTDOOR FUN IS UNDER THE SILVERDOME.

THE FIRST BOAT and RV SHOW OF THE YEAR!

NOW OPEN

THE BEST DEALS OF 1988

ADMISSION
\$4.50 ADULTS
\$2.00 CHILDREN
(Age 6 thru 14)
5 and under FREE

WED. JAN 20
THRU
SUN. JAN 24, 1988

SHOW HOURS

WED. JAN. 20 - 3 pm-10:30 pm
THUR. JAN. 21 - 3 pm-10:30 pm
FRI. JAN. 22 - 11 am-10:30 pm
SAT. JAN. 23 - 11 am-10:30 pm
SUN. JAN. 24 - 11 am-6:00 pm

STAGE SHOW HOURS

WED. & THUR. 8 pm
FRI. 4 pm & 8 pm
SAT. 1 pm, 4 pm, & 8 pm
SUN. 1 pm & 4 pm

\$1.00 OFF

Valid any day except Saturday.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 THRU SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 1988
PRESENT THIS COUPON AT THE BOX OFFICE

FEATURING:

BOB MUNDON - The Fastest Gun Who Ever Lived!
DON OTTO - The Diving Fool!
MOORE'S MESS-O-MUTTS COMEDY DOG SHOW!
GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT!
THE BASS TUB - TROUT POND

DISCOUNT COUPONS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

BONANZA

Steak • Chicken • Seafood • Sausages

Amoco

YOUR CAR MOVES

UGLY KITCHEN CABINETS?

DON'T REPLACE... **'REFACE'**

MODERN & EUROPEAN STYLES

FORMICA
Solid Colors and Woodgrain

SOLID WOODS
Oak, Cherry and Birch

SMILING

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND & MACOMB

• FACTORY SHOWROOM
• FREE ESTIMATES

1642 E. 11 Mile Rd., Madison Hgts.
1 Block W. of Dequindre Daily 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Cabinet Clad... 541-5252

SKI DEMO DAY

AT ALPINE VALLEY SKI AREA
SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 9 AM - 5 PM
Sponsored by BAVARIAN VILLAGE SKI SHOPS

ALL THE TOP SKIS - TRY THEM AT NO CHARGE
THE TOP SKI COMPANY WILL BE THERE WITH THEIR TECHNICIANS AND DEMO VANS TO ASSIST YOU.
GREAT SNOW AND LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE.
SPECIAL DISCOUNT LIFT TICKET COUPONS FOR THIS EVENT ARE AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT ALL

Bavarian Village SKI SHOPS