



A LOOK OF CALM comes over the face of Clarenceville's Charley Morse as he rides the still rings.

Charley Excels Where You Don't Use Legs

By R. T. THOMPSON

From a scrawny eighth grader, with an intense desire to become a star athlete even though handicapped by a birth defect that crippled him in the hips, knees and ankles, to one of the most outstanding gymnasts ever developed in Michigan High School annals.

That's the success story of Charley Morse, captain of the Clarenceville High team, and a five-time winner of state championships in the meet last spring.

Coach Chuck Thompson, who also serves as director of athletics, recalls that Charley became a candidate for the gymnastic team in the eighth grade during the period when Chuck was trying to sell the program to the school.

Inasmuch as he was still in the elementary grades, Charley wasn't eligible for the varsity. As Thompson puts it, "He wasn't ready for any kind of competition; all he had was the determination to succeed."

CHARLEY PICKED gymnastics for the simple reason that all other varsity sports need strong legs, and he definitely didn't have them. Matter of fact, he went through a series of torturing operations from the time he was a youngster to strengthen the muscles in his hips, knees and ankles so that he could walk without braces or a crutch.

"We admired this youngster from the moment he reported for the gymnastic team," smiled Thompson. "We were afraid for a time that he might hurt himself, he was that intense in his ambition to make good."

The youngster picked up the finer points of gymnastics much faster than some of his less ambitious teammates.

Even then, he had to learn the hard way that there is stiff competition in the state championships. Charley made his first move in the state meet as a freshman, entering two events and finishing far down the ranks.

He entered the same two events as a sophomore and came home highly elated with a seventh place in the sidehorse competition.

THEN CAME HIS junior year, and it was a poised, well prepared and trained Charley who took dead aim on state titles in five events.

Just as he had completely dominated the events during the dual meet and league competition, Charley brought back five state titles from the championships held at North Farmington High.

He won the top award as the all-around champion and was the victor in the still rings, horizontal bars, sidehorse and parallel bars. It was one of the few times in Michigan High School Athletic Association history that one entrant had so completely dominated the state finals.

Now, as a senior, Charley is attracting capacity crowds for a sport that normally draws only parents and friends of the gymnasts. He has filled the gyms at North Farmington, Clarenceville, Allen Park, Taylor Center and Taylor Kennedy, Ann Arbor Huron and Pioneer High Schools, Flat Rock and St. Clair—all members of the South-eastern Michigan Interscholastic Gymnastic Association.

He has a string of 35 consecutive victories in the five events over a period of a year and a half, with hopes of keeping that record intact through the league meet on March 8 and 9 at Taylor Kennedy and the state finals on March 16 at Hillsdale.

Continued on Page 4B



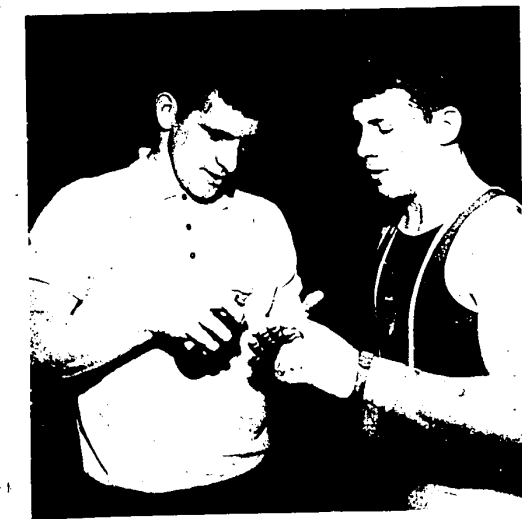
MORSE TALKS with Clarenceville teammates (from left) Benny Frechette, Jon Paulson and Neil Funk.



PERFECT BALANCE for a handstand.



A JUMP on the parallel bars.



COACH CHUCK THOMPSON keeps his men in good shape.



ON THE side horse, strength and balance are needed.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MALL

FEB.

MONDAY	5	Shrine Circus Tickets On Sale - Sears, Grinnell's
TUESDAY	6	LADIES DAY 10 a.m., free movie, prizes, Cinema 1. WEIGHT WATCHERS, Community Room 12:15
WEDNESDAY	7	SENIOR CITIZENS Community Room, 12 noon
THURSDAY	8	Take advantage of free tax advice in Mall daily by tax experts
FRIDAY	9	BALLROOM DANCING, Community Room, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY	10	MILKY THE CLOWN - 2 free magic shows in Mall 4 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Central Kiwanis Club in Small Booth in Mall.

53 STORES

LIVONIA MALL

7 MILE AT MIDDLEBURY

7 MILE AT MIDDLEBURY

'Meet You At The Mall'

Open MON., THURS., FRI., SAT. to 9 p.m. Open TUES., WED. until 5:30

There's always something going on at ...

LIVONIA MALL

7 MILE AT MIDDLEBURY