

# A whimsical look at state gym meet

Flippin' over gymnastics...

The 1985 high school gymnastics season ended at the Troy gymnasium Saturday afternoon, but it's going to live on for quite a while in my mind. The state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday at the school on Liverpool, featured the best collection of talented Michigan prep gymnasts ever.

The only problem Friday night was too much action. All four events were run simultaneously, so it was difficult to absorb it all. Only when Walled Lake Western's Barrie Muzbeck competed did the rest of the action stop.

The story's been told numerous times, but in case you missed it, Muzbeck, the 1983 all-around champion, skipped the high school circuit last year in pursuit of an Olympic Team berth. Unfortunately, Muzbeck sustained a stress fracture on her leg and missed out on everything.

This season, Muzbeck returned.

AT THE STATE meet, Muzbeck tallied 39.05 points to capture the all-around title Friday night. Saturday, she won individual titles on the balance beam and uneven parallel bars, and tied Holland's Jeni Hascott for first in vaulting.

Muzbeck does not demand attention, but her ability commands it. When she stepped up to the uneven parallel bars Friday night for her first competition of the evening, everything stopped. Fans, otherwise shouting encouragement to gymnasts or cheering after an event, simply clammed up.

The Walled Lake Western senior didn't disappoint them, either. She ripped off her routine, and patiently waited for the 9.7 score to be posted. The following day, Muzbeck earned another 9.7 on the balance beam. Even before the score was posted, Muzbeck was mobbed by coach and companion while the fans responded with a standing ovation.

It was quite a scene.

An equally emotional scene came Friday night when the official team results were announced. It was a tight race between Freeland and Holland, and when announcer Clem Kolesar informed us the second-place team was



Jim Hughes

Holland, the Freeland contingent went nuts.

Freeland was expected to win the meet, but that was before three participants were injured on three consecutive days. Despite being underfunded along with an abysmal performance on the balance beam, Freeland stormed back on its next three events, and won the title by .25 over Holland.

An inspirational film could be made out of that story.

Do you think Freeland, state champs in 1983 and this year, will repeat? Only Lori Stanick, the runner-up to Muzbeck in all-around, is a senior. Jamie Neiman, who placed fourth, is a freshman.

The outstate teams have ruled the state championship since 1981. In 1981, North Farmington won the team title, but since then, it's been East Kentwood, Freeland, Grand Rapids West Catholic and Freeland again.

Trivia: In the last 14 years, only three gymnasts have won the all-around title more than once. Muzbeck is one, who are the other two?

Best looking uniforms at the meet have to go to Dearborn High School. The team discarded its orange and black leotards for a more attractive red, white and blue uniform. Shades of Mary Lou and the girls.

Best looking team at the meet? No question, Troy High.

Trivia Answer: Jodi Thompson of East Kentwood (1980-1982) and Troy Athens coach Lori Boes, who won all-around titles for Troy High in 1974 and 1977. You're excused if you forgot Boes' accomplishments. That was ages ago!

With such competitors as Bonnie Boagiano, Suzanne Enclou, Laura Sienkiewicz, Lana Horowitz, Ta Scala and Lori Stanick on hand during St. Patrick's Weekend, it certainly was a

great day for the Irish. Thankfully, North Farmington's Eileen Murtaugh was there!

I liked the order of competition. Troy followed Barrie Muzbeck. A tough act to follow, but at least the Colts had a captive audience.

Praise has to go to Troy's Sandy Smith and Clem Kolesar — the meet managers — and everyone who played a role in running the event. All went smoothly and ahead of schedule. Hope you have it again next year.

## gymnastics

### MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Team Results: 1. Freeland 138.25; 2. Holland 138.00; 3. Traverse City 137.00; 4. East Kentwood 136.50; 5. Troy 134.85; 6. Ann Arbor Pioneer 131.00; 7. Farmington County Western 130.00; 8. Dearborn 124.95.

All-Around: 1. Barrie Muzbeck (Walled Lake Western), 39.05; 2. Lori Stanick (Freeland), 37.60; 3. Bonnie Boagiano (East Kentwood), 36.55; 4. Jamie Neiman (Freeland), 36.35; 5. Ta Scala (Traverse City), 35.60; 6. Kathy Heary (G.R. West Catholic), 35.55; 7. Jeni Hascott (Holland), 35.50; 8. Karen Howe (Traverse City), 35.35; 9. Gail Cantwira (Holland), 35.20; 10. Lana Horowitz (Southfield-Lathrup), 35.10; 11. Jackie Kien (G.R. Kenowa Hills), 34.80; 12. Suzanne Enclou (Troy), 34.85; 13. Lisa Rotondo (Rochester), 34.55; 14. Toni Ferguson (Jackson County Western), 34.15; 15. Mary Kay Meyer (Same), 34.05; 16. Michele Sina (Troy) and Kathleen Burton (St. Clair Shore Lakeside), 33.75; 18. Michelle Lauther (Traverse City), 33.70; 19. Katie Dahn (Saginaw), 33.60; 20. Amy Furde (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 33.60.

### FRIDAY RESULTS

Vault: 1. Jamie Neiman (Freeland), 9.65; 2. Lori Stanick (Freeland), 9.5; 3. Suzanne Enclou (Holland), 9.4; 4. Ta Scala (Traverse City), 9.35; 5. Barrie Muzbeck (W.L. Western), 9.35; 6. Suzanne Enclou (Troy), 9.25; 7. Jeni Hascott (Holland), 9.2; 8. Gail Cantwira (Holland), 9.05; 9. Karen Howe (Traverse City), 9.0; 10. Kathy Heary (G.R. West Catholic) and Andrea Veara (Holland), 8.95; 12. Jackie Kien (Kenowa Hills), 8.9; 13. Michele Sina (Troy) and Lisa Rotondo (Rochester), 8.8; 15. JA Garrison (East Kentwood), 8.7.

Beam: 1. Barrie Muzbeck (W.L. Western), 9.65; 2. Lori Stanick (Freeland), 9.35; 3. Jeni Hascott (Holland), 9.30; 4. Lana Horowitz (Lathrup), 9.25; 5. Bonnie Boagiano (East Kentwood), 9.15; 6. Kathy Heary (West Catholic), 9.05; 7. Jamie Neiman (Freeland) and Ta Scala (Traverse City), 9.0; 9. Lisa Rotondo (Rochester), 8.9; 10. Suzanne Enclou (Troy), 8.85; 11. Karen Howe (Traverse City) and Paula Smith (Pioneer), 8.8; 13. Jackie Kien (Kenowa Hills), 8.7; 14. Amy Furde (Pioneer) and Laura DeGood (Rockford), 8.75.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Barrie Muzbeck, as expected, dominated the state Class A gymnastics meet last Saturday at Troy High School. The Walled Lake Western senior won three individual events and all-around honors.

# Moshimer's legend grows

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

HIS VOICE is gruff and will amplify at the slightest irritation. He has a mean, intimidating look about him, especially during football season. He stalks the sidelines during a game like an impatient father, barking a steady stream of instructions to both his players on the field and coaches in the press box. He's been known to rip his headphones off his head and toss them disgustedly to the ground. He has given some of the most frighteningly unprintable on-field lectures ever heard.

Tom Moshimer is every bit the hard-nosed, tyrannical football coach his image suggests. He not only earns the respect from his players and coaches, damn it, he commands it.

But there's another side to the ultra-successful Plymouth Salem football coach. Behind the crusty exterior is a deep-seated passion. Moshimer won't often show this side, but it's what separates him from the million other hard-nosed, tyrannical football coaches.

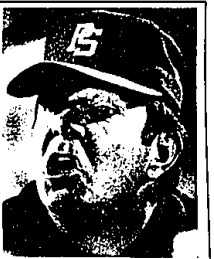
Moshimer's passion can be seen only in glimpses. You can sometimes catch a hint of it through his eyes when he reminisces about some of the young men he's coached.

"YOU KNOW, it's tough when you start mentioning names because you're always bound to leave somebody out. But I've worked with some great kids," Moshimer said. It's at this point his eyes take on a more glassy look.

"Players like Rich Hewlett, both Scott Agnew, Ron Egloff, Steve Robb, Jeff Horton, Bob Thornbladh, Bob Clayton, Charlie Wolff, Greg LaMarand, Jimmy Anderson, Stan Snider, Bob Dasher,

TOM MOSHIMER  
Coach at a glance

Coaching years: 26  
Teams: Michigan State University (grad assistant, 1960-1962), Dundee High School (1963-1964), Plymouth High and Plymouth Salem (1967-present)  
Record: 143-77-6, six league championships and a state championship  
Career highlights: Winning 35 consecutive games over a four-year stretch at Dundee in 1974 state championship, 3-0 record, defeating Farmington Harrison for title  
1973, league championship, 7-2 record, offensive and defensive line averaged just 167 pounds  
1977, 9-0 league championship  
1983, 8-1 season with a team expected to finish near basement of league  
1985, inducted into the Michigan State High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Ann Arbor.



Doug Ward, Dan Ross, Doug Tripp, and Doug Ward this last group, Scott Jurek, Marc Tindall, Craig Morison. . .

"You know, any success we may have had is in seeing these kids develop throughout life. To see these kids go on and do well — and I'm not just talking about football — to see them go on and succeed in anything they do in life is what this is all about," he said.

Tom Moshimer has won 143 football games, six league championships and a state championship in his 26 years of coaching. His football programs, first Plymouth High School then Plymouth Salem, are among the most respected in the state of Michigan.

ON MONDAY, Moshimer will reap perhaps the highest tribute bestowed on a high school coach in this state. He, along with 29 others, will be inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Ann Arbor.

"This is really a great honor,"

Moshimer said. "I know this is very cliché, but it's a great honor because it comes from all the people you compete with and against — you're being honored by your peers," he said.

The honor also serves as a morale boost to the veteran coach. Last season was perhaps the toughest of his career.

The Plymouth-Canton school district administration had taken away seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade football programs (the ninth-grade program was reinstated last year). Moshimer came to spring camp with just 30-some football players, most of whom were playing organized ball for the first time. As a result, Salem suffered through a 3-6 season, only the third losing season of Moshimer's career and his worst since 1967.

"You know what depresses me the most about the current situation here," Moshimer said. "Either because of random selection or the loss of the middle school athletic program, or both, we're

losing a large number of good athletes to private schools. Not only are these good athletes, but these are the kids who become the leaders in our program. And that, more than anything, bothers me."

BECAUSE of those concerns, Moshimer almost retired before last season. But the combined efforts of athletic director John Sandmann and his assistant Paul Cummings persuaded Moshimer to stick around.

"When I started in coaching, I set two goals for myself," said Moshimer. "I wanted to coach for 25 years, and I wanted to produce a solid Class A program. I think I have accomplished that. I don't really know where I'll go from here. I'm on a year-to-year basis at Salem. I know this, I would hate to go out with 3-6 teams after all the great years we've had here. I don't want to go out with anything that would tarnish what we've accomplished."

What Moshimer has accomplished at Salem is near legendary: the great players, the unbeaten offense, the championships. It isn't likely that any number of losing seasons could tarnish Moshimer's legend.

Still, it would be rather storybook for Moshimer to retire after an undefeated state championship season.

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