

LONGHORN

GYMNASTICS

75-76

LONGHORN

THE
UNIVERSITY
of
TEXAS
✿
AUSTIN



GYMNASTS



HISTORY OF GYMNASTICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Gymnastics seems to be a new sport around the United States and here at the University of Texas, but it really is not. L. Theo Bellmont was a Turner (German style gymnastic club) and started having some type of gymnastics at U.T. in 1913.

After World War I, Colonel Eckdole of the Swedish Gymnastic Academy had Mr. Wiley and Mr. Kitrell teaching gymnastics in some of the physical education classes at U.T. In 1936 Bill Crenshaw, a former Dallas YMCA tumbler and acrobat, came to the University as a student. When he was a sophomore he started teaching classes and started an exhibition club which put on half time shows at basketball and football games and in 1939 they put on a circus in Gregory Gym.

After World War II, gymnastics became popular as a pretraining for the air corps. Interest grew in the competitive area also and in 1947 Mr. Crenshaw took a team to the NCAA Nationals in Illinois. Darrell Williams placed ninth in Free Exercise and Fred Nelson placed seventh in Rope Climb. About this time, Athletic Director D. X. Bible tried to get Gymnastics in the Southwest Conference but only A&M and Baylor had teams and these three couldn't get it voted into the conference.

U. T. continued to enter AAU competitions and various other meets until about the mid-50's under the leadership of Mr. Crenshaw. He continued to teach physical education gymnastic classes and opened a private club. In 1963 Crenshaw started teaching part time at the University and Jamille Ashmore (a former Olympic gymnast) came to start a competitive team. In 1966 George Vanis followed him and coached the team one year. Ashmore returned in 1967 and stayed one year.

Mr. Jimmy Lee came in 1968 and coached until 1973 when Bill Stern took over for a year and two months. Mr. Stern started putting together a good team. During the period from 1963-74 the team competed in AAU and various other meets around the state.

Between October, 1974, and January, 1975, the team at U.T. was without a coach; faculty members Dr. Ralph Showalter and Dr. Doug Reynolds kept the team alive. Currently Dr. Showalter is assisting with the team.

Larry Allen came to U.T. in January of '75 and has revamped the direction of the team. Starting this year the Longhorns will be competing against NCAA teams including some of the top-rated squads in the U.S. Coach Allen is also starting a "B" team this season.

OUTLOOK FOR THIS YEAR

This will be the first year of full team competition since 1967 and should be the best year ever for a Horn Team. Coach Allen predicts the team will score over 190 this season which would be a school record. The team is composed of predominantly young gymnasts which makes the future even brighter. So, even though this is a building year, it promises to be a great one.

HOW TO JUDGE

Although it usually takes many years to become a qualified judge, you can learn to judge along with the judges by knowing a few basic rules. The score for a gymnast's routine starts at 10.0 and deductions are made for errors. Deduct about .3 each time for bent arms or legs in handstands and other balance or strength positions; up to 1.5 points for not being smooth and not containing the required movement for that event; up to 3.6 points for lack of difficulty (each routine should contain one very difficult trick, five medium difficulty tricks and five relatively easy stunts); .5 for nonplanned stops; 1.0 for falling off an apparatus and they are given thirty seconds to remount.

If two or three judges are used, the score for the routine is the average. If four judges are used, the middle two scores are averaged.

TEXAS

OPPONENT

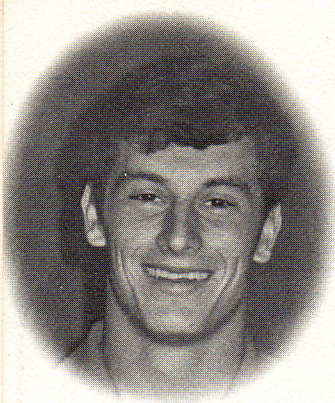
FREE - EXERCISE										s c o r e s				avg.		
							event score running "									
POMMEL HORSE																
ALL - AROUND										f-x	ph	r	v	pb	hb	total

TEAM SCORE

The team score is the total of the top four scores in each event.

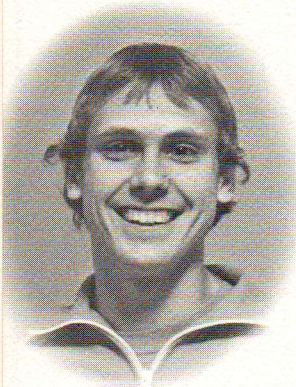
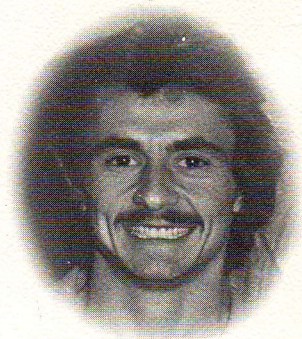
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Meet the Horns



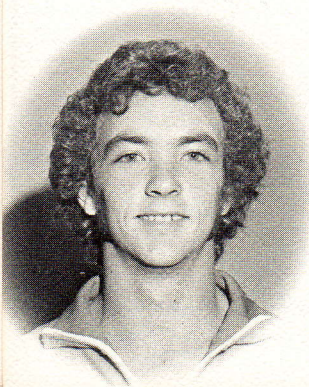
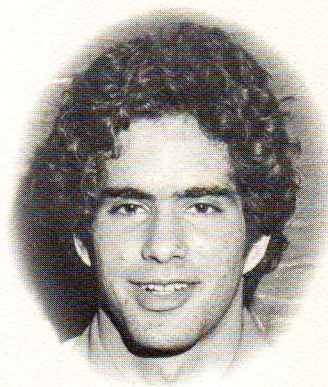
Robin Bradford is a freshman from Austin Anderson with a solid background of gymnastic competition. He will work all-around with his best events being vaulting, parallel bars and still rings. Robin is a 5'9", 150 lb. electrical engineering major.

Rick Church had a great year for the Horns this past year. He will be in the top spot on the rings while also working high bar and vaulting. Rick is a 5'4", 132 lb. senior majoring in electrical engineering. He is a 1972 graduate of Houston Westbury High School.



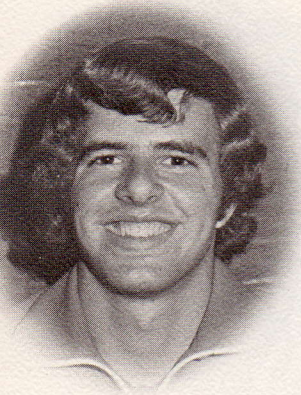
Gary Dowdy is one of the top all-arounders for the Horns, but is waiting out a year after transferring from Brigham Young University. He is a 1974 graduate of Austin Reagan. Gary is a 5'10", 158 lb. electrical engineering major and will see some action this year in open meets.

Mike Freedman is a sophomore pre-med student from Houston's St. John's School. He is a dedicated second year gymnast. Mike is a 5'6", 148 lb. and works still rings, side horse, and free-exercise.



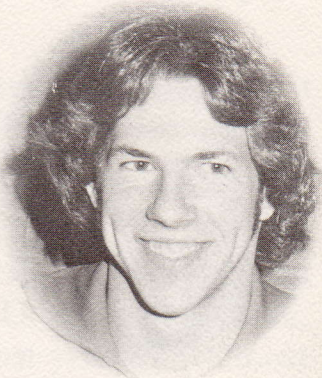
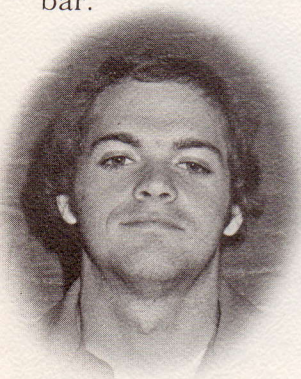
Dick Hancock is a junior transfer from Georgia Southern. He is another Austin graduate from Reagan High School and is an outstanding all-around gymnast. Dick is a 5'8", 130 lb. engineering major who will be in some open meets and exhibitions this year.

Mark Hartwell is another young addition to the Horns this year. He is a freshman from McCallum High School in Austin and is seeing his first year of competition. Mark is 5' 6" tall, weighs 140 lb. and is studying pre-veterinary medicine. He will work free-x and rings.



Mike Jutras comes to U.T. from Euless Trinity High School where he suffered an injury his senior year but is recuperating rapidly and will add to the Horn's success. He is a 5' 9", 150 lb. freshman pharmacy major working free-exercise, side horse, high bar and vaulting.

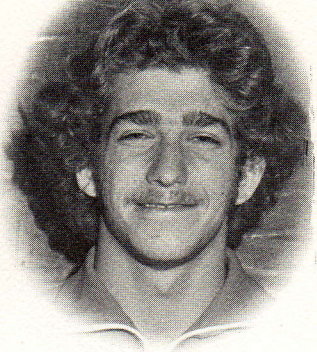
Mike Leva came to U.T. from T. S. Wotton High School in Rockville, Maryland. He is in his second year at the University and is just starting in gymnastics. Mike is a 5' 8", 148 lb. communications major who will work free-exercise and horizontal bar.



Chris Moffitt is a 1974 Austin Reagan graduate in his second season with the Horns. He was an outstanding high school gymnast and will probably be the team's top point-scorer this year. Chris is a 5' 6", 140 lb. petroleum engineering major working all-around.

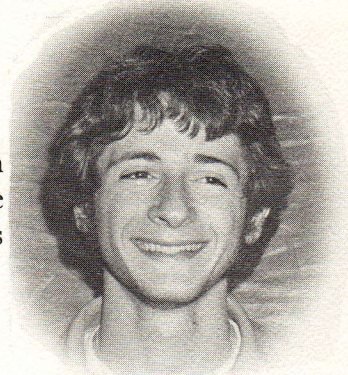
Dave Schnieder is a senior psychology major in his first year of competition. He spent a couple of years training on his own before joining the Horns this past semester. Dave is a 5' 9", 140 lb. ring specialist from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery, Alabama.



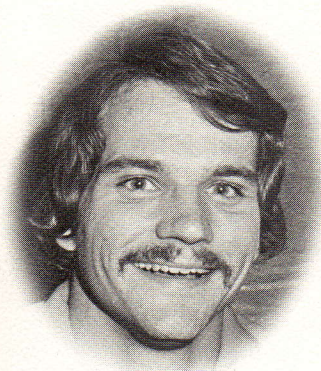


Mark Sherman is a 5' 7", 137 lb. aerospace engineering sophomore interested in becoming a gymnastic coach. He is a graduate of Midwood High School, Brooklyn, New York. Mark is a parallel bar, free-exercise and vaulting specialist.

Bruno Sonsino is a sophomore from Houston Lamar High School and will see his first season of gymnastic competition. He is a 5' 7", 120 lb. government major. Bruno will help the Horns on the side horse this season.



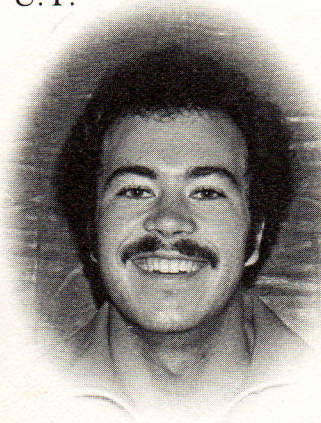
Geoff Stoner is a senior (2 years of competition remaining) from Ridgewood High School in New Jersey. He will work free-exercise, parallel bars, vaulting and rings this season. Geoff is a 5' 9", 158 lb. physical education major who plans to coach gymnastics after graduation.



Mike Wood is another Austin graduate of L.B.J. High School. He is a good all-around prospect for the future and he will compete on the side horse and in vaulting this year. Mike is a 5' 6", 130 lb. business administration major in his freshman year at U.T.



Ken Zawilinski is a senior architectural engineering major who is another self-trained gymnast. He has worked out on his own the past two years and will see competition for the first time this year. Ken is a 5' 10", 158 lb. ring specialist from Roosevelt High School in San Antonio.



OPPONENTS

Odessa College has been the National Junior College Champions the past five years and has beaten many highly regarded NCAA Clubs, so the young Horns will have their hands completely full when they meet Coach Mike Wilson's team on a home-and-home schedule.

Northern Colorado is coached by Toni Rossi who has been leading the gymnasts there for more than twenty years. Almost every year sees one or more of Rossi's team nationally rated and this year looks to be no exception.

Texas A&M is a team in a building process but they are coached by a very optimistic and excited Sam Seidel, who might get them ready to surprise some folks.

Oklahoma has come into prominence in the gymnastic circle in the last couple of years since Coach Paul Ziert has taken over. They will certainly be one of the top teams in the nation this year after a couple of great seasons and some super recruiting.

Houston Baptist University started a gymnastic program only three years ago, but did so under the very capable direction of Dr. Hutch Dvorak. H.B.U. will be a team to reckon with in the future as last year they almost qualified the team while one gymnast qualified for the Nationals and they have all the team returning.

Louisiana State University is one of the top teams in the nation again this year after being runner-up at the nationals this past season. Former Olympian Armondo Vega is their coach and he is doing a great job at L.S.U. Several of the team members are All-American prospects so their meet with the Horns in Austin will give you a chance to see some of the best gymnasts in the nation.

New Mexico Junior College is a perennial power in the junior college circle. Two years in a row they were denied the National Championship by very small margins. They are led by Coach John Pruitt who is doing a good job of rebuilding after a couple average seasons.

SCHEDULE

Date	Meet	Location	Time
Nov. 28, 29	Odessa Invitational	Odessa	1:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	New Mexico Jr. College	Austin (Bellmont 546)	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Houston Baptist University	Austin* (Gregory Gym)	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	Texas A&M University	Austin* (Gregory Gym)	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Louisiana State University	Austin (Austin High School Gym)	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	New Mexico Jr. College	Hobbs, N.M.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Odessa Junior College	Odessa	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Odessa & Northern Col.	Austin* (Gregory Gym)	7:30 p.m.
March 3	Oklahoma University	Ft. Worth	7:30 p.m.
March 5, 6	Houston Baptist University	Houston	7:00 p.m.
March 19, 20	Western NCAA Qualifying Meet	San Jose, Cal.	6:00, 1:00
April 1-3	NCAA National Champ.	Philadelphia-Temple	

* Free-exercise will be run approximately 45 minutes earlier in Bellmont 546.