

Devils win gym crown

by: Kurt Scharfe

It was noon, March 16th, when Hinsdale Central's twelve state qualifiers and their coaches entered Prospect High School's gym. And to the surprise of those who thought HT was not Illinois' finest gymnastics team, Steve Shephard and Doug Wood held high the first place team trophy on March 17th when it was all over.

A week before, HT romped in the sectional at Downers Grove South, getting 103.53 points. York pulled up in second with 80 points.

The state meet is truly a one shot deal. The team able to persevere past its mistakes is the winner. In 1973 that team is Hinsdale Central, scoring 120 points, just ten ahead of Elk Grove's team score.

Pat Gunning was the first gymnast to perform on the night of the finals. Under such pressure Pat gave an indication of what was to come for HT with a fine 8.5, taking 7th place and getting 14 points. A few minutes later came Shephard. With the consistent

form he has shown all season, Shep hit with an 8.65 score, good for fourth place in state, and earning HT a vitally important 17 points. Added to the 23 points earned by Tom Corrigan, Gunning (as All-Around), Bob Brockman, and Tony Hanson during the Prelims the previous night, HT led Hersey 54 to 53.

Chuck Walters was obviously happy after he finished his sidehorse routine, and with good reason. His 8.9 score was second to Bob Siemianowski's 9.0 for Elk Grove. Suffering from a break in continuity, Curt Rodgers scored 8.25, taking 6th place. At this time HT vaulted to a 21-point lead over Hersey.

Elk Grove, HT, and Hersey (including Joe Shepherd) all failed to place anyone on the high bar in the finals. After the trampoline event was over, Hersey took the lead with 97 points. Little did the fans know that would be all the Huskies would get. Elk Grove got most of their points, 46, from the tramp. Suddenly they had a total of 83.5, just

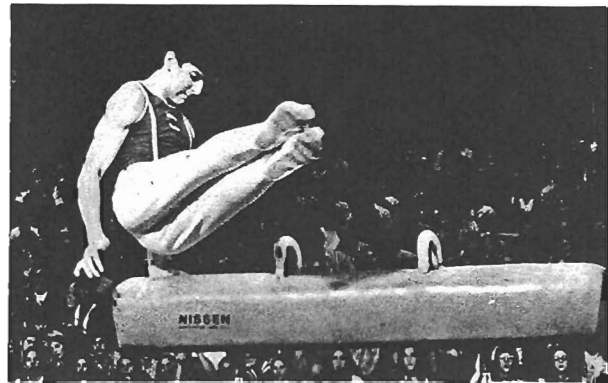
behind HT's 88.

Junior Jim Erwin, with a score of 8.2, earned 13 points for HT on the parallel bars. Freshman Bart Connor from Niles West took 1st place in state at the P-Bars. Connor also was Illinois' second best all-around and he captured No. 2 at high bar.

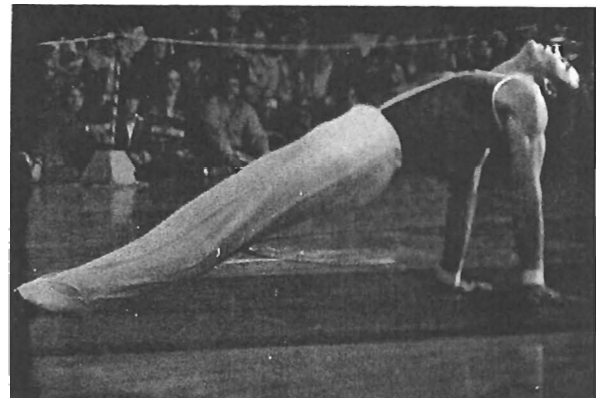
Doug Wood ended his HT career with a 9.0 score, and 2nd place in state, on still rings. Wood has my vote for this year's MVP award.

For Coach Tony Canino it's been a tough but immensely satisfying season. His team was somewhat depleted and had lost a dual meet to Hersey on Feb. 2nd this year. While others were writing HT off, he was still convinced that HT had the best team. Canino was rewarded. HT has taken the state gymnastics title for an unprecedented four straight years.

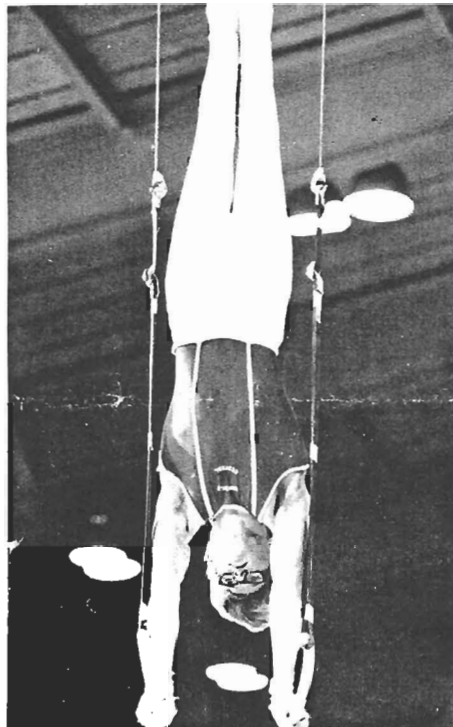
WGN (Channel 9) will show a video tape of the state meet at 3 p.m. on March 24th (tomorrow). And for those who say this year's HT seniors are no good at sports, tell them to watch the meet!



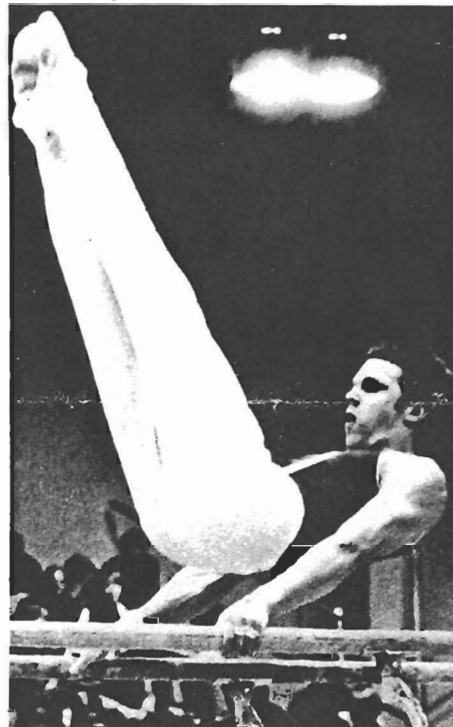
Chuck Walters on sidehorse glides through routine that brought him an 8.9 score and second place in state. photo credit: Dave Harmer



Junior Pat Gunning takes home a seventh place and brings 14 points to his team in free exercise routine. photo credit: Steve Eganmider



Doug Wood on still rings came in second with a



On parallel bars, junior Jim Erwin hit for an



Curt Rodgers, no. 1 sidehorse man all year, had a perfect routine until he sat on the horse later in his routine. photo credit: Dave Harmer