

Devils perform season's best; but Hersey takes state title

by David Beckner

In making a gutsy run at favored Hersey, the Hinsdale Central gymnasts came up short, taking second. Hersey scored a powerful 180.5 to the Devils 167 in what turned out to be a two team duel.

In typical Hinsdale fashion, they took the decision with class amid the strong anti-Hinsdale sentiments. After four successive state titles, not too many people were sorry to see the Devils go down.

Still, it was quite a performance by the underdog Devils. The pressure of being defending champions plus knowing that Hersey had put together the best record in the state did not help, but they responded with some excellent, season-best performances. The experts said this was the year the Devils would get knocked off, but they almost proved the experts wrong.

After prelims the Devils and Hersey were locked in what would turn out to be quite a struggle. Both put through eight men to the finals and the Devils were up 57.5 to 45. Oak Park led at that point with 77 points but only had one remaining qualifier.

Free-ex was where Hersey grabbed the lead. They out gunned the Devils on the strength of third and fifth place finishes and a third member of their free-ex team also finished in the top ten.

Steve Economides, a junior, performed like a veteran to keep the Devils close as did Pat Gunning. Economides hit a high flying set of 8.65 and the night before hit an 8.7 to qualify third. Gunning, who had been excelling all year in this event, continued to do so with an 8.7 to finish fifth. Economides and Gunning fared quite well in an

extremely strongfield of free-ex men.

Inconsistent label aside, Tom Truedson came through with a clutch effort. He hit a scintillating 9.0, a season best. Coach Tony Canino practically carried the lanky red head back to the bench in jubilation. However, the next man up hit a frustrating 9.2 and Hersey's potent sidehorse duo offset Truedson's heroics with some clutch efforts of their own. Truedson wound up in third.

Gunning continued his fine effort with an 8.7 on high bar. Again it was a very strong field of competitors and Gunning's efforts earned him a fifth.

After high bar Hersey owned a commanding 146-120.5 lead and built that up on the trampoline where the Devils did not have a competitor. They put extra pressure on the Devils when their man hit a strong set and the high flying York trampolinists, considered the best trio in the state, had two misses and did not take all the top spots.

Senior standout Jim Erwin, a stoic figure on the strong Devil parallel bars team, hit a clutch 8.8 in taking third. Steve Delcarson placed ninth with an 8.5. Both performances were excellent. Considering that the team effort relied on their effectiveness, they put forth two pressure performances.

Needing a fifth and sixth to win the state title, Devil ring men, Erwin and Gunning, just didn't have the firepower in a tough field. Erwin's 8.5 and Gunning's 8.25 were not enough to surmount the Hersey lead and a new state champ was crowned.

George Howell and John Jacus were the only Devils who did not make it through the prelims but they turned in admirable performances.



That's Jim Erwin and Pat Gunning looking over the hardware as Hinsdale Central coach Tony Canino receives congratulations for second place honors.

Players of the week

Two from Central



Jim Erwin gymnastics

Number one gymnast, Jim Erwin was the chief point getter for the Devils at the state meet where he and his mates took a second. His season's best efforts in all around



Chuck Fritz basketball

Chuck Fritz closed out his three-season varsity career for the Red Devils with a tremendous 30-point performance as the Red Devils lost its regional game to Willowbrook 85

1974 Oak Brook Little League Registration and Tryouts

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: All boys who are residents of Oak Brook and have their parents' consent.

AGES: If you will be seven (7) years old by August 1, 1974, or have not reached your 19th birthday by August 1, 1974, you are eligible to play in Little League.

REGISTRATION: YOU MUST REGISTER TO PLAY!

WHERE: Butler School

WHEN: Saturday, March 16, 1974 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Saturday, March 23, 1974 9 a.m. to 12 noon
[Final Day to Register]

REGISTRATION FEE: A fee of \$15.00 is requested with each application. For two or more boys in the same family, the fee is \$22.50. All