

# Region Four



Region 4 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa.

## ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL STATE MEET

March 12, 13, 1971  
Addison Trail High School

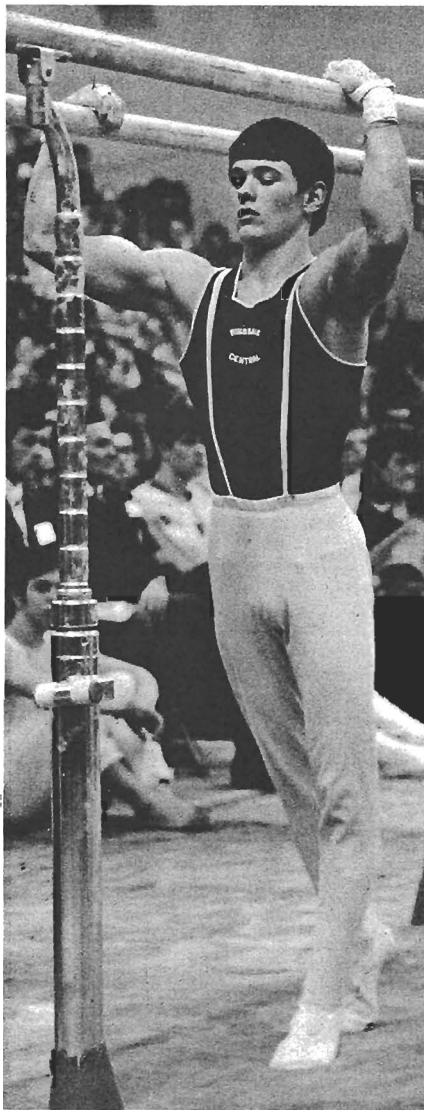
by Pete Wilson

"Please move away from the aisles toward the center of your section of bleachers." These are usually the first words of Frank Hulka who announces each year for the Illinois High School Gymnastics Championships. He generally starts about forty-five minutes before the competition starts, because by then the gymnasium, already has filled nearly to capacity with busloads of students who arrive more than an hour and a half early to stake out large blocks of seats for cheering sections. This year a half hour before meet time more than 3800 people had filled Addison Trail High School's gym expanded capacity by squeezing in, and occupying additional chairs and bleachers provided on the main floor. This meet has become something like a St. Bernard puppy that is rapidly outgrowing its home. The meet's growing pains were partially relieved again this year by W.G.N. television which videotaped the entire finals competition and broadcast the delayed telecast a week later between the semifinal and championship I.H.S.A. basketball games.

This year's meet also had more gymnast's competing and more schools represented than in recent years since the Illinois High School Association inaugurated district and sectional competition to relieve the state meet of overwhelming numbers of gymnasts. There were two reasons for the increase this year. The first is that the all-around has been put on an equal footing with the six individual events and now advances just as many gymnasts from the sectional meets to the state meet preliminary competition. The second reason is the new "at-large" system of qualifying for the state meet. By this system the gymnasts with the best five scores in each event in each of the four sectional meets advance to the state meet. In addition the next twelve best scores from all four sectionals combined also advance to the state meet. The idea behind this innovation was to give a more equal chance to gymnasts who compete in a sectional meet with especially strong competition. The twentieth place scores for each of the events given here show that the new "at-large" system also brings a greater depth of top level gymnasts to the state meet.

FX 7.55	TR 7.00
SH 6.90	PB 7.40
HB 7.55	SR 7.90

With fifty schools represented in the preliminary competition and with forty schools scoring team points by placing gymnasts in the top twenty, the "at-large" system also brought more high schools into the meet. The wider representation without doubt was a factor also in swelling the size of



Bob Anderson, Hinsdale Central H.S.  
Illinois 1st AA

the crowds that came to see all the sessions.

The team champion, Hinsdale Central High School, defending champions from 1970 surprised few people by winning again this year. Coach Tony Canino's varsity squad had scored over 145 points consistently all season. What was a surprise, however, was the ease with which Hinsdale completely outdistanced every other team, scoring 228½ points to walk away from runner-up Hersey High School of Arlington Heights who scored 134 points and third place Evanston with 118½. The Hinsdale team won on its depth and superior execution and almost 100% consistency in hitting routines. They placed 3-4-6 in floor exercise, 1st in side horse, 2-10 in horizontal bar, 1-3-5 in parallel bars, 3-4 in still rings and 1-4 in all-around. In addition, the meet's highest scores were posted by Red Devil gymnast Ted Marcy (SH) with 9.25 and Marty Myers (PB) with 9.05. Marcy, incidentally, is a junior, and along with Bob Darden of Glenbrook South High School, junior champion on the horizontal bar, will be back again next year to defend his title.

If there was a lesson to be learned from this year's meet, it might be that it's becoming more and more difficult to pick a pre-meet favorite in any event. There are so many gymnasts so close in ability in the top ten that probably any of five individuals could be champion. Of sixty-three exercises in the finals, only nineteen scored below 8.30.

The event which showed the greatest improvement in scores this year was the all-around. The tenth place average was 6.50 as compared to 6.10 last year. Bob Anderson's (Hinsdale Central) winning average of 8.40 was the highest ever in Illinois State Meet competition and was nearly a half point higher than last year's winning average of 7.95. In addition to winning the all-around, Anderson was third in floor exercise, second in horizontal bar and third in still rings.

The awarding of the all-around trophies preceding the final competition was made by Dr. Victor Lesch, Athletic Director at Addison Trail High School, who has been associated with running five other state meets and was director of this year's state meet.

Two-and-a-half hours later, after some of the country's finest high school gymnastics competition had been viewed, the following young men had emerged as the Illinois High School Gymnastics Champions:

- Floor Exercise—  
Len Henderson, Waukegan High School (8.95)
- Side Horse—  
Ted Marcy, Hinsdale Central High Sch (9.25)
- Horizontal Bar—  
Bob Darden, Glenbrook South High Sch (8.80)
- Trampoline—  
Bob Jehli, Thornridge High School ... (8.95)
- Parallel Bars—  
Marty Myers, Hinsdale Central High ... (9.05)
- Still Rings—  
Tom O'Donnel, Glenbrook South High (8.95)

Watch for these names in the next few years.

### RESULTS:

Team: Hinsdale Central (HC) 228.5; Hersey (H) 134; Evanston (E) 118.5. AA: Bob Anderson (HC) 41.90; Jeff Farris (H) 39.00; Bill Mason (Oak Park) 38.05. FX: Len Henderson (Waukegan) 8.95; Tom Fogel (E) 8.75; Anderson 8.70. SH: Ted Marcy (HC) 9.25; Jeff McGuire (Arlington) 8.55; Mark Adams (Rich East) 8.30. Tr: Bob Jehli (Thornridge) 8.95; Bill Austin (E) 8.80; Steve Olson (Maine South) 8.55. HB: Bob Darden (Glenbrook South) 8.80; Anderson 8.75; Jim Lutz (Prospect) 8.70. PB: Martin Myers (HC) 9.05; Farris 8.85; Craig Kronenberg (HC) 8.55. R: Tom O'Donnel (GS) 8.95; Jack Malmehall (Elk Grove) 8.90; Anderson 8.65.

### WINNING ROUTINES:

**FX:** Len Henderson, Waukegan H.S.  
Round off, flip flop, double back, back extension roll to stand (straddled), press to straddle legged planche, body wave to split, turn to left and stiff stiff press to handstand, ¼ pirouette, step down, run, handspring, front sommie, head kip, inward turn to handstand, flip flop, piked back to stand, run, round off, flip flop, full to stand. (8.95)

**SH:** Ted Marcy, Hinsdale Central H.S.  
Back moore, circle, side travel to back moore on same pommel, circle, side travel, kehre in, circle, Russian Moore, reverse scissor, regular scissors, two circles, side travel, loop, walkaround, two loops. (9.25)

**HB:** Bob Darden, Glenbrook South H.S.  
Stem to handstand, reverse giant, roll to eagles, hop out to ¾ reverse giant, stall, reach under to mixed grip, vault, underswing ½ turn, kip to two reverse giants, Endo shoot, pirouette, cross arm change, two reverse giants, hecht (straddled). (8.80)

**PB:** Marty Myers, Hinsdale Central H.S.  
Cast to support, straddle cut, swing regular pirouette (straddled) to handstand (straddled), lower to straddled L hold, stiff stiff press to handstand, stutz to handstand, cast to upper arm, straddle cut, layaway, front uprise, swing reverse pirouette, stutz layaway, front uprise, front off. (9.09)