

CHINA - USA

The People's Republic of China Exhibition

By Barbara Thatcher

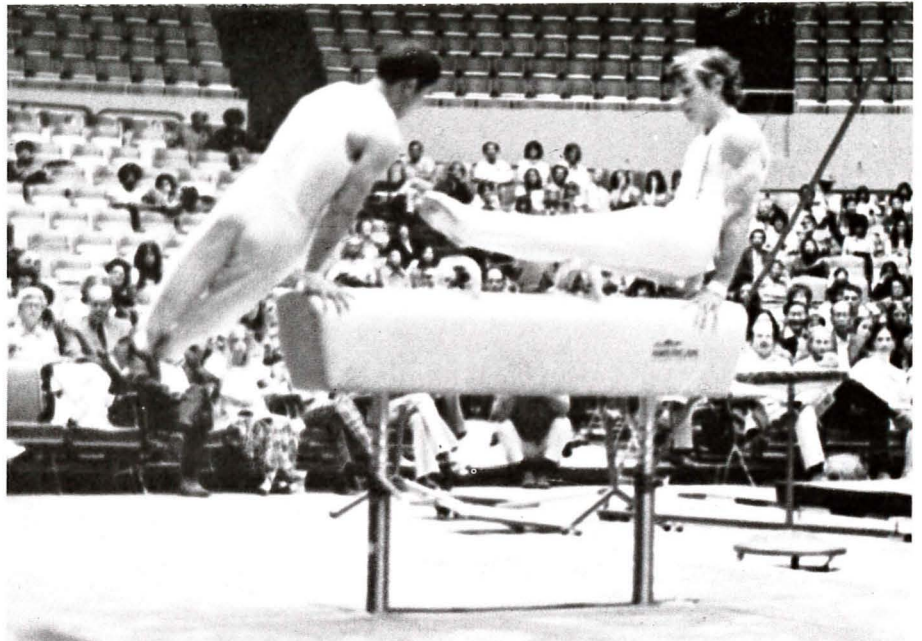
There is a saying among athletes from the People's Republic of China which translated means, "Friendship first; competition second.", and this belief came across very clearly during the Chinese gymnastic exhibition at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on May 31st.

The warmth of their smiles, their obvious enjoyment in merely performing routines and their friendliness towards other performers was in distinct contrast to the often serious and businesslike manner of the Russians or Japanese.

There were several other differences between this exhibition and the one given by the Russian women gymnasts two months before. The audience was much smaller and would have perhaps been even smaller had the Americans not performed and not had in particular, Cathy Rigby Mason and Steve Hug among them. Both gymnasts added a certain amount of glamor to the evening and one of the highlights of the night was Steve Hug's double pommel horse routine with one of the Chinese gymnasts.

The Chinese were good, in fact excellent in several areas notably vaulting for the ladies and parallel bars for the men. However overall the ladies did not seem to have the finesse that the American girls displayed on other events and the Chinese men were as good as the American men but not that much better. The American men's team had many specialists, Ted Marcy on pommel horse, Bob Anderson on Free Ex, and Steve Diggie on rings. All executed nice routines. However, these gymnasts are not yet considered the best in their particular event and so really the only outstanding gymnast for the United States was Steve Hug. He was also the only all-around performer on the squad and none of the Chinese men were specialists. Hug had troubles on the parallel bars and the rest of his routines except for the floor exercise, were close to mediocrity.

Impressive were the Chinese women at vaulting. The ladies executed some nice twisting vaults, quarter on, quarter off, half on, half off, while the American girls threw some nice but bland Yamishitas. Equally impressive though were the American girls on balance beam. Kyle Gaynor of the SCATS had an interesting run which included a split leap followed by two aerial front walkovers to a pose, needle scale and a turn in scale position. Cathy Rigby Mason's routine has been lengthened for exhibition purposes and included a front aerial, back handspring to chest roll, several whip up to handstands and it was nice to see that since her retirement from competition she has not forgotten how to do gymnastics. Of the Chinese women Wang Kuei-ping was perhaps the best on beam. Her routine included nice dance elements and a very fast no hand roll as well as a back handspring and gainer dismount.



Double pommel horse exhibition



Chinese dance routine

The uneven bar routines for both groups included the usual twists, hechts, handstands and attempted handstands on the high bar. Richard Pascale (the "old man" of the American squad) threw two very nice handstand back toss to handstands on the parallel bars and drew much applause from the audience. Chu Te Jui was possibly the best of the Chinese on parallel bars and hit a very solid routine which ended with a full twist dismount.

For both the men and women on each team floor exercise was a strong event. Tumbling elements for the men included several double full twists, double backs, and side flips are definitely "in" this year in floor exercise. For the women the tumbling was not that complicated and the hardest tumbling was round-off, back handspring, back flip, and round-off, back handspring, layout back. Ting

Chao-fang did execute a pleasing round-off back handspring full twist however.

The exhibition ended on the same happy note with which it began. There were songs played from each country and the general spirit which prevailed was one of comradity. Numerous times this season gymnastics has brought together people from different nations who have different philosophies and different lifestyles. Hopefully the apparent harmony that was present between the Chinese and United States gymnasts will extend past the gymnasium and into the larger world. This was the first opportunity the United States has had to see the progress of the Chinese in the sport of gymnastics and hopefully it will not be the last. Perhaps even one day American gymnasts will compete against the Chinese gymnasts in their own country.





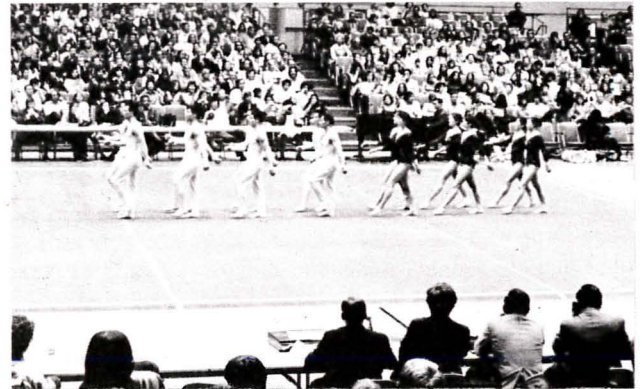
Mr. Lu, Chinese Deputy Leader presents Mr. Les Sasvary, with a gift and banner. Photos by Frank Endo



Mr. Kong, Chinese team leader with Frank Bare.



Liao Jun-tien



Chinese march into exhibition



Chinese delegates with Frank Cumiskey

Photos by Glenn Sundby



Gordon Maddox and Jim McKay

CHINA U.S.A.

Madison Square Garden

By Frank Cumiskey

Much has been written concerning all the foreign teams that the USGF had as guests this year. The tours by the Hungarians, Romanians, French, Japanese High School boys, Russian girls and the Chinese teams were unqualified successes. These teams covered the length and breadth of our land.

The official matches were all fine matches and the China-USA match at Madison Square Garden, which was an unofficial match, was very interesting.

The match was judged by two officials and only one score was flashed. Jackie Fie and Sharon Valley judged the women's match and the American girls won each event to win the match by 2.50 points.

The men's match was also judged by two men, Frank Cumiskey and Andre Simard of Canada. The match was very exciting and the teams were tied going into the last event, the horizontal bar.

Gary Morava, the last man to compete needed a 9.20 to tie the competition. Gary, many times has scored higher than 9.20 but as he stooped through to his dislocate giants, he got behind on his circle forward and shot very low and suffered a bad break and scored an 8.60 which cost the USA team the match.

Naturally the last man up has the score that is looked at for the loss. However Marshall Avener also broke on the high bar and received an 8.70 and he also is capable of a 9.40 and there were other spots.

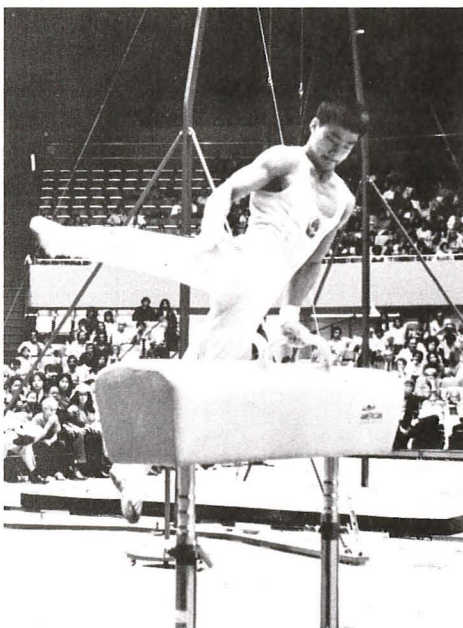
All in all it was a good competition and the Chinese men had some fine movements. A whippet on the rings with a continuing forward roll to handstand. From an upper arm hang on the parallel bars, back uprise handstand to immediate hop pirouette. ● ●



Tsai-Huan-tsung



Bob Anderson



Tsai-Huan-tsung



Richard Klingerman

RESULTS OF ALL AROUND COMPETITION PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA vs. U.S.A. AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK, N.Y. MONDAY, MAY 21, 1973

P.R. CHINA	FX	PH	R	V	PB	HB	Total
1. Yang Ming-Ming	8.80	9.40	9.40	8.60	9.30	9.46	54.90
3. Tsai Huan-Tsung	9.00	9.20	9.20	9.40	9.40	8.30	54.50
6. Yai Chu Sheng	9.00	9.10	8.70	9.20	8.60	9.20	53.80
8. Yin Hsi Nan	8.90	8.50	8.50	9.10	8.00	9.30	52.30
China team score	26.90	27.70	27.30	27.70	27.30	27.90	164.80
U.S.A.	FX	PH	R	V	PB	HB	Total
2. Marshall Avener	8.70	9.50	9.30	9.30	9.20	8.70	54.70
3. James Ivcek	8.70	8.60	9.60	9.00	9.30	9.30	54.50
7. Gary Morava	9.30	8.50	8.90	9.20	9.20	8.60	53.70
7. James Culhane	8.60	9.10	8.80	8.90	9.00	9.30	53.70
USA Team Score	26.60	27.20	27.80	27.50	27.70	27.30	164.20

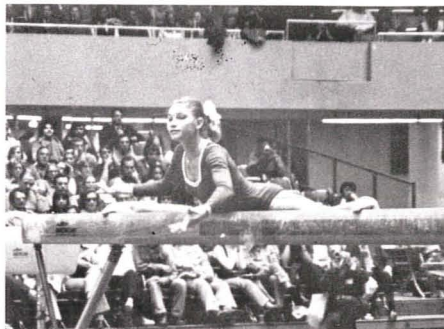
P.R. CHINA	V	UPB	B	FX	Total
3. Chiang Shao-Yi	9.30	9.25	9.30	9.20	37.05
5. Ting Chao-Fang	9.10	8.70	9.00	9.20	36.00
6. Liu Chin-Lin	8.50	9.30	9.00	8.90	35.70
8. Tang Chi-Chich	8.80	9.05	8.70	8.65	35.20
Team Total	27.20	27.60	27.30	27.30	109.40
U.S.A.	V	UPB	B	FX	Total
1. Janette Anderson	9.30	9.50	9.40	9.30	37.50
2. Debbie Fike	9.35	9.40	9.45	9.00	37.20
4. Diane Dunbar	9.60	9.35	8.70	9.10	36.75
7. Nancy Thies	9.45	8.00	8.80	9.20	35.45
Team Total	28.40	28.25	27.65	27.60	111.90



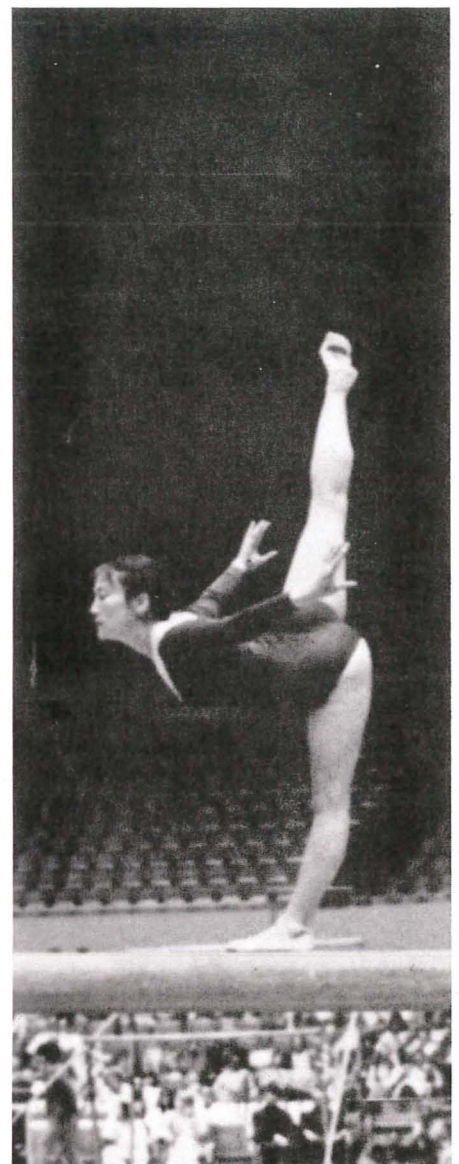
Tsai-Huan-tsung



Cathy Rigby Mason



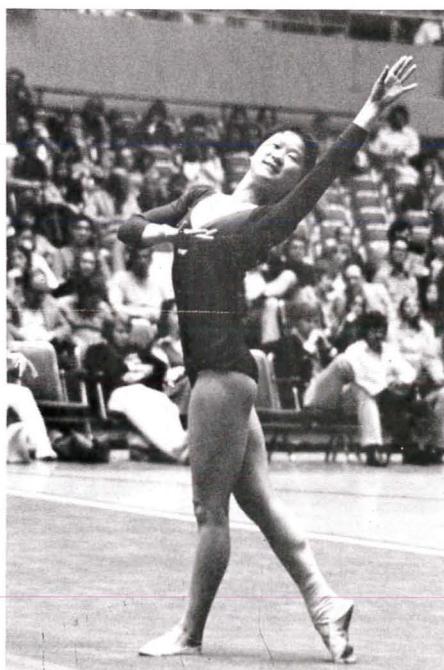
Debbie Fike



Tang Chi-chieh



Frank Bare and Glenn Sundby, two people who helped make the Chinese Tour possible. The photos on these two pages were taken at the exhibition in Los Angeles.



Ting Chao-fang

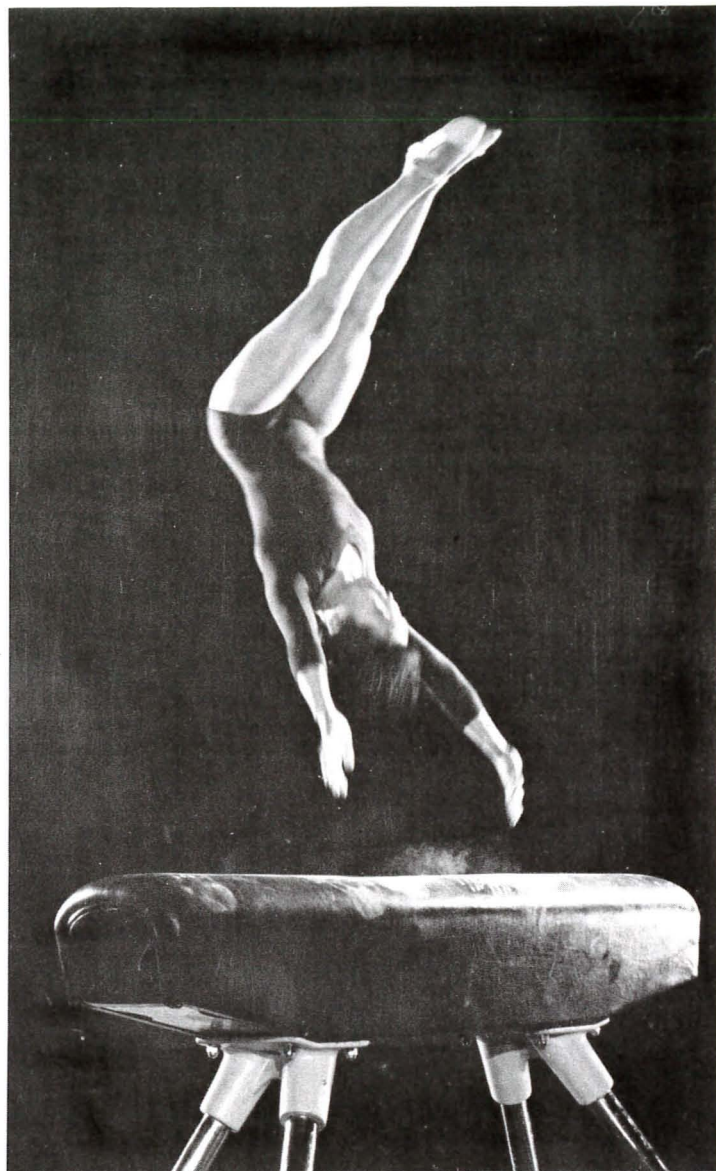


Ting Chao-fang



Photo submitted by Mr. Wang Chia-tung

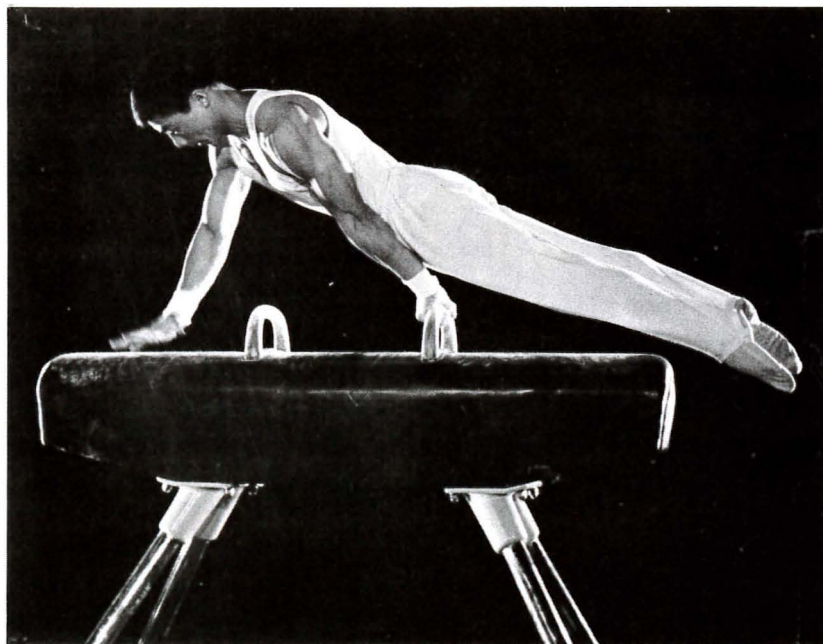
Chiang Shao-yi on balance beam



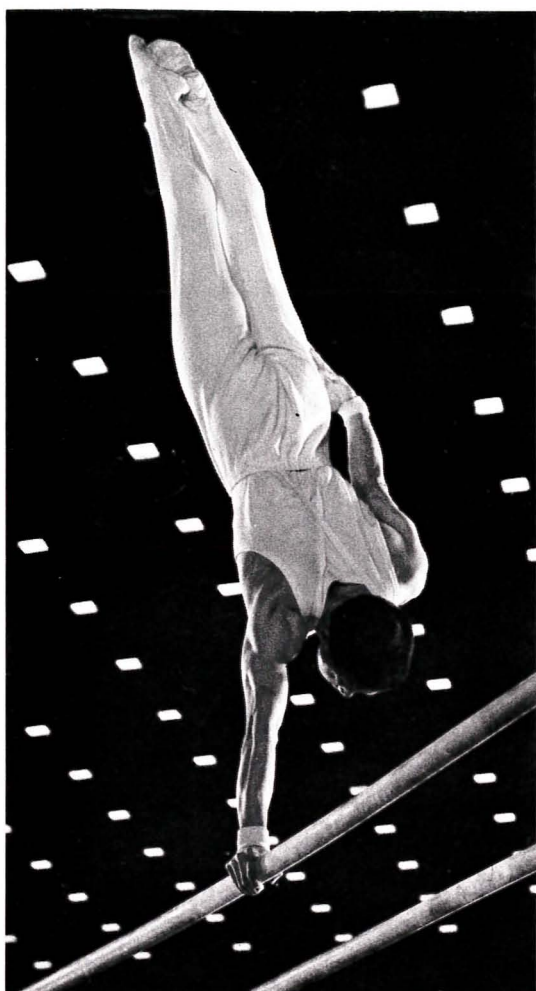
Ting Chao-fang vaulting



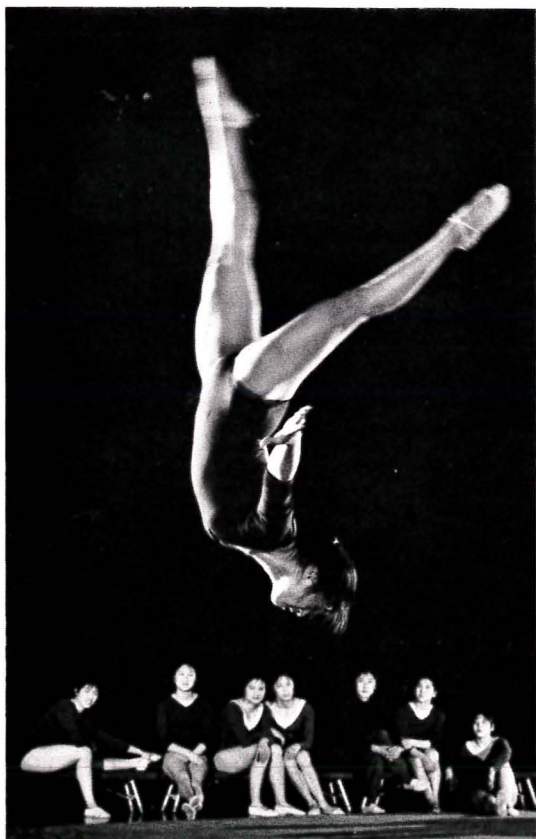
Ning Hsiao-Lin on floor exercise



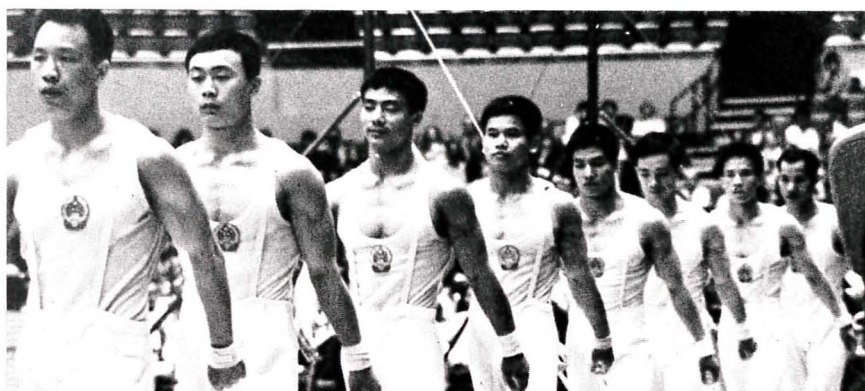
Yang Ming-Mzng on pommel horse



Yin Hsi-Nan on parallel bars



Ting Chao-fang on floor exercise



NEW POWER HOUSE?

By Ed Gunney

A quick review of the Sept.—Oct. 1962 edition of the MG (it is in front of you—of course it is) reveals an interesting fact. Red China, in its competitive debut, defeated that strong Italian team with Carminucci and Menichelli to take fourth place. The teams defeating rookie China were Japan, USSR and Czechoslovakia. YuLieh—feng even placed 15th in the all—around compared to Carminucci's 18th and Tonny's 21st.

It has taken 11 years to hear again from Chinese gymnasts. According to a theory of mine, the gymnastic scene may be greeting a new powerhouse.

Under the assumption of anatomical geometric similarity between two gymnasts of different heights, certain conclusions can be reached about the suitability of each for gymnastics. First, if each athlete's physiological capacities are identically developed, we should expect each gymnast to be equally strong in proportion to his body. However, this is not so.

Muscle tissue contracts with a strength directly proportional to the cross-sectional area of the contracting muscle. Thus the difference in size between our two gymnasts would seem to dictate that although our taller gymnast may be heavier, the increment in his linear dimensions (meaning longer levers of the body's appendages, the origins and insertions of the tendons) should also compensate for the increased weight as his strength increases with the second power of this linear increase (area is related to the second power of linear dimensions). WRONG AGAIN. Weight is related to volume which increases to the third power of the linear increment.

From this we see that, between two athletes equally trained and with identical somatotypes (body builds), the taller would be at a disadvantage by having a smaller strength/body weight ratio than the shorter gymnast.

Second, the taller gymnast has a center of gravity necessarily higher off the ground than the shorter gymnast. When in a handstand on the rings, the taller gymnast's pendulum vibration will be faster as his center of gravity is closer to the fulcrum. This means the taller gymnast must display a greater amount of preciseness in timing in order to achieve the same results because, for the taller gymnast, the same timing deviation results in a greater number of degrees of being "off" in relation to creating or dampening ring swing.

Third, the taller gymnast requires proportionally greater areas to run in during free exercise. A six foot gymnast needs 20 feet more area than a five foot gymnast (all else being equal) in order to achieve proportional results from a three step run.

The tall gymnast also consumes a greater area of the high bar and parallel bars when he pirouettes, leaving him less room in the direction of the turn with which to further work and be creative in. This disadvantage is further magnified when it is recognized that the taller gymnast must also work with a greater degree of uneven spring from the bar as he is necessarily required to work closer to the uprights.

Fourth, the thickness of the high bar and the rings is uniform. The six foot gymnast weighing 150 lbs cannot even work out as long as the 100 pound five foot gymnast because though he weighs 50% more, his hands are not 50% wider and therefore he has a much greater pressure/square inch on his hands. The taller gymnast is thus more susceptible to blisters.

Often we hear that the taller gymnast looks better than the shorter. This is not necessarily true. If we have stipulated that the tall and short gymnast have identical somatotypes, their linearity and proportionality are the same. The mesomorphic ectomorph (a muscular, slender build) in Japan will be as aesthetically pleasing as a taller Dave Thor or Jack Beckner. But our gymnast from Japan will have a much greater degree of strength per body size and consequently will not need to exercise his timing as precisely as his taller counterpart in order to attain the same results. He also will "look" as tall and aesthetically pleasing—all else being equal.

Couple these principles with laws of statistics and one could predict that Japan, a nation where the population is not typically tall, should produce greater numbers of greater gymnasts per million people. However, there is a country with an even greater number of small people. This greater sample predicates that the larger country, China, could be a likely country to defeat the gymnastic dynasty of Japan.

I firmly believe that China, probably soon to be entering international competitions in all sports, will replace Russia as the second place gymnastic power and may eventually overtake Japan.