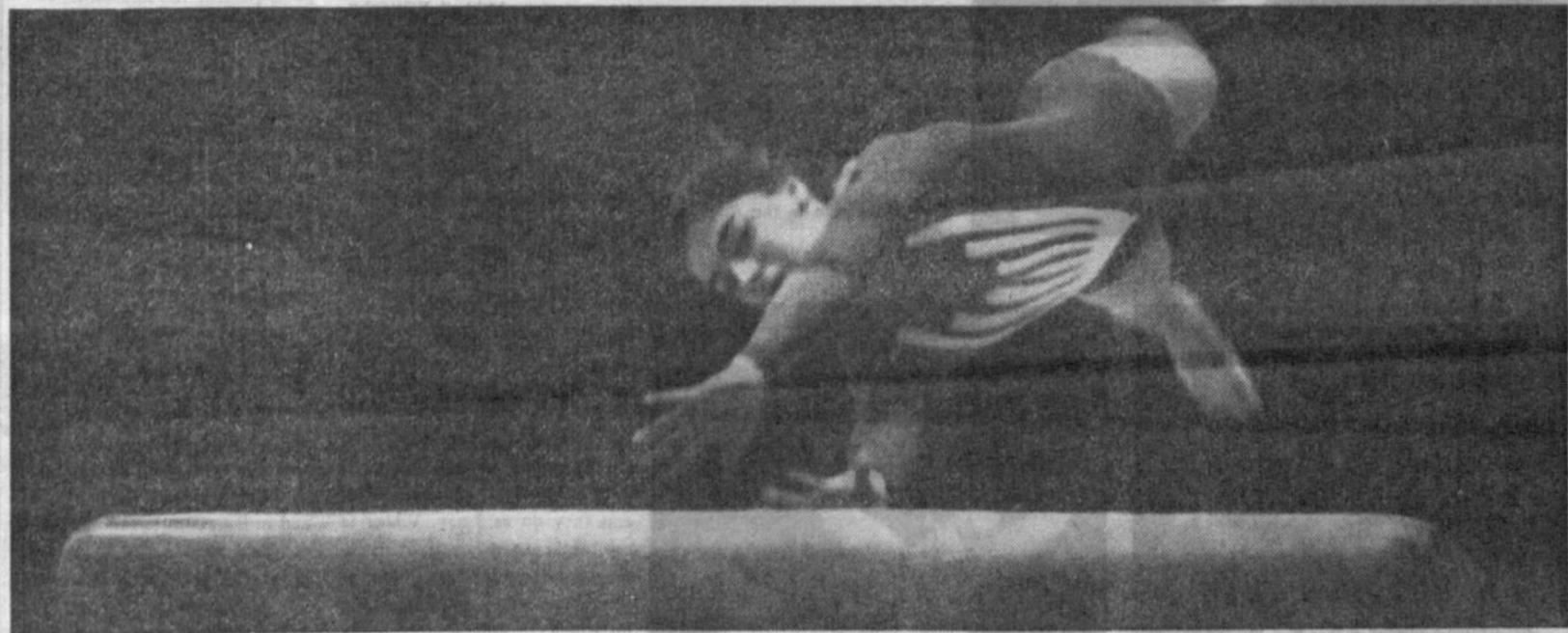
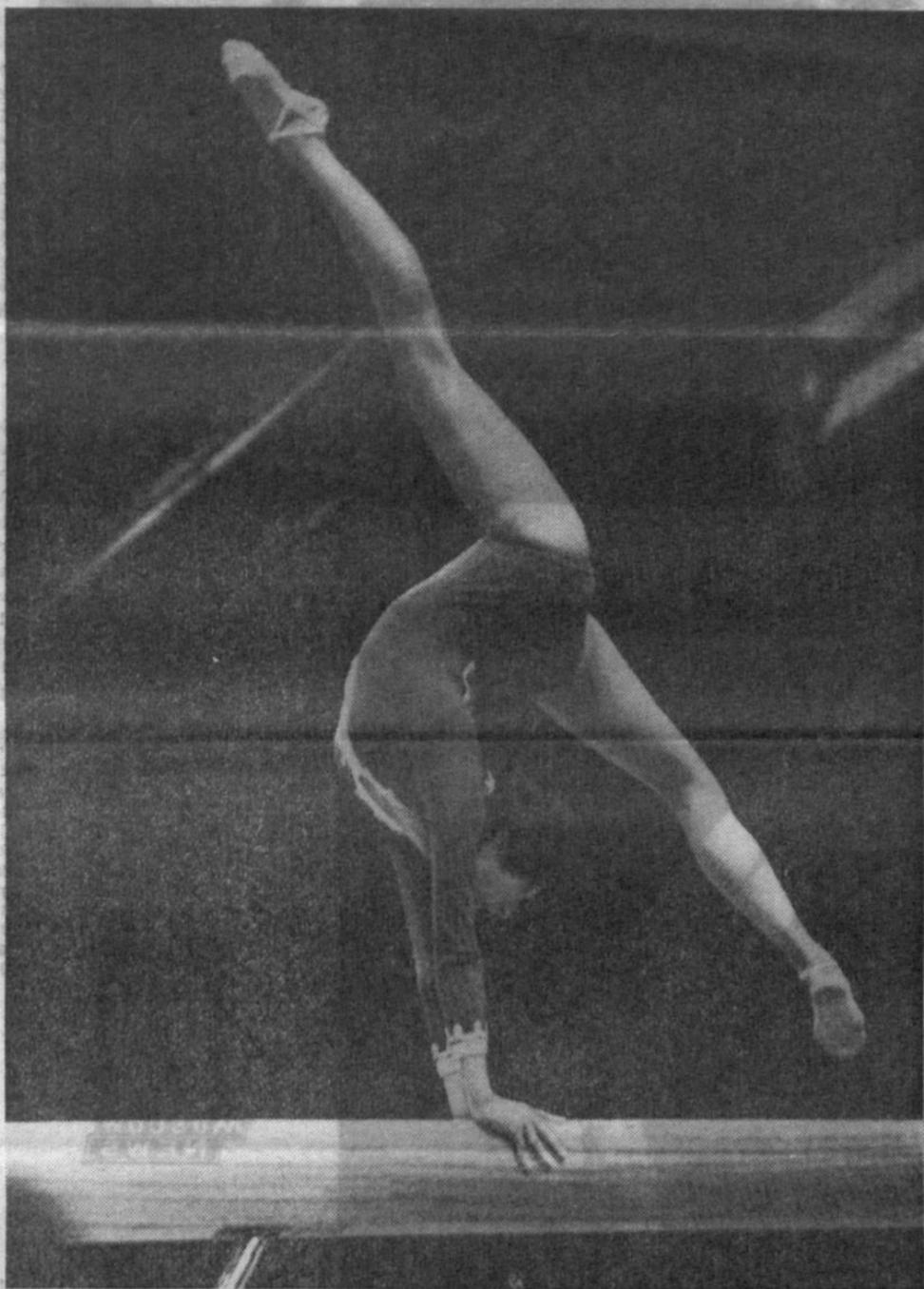


A WORD BY
Moscow NEWS

SUPPLEMENT to issue No. 13 (1212), 1974

16,000 MUSCOVITES, WHO CAME TO THE PALACE OF SPORTS, AND MILLIONS OF TV VIEWERS WITNESSED A COLOURFUL FESTIVAL—THE INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS COMPETITION FOR THE "MOSCOW NEWS" PRIZE. TODAY, DEAR READERS, READ ALL ABOUT THIS TOURNAMENT IN OUR SUPPLEMENT.



WINNERS IN THE COMPETITION FOR THE "MOSCOW NEWS" PRIZE IN THE FINALS FOR SEPARATE EVENTS:
EIZO KENMOTSU (Japan) on the horizontal bar (top left); ELVIRA SAADI (USSR) on the beam (top right); and RODICA SIBAU (Rumania) at the vault.

A WORD BY

After the competition ended our correspondents asked the winners of the First International Gymnastics Competition for the "Moscow News" prize, to say a few words about themselves.

The 25-year-old Muscovite **Viktor KLIMENKO**, of the Central Army Sports Club, has a long string of titles to his credit. He is an Olympic champion, and twice European overall champion. It is scarcely a secret that numbers of people thought he'd win the Moscow News prize. True, they realized that it wouldn't be a walkover. Vying against him were his no less famous rivals—E. Kenmotsu, silver overall medallist at the Munich Olympics, and Olympic champions M. Tsukahara and K. Kōste (GDR). Nevertheless, Klimenko proved his worth once again, and scored a convincing victory.

"At the end of May," Viktor said, "after the European championships all our plans were compiled with an eye to Varna. This involved, first of all, infusing the programmes with complex elements, which means also evolving new dismounts, and performing them well. I had fallen a little behind the other gymnasts as regards the former, but now I feel on a par with them.

"Naturally, it was a great pleasure to perform in the capital. I'm a Muscovite myself and, of course, it's much easier to compete at home. Unfortunately, we have not been spoiled by many international meetings here in Moscow. The newspaper's initiative in shouldering the tremendous burden of running a tournament on such a grand scale, deserves all possible praise. I should like to avail

myself of this opportunity to thank the organizers most sincerely, all the more since I'll always have this memento of the competition." (He had the winner's platter in mind.)

What goal did you set yourself at this tournament?

"To perform evenly and without errors. One cannot relax a moment when the Japanese are about. If I decide to take part, then I must do so really with all my strength, spare no efforts, and go all out to win. I believe I managed to do that, even though my routines for the three of the pieces are absolutely new. They are new to me, of course, but not in gymnastics in general. However, I'm no advocate of demonstrating unfinished elements at competitions. No matter how original an idea may be, it looks poor if the performance is crude, for it lacks zip."

What are you taking with you to the world championship, and what about your mates in the USSR team?

"The season is only just beginning. This tournament is the first in the series of international and internal matches before the world championship. Of course, we all, myself included, shall take the highest hopes and our best work with us to Varna, and shall try to win there. But, though I'm not superstitious, I'd like to refrain from making forecasts. I would rather wait six months and see what happens. Let's hope this successful start will lead to a victorious finish."

...AND BY

Is it hard to be a coach? They say it is an impossibly difficult job. But then **Mikhail Klimenko**, elder brother and coach of Viktor Klimenko, the winner in the overall event, should know better.

"I'm simply at a loss for words to describe what a great burden coaches carry. However, blood is thicker than water, so Viktor is for me a brother, first and foremost. That's why I feel so concerned and anxious about him. But don't get the idea that I wrap him up in cotton wool. No, he trains on a par with all my other trainees, but in their case it's enough to pass a word or give an order, and they do as I say. Viktor is my brother, and has an analytical approach of his own to everything. Sometimes questions crop up which it isn't always even possible to decide in the presence of others. So we have to extend our training sessions at home.

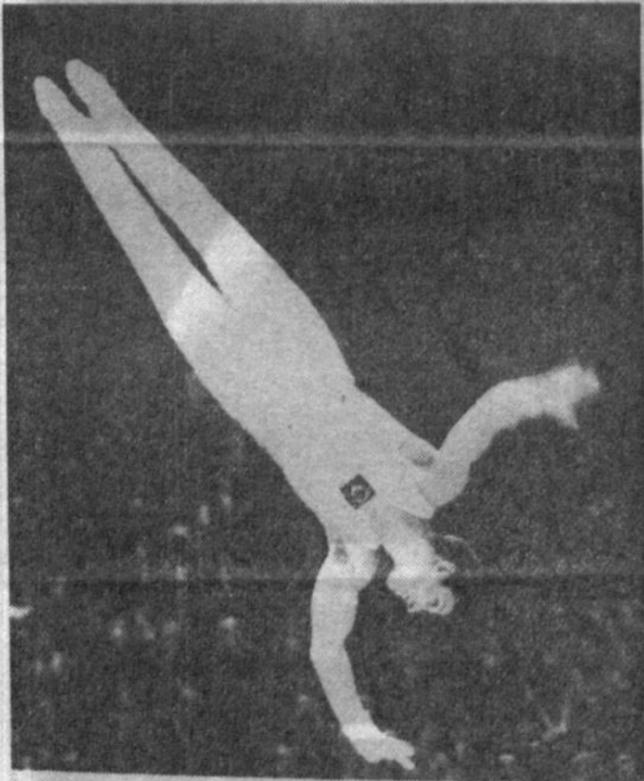
"He must be convinced. If he doesn't believe you, he won't even go near the apparatus, and no amount of prestige is of any avail.

"I'm six years older than he. In childhood this is a tangible gap, allowing the older brother to lord it over the younger. But since we are now 25 and 31 respectively, then either of us could be the commander, and age no longer gives one any privilege at this stage.

"He loves gymnastics in his own special way. It is the same with science—you see, he's a postgraduate student at a teachers' training institute. We have now rejuvenated the programme in the floor exercises, long horse and in the rings, introducing new complex somersaults and pirouettes. Others already do what Viktor is demonstrating now. But how he demonstrates it! He has not only caught up with the pioneers in this, but has left them behind. Therein lies his force."



● Viktor Klimenko being presented the prize by Yakov Lomko, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Editor-in-Chief of "Moscow News".



● V. Klimenko won another gold medal for his performance on the parallel bars.



BOTTOM LEFT:

● Brothers Mikhail (coach) and Viktor Klimenko are always together.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

● V. Klimenko in the rings exercise.





PARTICIPANTS COMMENT ON COMPETITION RESULTS

'I am quite satisfied with the tournament'

Yuri TITOV, Chief of the Gymnastics Department of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sports under the USSR Council of Ministers, Vice-President of the International Gymnastics Federation, said in a Moscow News interview:

"The importance of this competition is truly great. It ushers in the new season, the season of the World Gymnastics Championship. The previous season was more of a warming-up, a season of putting right the mistakes made at the Munich Olympics, a period of working out new combinations. Naturally, the present competition is not without

its failings, which happen early in the season and at a time of preparation for Varna. And yet we saw a good many new really record exercises. I received tremendous aesthetic enjoyment seeing the new exercises. These include the long horse of Kazuo Horide from Japan, the combination on the beam performed by Kyle Gayner from the United States, the performance of Yelena Primak (USSR) on the asymmetrical bars, the floor exercises of John Crosby from the United States, and others. I wish to point out the stable and high level performance (for this time of the year on all apparatuses)



by Wolfgang Thüne from the GDR.

"It is gratifying that the competitions drew such a high gate. The atmosphere was friendly and innovative. The athletes were not taxed by the responsibility of official meets. I am quite satisfied with the tournament."

'We must congratulate Moscow News'

John CROSBY (USA)

This 22-year-old student from the United States was clearly a happy man when I came up for a few words with him. He had just packed away the gold medal for the floor exercises and stood in the floodlights as the audience listened to the US national anthem.

This boy has a way of making sport headlines and not only in the Soviet press. He was here in 1971 and tied for first place in the floor exercises at the tournament in Riga... then in Moscow, but let him tell the story:

"I was in good shape when I came to Moscow for the World Student Games, but on the very first day I had an appendectomy. So I was operated on at Botkin hospital by Soviet doctors and recuperated for some days at a Soviet hospital. They gave me the best care they could give anyone and put me back in good shape."

There was no hitch this time and I congratulated John on his fine victory. "A penny for your thoughts, John" I approached the winner.

"Right now I am actually looking forward to one thing: the minute I get off the high bar I will go over to one of those stands and get myself one of these nice ice creams wrapped in foil, ummm they are delicious."

We were silent for a minute while the Soviet national anthem was played, as one of our athletes was presented a gold medal. I asked John what he thought of the competitions.

"I think we must congratulate Moscow News for sponsoring it so well. By the way, it's the paper I'm reading," he added and showed me the latest copy he was holding. "They are running the competitions administratively and otherwise very, very well."

"A message to Soviet gymnasts? That's hard. Really I learn more from Soviet gymnasts and will continue to learn from them, for they are just superb. I was in Brazil with Kil-

menko and Andrianov and I think that they are just great people, besides being athletes, and those are the kind of people other sportsmen should look up to."

'We will be glad to participate in the future, too'

Siegfried FULLE, leader of the GDR delegation

Speaking of his impressions, S. Fülle noted: "It was a big and excellently managed competition. As for the clockwork organization, it is a characteristic feature of all contests in the USSR. We were glad to take part in this one, for it gave us a fine opportunity to assess our strength not only in anticipation of the world championship in Varna, but also of the Olympics in Montreal."

"The competition gave young athletes the feeling of a big international meet and the reac-

tion of gymnastics' wise spectators.

Replying to a question of whether or not the Moscow News competition was too early in the season, S. Fülle remarked that it would be better to hold it a month later, for then, he thought, the stronger women gymnasts, who are older than their very young teammates, would join in the struggle. Such is the specificity of an organism and we should take that into account. That is why we did not bring with us several strong athletes."

When we turned to the results of the GDR performance, Siegfried Bräutigam, the coach of the women's team, joined in. "I am quite satisfied with my charges. They are very young and their placings are in full accord with their skill. The task was to give the young some seasoning and this we achieved. Several more competitions will help us finalize our field for Varna which may include some of the girls who performed here."

S. Fülle, however, did not have a categorical appraisal for the performance of his men. "Partly I am satisfied, and partly not. I am satisfied with Wolfgang Thüne. He proved a worthy contestant for Soviet athletes; his third place in the combined event speaks for itself. Wolfgang is really a pupil of Soviet coaches, since Soviet specialists have greatly influenced his maturing."

"I was somewhat disillusioned by the performance of veteran Klaus Köste. He is the most experienced, Olympic champion, but he was not in good shape."

He needs more time than others to get into form."

In conclusion, S. Fülle said: "I will be happy to come again and an invitation will be accepted. We will be glad to participate in these tournaments in the future, too."

'We feel at home'

It was quiet in the bus which took the gymnasts to the hotel upon the completion of the first day. The thrilling contest went on for more than 6 hours. By the looks of him, Luis Ramirez, chief of the Cuban team, seemed more exhausted than the athletes. "Though we are not fully satisfied with the results," he said, "these competitions will give us valuable experience. As always in the Soviet Union, the organization was impeccable. We have taken note of some new elements: for instance, the Japanese have shown an exercise on the long horse which reminds me of the jump invented by our Jorge Cuervo, champion of the Universiade in this event."

I told Ramirez that the Spanish edition of our paper was following very closely the performance of the team from Freedom Island. Ramirez replied with a grateful smile: "Our contacts with the Soviet Union have always been sound and sincere. This found its highest expression in the unprecedentedly warm reception accorded Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev in Cuba. Soviet coaches have contributed in a big way to the progress of gymnastics in Cuba. We remember with gratitude the work done in Cuba for more than three years by Albert Aznavuryan and Yevgeny Belov. At present Soviet coach Anatoly Nikonov is working with our girls."

I agreed with him. One had to see the fraternal care shown by Anatoly Nikonov to his young students—Alicia Sanchez, Orisel Martinez and Mayra Hernandez. I asked Ramirez what he thought of Moscow being the venue for the 1980 Olympics. "There can be no better place," he said. "We would be happy to attend the Olympics in Moscow. We are for it and are confident that the Soviet people will fully show their great development in organizing such an undertaking."

The bus stopped at the hotel. The gymnasts went off for their well-earned rest. We said good-

bye and I remembered that the day before, when introducing myself to Luis Ramirez, I asked him the stereotype question: "How do you feel?" His answer was: "We feel at home, because here and in Cuba we have one and the same climate—that of friendship and fraternity."

'Muscovites are so fond of gymnastics'

Elena LEUSTEAN, coach of the team from the Socialist Republic of Rumania

It is not the first time that Elena Leustean is at the Palace of Sports. She performed here together with Larisa Latynina and other Soviet women gymnasts. Now she has come as the coach of the Rumanian team.

"It is gratifying," she said, "that Muscovites are so fond of gymnastics. 1974 is the year of the world championship in gymnastics. We are all indebted to Moscow News for sponsoring an international competition. It offers us a chance to try out our plans and see new elements and achievements in present-day world gymnastics. We were also eager to see the young gymnasts, particularly the Soviet girls, who bewitched us with their superb skill and variety of complex elements."

"Competitions in the Soviet Union are always successful and distinguished by a high organizational level. We all hail Moscow's application to host the Olympics in 1980."

"Rumanian gymnasts have performed successfully in the vault, and Rodica Sabau took the gold medal. Performance skill is increasing every year. The judges are aware of this and approach the appraisal of performances with minute care. Their scoring at this competition was very objective."

"To my mind, this meet of gymnasts from 18 countries was highly representative and met international requirements. We will be glad to see these competitions conducted every year. "We gladly accepted the invitation to the first Moscow News contest and prepared most carefully for it. The proof of this is the 'Tsukahara jump' and the 'Korbut element' which we demonstrated. Most likely, the other teams also made painstaking efforts. This can be judged by the performance of gymnasts from the United States, Canada, the GDR and Japan."

'Reached our goals'

The Bulgarian team is coached by Yevgeny Zemskov, Master of Sports of the USSR and Candidate of Science (Pedagogy). This is what he had to say about the Bulgarian gymnasts and the competitions:

"The main idea at these competitions for Bulgarian athletes was to season young gymnasts for the coming Olympics and check the preparedness of veterans for the world championship."

"Our team was represented mainly by young gymnasts who are aspiring for membership in the main lineup of the national team."

"Here they performed quite satisfactorily. "I would like to note the fine organization of this competition. Our athletes have for the first

time found themselves at such a festive international contest, and they did their best. I have been training Bulgarian athletes since 1970, and for slightly more than a year I have been the senior coach of the national team. At the Munich Olympics Bulgaria placed 15th, but we hope to be among the top ten at the next games."

"What can you say of the results of the competitions?" we asked Georgi Todorov, as he completed his performance.

"First of all, I wish to note the excellent organization of the competition. For us, the performances in Moscow comprise a very important stage on the way to the world championship. We have seen our competitors, which will also help us prepare. Personally I wanted to check on my long horse performance and see how others did. As for our team on the whole, I think we have reached our goals and are satisfied."

'All services worked well'

Slávka MATLOCHOVA (Czechoslovakia)

It was most pleasant to work at this tournament. All the services worked well, and with precision. It was quite charming that coffee was served to the judges. I have been left with the impression that there was a particular heightened mood in the hall, which in its turn put the participants in a special cheer: they all performed with ease. In a word, I congratulate everyone who was involved in the preparation and organization of the tournament with their great success, and hope that you maintain this standard in the future. We will always be pleased to be your guests."

'The tournament was truly praiseworthy'

Arthur MAGAKIAN, leader of the French delegation

First of all, I would like to touch upon the purely sports aspect of the competition. The composition of athletes, naturally, was not uniform. This, however, is nothing to be sorry about. Where should the "young" (gymnastics-wise) countries and their representatives get their experience and skill if not at such competitions. We must take our hats off to Moscow News for this."

The Soviet girls were really in a class of their own. The new generation—Grozdova, Abramova, Primak—introduced in their exercises not only unique innovations, but their own qualitative style."

As for the men, the Japanese have not demonstrated what they're capable of. I feel that they are set on showing less, but watching, recording and analyzing more. Some might even think that they are not well prepared, but that is far from true. I thought that Klimenko would win, but I didn't expect the Japanese to let him walk over them. I liked the performances by your other boys, Shamugliya in particular. He is very individual and psychologically sufficiently stable. I believe that he shows good promise of making a strong gymnast for the combined event."

This is not my first time in the Soviet Union. I was at the international tournament in Riga. May I suggest that you should not hold the women's and men's contests for the combined exercises on one and the same day. This is a strain not only for the athletes, but for the spectators—it takes too much time and everybody gets tired. Your fans are a pleasant surprise. They understand gymnastics, spot the new elements and unique exercises and are good rooters in the sense that they are unanimous in giving support to all. This is a great help."

A thrilling meet

Sandor URVARI, head of the Gymnastics Federation of the People's Republic of Hungary

We gladly accepted the invitation by Moscow News and the USSR Gymnastics Federation and they welcomed us with truly Russian hospitality. It was a fine idea to hold such a competition, and the fact that athletes from 18 countries attended made it even more representative than, let's say, the European championship."

As far as organization is concerned, we have nothing but praise: the technical facilities operated impeccably, electronic computers were quick and accurately came out with the results. The press was continually informed of all the main events—in a word, the organization was the equivalent of that at world championships."

For all participants this was an impressive meet, a sport forum of world gymnasts. I wish to thank all the organizers and the staff of Moscow News. We will come to Moscow in the future with pleasure and I am confident that the Moscow News competition will become popular."



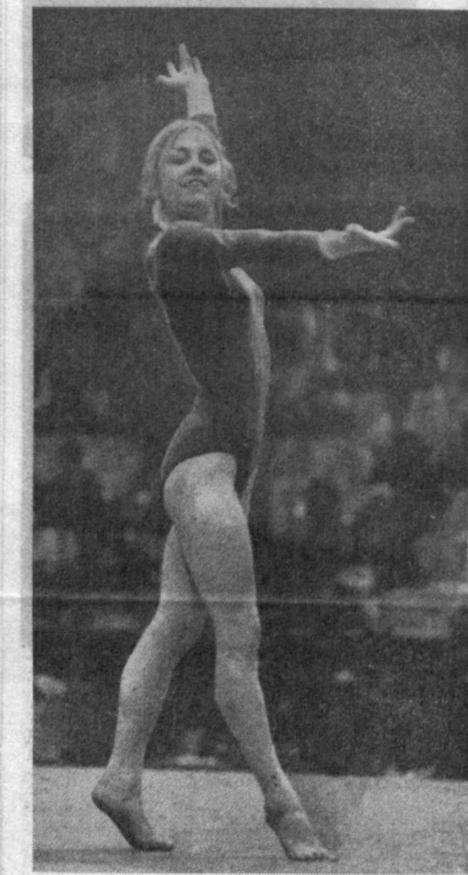
Paata Shamugliya (USSR) on the pommel horse.



Marta Egervari from Hungary prepares to go into action.



A pleasant duty. Mayra Hernández (Cuba) hands out autographs.



Anne Parkinson (Great Britain) performs the floor exercises.

'My choice is Grozdova and Klimenko'

The man I talked to was Hideo Kato, a well-known personality in the world of gymnastics. Vice-President of the Organizing Committee of the Chunichi Cup International Elite Gymnastics Competition. We talked unhurriedly, Mr. Kato pondered over every word and from time to time put in a Russian word, correcting his interpreter.

Though this was a maiden tournament for the prize offered by Moscow News, our exacting guest had nevertheless commended its excellent organization. "The opening ceremony was impressive. The equipment for the competitions and the teams of judges were also good. The competitions for the Moscow News prize compare well with the Tokyo contest for the Chunichi Cup," this was Mr. Kato's opinion. That Cup, by the way, will this year be contested for the fifth time and the sponsors of the Moscow News first were therefore highly interested in an expert opinion.

The guest closely followed the competitions and said that his choice was Svetlana Grozdova and Viktor Klimenko. ("Old man Klimenko," he said in Russian.) "No, no, I don't mean that lit-

erally, he is simply older than some of his mates," said Mr. Kato, seeing that I was bewildered. "Of course, Viktor is not an 'old man' when he is 25. His performance was beautiful and he is deservedly the best man." Mr. Kato thought that the field in Moscow included many potential performers for Montreal.

We talked of the comparatively unsuccessful performance of Japanese gymnasts in the combined exercises. "We flew in on March 21. The flight took 14 hours. The time for acclimatization was much too short. This is the main reason for some of the fallings which told on the overall results. As for Eizo Kenmotsu (he discontinued performing after the first apparatus), it was due to a relapse of an old injury—pain in the foot when jumping."

Our talk was cut short by the bell announcing the beginning of the competitions. Mr. Kato hurried off to his team and, in conclusion, said:

"I have no doubt about coming next year for your tournament. I will be happy to come if I am invited."



"Take this into account as well!" the coach of the French team instructs his charge.



PARTICIPANTS COMMENT ON COMPETITION RESULTS

A gala youth review

Vladimir BELYAKOV,
Chief Judge of the competition

The competition for the prize offered by Moscow News has been the largest gymnastics meet this year and, most likely, there will not be any bigger meets before the world championship in Varna.

At such tournaments the coaches and team leaders have a fine opportunity to take stock of their young athletes. And this opportunity was used to the full by coaches of many countries. We saw many promising athletes who will soon challenge the elite of world gymnastics.

The competition included sev-

eral technical novelties which have not even been used at the Olympics. Electronic equipment which automatically recorded the performance time, the pushoff zone, overstepping, and instantly delivered results was a great help to the judges.

The panel of judges, which included European, world and Olympic champions, was highly representative and qualified.

Testifying to the high degree of the judges' objectivity is the fact that no protests were filed with the Central Collegium of Referees in the two days of the competition.

The festive atmosphere in the Palace and the warm reception given the athletes by the numerous spectators contributed to the success of the competi-

tion. It was gratifying to see in the stands students of gymnastic schools and groups for children which brought up many of the present-day champions. The budding athletes followed attentively and, I would say, professionally, the progress of the struggle.

The fact that the Moscow News competition was held in March, several months before the world championship in Varna, is most convenient for coaches and athletes who can evaluate the strong and weak points in their preparations.

The Moscow News competition has made a fine debut. It will be an annual event on the Moscow sports calendar and, I am sure, we will see more and more young, new athletes.



Jennifer Diachun, a Canadian gymnast, awaits the announcement of her results.



In accord with the ancient Russian tradition, the competition participants were welcomed with bread and salt. Here the symbols of hospitality are presented to the Czechoslovak team.

'Thank you for the treat'

Lidiya IVANOVA,
Deputy Chief Judge (USSR)

I may risk the accusation of being biased, but I would call this tournament a little Olympics. The import of the competition was understood and stressed by the contestants themselves: they were as excited as if at official championships. Every country tried to present its delegation in the most colourful way.

Attention should be brought to another fact: the competitions were held strictly in keeping with international rules, without any letup. The judges were all of the highest international category. This added emphasis

to the similarity between the competition, the Olympics and world championships. The importance of this meet for the gymnasts of 18 countries is indubitable. Everybody wins because competition is the best teacher. I also want to stress that not only the gymnasts of such countries as the Netherlands, Canada and some others who are new in this sport, but our women gymnasts also benefit from participating.

Speaking with me, representatives of many countries mentioned that they felt honoured to be invited to the competition for the prize offered by Moscow News.

'Competitions were of a very high standard'

Anna SINILKINA,
Director of the Palace of Sports in Luzhniki

It is a rule with us to prepare meticulously for every competition. Judging by the numerous comments of officials and participants in the First International Competition for the Moscow News prize, and of sport specialists not in gymnastics alone, these competitions were of a very high standard, arranged beautifully and with precision. Therefore, the Palace of Sports

staff and I personally are gratified by making the time of thousands of spectators and the participants enjoyable.

Many young athletes took part in the competitions and we were happy to see that the audience that packed the Palace included students, gymnastic schools pupils, members of the "Youth" sports society.

Gymnastics is very popular in the Soviet Union and all athletes welcome the initiative of Moscow News.

ABC covers Moscow's gymnastics meet

ABC, one of America's three TV greats and surely the country's No. 1 in sports coverage, has sent several of its leading sports personalities to Moscow to help cover the Moscow News International gymnastics competition held for the first time.

"We are going to show the Moscow event early in April, the 6th or the 13th of that month—on our best known sports program called Wide World of Sports," John Martin, the program's producer, told your correspondent.

Jim McKay, veteran sports commentator who has hosted that program for almost 13 years (he has been with it since its inception), had this to say on the Moscow News meet in Luzhniki's Palace of Sports:

"The reason my colleagues and I are here to cover this event is simple enough. It's the fact that the competition is being held in Moscow. That's that. There's been more interest in the States in gymnastics lately, and I'm convinced that your gymnasts, particularly your girls, are largely to blame for it. We have our own team competing here in Moscow this time and we wish them every success. That's only natural. But that is not the main reason we've come to Mos-

cow, though our team being represented was one of our considerations. We hope that the Moscow meeting will help US gymnasts improve their results....

"Your girls went over big in the US," he went on. "They were tremendous. Your Olga Korbut alone did more for gymnastics in the United States than anyone else could ever dream of. You know, we are still getting letters, thousands of letters (and I mean it!) from our TV viewers, asking us how to get in touch with Olga. There are special Olga Korbut fan clubs set up all over the country, and they are still there. Incidentally, ABC's Wide World of Sports presented her with its annual Top Athlete award in 1972, and we were pleased to be able to honor her while on a US tour. This is the second time the award is given to a Soviet athlete, the first being your wonderful Valery Brumel...."

Winding up our talk, the Americans assured me they have every reason to believe that the footage they will run on US television will generate a good deal of public interest and will be well received at home. Such world meets, they summed up, are of great use, and Moscow News' initiative in holding one of them consequently deserves every credit....



Christine Steger and Fred Kurmann, her coach (Switzerland).

The doctors were practically idle

Stanislav ORLOV,
chief physician

A medical post is always on duty at the Palace of Sports during competitions. Our doctors can deal with any emergency, even operate on the spot. The specialized clinic at the Lenin Stadium is fitted out with physiotherapeutic equipment. In case of need, should a slight injury occur during the contest or in training, we suggest the necessary measures to the coach, but if a serious accident happens, we take the necessary measures immediately. We have a team of specialists at the post, and if hospital treatment is necessary, there is always an ambulance at the ready to transport the patient from the stadium.

In accordance with an order of the USSR Minister of Public

Health, all research medical centres and clinics in the city are part of our clinical facilities. During competitions beds are reserved for us, and there are physicians on duty.

When representatives of competing teams meet before a contest, they are informed the location of the medical post.

This time we had practically nothing to do, with the exception of one athlete from Algeria, who strained an ankle on the eve of the competition. We applied the necessary treatment, using special equipment, and he felt much better.

Our service has considerable experience in providing medical care for athletes at large-scale competitions. These include the Universiade and the Tournament of Soviet Nations, involving thousands of athletes.

PARTICIPANTS COMMENT ON COMPETITION RESULTS



Wolfgang Thüne (GDR), competition prizewinner, on the rings.

'Fantastic'

Such is the opinion of Brian McVey, coach of the Canadian women gymnasts taking part in the Moscow News gymnastics competition in Moscow's Luzhniki Sports Palace.

"Canada," he says, "is represented by four athletes in Moscow: two girls, and two boys. Nancy McDonnell, 18, is here for the first time but was already internationally exposed in Varna. Her teammate, Jennifer Diachun (20), also a college student from Toronto, has already been here at the World Students' Games and qualified as No. 4 on the bars."

"The present meet," Mr. B. McVey holds, "is extremely well organized. There is a lot of interest in the Moscow News-sponsored competition because it takes place in your country. It is because of the Soviet Union's gymnasts, and their appearance at the Olympic games in particular that this type of sport has become popular with the people and is now beginning to spread pretty fast, both in Canada and in the neighbouring US. We have something to look forward to now. It was different a while ago when, taking part in a gymnastics contest, all we did was just come and go. Nothing more than that. Today we honestly try to put our athletes in good positions..."

Both Nancy and Jennifer, the way they put it, are thrilled to compete in Moscow and like it here immensely, particularly the Luzhniki audience's response.

Bruce Medd, young Canadian male gymnast from Ottawa, and his teammate Pierre Leclerc from Montreal share the girls' view. "The Moscow meeting," they agree, "gives us a good chance to compete internationally and to acquire the experience we need so badly right down in the country whose record in gymnastics is recognized worldwide."

'We are very satisfied'

In those words Mr. William McLoughlin, British gymnastics coach, summed up his impressions of the Moscow News competition in Luzhniki.

"Everything we have seen here so far is simply smashing. Excellent is what I say. We are extremely pleased to be taking part in the first Moscow News

competition. Complaints? No complaints at all, believe me."

The coach is warmly supported by his charge, Anne Parkinson, a student from Great Britain, who adds she has seen "a lot of new moves we are still in the process of learning". Both are really enthused about one of the Soviet girls who threw a double back somersault on the floor. Anne's comment: "Wonderful. I'll try it next time I'm here. And I'd really love to be here..."

Anne's teammate, 28-year-old Michael Booth ("been at it for over 16 years"), is, in his words, "quite happy to be here and see the grand hall of Luzhniki and the wonderful reception we get".

"This is my first time in Moscow," he says, "and I do have the feeling, as I told my friends before this trip, that it all looks like a little bit of a pilgrimage, coming to the Soviet Union, the homeland of gymnastics."

Winding up our short talk, the British coach noted that he is convinced "it's about time Moscow had the Olympics held in it". That view is shared by many other participants I had a chance to talk to.

'Strong rivals'

Fred KURMANN,

head of the Swiss delegation

Until recently the widespread opinion in Switzerland was that women and gymnastics were incompatible notions. It was always considered that this sport deprived a woman of her femininity and grace.

However, when Swiss television five years ago first broadcast the performances by women gymnasts at the Olympics, many saw that women in gymnastics retain their beauty and grace. Major contributions to this awakening were made by Nataliya Kuchinskaya and Vera Caslavskaya. Possibly, this is one of the reasons for the creation in 1968 of the first group of gymnasts in our country. Three years later they won the right to perform at the Munich Olympics.

We were very happy to receive an invitation for the Moscow News competition. Unfortunately, our second gymnast, Patricia Bazzi, was kept home by an injury, but Christine Steger, to my mind, did rather well. She had strong rivals, with considerable experience at such large competitions. But skill improves precisely in competition with stronger contestants. In a word, I am satisfied with her.

'Participated with joy'

Ewa BARTHA,

coach of the women's team from the Netherlands

With joy we accepted the invitation to compete for the prize offered by your paper. This tournament was of great benefit for our women gymnasts. They still have very little experience in international competitions and this tournament took a great deal of strength. However, they withstood the struggle and I am satisfied with their performance. Jeanette Van Ravenstijn could possibly have done somewhat better but she was handicapped by a recent injury. I have great faith in this gymnast who has a world of grace and elegance. I think she'll be making headlines in a couple of years.

I wish to say thank you to the sponsors. Our women gymnasts and we, their coaches, feel that the tournament was held on a high level.

'The Organizing Committee has done well'

Kim UNG-DO,

leader of the delegation from the Korean People's Democratic Republic

We greet Moscow News' initiative of sponsoring such a major competition in gymnastics with the participation of athletes from many countries.

We should pay due tribute to the Organizing Committee which has done well in preparing and holding the meet.

We are very pleased that the best results were shown by athletes from the socialist countries. Unfortunately, our gymnasts could not do better, one of the reasons being their fatigue after the long trip.

competitions. All facilities were offered for this and, what is more, there was a remarkable programme of cultural entertainment, despite our brief stay in Moscow.

"As for the organizational aspect, I can say that it was on the highest level. This relates both to the actual holding of the meet at the Palace of Sports and to the facilities of other sport structures in the Soviet capital. I wish to make special note of the great number of people who go in for gymnastics in the Soviet Union and the spectators' warm and objective attitude towards the athletes: it is a pleasure to perform in your country. This is the first meet of the type, and the schedule of our training was not completely geared to the timing of the competition. I personally did not achieve the results I might have if the case was different (we just returned from a trip to the USA). Yet, participating in the competition for the prize offered by Moscow News enables us to make many adjustments in our

tators felt the same. Everything was so gorgeous that, comparing this with many international contests where I participated, I can say that the organization of the Moscow News competitions holds first place. The conditions for competition and training, the organization of communications, refereeing, information, the attitude of the spectators and many other elements were of the highest standard. I see only one drawback, and it relates to the federations of the participating countries. I think many of them underestimated the importance and the standard of these competitions. As a matter of fact, this often happens when a contest is held for the first time.

"I am sure that the Moscow News competition has a fine future, and Moscow has once again confirmed that it is the best possible nomination for the Olympics."

'Resembles the Olympics'

Risto TERÄSVIRTA,

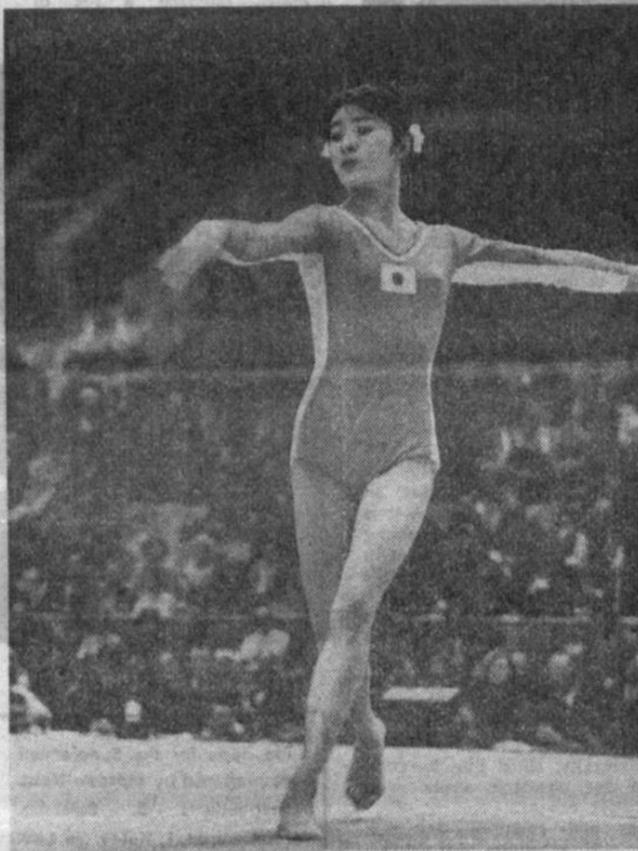
leader and coach of the Finnish team

I greatly appreciated the organization of the competition. It was precise, at a good pace, and without undue pauses and delays. The members of our team, 15-year-old schoolgirl Auli Järvenpää and 24-year-old Jorma Lehto, found the performing area at the Palace and the wonderful apparatuses much to their liking. Usually gymnasts compete in gymnasiums where the apparatuses are set on the floor, which makes it harder to follow the performances. At Luzhniki everything was on a platform, and was very visible.

The festive atmosphere at the Palace these days and the number of participating countries made the meet closely resemble the Olympics or the world championship.

I am sure that Soviet sports organizations will fully cope with the Olympic gymnastics tournament. If the 1980 Olympics are held in Moscow, we will gladly participate.

I am very much satisfied with our girl gymnast who has shown much better results here than in Poland, Great Britain and at home in Finland.



Machiko Ishimura (Japan) in the floor exercises.

However, they will train carefully for the Varna World Championship where I am sure they will perform more successfully than they have in Moscow.

On behalf of all members of our team, I thank the sponsors for the warm reception and the consideration shown us.

'Moscow—sports capital of the world'

Marek WALDEMAR,

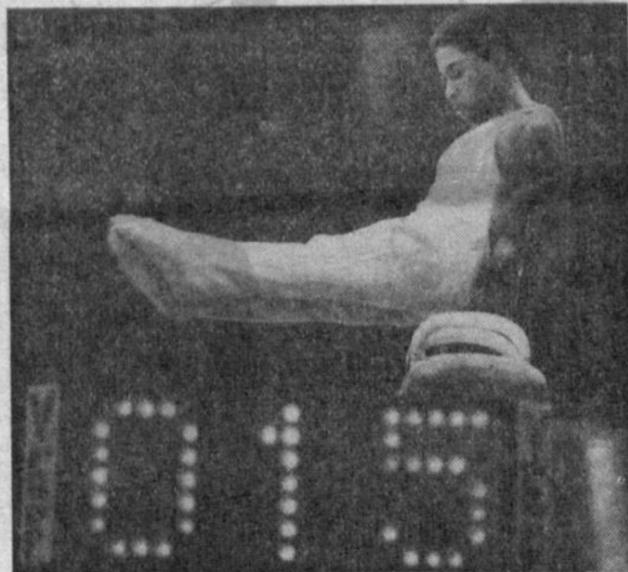
Polish People's Republic

"I have had a chance to attend many competitions abroad, but first place among all of them goes to the international gymnastics meet for the prize offered by Moscow News. I am grateful to the paper for this valuable initiative which facilitates the progress of the world sport movement.

"We athletes are sufficiently acquainted with each other and it was most gratifying to meet our old friends, to continue personal contacts and our sports

preparations for the world championship."

"I agree with Marek," said Zygfryd OGRODNIK, coach of the Polish team. "I can express my impressions, as coach and athlete, in the following words: it was a feast for the eyes, and I hope that the spec-



Roberto Richard (Cuba) on the pommel horse.



Renáta Stodulková— 'Miss Moscow News-74'

The Press Centre proposed that the journalists should select the most charming of the 39 girl gymnasts at the competition, to supplement, so to speak, the judges' mathematically precise decisions, and to emphasize the competition's aesthetic aspect. The journalists were issued special forms on which they were asked to fill in the name of their favourite performer.

When the count was over, it became clear that the photo and cine correspondents could be told to start looking for the best angles to take shots of Renáta Stodulková, the Czechoslovak gymnast.

I am sure that even a black-and-white photo, which cannot show us Renáta's deep-blue eyes, will compel the reader to agree that the choice was the right one. Unfortunately, he will have to take our word for it, for we cannot possibly show how pertly, in what a lyrical dancing style, she performed the floor exercises, and how freely and easily she went through this

gruelling competition. Her failure on the asymmetrical bars kept her from being among the prize-winners in the combined event. Renáta confessed to us that she was not all that fond of the bars, and preferred the vault and the floor exercises. In the latter she came fourth in the finals.

Maybe it was her musician-mother from whom Renáta inherited her talent, which helps her to make her floor exercises so lyrical and musical? Maybe it is her father's precise engineering profession which assists her in calculating her movements in the vault?

Renáta is not yet 18, but she has travelled, as a gymnast, from her native Ostrava to the USSR, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, the GDR, the FRG and France. At the secondary school she studies Russian and German.

Naturally, she'd like to combine her sporting visits with a better acquaintance of other cities and countries, but the crammed schedules do not always make this possible.

Two days at the Press Centre

Officially, there were only two working days at the Press Centre, but in actual fact... Long before the beginning of the competition, the Press Centre circulated invitations to Soviet and foreign newspapers and other mass media, and prepared documents which might be wanted by the newsmen covering the competition.

The folder prepared for each one of the 150 accredited newsmen included 16 pages of various documents, background information, lists and photos. Passes and badges were prepared. The interest shown by journalists was the first sign of the success of the competition. Our colleagues rang up our office, and called personally to get the necessary advance information and to confirm their desire to be accredited at the competition.

150 journalists formed the total that the Press Centre catered for during the two days. The demands were numerous. One urgently required a list of teams, another was concerned

with the problem of communication, and still another with obtaining badges, emblems and souvenir medals.

We appreciated the difficulties and the importance of the work of our colleagues, and did our best to assist them in supplying a variety of data, including information about Saadi's husband, and the preparation by Olga Korbut of a new astounding element... There was a continuous flow of reports, dispatches, figures...

Some of them are of general interest. The Press Centre released 60 bulletins, with a total impression of 15,000 copies, which totalled approximately 500 kg of printed matter. The opening and concluding protocols were put out in Russian, English and French, and all documents dealing with the scoring—by separate apparatuses and for the combined exercises—in Russian and French.

The bulletins, giving the results of an individual exercise, were circulated within 5-10 min



of the termination of the contest in question. These bulletins were used not only by journalists, but by coaches and even participants. Everybody was unanimous that the bulletins were put out in a very efficient fashion.

The Press Centre organized the nomination of 'Miss Moscow News-74' by the journalists, and announced a contest for the best coverage of the competition. The results of the contest will be summed up by May 1.

Some journalists won token medals from the Press Centre for their active work during the competitions.

In conclusion, we thank all newsmen for their cooperation and invite them all to the next Moscow News Gymnastics Competition in April 1975.



Photo correspondents at work.

The items for the Supplement were prepared by Moscow News correspondents B. Balandin, Yu. Katsnelson, L. Kotov, Ye. Lan-

fang, Yu. Petrovsky, K. Razin, I. Shifrin, A. Sokolov, H. Vladimirov, A. Voronov, and M. Zavalova.

A. Knyazev, Yu. Morgulis, M. Murazov, B. Sveflanov and V. Trushnikov were responsible for the photographic coverage of the competition.



Pascale Hermant (France).



Paata Shamugiya (USSR).



Debbie Fike (USA).



Alicia Sanchez (Cuba).



Wolfgang Thüne (GDR).



Larbi Lazahari (Algeria).



Roberto Richard (Cuba).



Mitsuo Tsukahara (Japan).



Nancy McDonnell (Canada).



Anne Parkinson (Great Britain).
Friendly cartoons
by Igor Sokolov