

## Womans Gymnastics in the Balance

The Woman's Gymnastic team, coached by Cheryl Botzong, completed another successful season. Their fourth place finish in the Central Regional Gymnastics Championships was topped off by C4C Ventresca's outstanding performance. Marlena placed 1st on balance beam, 3rd on Vault and floor exercise and 2nd All Around.

Ventresca qualified to the USGF Division II Nationals in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin winning All American honors on floor exercise with her sixth place finish. The Doyletown, Pennsylvania native is the first Academy freshman gymnast to win All American honors.

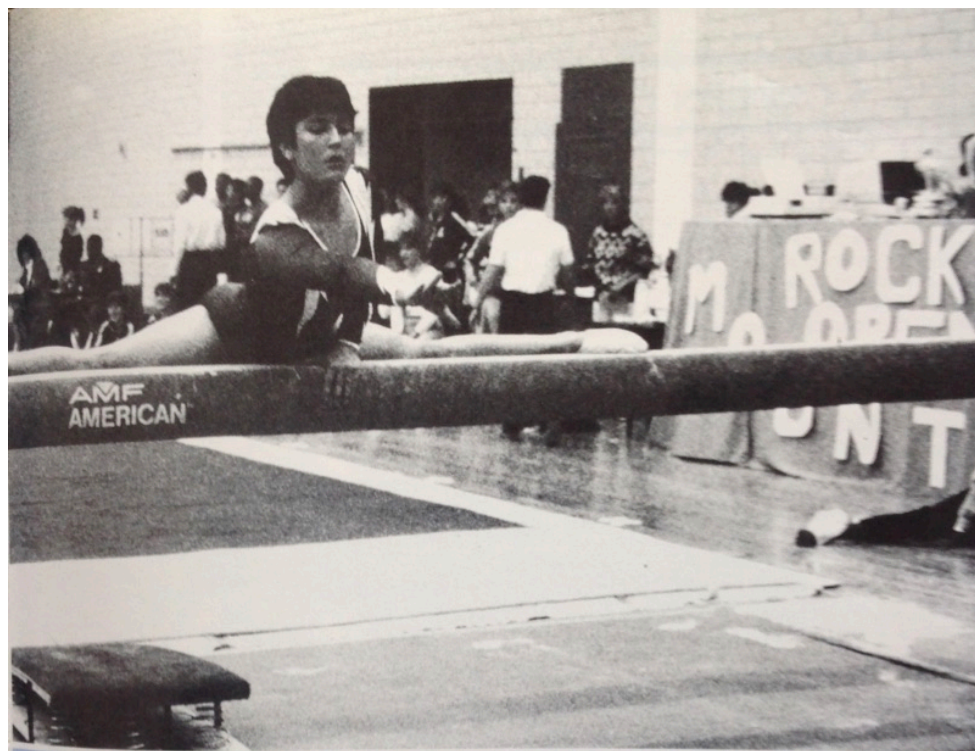
Representing the team during the 86-87 season were:  
C1C Robin Brooks  
C1C Vicki Rojas  
C1C Kristy Johnson  
C2C Julie Northgraves  
C3C Megan Colwell  
C4C Susan Bizzelle  
C4C Diane Ferre  
C4C Marlene Ventresca  
C4C Carla Waller



Top: Marlene Ventresca concentrates on her floor exercise.

Bottom: The Woman's Gymnastics Team  
Top Row - Julie Northgraves, Kristin Johnson, Robin Brooks  
Second Row - Megan Colwell, Falcon Mascot, Janet LaRue  
Third Row - Coach Cheryl Botzong, Marlene Ventresca, Vicki Rojas, Lynn Vergis, Serik Sittig, Susan Bizzelle, Carla Waller, Dianne Ferre.





Top: Diane Ferre does her impression of a contortionist in the splits.

Left: Robin Brooks is caught in between movements.

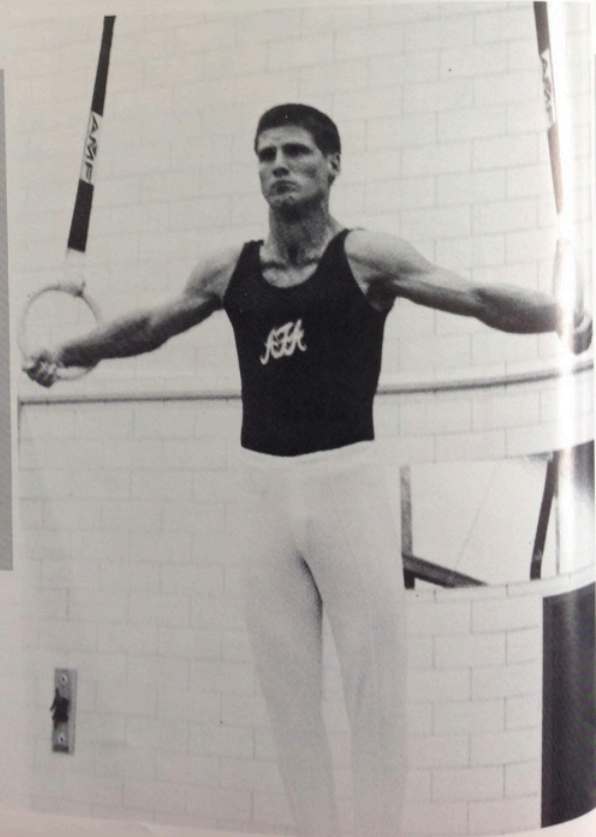


## Contortionists at Work

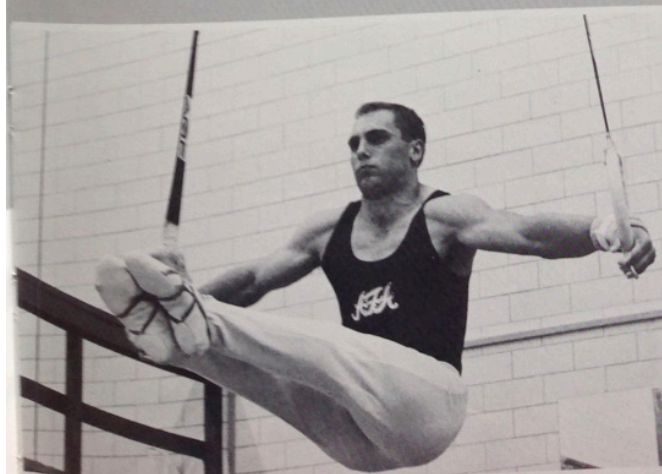
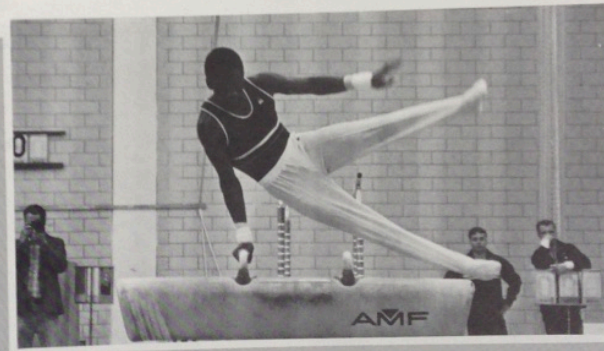
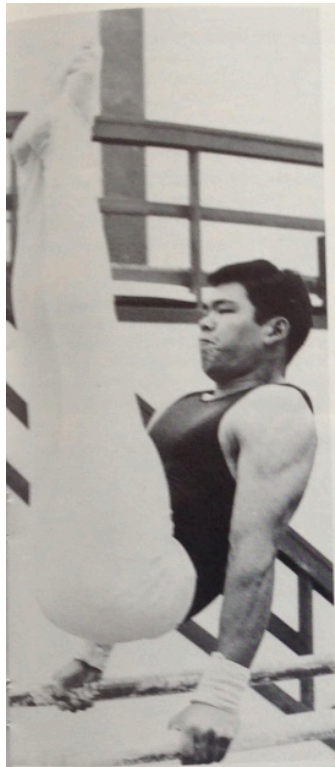
"This was definitely a rebuilding year, after graduating five seniors last spring, but the experience that was forced on our freshmen and sophomores should pay off next year," Lt Col Lou Burkel, the Air Force Academy Men's Gymnastics Coach explained. The season was highlighted by many excellent performances. Then when Senior Team Captain Frank Shines broke his arm in October it forced the Falcons to reach even deeper.

Junior Marcus Kaneshiro led the team on parallel bars and sophomore Sven Brown was the top performer on still rings. Pedro Trinidad, a junior, shared horizontal bar honors with freshman Scott Hamilton, who also finished the season as the #1 man on the floor exercise and vaulting. Two more freshmen — Brent Johnson in the all around and Paul Comeau on pommel horse — ended the season as event leaders. Sophomores Ken Kemper who averaged over 9.0 on floor exercise, Chris Mauk, a consistent leader on parallel bars, and freshman all around Bobby Brankley were also major contributors and lettermen. Shines returned to competition in March and led the young Falcons to their highest score of the season, 256.10, and a 3rd place finish in the WAC Championships. They finished the season with a 10th place showing in the PAC 10 Invitational and a 4-5 win-loss record. Four losses were to top 20 teams. The Falcons also finished 3rd in the BVU Cougar Invitational and 4th in the Rocky Mountain Open Championships. Frank Shines was selected as the Most Valuable Gymnast for his excellent leadership and outstanding comeback from a very severe injury.

"It was a tough year for us after losing so much experience to graduation. Injuries compounded the problem and forced us to put a very young and inexperienced team on the floor. As a result, we're already looking forward to next year when we can put that experience to work for us," Burkel concluded.



Top - Front Row: Coach Chuck Kennedy, CAC Charles Miller, Trainer Phil Stone, C2C Mari Beth Kuzmack, CAC Bob Thompson, Coach Lou Burkel.  
Second Row: CAC Paul Comeau, CAC Scott Hamilton, C3C Chris Mauk, C3C Ken Kemper, C2C Pedro Trinidad, C3C Sven Brown, C1C Frank Shines.  
Third Row: CAC Brent Johnson, CAC Chris Williams, CAC Bobby Brankley, C1C Jerome Watkins, CAC Craig Wolf, C2C Marcus Kaneshiro, CAC Derek Abeyta.  
Bottom - Chris Mauk displays awesome strength on the rings.



Top Left: Marcus Kaneshiro does a "V" support on parallel bars.

Bottom Left: Sven Brown executes the difficult "L" cross.

Top Right: Frank Shines performs a routine on the pommel horse.