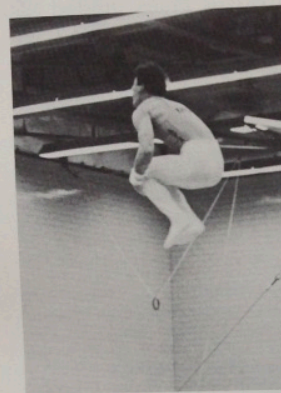


Gymnasts worked hard and broke records



Above: Marcus Kaneshiro in his dismount from the horizontal bar.

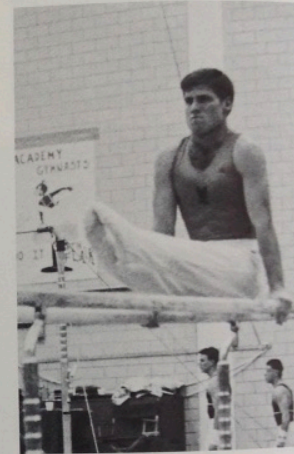
Men's gymnastics began the 1987-1988 year with high hopes. The team started with seven returning

lettermen in addition to five strong recruits. In their only meet during the fall semester, the team came in a close second to Iowa State University. In the meet, the team came close to breaking the high score of the previous season.

After Christmas break, the Falcons started slowly and struggled for over a month to improve their scores. In mid-February things finally began to click. Even though they were hampered by injuries and illness, the Falcon gymnasts pulled together and won the Colorado Classic Championship.

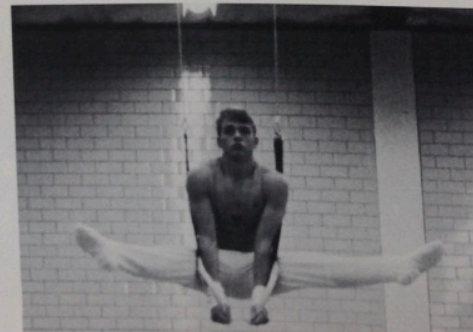
The high point of the season came when the Falcons upset Iowa State 268.70-267.20. The total score and the 44.00 team score on the pommel horse both smashed records set in the 1983 season. The team ended the season at the 5-6 mark and a third place finish in the WAC Championships. While the team was disappointed with the season standings, there is hope for the 1988-1989 season.

Seniors Marcus Kaneshiro and Pedro Trinidad were the leaders for the team and were instrumental in pulling the team together. Kaneshiro was voted Most Valuable Gymnast. Junior Chris Mauk won WAC Gymnast of the Year and became the team captain for the 1988-1989 season.



Above: Chris Mauk demonstrates why he was voted WAC Gymnast of the Year.

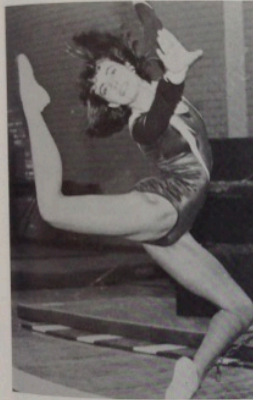
Below: Brent Johnson shows his skill on the rings.



Women's gymnastics plagued by injuries

Critical injuries and outside factors proved to be fatal for the women's gymnastics program. All-American team captain Marlena Ventresca was injured after the first meet. Soon after Ventresca's knee injury, Susan Bizzelle was taken out of the action by a hand injury. Head Coach Cheryl Botzong

said, "We were counting heavily on these two for an all-around score to contribute to the team's score." The biggest surprise for the women's gymnastics program came from an unexpected source. Freshman Wendy Hacker proved to be a surprisingly mature performer this year. She led the team as the top all-around scorer and earned a berth at nationals. She could very well develop into one of the best gymnasts in academy history. Other Falcon competitors included sophomore Carla Waller, freshmen Elizabeth Munson, Stephanie Konieczny, Tauni Searcy, Heather McKay, and Jennifer Linberg.



Above: Freshman Heather McKay shows great poise and grace during her floor exercise.

Below: Sophomore Carla Waller at the end of her routine.

