

Gymnasts display academic and athletic talent

The Air Force Academy got its first-ever Western Athletic Conference floor exercise champion when C4C Mike Cline scored a 9.70. Cline, a native of Las Vegas, Nevada, also placed third in all-around competition. His 9.70 was also an Air Force Academy record for floor exercise.

At the same meet, Air Force's C2C Joel Miller and BYU's Jason Brown split the rings title with matching scores of 9.60.

In team scoring, our Falcons finished third with 267.85 points. New Mexico took its sixth straight WAC title with 279.30 points, and Brigham Young was second with 275.40.

Both Cline and Miller qualified for the NCAA Division I Gymnastics National Championships but did not place.

This marked the first time since 1978 that two AFA gymnasts qualified for nationals and the first time ever for a fourthclassman.

Three gymnasts from the Air Force Academy team were picked for the Western Athletic Conference All-Academic team on March 12.

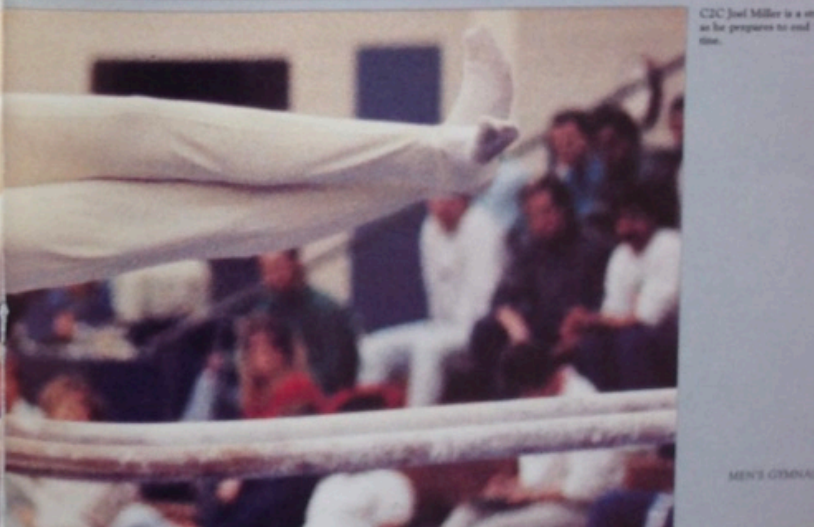
C1C Erik Bowman, from Wheeling, Illinois led the list with a 3.99 grade-point average in astronautical engineering. Bowman, one of

the team's co-captains, is a specialist on the pommel horse, was a WAC finalist for the past two seasons and an NCAA qualifier in 1990. He has also been a WAC Scholar-Athlete for three consecutive years.

C2C Joel Miller, co-captain, made the list with a 3.64 GPA in astronautical engineering. Miller, a native of Amherst, New York, is a two-time WAC champion on the still rings. He has also been a WAC Scholar-Athlete for the past two years. C3C Brian Stuart, from Cincinnati, Ohio, was the third gymnast picked. He has a 3.09 GPA in economics.

C4C Mike Cline performs the iron cross at a home meet.

C3C Dave Douglas performs a difficult dismount from the parallel bars. (P. Pelington)



C2C Joel Miller is seen as he prepares to end time.

After two year slump Falcons win an All-American title

C2C Michele Carson became the first female Falcon gymnast to make All-American in two years, rising for sixth place on the uneven parallel bars at the U.S. Gymnastics Federation Nationals.

For Carson, a native of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, it was the second All-American title on the uneven bars. Her score of 9.475 was good enough to put her in a three-way tie for sixth.

Carson finished 14th in the all-around standing with 36.65 points in the vault, uneven bars, beam and floor exercise. C2C Christiane Pindat was the next highest Falcon finisher with 36.20 points and 23rd

place. C2C Carol Bush was in 39th place overall with 35.06 points. "Our girls did extremely well," said head coach Derick Mollenbeck. "It was a very tough competition. A couple of our gymnasts missed making All-American by just tenths of points."



C2C Jackie Mongson performs her balance beam routine as a team member. Falcon gymnasts have strict concentration during their routines.

