

# OKINO AND DAWES, THE U.S.' FIRST BLACK GYMNASTS, FARE EXCEPTIONAL ZMESKAL AND MILLER LEAD U.S. TEAM TONIGHT

By W.G. Ramirez

"A Fighter, a Lion." Words used to describe all 80 pounds of U.S. gymnast Kim Zmeskal.

The 4'7" world and national all-around champion and gold medal favorite had to put those adjectives to the test after suffering a devastating fall from the balance beam last Sunday in Barcelona.

Only three athletes per nation would advance to the individual competition, based on performances in the team event. Zmeskal's chances were all but diminished following her dreadful spill.

By Tuesday night all eyes were focused on the 16 year-old champion as well as the much touted U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team.

Here she was trying to help the USA win a team medal, but also win a spot in the individual round. By doing so, she'd have to get by two of those same U.S. teammates that was standing between her and the dream of capturing the Olympic individual medals.

Well, like the world champion she is, the Lil' Lion climbed upon the beam Tuesday evening and landed into the individ-

ual competition that will take place tonight.

Teammates Shannon Miller, who ended up atop the individual standings through Tuesday, and Betty Okino, one of the first, of two, Black gymnasts to compete for the U.S., will join Zmeskal this evening, all vying for the same thing - the Gold.

Okino, who finished 6th over-

all in the team competition, qualified in the beam category.

The other Black representative on the women's squad is Dominique Dawes. The 15 year-old was ahead of Zmeskal before Tuesday's events, but was sure to get caught up easily with the world champion on her heels.

Miller proved she wasn't going to let Zmeskal steal the

spotlight as she tallied 9.9's on the floor and beam, 9.925 on the vault, and 9.95 on the uneven bars. She reached the finals of all four events, posted the best overall score on the vault and tied for third on the beam and bars, and could walk away with a pocket full of medals - including the All-Around Gold that made superstars of Nadia

Comaneci in 1976 and Mary Lou Retton in 1984.

"Both Kim and Shannon are going to fight for the (Gold-) medal position," said U.S. Coach Bela Krolyi. Krolyi was there when Comaneci and Retton won their gold medals and would be proud to see one of these two ladies do the same. Krolyi has said that he will retire as U.S. coach following the Olympics.

## ★ ★ ★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★ ★ ★

**NOT O.K. WITH DR.J.** - Two sons of former NBA great Julius "Dr.J" Erving - Cheo, 19 and Julius, 18 - were arrested and charged with underage drinking and disorderly conduct for running an "underage drinking party," according to police. Seventy-five to 100 people paid \$25 to get into the basketball star's suburban home. Erving and his wife were not at home but alerted police to check on the house. Cheo was also charged with drug possession, a small amount of marijuana, and receiving stolen property, five stolen checks.

**HOOPTY-HOOP** - A Hoop Shoot Skills Contest takes place at 10 a.m., Friday, August 28 at the Stewart/Mojave Sports Center, 275 N. Mojave Rd. The basketball skills contest includes skill shooting for points, distance, speed, and accuracy. Competition is open to anyone 13 or older at a cost of \$7. Registration continues through the day of the event. This program is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Call 229-6563.

**JOHNSON-SURGERY?** - NBA Rookie of the Year Larry Johnson complained of pain in his knee after working out in Dallas this week and could possibly face arthroscopic surgery. The Charlotte Hornets issued statements from team physician Dr. Glenn Perry and President Spencer Stolpen expressing confidence the injury would not keep Johnson from participating in training camp.

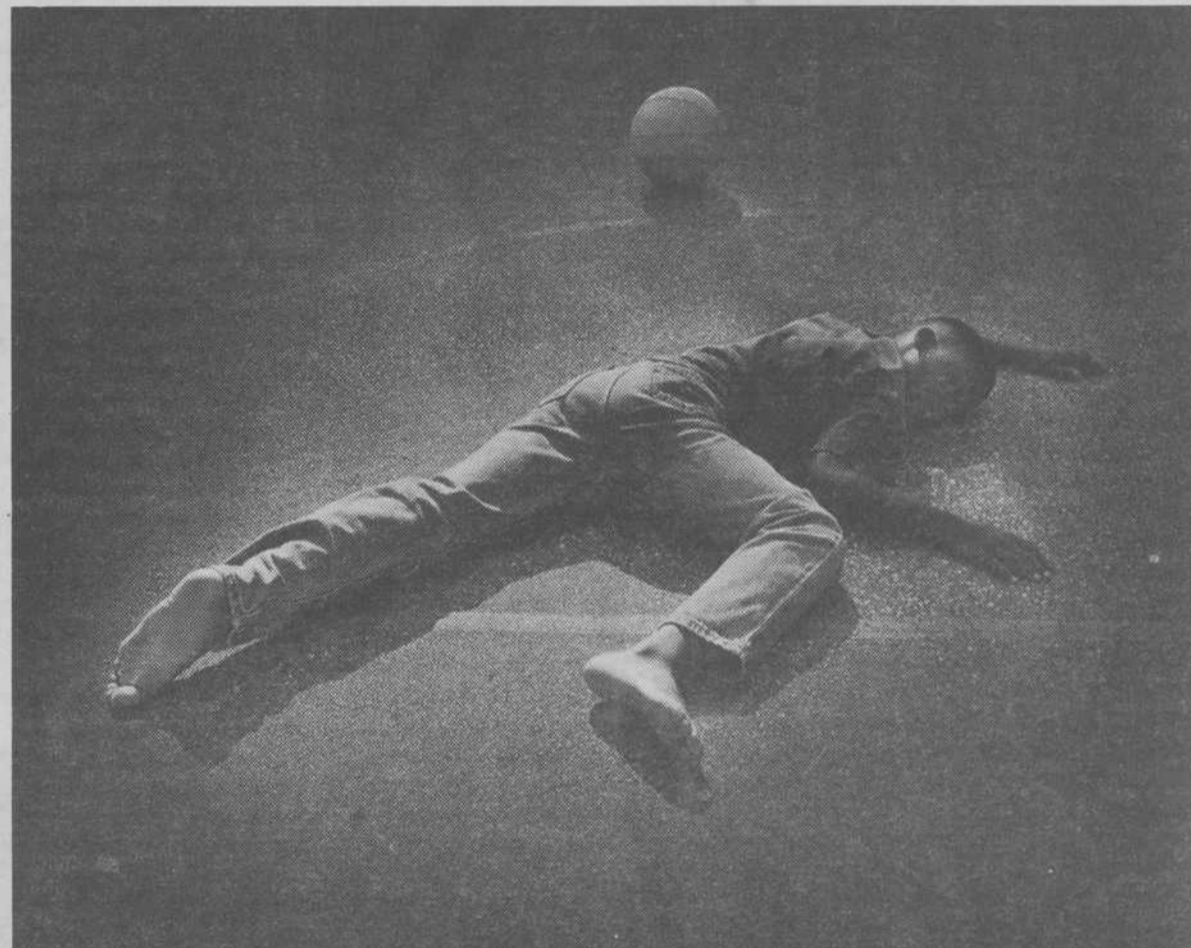
**DREAMTEAM "POINT-LESS"** - Now that Guard Magic Johnson is listed as day-to-day, due to a strained hamstring suffered against Croatia, the USA Dream Team has no true point guard. Guard John Stockton hasn't played since he fractured his right fibula in the second game of the Tournament of Americas. Neither player participated against Germany yesterday.

**B-BALL FOR THE OL' FOLKS** - An over 30 basketball league will be sponsored this fall by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities. Registration takes place August 3-14 at a cost of \$200 per team, plus a \$20 official's fee. Play begins 6:30 p.m., September 14, and continues each Monday thereafter at the Stewart/Mojave Sports Center, 275 N. Mojave Rd. A pre-season tournament determining team placement takes place August 17-26. Please register early. Call 229-2089/378-4700.

**PEACE OUT, MY BROTHA** - Former Kansas City Chief safety Deron Cherry announced his retirement this past week while holding back farewell tears. During his 11-year career, Cherry was named All-Pro six times but was worried about his health after surgery for a severe knee injury two years ago.

**ARE YOU IN SHAPE?** - The Stewart/Mojave Sports Center, 275 N. Mojave Rd., will offer a series of fitness tests at 6:30 pm on August 5. The tests include body composition analysis, 1.5 mile run, push-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility. The tests are designed for those 16 and older and will cost \$2. This service is brought to you by the City of Las Vegas. For more information call 229-6563.

**GET YOUR KICKS** - Clark County Parks and Recreation invites you to join the fun in a 6 on 6 Mini Soccer League. This league is designed for young men ages 16-25 who reside in Southern Nevada Housing Developments. Games will be played at the Silver Bowl Sports Complex from 11 p.m. - 2 a.m., on Wednesday and Friday nights. Volunteer coaches are also needed. Call 455-8249 for details.



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All over America children are the victims of violent crime. They are being assaulted and even murdered for the sake of anything from a pair of sneakers to some loose change in their pockets.

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