

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(612) 624-3335

(for use as desired)

February 19, 1987

(GYMNASTICS TEAM COMPLETES FIRST HALF OF SEASON; HOSTS OHIO STATE MARCH 1) --

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- It's been a very successful, but rocky, start for the University of Minnesota women's gymnastics team according to head coach Katalin Deli. Yet she and the team are optimistic that the Gophers will give four-time Big Ten champion Ohio State a run for the conference title on March 27. As a tune-up to the championship, the Gophers and Buckeyes will meet in their first dual meet in four years on Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m. in Williams Arena.

COACHES' COMMENTS ON THE SEASON -- "I feel this is the best team we've ever had," says coach Deli. "It's going pretty good, but we have been dealing with a lot of obstacles. Overall, I'm very pleased. The team is starting to come together and realize their full potential. I'm hopeful that we can finish on the right note."

PRE-SEASON HIGHS AND LOWS -- The promise for a successful 1987 season started in 1986, when the NCAA reassigned Minnesota to the Central Region. By moving out of the powerful Midwest Region, home of six-time national champion Utah and numerous other national contenders, the Gophers appeared to have a sure shot at qualifying for and winning the regional championship. In fact, the NCAA News ranked Minnesota as their pre-season pick in the Central Region based on a strong core of returners and a recruiting class of Olympians and international competitors.

During pre-season training, however, injuries set back almost every performer, and the team red-shirted Lisa Wittwer, a top recruit, after she underwent reconstructive knee surgery. In addition, three-time Big Ten champion Laurie Kaiser elected to leave the team and forego her senior season.

THE REGULAR SEASON -- The gymnasts have competed weekly since mid-January, and most of their competition has been on the road. They have participated in four invitationals and four duals, and their record stands at 7-10 overall and 3-1 in duals. In a sport where scoring determines advancement to post-season competition, the team has cracked the 180 scoring barrier three times and gone over 182 twice.

In the latest national rankings, the Gophers place 20th nationally and fifth in the Central Region. Their regional qualifying score (the average of the top five scores and including at least two home and two away scores) is 180.53, which could guarantee the Gophers their first team post-season competition in three years.

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DEFENDING CHAMPION BROWN LEADS TEAM -- Senior co-captain Shelley Brown (BLOOMINGTON/Jefferson) started the 1987 season the way she ended the 1986 season -- on top. As a junior, Brown surprised the Big Ten, region, and nation when she won the Big Ten all-around title, tied for first on the balance beam at the NCAA Midwest Region Championships and competed as an individual all-arounder at the NCAA National Championships.

Already this year, Brown has been named January's Big Ten Gymnast of the Month, and her 9.65 balance beam score is the best in the conference. Brown leads the team on the vault and balance beam, and her new uneven bars and floor exercise routines have consistently scored well. Brown has also battled with assorted injuries, but she showed her competitive spirit against Brigham Young on February 9. After battling a migraine headache during the warmups, Brown scored 9.55 on the vault and 36.85 all-around.

ROETHLISBERGER SETS SCHOOL BARS, FLOOR RECORDS -- Freshman Marie Roethlisberger (AFTON, MN) has lived up to her billing as a top national recruit. A five-year member of the U.S. Senior National Team, Roethlisberger has set new Minnesota records on the uneven bars (9.75) and floor exercise (9.75) and has twice scored 37.35 all-around. The 1986 senior national uneven bars champion, Roethlisberger has also established herself as one of the top collegiate bars worker with her 9.49 average. She has scored above 9.50 six times, and only below 9.00 once.

At last weekend's Red and White Invitational in Alabama, Roethlisberger competed against many of her old national team teammates, including Oklahoma's Kelly Garrison who ranks as the top all-arounder in the NCAA. Roethlisberger finished fifth all-around (37.35) and second on the uneven bars (9.65) to lead Minnesota to a 180.45 finish. The first-place finisher on bars was one of Roethlisberger's old teammates, Georgia's Lucy Wener, the defending NCAA uneven bars champion.

HICKS ADDS ALL-AROUND DEPTH -- Another consistent all-arounder is junior Laura Hicks (CICERO, IL). Hicks competed for the University of Illinois for two years, and due to an administrative mix-up, she was immediately eligible when she transferred to Minnesota this fall. Hicks has competed exceptionally well according to coach Deli, despite some nagging injuries. Hicks' best meet this year was the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7. Competing against her former Illinois teammates for the first time, Hicks placed first on the balance beam, second all-around and third on the uneven bars. She was Minnesota's top performer at that meet even though she tested negative for meningitis following a spinal tap only two days earlier.

"Laura's doing so well there (Badger Invite) was important to her," Deli said. "She proved to herself that she made the right decision (to transfer to Minnesota). It was a great satisfaction for her."

DOELL REBOUNDS FROM 6TH KNEE SURGERY -- Senior co-captain Candace Doell (SASKATOON, Canada) has had her share of knee trouble -- she has undergone six knee operations during her career, but the most recent has proven to be the most successful. Doell has regained the form of her freshman and sophomore seasons with new career bests on the uneven bars (9.30) and balance beam (9.30) and she continues to be a steady vaulter. Doell also excels academically. This spring she will accomplish something few University of Minnesota students do: earn a degree in four years.

MASTEL, FINNEGAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE -- This season was an academic battle for junior Mary Jo Mastel (BLOOMINGTON/Jefferson) as she was ineligible for the team's pre-season meet against the Japanese All-Stars. Since rejoining the lineup, however, Mastel has been a steady competitor on the uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. She has scored a new career-best on bars, a 9.10. A 1986 All-Big Ten selection in the floor exercise, Mastel's new floor routine could again earn her all-conference honors.

Freshman Kathleen Finnegan (WINNEPEG, Canada) is another of Minnesota's highly-touted recruits. A member of the Canadian National Team, Finnegan has competed as an all-arounder for most of the season, and Deli says that she is beginning to adjust to collegiate gymnastics. Finnegan is best known as an uneven bars worker, as she has created a patented release move on bars (the "Finnegan").

BANDROWSKI, BEDNAR OUT WITH INJURIES -- Seniors Marie Bandrowski (MILFORD, MI) and Linda Bednar (MAPLE GROVE/Osseo) have struggled with injuries this year. Bandrowski was off to her best collegiate start when torn elbow ligaments sidelined her in January. She is undergoing treatment and could be back for the Big Ten Championships. Prior to her injury, Bandrowski had competed all-around for the first time in two years and had scored a new career best in the floor exercise (9.10).

Bednar severely sprained her ankle against the Japanese All-Stars in December, and has competed on the vault twice since then. Deli is trying to work Bednar, a 1986 Big Ten vaulting finalist, back into the lineup for the Ohio State and Big Ten meets.

FRESHMEN NEWMAN, WISE COMPLETE LINEUP -- Two walk-ons have helped the Gophers remain competitive this year. Julie Newman (LAKEVILLE, MN) has competed on the vault for seven meets and has a top score of 8.95. Michelle Wise (EDINA, MN) has concentrated on the floor exercise, but she has competed on the vault and balance beam in exhibition.

In addition, sophomore Karen Howe (TRAVERSE CITY, MI) has competed in exhibition vaulting events, while sophomore Linda Umhoefer (CEDARBURG, WI) continues to train with the team.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS SUMMARY 1986-87 Thru 2/16/87

RECORD:	Overall	7-10	Dual	3-1	Invitationals	4-9	Home	2-0	Away	5-10	
DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	MINN	MN V	OPP V	MN UB	OPP UB	MN BB	OPP BB	MN FX	OPP FX
1/16	Neb. Inv.		177.45	45.30		44.15		45.20		42.80	
	Nebraska	181.90			45.95		45.40		44.70		45.85
	Arizona	184.45			46.80		45.50		45.55		46.60
1/19	Utah St.	184.75	178.85	45.65	46.55	42.75	45.85	45.50	45.60	45.45	46.75
1/25	IOWA	169.70	179.00	45.10	44.65	44.30	40.05	44.80	41.80	44.80	43.20
1/30	Cactus Inv.		178.85	44.40		44.15		46.75		43.55	
	Arizona	185.15			46.55		45.75		45.75		47.10
	Utah St.	181.70			45.30		45.45		45.10		45.95
	Denver	177.60			44.80		45.50		43.80		43.50
	Brigham Young	175.45			44.95		43.15		43.55		43.80
	Kentucky	174.70			44.70		44.05		42.45		43.50
2/1	New Mexico	180.55	182.05	46.30	44.75	45.45	45.45	44.25	43.60	46.05	46.75
2/7	Badger Inv.		178.70	44.05		46.05		43.70		44.90	
	Wisconsin	178.75									
	Illinois	176.05									
	Arizona	181.10									
2/9	BRIGHAM YOUNG	174.50	182.30	45.80	45.05	45.50	44.50	46.00	43.10	45.00	41.85
2/14	Red/White Inv.		180.45	45.95		46.30		43.40		44.80	
	Georgia	188.20			47.25		47.70		47.30		45.95
	Alabama	186.85			46.40		45.05		47.45		47.15
	Oklahoma	183.45			45.10		46.35		46.30		45.70
2/21	UCLA Inv.										
3/1	OHIO STATE										
3/27	Big Tens										
	Ohio State										
	Mich. State										
	Wisconsin										
	Illinois										
	Michigan										
	Iowa										
4/4	N. ILLINOIS										
	Average	180.29	179.71	45.32	45.63	44.83	45.04	44.95	44.72	44.67	45.26
	Regional Qualifying Score*:	180.21									

*The Regional Qualifying Score equals the average of the best five team scores of the season, and must include two home and two away scores. Seven teams qualify for the regional.

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 2-2-2-2

TEAM HIGHS BY EVENT --

VAULT----- Shelley Brown 9.55 vs. Brigham Young 2/9/87
 UNEVEN BARS----- Marie Roethlisberger 9.75* at Badger Invitational 2/7/87
 BALANCE BEAM----- Shelley Brown 9.65 at Cactus Invitational 1/30/87
 FLOOR EXERCISE----- Marie Roethlisberger 9.75* at New Mexico 2/1/87
 ALL-AROUND----- Marie Roethlisberger 37.35& vs. Brigham Young 2/7/87 &
 at Red & White Invitational 2/14/87

VAULT----- 46.30 at New Mexico 2/1/87
 UNEVEN BARS----- 46.30* at Red & White Invitational 2/14/87
 BALANCE BEAM----- 46.75* at Cactus Invitational 1/30/87
 FLOOR EXERCISE----- 46.05 at New Mexico 2/1/87
 ALL-AROUND----- 182.30*% vs. Brigham Young 2/9/87

* New School Record % New Williams Arena Record
 # Ties School Record & Ties Williams Arena Record

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY EVENT --

	BANDROWS	BEDNAR	BROWN	DOELL	FINNEGAN	HICKS	MASTEL	NEWMAN	ROETHLIS	WISE
VAULT										
Neb. Inv.	--	7.95	9.20	9.20	9.10	8.80	--	--	9.00	--
Utah St.	--	--	9.45	9.10	9.40	8.75	--	8.95	8.45	--
IOWA	8.90	--	9.45	8.65	8.80	9.30	--	8.55	--	--
Cactus Inv.	--	8.90	9.20	8.75	8.65	8.90	--	8.65	--	--
New Mexico	--	--	9.25	9.35	9.35	9.30	--	8.70	9.05	--
Wisconsin	--	--	8.45	9.10	8.70	9.00	--	8.50	8.75	--
BRIGHAM YOUNG	--	--	9.55	9.25	9.05	8.95	--	8.70	9.00	--
Red/White Inv.	--	--	9.30	9.30	9.05	9.15	--	8.80	9.15	--
UCLA Inv.										
OHIO STATE										
Big Tens (Finals)										
N. ILLNOIS										
Average	8.90	8.43	9.23	9.09	9.01	9.02	--	8.69	8.90	--
BARS										
Neb. Inv.	8.70	--	9.05	9.25	7.65	7.65	--	--	9.50	--
Utah St.	8.80	--	7.20	8.15	8.50	8.00	--	--	8.80	--
IOWA	8.60	--	9.00	8.20	7.25	8.85	--	--	9.65	--
Cactus Inv.	--	--	9.20	8.60	8.15	8.45	8.25	--	9.65	--
New Mexico	--	--	8.80	9.30	8.70	9.15	8.85	--	9.35	--
Wisconsin	--	--	8.50	9.30	7.75	9.40	9.10	--	9.75	--
BRIGHAM YOUNG	--	--	9.20	9.10	8.45	8.60	9.05	--	9.55	--
Red/White Inv.	--	--	9.15	9.00	9.20	9.30	9.00	--	9.65	--
UCLA Inv.										
OHIO STATE										
Big Tens (Finals)										
N. ILLNOIS										
Average	8.70	--	8.76	8.86	8.21	8.68	8.85	--	9.49	--

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 3-3-3

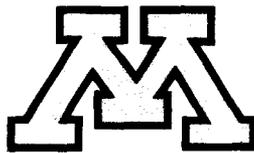
	BANDROWS	BEDNAR	BROWN	DOELL	FINNEGAN	HICKS	MASTEL	NEWMAN	ROETHLIS	WISE
BEAM										
Neb. Inv.	9.15	--	9.55	--	8.05	9.10	8.55	--	8.85	--
Utah St.	8.70	--	9.25	9.00	--	9.05	9.20	--	9.00	--
IOWA	8.90	--	8.85	8.20	--	9.15	8.60	--	9.30	--
Cactus Inv.	--	--	9.65	9.10	9.05	9.45	8.75	--	9.50	--
New Mexico	--	--	8.95	9.15	8.25	8.75	8.70	--	8.70	--
Wisconsin	--	--	9.10	7.65	7.80	9.35	8.30	--	9.15	--
BRIGHAM YOUNG	--	--	8.90	9.30	8.60	9.20	9.15	--	9.45	--
Red/White Inv.	--	--	8.55	8.50	8.15	8.95	8.80	--	9.25	--
UCLA Inv.										
OHIO STATE										
Big Tens (Finals)										
N. ILLNOIS										
Average	8.92	--	9.10	8.70	8.23	9.13	8.76	--	9.15	--
FLOOR										
Neb. Inv.	8.35	--	8.95	--	7.95	8.55	8.75	--	8.20	--
Utah St.	9.10	--	9.40	--	8.55	8.95	9.40	--	--	8.60
IOWA	8.60	--	9.05	--	8.00	8.95	9.15	--	9.05	--
Cactus Inv.	--	--	8.85	--	8.20	8.35	8.80	--	9.30	8.25
New Mexico	--	--	9.55	--	8.75	8.70	9.30	--	9.75	8.70
Wisconsin	--	--	9.05	--	8.95	8.90	9.30	--	8.70	8.65
BRIGHAM YOUNG	--	--	9.20	--	8.80	8.85	8.80	--	9.35	8.45
Red/White Inv.	--	--	8.80	--	8.70	9.00	9.00	--	9.30	8.15
UCLA Inv.										
OHIO STATE										
Big Tens (Finals)										
N. ILLNOIS										
Average	8.68	--	9.11	--	8.49	8.78	9.06	--	9.09	8.47
ALL-AROUND										
Neb. Inv.	--	--	36.75	--	32.15	34.10	--	--	35.55	--
Utah St.	--	--	35.30	--	--	34.75	--	--	--	--
IOWA	35.50	--	36.35	--	--	36.25	--	--	--	--
Cactus Inv.	--	--	36.90	--	34.05	35.15	--	--	--	--
New Mexico	--	--	36.55	--	35.05	35.90	--	--	36.85	--
Wisconsin	--	--	35.10	--	33.20	36.65	--	--	36.35	--
BRIGHAM YOUNG	--	--	36.85	--	34.90	35.60	--	--	37.35	--
Red/White Inv.	--	--	35.90	--	35.10	36.40	--	--	37.35	--
UCLA Inv.										
OHIO STATE										
Big Tens										
N. ILLNOIS										
Average	35.50	--	36.21	--	34.08	35.60	--	--	36.69	--
Regional Average			36.68			36.16				

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 4-4-4-4

INDIVIDUAL BESTS BY EVENT THIS SEASON --

	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
BANDROWSKI	8.90	8.80	9.15	9.10	35.00
BEDNAR	9.15!	--	--	--	--
BROWN	9.55	9.20	9.65	9.55	36.90
DOELL	9.35	9.30	9.30	--	--
FINNEGAN	9.40	9.20	9.05	8.95	35.10
HICKS	9.30	9.40	9.45	9.00	36.65
MASTEL	--	9.10	9.20	9.40	--
NEWMAN	8.95	--	--	--	--
ROETHLISBERGER	9.15	9.75	9.50	9.75	37.35
WISE	8.60!	--	7.50!	8.70	--

!scored at Japanese meet (exhibition)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Milford Times)

May 4, 1987

(GYMNAST BANDROWSKI COMPLETES SENIOR SEASON)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Milford native and University of Minnesota gymnast Marie Bandrowski started her senior season injury-free for the first time in her collegiate career. But after a best-ever start, Bandrowski tore ligaments in her elbow and did not compete for two months.

"It wasn't an easy year for Marie," said head coach Katalin Deli. "She hurt the same elbow each year. She was doing very fine this year when the same thing happened."

Bandrowski returned in time to compete at the Big Ten and NCAA Regional championships to conclude her collegiate career, and Deli was proud of the fact that Bandrowski performed her balance beam routine perfectly in her final collegiate meet, the regional championship.

For the first time in two years, Bandrowski competed all-around and she improved her season averages in all events. Before she was injured in late January, she had competed as a uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise specialist in the team's first three meets. Bandrowski had the team's second-highest beam score, a 9.15, in the season-opening meet in Nebraska. In the next meet at Utah State she set a new career-high with a 9.10 floor exercise score.

The team's 14-20-1 overall record may appear unsatisfactory, but the 1987 gymnastics season is one of the best ever in Gopher history. In addition to competing against 17 of the nation's top teams, Minnesota ranked among the top 20 for most of the season.

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After an injury-filled pre-season, it took until the team's fifth meet, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the Gophers to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom with injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

After tying four-time Big Ten champion Ohio State 185.40-185.40 in a dual meet in March, the Gophers thought they had a shot at the Big Ten title. But a three-week layoff from competition proved to be too much, and they finished third at the Big Ten Championship with a 180.45 score. The Gophers were deducted .3 for an illegal vaulting warmup; if that had not been deducted, they would have repeated as team runnerup with a 180.75 mark. Instead, Michigan State placed second with a 180.65 score.

The last time the Gophers competed as a team in post-season competition was during Bandrowski's freshman season at the 1984 Midwest Region Championship. This year, a best-ever 182.93 regional average and reassignment to the Central Region gave the team the sixth seed at the regional championship. Although the team was ranked fourth for most of the season, they finished fifth at regionals with a 180.20 mark.

The team showed marked improvement in two traditionally weak areas, the uneven bars and balance beam, and constantly set and re-set school and arena records. Of the 20 Minnesota and Williams Arena records for team and individual, the Gophers broke or tied all but four. A sampling of the new school records include team score record of 185.40 vs. Ohio State; school vault of 46.80 vs. Ohio State; school uneven bars of 46.30 at the Red and White Invite; and school balance beam of 46.75 at the Cactus Invite.

Although her collegiate career is finished, Bandrowski may compete this summer for Athletes in Action, a ministry group which competes world-wide. Bandrowski competed in South America with the organization in 1985 -- this year's tour would take her to Asia.

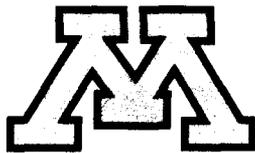
Bandrowski has also excelled academically. A sports and exercise science major, she was named to the Big Ten All-Academic gymnastics team earlier this season. Bandrowski was named the team's Scholar Gymnast in 1985 and 1986, and she is a two-time Patty Berg Award winner for excellence in athletics and academics.

A 1983 graduate of Milford High School, Bandrowski competed for the Steve Whitlock School of Gymnastics and led the Acronauts team to the conference title in 1983. She won the Mid-State Conference all-around title in 1982 and finished third in 1983 and advanced to regional competition by placing third all-around and first on the vault at the state meet. Bandrowski is the daughter of Michael and Marie Bandrowski of Milford.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Marie Bandrowski

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1983-84 Season Ave.	8.82	8.24	8.72	8.70	34.33
Season Best	9.20*	8.70	9.20	9.05	35.55*
1984-85 Season Ave.	8.88	--	8.70	8.90	--
Season Best	9.15	--	9.25*	8.90	--
1985-86 Season Ave.	--	8.42	8.40	8.60	--
Season Best	--	9.00*	8.85	8.60	--
1986-87 Season Ave.	8.93	8.70	8.80	8.68	35.00
Season Best	9.00	8.80	9.15	9.10*	35.00
Career Average	8.88	8.45	8.66	8.72	34.67

*Career Best



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Bloomington Sun)

(BROWN CONCLUDES GOPHER GYMNASTICS CAREER)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- University of Minnesota gymnast Shelley Brown will be remembered for many things now that her collegiate gymnastics has ended. She was the 1986 Big Ten all-around champion, Minnesota's first all-around champion since 1982. She competed individually at NCAA regional and national championships in 1986, and she led the Gophers back to team regional competition in 1987. And above all, she proved that collegiate gymnasts can improve throughout their careers.

"I have never seen a college gymnast improve as much as Shelley did in four years. She is a living example of hard work, dignity and dedication," said Gopher head coach Katalin Deli.

An all-state performer at Bloomington Jefferson High School, Brown was not heavily recruited by the nation's top gymnastics programs. As a freshman, she placed 10th all-around at the 1984 Big Ten Championship, and she was a regular all-arounder as a freshman and sophomore. But, performing behind All-Big Ten selections Laurie Kaiser and Wendy Dorsey, Brown was a virtual unknown.

As a junior, Brown came out of nowhere and surprised the Big Ten and nation by winning the Big Ten all-around title and competing at the NCAA National Championships. The 1986 Gopher MVP, Brown was suddenly the star of the team.

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Brown Concludes Gopher Gymnastics Career -2-2-2-

Brown started the 1987 season intent on improving on last year's successes. Over the summer she studied with choreographer Geza Pozsar in California and created a new floor exercise routine to "Venus" by Bananarama. Brown also changed her uneven bars routine and refined her balance beam routine and vault. The improvements paid off this year: Brown set a new school vault record of 9.65, a new Williams Arena balance beam record of 9.65 and new personal bests in the uneven bars (9.35), floor exercise (9.55) and all-around (37.85).

During the first half of her senior season, Brown's scores were again best on the team. Her scores also led the Big Ten, and Brown was named Big Ten Gymnast of the Month for January. Brown continued to be a factor in the team's successes, although a healthy Marie Roethlisberger was now the team's leading scorer.

After scoring 37.85 all-around in a dual meet against Ohio State on March 1, Brown was a favorite for the Big Ten all-around title. But at the conference championship on March 27, Brown was only able to score 35.95 all-around. After competing in all four event finals in 1986, Brown only competed in the balance beam finals this year and placed eighth.

Brown rebounded with a strong performance against Northern Illinois on April 4 when she placed first in the all-around, floor exercise and balance beam and tied her Williams Arena beam record of 9.65. At the NCAA Regional Championships, however, Brown's 36.25 all-around mark wasn't enough to earn a repeat trip to the national meet.

Deli said that Brown was a tough competitor, both mentally and physically, but she added, "It was hard for her to deal with coming from nowhere and suddenly being a star. She wanted to perform as well as she had before, and naturally, be better. She put a lot of personal pressure on herself and it's very unfortunate that things didn't turn out better because she had done the work, she was ready."

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Brown Concludes Gopher Career -3-3-3-

While Brown's performances were public evidence of her talent, she put in long hours in the gym to gain confidence in her performances. Her dedication in the gym set an example for her teammates. "Shelley set the example of hard work. What she has done meant giving 100 percent day-by-day. Not one day did she slow down or give up," Deli said.

Although Brown's efforts were not enough to earn the team a trip to nationals, the 1987 season is one of the best in Gopher history. The Gophers compiled a 14-20-1 record and competed against 17 of the nation's top 20 teams. Minnesota also ranked among the nation's best for most of the year, and they finished the regular season ranked 20th.

After an up-and-down preseason where two top all-arounders left the team, it took until the fifth meet of the regular season, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the Gophers to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom with injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

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Brown Concludes Gopher Gymnastics Career -4-4-4-

The last time the Gophers competed as a team in post-season competition was during Brown's freshman season at the 1984 Midwest Region Championship. This year, a best-ever 182.93 regional average and reassignment to the Central Region gave the team the sixth seed at the regional championship. Although the team was ranked fourth for most of the season, they finished fifth at regionals with a 180.20 mark.

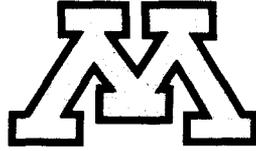
Brown's achievements have not gone unrecognized. Brown was named the 1987 Lake Conference Female Athlete of the Year. In addition, she is a finalist for the American Award which is presented annually to the top senior female gymnast in the country, and she was nominated for the University of Minnesota Presidential Award.

A fashion merchandising major, Brown is the daughter of Bill and Karen Brown of Bloomington.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Shelley Brown

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1983-84 Season Ave.	8.92	8.30	8.50	8.92	34.71
Season Best	9.10	8.90	9.45	9.35	36.20
1984-85 Season Ave.	8.98	8.79	8.56	8.99	35.19
Season Best	9.20	9.25	8.90	9.35	36.35
1985-86 Season Ave.	9.27	8.96	8.90	9.10	36.18
Season Best	9.60	9.25	9.75*	9.50	37.45
1986-87 Season Ave.	9.23	8.89	9.13	9.14	36.43
Season Best	9.65*	9.35*	9.65	9.55*	37.85*
Career Average	9.10	8.74	8.77	9.04	35.63

*Career Best



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Osseo-Maple Grove Press)

May 4, 1987

(LINDA BEDNAR CONCLUDES GOPHER GYMNASTICS CAREER)

(Minneapolis, Minn) -- An ankle injury in the first meet of the season put Gopher gymnast Linda Bednar of Maple Grove on the injured list for almost all of her senior season. And unfortunately for the Gophers, Bednar was unable to repeat the successes of her junior season where she was a consistent vault and floor exercise performer and a Big Ten vaulting finalist.

In the team's pre-season competition against the Japanese All-Stars, Bednar looked ready to continue last year's achievements. She scored 9.15 on the vault to place fourth after a three-way tie for first. But she crashed to the floor exercise mat after a shaky landing in her first tumbling pass. That crash severely sprained her ankle and Bednar could not compete or train for a month.

"Linda worked very, very hard in the beginning of the season," said Minnesota head coach Katalin Deli. "But then she was injured in the first meet of the year, in a meet that didn't even count, and she was done. I felt very bad for her because she wanted to finish well."

Bednar vaulted in two early-season meets and had a top score of 8.90 at the Cactus Invitational on January 30. After that, however, Bednar did not compete until the Big Ten Championship in March where she scored 8.20 and did not qualify for the individual vaulting final.

more---

With Bednar out of the vaulting lineup, the team's season vaulting average dropped from 45.90 in 1985-86 to 45.57 in 1986-87. "We had always counted Linda's score in the past," said Deli. "She was a very consistent vaulter and she tried very hard in the gym. She set an example of herself to the others."

Even though she was bothered by nagging injuries for most of her career, Bednar learned to execute more difficult skills as a collegiate gymnast. During her junior year she switched to a layout tsukahara vault and improved her career best from 9.15 to 9.35. Bednar had a 9.05 vaulting average in 1986, and she competed in the 1986 Big Ten vaulting finals. Bednar was also a regular floor exercise performer; as a sophomore she finished fourth in the floor exercise at the 1985 Big Ten Championship.

Although the team's 14-20-1 overall record may indicate a sub-par year, the 1987 gymnastics season is one of the best ever in Gopher history. Deli scheduled competition against some of the nation's best teams, including 17 teams who were at one time ranked among the top 20 nationally. Minnesota finished the season ranked 20th and were ranked as high as 15th during the year.

It took until the fifth meet of the regular season, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the Gophers to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom with injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

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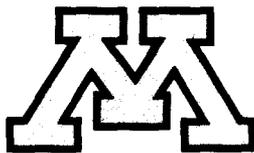
After tying four-time Big Ten champion Ohio State 185.40-185.40 in a dual meet in March, the Gophers thought they had a shot at the Big Ten title. But a three-week layoff from competition was too much, and they finished third at the Big Ten Championship with a 180.45 score. The Gophers were deducted .3 for an illegal vaulting warmup; if that had not been deducted, they would have repeated as team runnerup with a 180.75 mark.

The last time the Gophers competed as a team in post-season competition was during Bednar's freshman season at the 1984 Midwest Region Championship. At that meet, the Gophers placed fourth and Bednar was the team's top vaulter with a 9.15 score. This year, a best-ever 182.93 regional average and reassignment to the Central Region gave the team the sixth seed at the regional championship. Although the team was ranked fourth for most of the season, they finished fifth at the championship with a 180.20 mark.

A 1983 graduate of Osseo High School, Bednar led her high school team to two consecutive Region 5AA titles and won the region all-around, vault, floor exercise and uneven bars titles as a senior. The daughter of Robert and Barbara Bednar, Bednar is individually designing her major, and she is interested in attending chiropracter's school.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Linda Bednar

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1983-84 Season Ave.	8.92	7.77	7.18	7.70	31.20
Season Best	9.15	8.15	8.15	8.15	31.40
1984-85 Season Ave.	8.96	8.04	8.08	8.73	32.33
Season Best	9.15	8.80*	8.35*	9.30*	32.80*
1985-86 Season Ave.	9.05	--	--	8.77	--
Season Best	9.35*	--	--	9.20	--
1986-87 Season Ave.	8.35	--	--	--	--
Season Best	9.15	--	--	--	--
Career Average	8.82	7.94	7.63	8.40	31.76
*Career Best					



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Star-Phoenix)

May 4, 1987

(DOELL COMPLETES COLLEGIATE GYMNASTICS CAREER)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- University of Minnesota senior gymnast Candace Doell of Saskatoon saved her best performance for the final home meet of her final season of competition. In a dual meet against Northern Illinois on April 4, Doell competed in front of her parents and former club coaches for the first time as a collegiate gymnast and placed in the top three in the all-around, vault, uneven bars and balance beam.

What's surprising is that Doell only competed all-around in three meets this year. And she had her sixth knee operation last October.

But that operation didn't stop Doell from concluding her collegiate gymnastics career with new career bests in the uneven bars (9.30), balance beam (9.40) and all-around (36.70) and competition in the Big Ten vaulting finals for the third year.

"Candi had a good year and she tried very hard," said Gopher head coach Katalin Deli. "She's a very talented gymnast who did a great job throughout her career, both in academics and gymnastics."

Doell trained and competed for most of the season on the vault, uneven bars and balance beam, but she competed all-around in the team's last three meets. However, in her final collegiate meet, the NCAA Central Region Championship, Doell crashed into the floor exercise mat after her first tumbling pass and sprained her ankle. She scored 1.00, but with a taped ankle she finished the meet with a 9.00 vaulting score and an 8.95 bars mark.

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Doell was a consistent performer throughout her career, and her leadership was also present during practice. Selected co-captain by her teammates, Deli said that Doell's attitude in the gym helped keep the team motivated during an up-and-down season. "Candi pulled the team together in difficult times. She believed in everybody in the gym, and she realized what needed to be done to make our team successful," Deli said.

Doell's contributions helped the Minnesota gymnastics team to one of its best seasons ever, despite their 14-20-1 record. The Gophers competed against 17 of the nation's top 20 teams, and they spent most of the season ranked in the top twenty.

After an injury-filled pre-season when the team lost two strong competitors, it took until the fifth meet of the regular season, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the Gophers to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom due to injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

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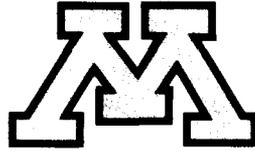
A graduate of E.D. Feehan High School, Doell trained and competed at the Marian Gymnastics Centre in Saskatoon. She was named Saskatchewan Female Athlete of the Year in 1980, 1981, and 1982, and she competed with the Canadian National Team in 1983. Although the Canadian team for this year's World University Games has been decided, Doell may still compete at the Canadian Games.

A child psychology major, Doell plans to attend dental school in Saskatoon. She is the daughter of Henry and Delina Doell.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Candace Doell

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1983-84 Season Ave.	8.92	8.00	8.36	8.39	33.30
Season Best	9.30	8.00	9.30	8.50	33.30
1984-85 Season Ave.	9.10	9.02	8.65	8.88	35.49
Season Best	9.30	9.20	9.30	9.20*	36.60
1985-86 Season Ave.	9.18	8.71	8.44	8.83	35.06
Season Best	9.45*	9.10	8.90	9.00	36.10
1986-87 Season Ave.	9.12	8.87	8.71	6.15	33.02
Season Best	9.35	9.30*	9.40*	8.95	36.70*
Career Average	9.08	8.65	8.54	8.06	34.28

*Career Best



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Cicero Life)

May 4, 1987

(TRANSFER HICKS MAKES IMMEDIATE CONTRIBUTION TO MINNESOTA GYMNASTICS)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Fortunately for the University of Minnesota women's gymnastics team, Cicero native Laura Hicks decided to transfer from Illinois to Minnesota. Although her reasons for the transfer were related to academics, Hicks' transfer proved to be beneficial for the gymnastics team.

Head coach Katalin Deli was surprised at how quickly Hicks adapted to the new school and team. "I've never had a transfer student before. I was surprised at Laura's ability to become a part of our team immediately," she said. "I had never heard of Laura before she came, and now I don't know what we would have done without her. She was a blessing in disguise."

Hicks competed all-around in every Gopher meet this year, and she was especially consistent on the vault and balance beam. She averaged over 9.00 in each event, and just missed competing in the Big Ten vaulting and beam finals by scoring .05 below the cut-off score.

Deli was particularly pleased that Hicks never fell off the balance beam once in competition. "Not too many gymnasts can say that they never fell off the beam," Deli said. "She's very consistent and cool-headed." On the season, Hicks averaged 9.08 on the beam and had a 9.45 best.

more---

Although she was bothered by nagging injuries throughout the season, Hicks had her best performance of the season just two days after testing negative for meningitis. At the Badger Invitational on February 7, Hicks placed second all-around with a career-best 36.65 score, tied for first on the balance beam with a 9.35 mark, and scored a career-high 9.40 on the uneven bars.

"Laura has done a great job this season, and she added a lot to our team," Deli said. "She's a great leader and a hard worker in the gym. I hope that next year is as successful for her."

Hicks' impact on the team was even more important after the Gophers lost two top all-arounders during the pre-season. She helped the team to a 14-20-1 record which included competition against 17 of the nation's top 20 schools. The Gophers also rebounded from a shaky early season to rank in the top 20 for most of the year.

Ranked 14th in the pre-season NCAA Coaches' Poll, it took the Gophers until the fifth meet of the regular season, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the team to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom with injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

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The last time the Gophers competed as a team in post-season competition was at the 1984 Midwest Region Championship. This year, a best-ever 182.93 regional average and reassignment to the Central Region gave the team the sixth seed at the regional championship. Although the team was ranked fourth for most of the season, they finished fifth at regionals with a 180.20 mark.

A two-year letterwinner at the University of Illinois, Hicks was the Illini's MVP in 1986, and she holds the Illinois uneven bars record of 9.70. She placed ninth all-arounder at the Big Ten Championship as a freshman, and during her sophomore season she placed sixth all-around at the NCAA Central Region Championship.

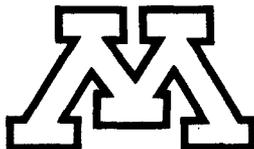
A graduate of Morton East High School, Hicks trained and competed for the Mid-America Twisters Club and led her team to the Eastern Regional Championships as a junior. She competed on her high school team as a freshman, sophomore, and senior and placed among the top ten all-arounders at the state championships each year.

Hicks changed her major to physical therapy this year, and that change led her to transfer to Minnesota. She is the daughter of William Hicks of Cicero.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Laura Hicks

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1986-87 Season Ave.	9.06	8.70	9.08	8.86	35.71
Season Best	9.30*	9.40*	9.45*	9.30*	36.65*
Career Average	9.06	8.70	9.08	8.86	35.71

*Career Best (at Minnesota)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Burnsville Current)

May 4, 1987

(NEWMAN COMPETES AS VAULTING SPECIALIST FOR GOPHER GYMNASTICS TEAM)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Last November Gopher freshman Julie Newman of Lakeville wasn't sure if she would be able to compete for the Minnesota women's gymnastics team. Due to stress fractures, the trainers and coaches did not know when Newman would be able to compete.

Newman missed the team's first meet, an exhibition against the Japanese All-Stars in December, but she recovered in time to vault in nine of thirteen regular-season meets. On the season, Newman averaged 8.65, with an 8.95 top score, and she threw a piked tsukahara vault.

Minnesota head coach Katalin Deli was pleased with Newman's ability to step in and help the team. "I didn't think Julie would be in the lineup, but she wanted to be there," Deli said. "She gave her teammates extra support and contributed tremendously."

Newman's contributions were needed after the team lost two top all-rounders during preseason training. She helped the team to a 14-20-1 overall record and one of the best seasons ever in Gopher history. Deli scheduled competition against some of the nation's best teams, including 17 teams who were at one time ranked among the top 20 nationally, and the Gophers also spent most of the season ranked in the nation's top 20.

more---

Ranked 14th in the NCAA pre-season coaches' poll and the pre-season Central Region pick by the NCAA News, the Gophers' pre-season training was one catastrophe after another. First the team lost freshman Lisa Wittwer for the season after reconstructive knee surgery. Then three-time Big Ten champion Laurie Kaiser left the team after a record-setting career. In addition, almost every member of the team was bothered by assorted injuries.

It took until the fifth meet of the regular season, a 182.05-180.55 win over New Mexico on Feb. 1, for the Gophers to get on track and start to realize their potential. But in their next meet, the Badger Invitational on Feb. 7, the team scored 178.70 and looked to have hit rock-bottom with injuries and illnesses. The next meet, a 182.30-174.50 win over Brigham Young on Feb. 9, put the Gophers back on the record-setting pace that characterized the season.

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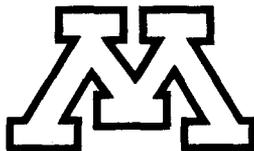
The team showed marked improvement in two traditionally weak areas, the uneven bars and balance beam, and constantly set and re-set school and arena records. Of the 20 Minnesota and Williams Arena records for team and individual, the Gophers broke or tied all but four.

A 1986 graduate of Lakeville High School, Newman led her high school team to the 1986 Minnesota Class AA team title. She placed fifth on the vault at the 1985 and 1986 state championships and third on the uneven bars in 1985. Academically, Newman had a 4.0 grade point average in her first quarter at Minnesota, and she is interested in majoring in psychology. Newman is the daughter of Donald and Arlene Newman of Lakeville.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Julie Newman

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1986-87 Season Ave.	8.65	--	--	--	--
Season Best	8.95*	--	--	--	--
Career Average	8.65	--	--	--	--

*Career Best



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Edina Sun)

May 4, 1987

(FRESHMAN WISE COMPETES ON FLOOR EXERCISE ON GOPHER GYMNASTICS TEAM)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- The 1987 Minnesota women's gymnastics team was heralded during fall training as a national contender because of its top returners and prize recruits. But after losing two top all-arounders, the fate was uncertain. Fortunately, freshman Michelle Wise of Edina was able to step in and compete as a floor exercise specialist. As a result, she was a part of the team's record-setting season.

A walk-on, Wise competed on the floor in 10 of 13 meets, including the NCAA Central Regional Championship. She had an 8.47 average and an 8.70 best score. Wise also competed on the vault and balance beam in the team's December exhibition against the Japanese University All-Stars.

During the regular season, Wise also competed in exhibition on the vault and balance beam and gained competitive experience without the pressure of her score counting in the team total.

"I didn't think Michelle would be in the lineup," said Gopher head coach Katalin Deli. "But she wanted to be there helping the team. She gave her teammates extra support and contributed tremendously."

Although the team's 14-20-1 overall record may appear unsatisfactory, the 1987 gymnastics season is one of the best ever in Gopher history. Head coach Katalin Deli scheduled competition against some of the nation's best teams, including 17 teams who were at one time ranked among the top 20 nationally. The Gophers ranked among the top 20 for most of the season.

more---

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A 1986 graduate of Edina High School, Wise was a two-time all-conference selection. The daughter of Eugene and Beverly Wise, Wise has not yet decided on a college major.

SEASON AND CAREER AVERAGES AND BESTS -- Michelle Wise

	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	ALL-AROUND
1986-87 Season Ave.	8.60	--	7.50	8.47	--
Season Best	8.60*#	--	7.50*#	8.70*	--
Career Average	8.60	--	7.50	8.47	--

*Career Best

#Scored in exhibition meet