

POMMEL HORSE GREATS

**ALL FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING BUTLER HIGH
POMMEL HORSE WORKERS HAVE BEEN INDUCTED
INTO THE BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME!**

**BILL
STANLEY**

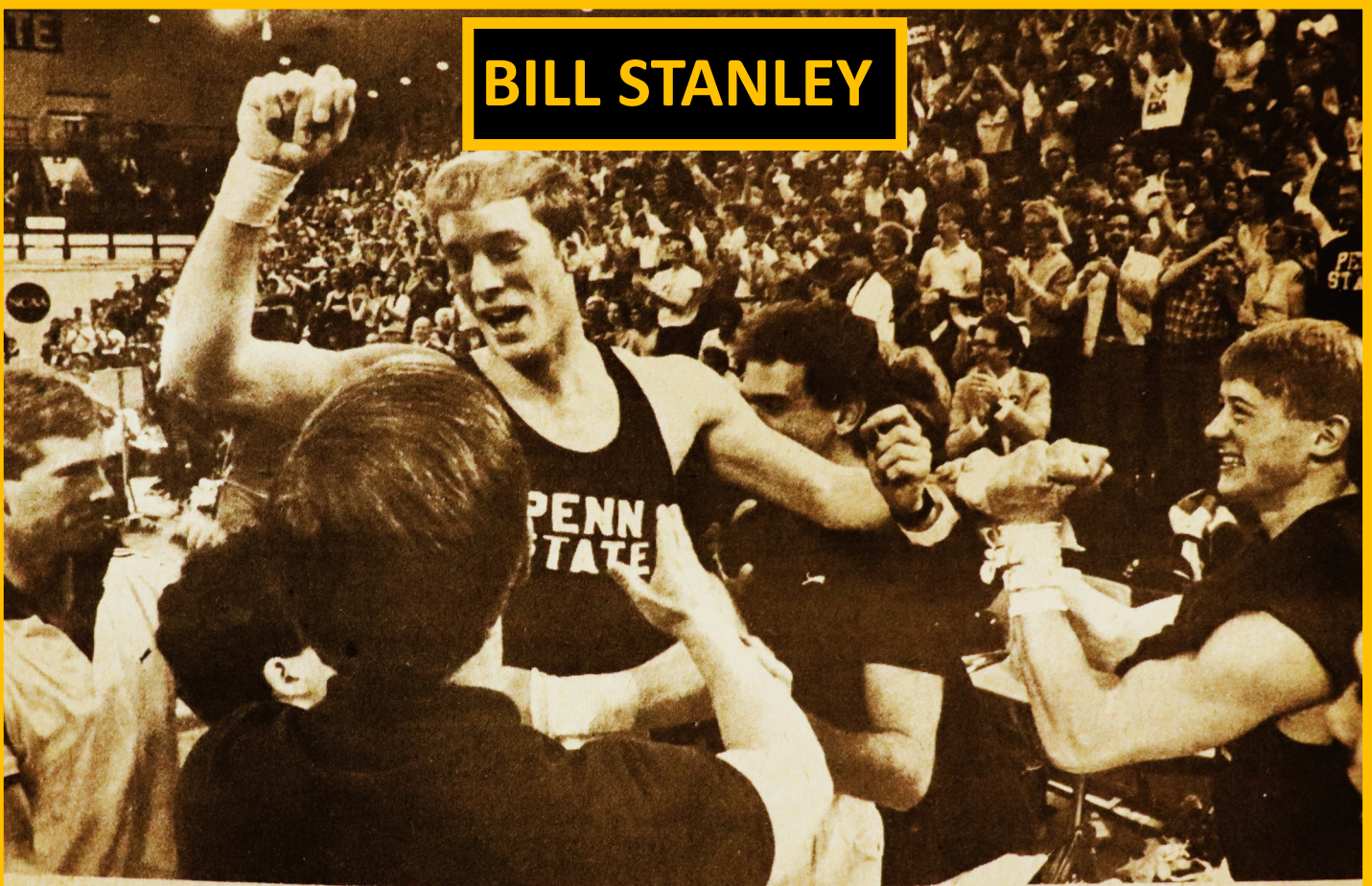
**BOB
STANLEY**

ERIC SWANSON

**JOE
GRACIK**

**JOHN
GRACIK**

BILL STANLEY



STANDING OVATION — Jim Curzi, all-time gymnastics great at Butler High who won the first Nissen Award nearly two decades ago while at Michigan State University, always rated the pommel horse as the most difficult apparatus to master in this demanding sport. This past weekend Bill Stanley, repeat PIAA champion under the same Golden Tornado colors, thrilled his home crowd at University Park's Rec Hall with a perfect 10.0 mark on the side horse during a Saturday afternoon

routine, bringing his Penn State teammates flocking around him and the Nittany Lions faithful to their feet. Directly in front of Stanley is PSU coach Karl Schier with teammate Bobby Painton at the left and Terry Bartlett at the right. Unfortunately Penn State finished third in team competition behind repeat champion Nebraska and No. 2 UCLA.

— Centre Daily Times Photo

WHEN THE FIG SCORING SYSTEM STILL INCLUDED A PERFECT TEN, BILL STANLEY ACHIEVED THE PERFECT SCORE NOT ONCE BUT TWICE. BILL ACHIEVED THE FEAT IN THE NCAA NATIONAL PRELIMINARIES AT PENN STATE. HE ALSO ACHIEVED A PERFECT TEN IN A PENN STATE VERSUS RUSSIA DUAL MEET HELD AT PENN STATE. THREE OF THE FOUR JUDGES AWARDED BILL A TEN, TWO OF THE JUDGES WERE RUSSIANS. IN AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS, THE SUPERIOR JUDGE POSTED THE OFFICIAL SCORE AS 9.95. TO ALL OF US BACK HERE IN BUTLER GYMNASTICS HISTORY, BILL'S TRUE SCORE WAS A 10.00.



PennState

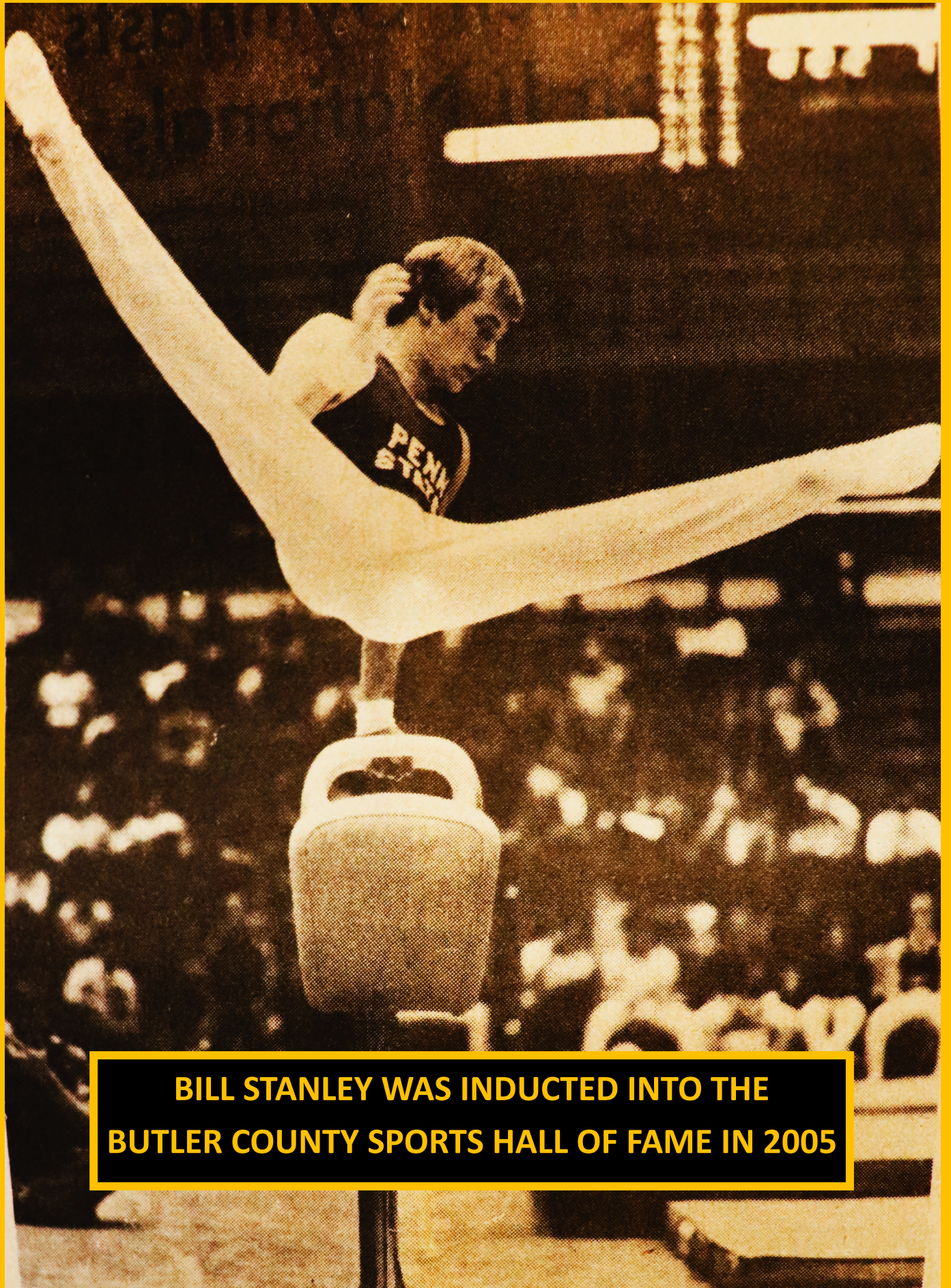


LEADING THE NATION — Penn State's Bill Stanley, former Butler high standout, is shown competing in last year's NCAA Gymnastics competition at PSU when he scored a perfect 10 on the pommel horse. This season, Stanley leads the nation with a 9.92 average and will again compete in the NCAA national championships April 12-14 at UCLA.

BILL STANLEY BILL STARTED AS AN ALL-AROUND GYMNAST AND GRADUALLY BECAME A POMMEL HORSE SPECIALIST. BILL WAS A FOUR YEAR LETTEMAN AT BUTLER HIGH. HE PLACED THIRD ON THE POMMEL HORSE AS A SOPHOMORE, THEN PLACED FIRST AS A JUNIOR AND A SENIOR IN THE WPIAL. HE PLACED FOURTH ON THE POMMEL HORSE AS A SOPHOMORE, THEN WON THE PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BOTH HIS JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. AT PENN STATE, BILL PLACED FIFTH IN THE EIGL POMMEL HORSE EVENT AS A FRESHMAN, FOURTH AS A SOPHOMORE, AND THEN FIRST AS A JUNIOR AND SENIOR. BILL THEN PLACED FOURTH IN THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS AS A SOPHOMORE, WINNING BACK TO BACK NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS AS A JUNIOR AND SENIOR. DURING HIS BEST SEASONS, BILL AVERAGED 9.80 IN DUAL MEETS.

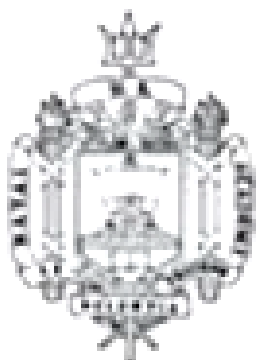
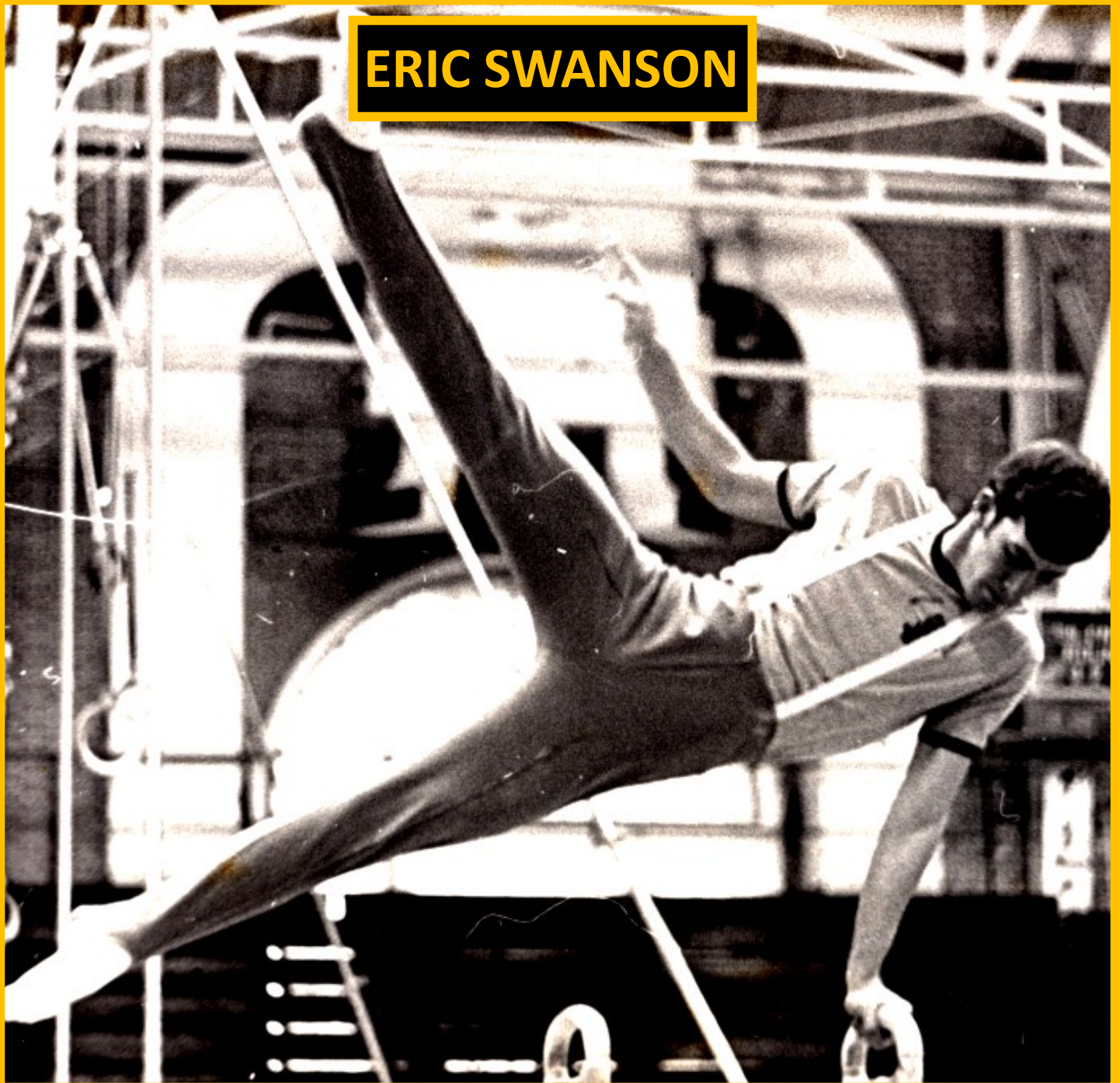
BACK HERE IN BUTLER
HISTORY, BILL WILL
ALWAYS BE A PERFECT

10.00!!!



**BILL STANLEY WAS INDUCTED INTO THE
BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2005**

ERIC SWANSON



USNA

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

ERIC SWANSON ERIC WAS A FOUR YEAR LETTERMAN AS A POMMEL HORSE SPECIALIST AT BUTLER HIGH. HE PLACED THIRD IN THE WPIAL AS A SOPHOMORE, SECOND AS A JUNIOR AND FIRST AS A SENIOR. HE PLACED FOURTH IN THE PIAA STATE AS A SOPHOMORE, SECOND AS A JUNIOR, AND SECOND AS A SENIOR. AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY IN ANNAPOLIS, ERIC PLACED FOURTH IN THE EIGL AS A FRESHMAN, THIRD AS A SOPHOMORE, AND FIRST AS A JUNIOR AND SENIOR. AT THE EIGL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ERIC SCORED THE FIRST PERFECT TEN IN EIGL POMMEL HORSE HISTORY. ERIC PLACED FOURTH IN THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS AS A SOPHOMORE, THEN BACK TO BACK SECONDS AS A JUNIOR AND SENIOR, EACH TIME MISSING FIRST BY LESS THAN A TENTH OF A POINT. AT ANNAPOLIS, ERIC WAS AN ATHLETE-SCHOLAR. RANKED NEAR THE TOP OF HIS CLASS. ERIC WAS NOMINATED FOR THE NISSEN AWARD, GYMNASTICS VERSION OF FOOTBALL'S HEISMAN TROPHY. AGAIN BY A NARROW MARGIN IN THE VOTING, ERIC PLACED SECOND. BACK HERE IN BUTLER HISTORY, ERIC WILL ALWAYS BE A FIRST PLACE WINNER. IN ERICS BEST SEASON, HIS AVERAGE SCORE WAS 9.80.



AT A CASUAL GLANCE IT MAY SEEM THAT ERIC SWANSON WAS SOMEHOW DESTINED TO COME IN SECOND, BUT ERIC WAS A TRUE CHAMPION. UNDEFEATED IN DUAL MEETS, BACK TO BACK EIGL CHAMPIONSHIPS, BACK TO BACK NCAA SILVER MEDALS, ACADEMIC ALL AMERICAN, NISSEN AWARD NOMINEE, OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN HIS NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS, THE FIRST PERFECT TEN IN EIGL HISTORY... ERIC WAS A FIRST CLASS CHAMPION, A WINNER ALL THE WAY.



- HE MUST BE AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY... A CHAMPION IN DEFEAT AS WELL AS IN VICTORY.
- HE MUST MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP THROUGHOUT HIS COLLEGE CAREER.

ERIC SWANSON

**ATHLETE/SCHOLAR AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY.
GRADUATED WITH HONORS**

SINCE 1966, COLLEGE GYMNASTICS' HIGHEST HONOR, THE NISSEN AWARD, HAS BEEN PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO THAT YEAR'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR COLLEGIATE GYMNAST. FROM 1966 THROUGH 1989 THE AWARD NOMINATION, SELECTION AND PRESENTATION PROCESS WAS MANAGED BY THE NISSEN COMPANY. IBM SPONSORED THE AWARD IN 1990. USA GYMNASTICS SPONSORED THE AWARD FROM 1991-97. IN 1998 DR. ROBERT W. EMERY, THE 1969 WINNER, AGREED TO HELP THE C.G.A. FINANCE THE REDESIGNING OF THE AWARD AND ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT THAT WOULD INDEFINITELY COVER THE ANNUAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

THE NISSEN-EMERY AWARD DOES NOT ONLY HONOR THE COLLEGIATE SENIOR GYMNAST WHO HAS ESTABLISHED AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT DURING HIS COLLEGE CAREER. MORE THAN SIMPLY AN AWARD FOR GYMNASTICS EXCELLENCE, THE WINNER MUST ALSO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS:

- HE MUST BE AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY...
A CHAMPION IN DEFEAT AS WELL AS IN VICTORY.
 - HE MUST MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP
THROUGHOUT HIS COLLEGE CAREER.

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS COACHES, STUDENT ATHLETES AND ACCREDITED COLLEGE GYMNASTICS JUDGES ALL ACROSS THE NATION ARE REQUESTED EACH YEAR TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD. GYMNASTS RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS ARE THEN PLACED ON A FINAL BALLOT AND VOTED UPON BY THOSE SAME COACHES, ATHLETES AND JUDGES.

THE AWARD PRESENTATION IS HELD ANNUALLY
AT THE NCAA GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

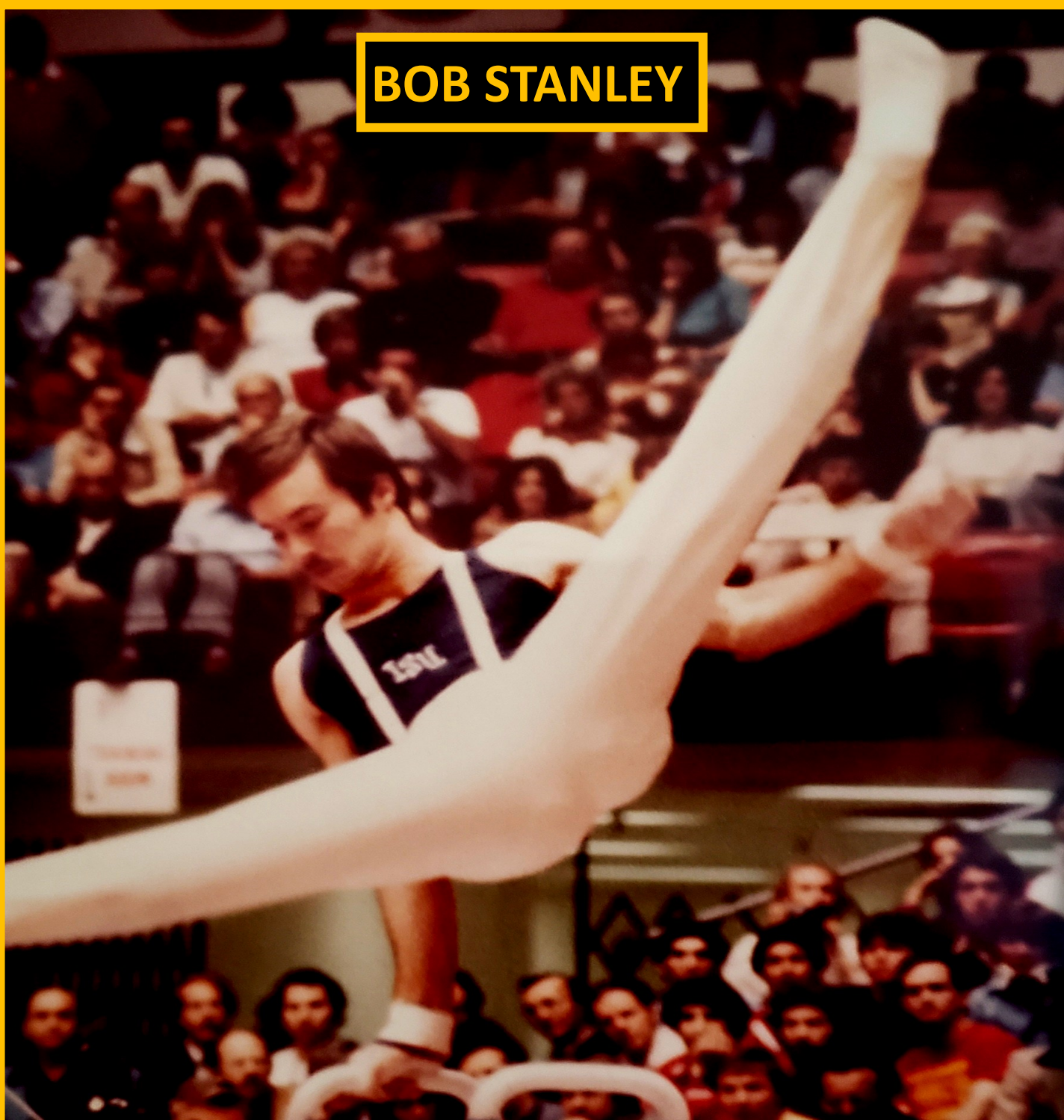
THE "HEISMAN TROPHY" OF GYMNASTICS,
THE NISSEN-EMERY AWARD IS INSCRIBED WITH THE FOLLOWING MOTTO:
"THE TRUE CHAMPION SEEKS EXCELLENCE PHYSICALLY,
MENTALLY, SOCIALLY, AND MORALLY."

ERIC SWANSON IN 1973 WAS THE LAST NAVY GYMNAST
TO EARN ALL-AMERICAN HONORS AS HE GARNERED
THE RECOGNITION FOR HIS EFFORT ON THE POMMEL HORSE
AT THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.
HE REPEATED THIS FEAT FROM THE 1972 SEASON.



**ERIC SWANSON WAS INDUCTED INTO THE
BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2001**

BOB STANLEY



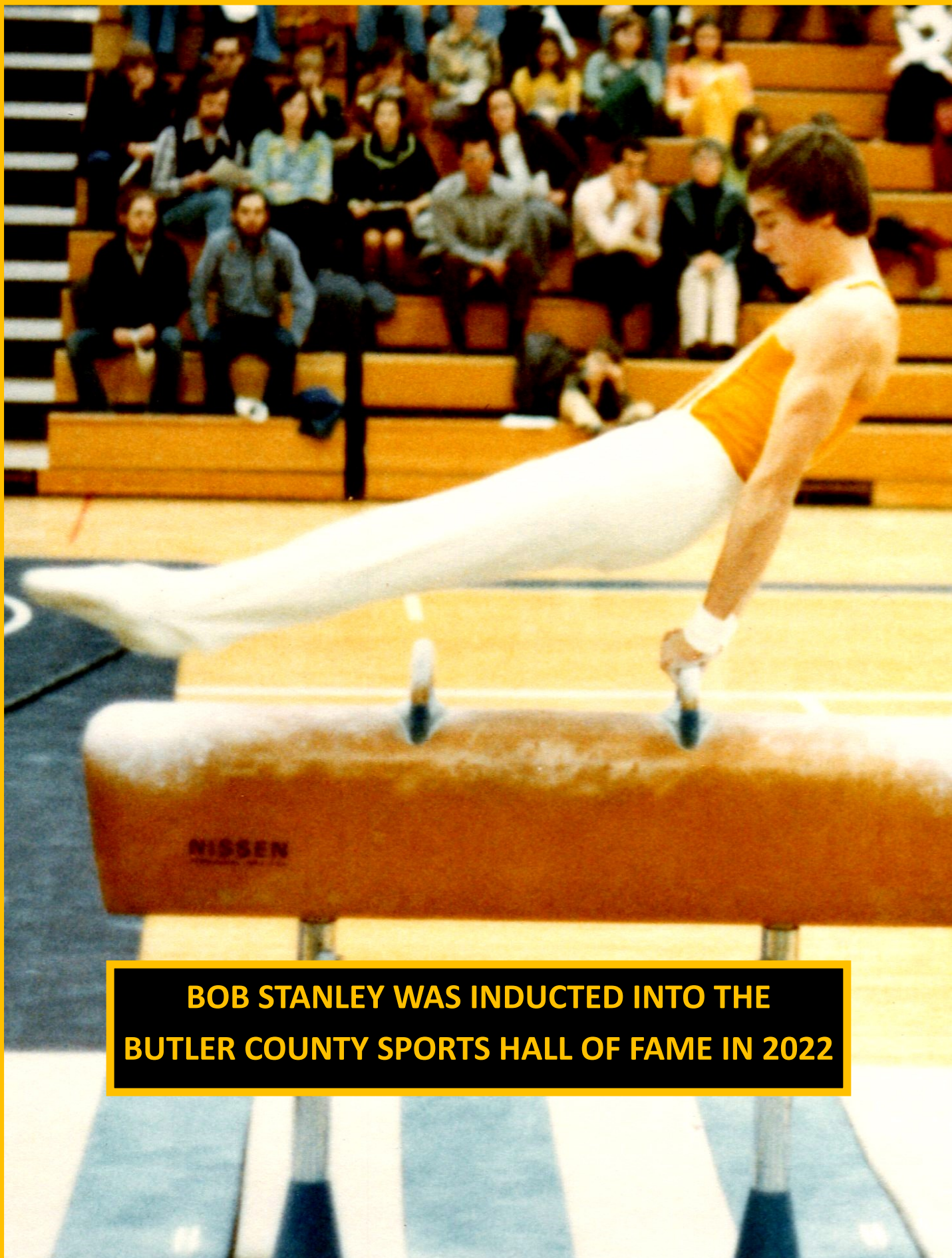
**Indiana State
University**



BOB STANLEY BOB WAS A FOUR YEAR LETTERMAN AS A POMMEL HORSE SPECIALIST AT BUTLER HIGH. BOB PLACED FIFTH ON THE POMMEL HORSE IN THE WPIAL AS A FRESHMAN, FOURTH AS A SOPHOMORE, SECOND AS A JUNIOR AND FIRST AS A SENIOR, IN CLOSE ONE-TENTH OF A POINT COMPETITION WITH BILL MCBROOM OF ROCHESTER. AT THE PIAA STATE MEETS, BOB PLACED SEVENTH AS A FRESHMAN, FOURTH AS A SOPHOMORE, AND SECOND AS BOTH A JUNIOR AND SENIOR, EDGED OUT EACH TIME BY MCBROOM, WHO WOULD BECOME BOB'S TEAMMATE AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.

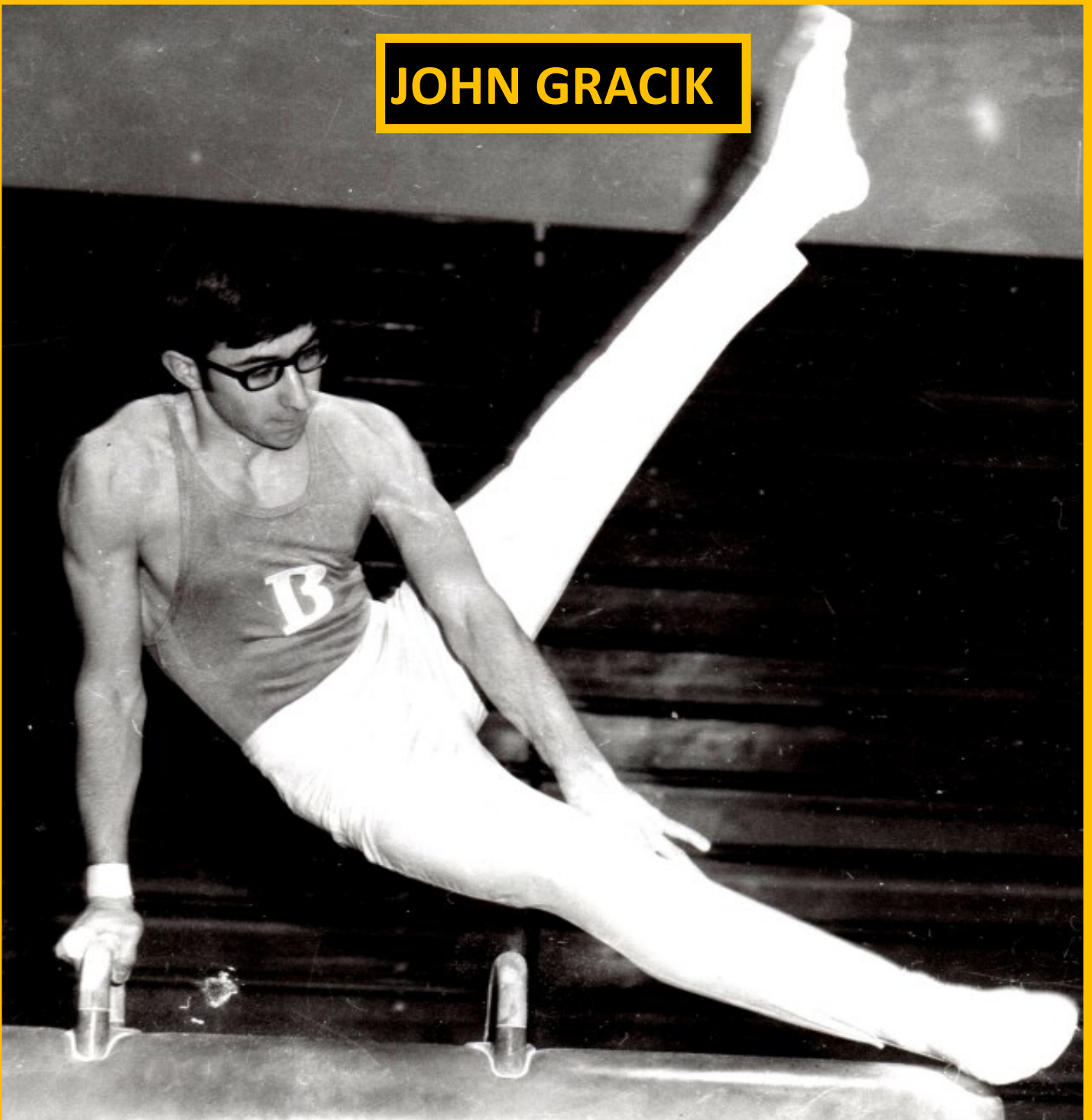
AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN BOB TEAMED WITH MCBROOM TO FORM AN UNBEATEN ONE-TWO PUNCH IN DUAL MEETS. AS FRESHMEN THEY PLACED FIRST AND SECOND IN THE SIGL, BOTH QUALIFYING FOR THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, WHICH GEORGIA SOUTHERN DID NOT ATTEND. AS A SOPHOMORE, BOB FINALLY PULLED AHEAD OF MCBROOM, CAPTURING MOST OF THE FIRST PLACES IN THE DUAL MEETS, WITH MCBROOM A CLOSE SECOND. BOB WON THE SIGL AND QUALIFIED FOR THE NCAA'S WHERE HE PLACED SECOND. NEAR THE END OF BOB'S JUNIOR SEASON MCBROOM BECAME ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE AND DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL. ALONE, BOB WON THE SIGL CHAMPIONSHIP AND QUALIFIED FOR THE NCAA'S, BUT GEORGIA SOUTHERN DID NOT ATTEND.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN SUDDENLY DROPPED ITS PROGRAM AND BOB TRANSFERRED TO INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HIS NEW TEAMMATE WAS OLYMPIAN KURT THOMAS. BOB WENT UNDEFEATED IN DUAL MEETS AND HAD AN AVERAGE SCORE OF 9.80, INCLUDING SEVERAL 9.90 SCORES. BOB QUALIFIED FOR THE NCAA'S IN THE BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND WENT ON TO FINISH SECOND IN THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS. BOB ALSO WON THE COCA COLA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE NATIONAL AAU CHAMPIONSHIPS. BACK HERE IN BUTLER HISTORY, BOB WILL ALWAYS BE A CHAMPION. IN HIS BEST SEASON, BOB AVERAGED 9.80.



**BOB STANLEY WAS INDUCTED INTO THE
BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2022**

JOHN GRACIK



**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

JOHN GRACIK

**JOHN WAS TWICE TOP FIVE IN WPIGL WITH
ONE SECOND PLACE.**

**JOHN WAS TWICE STATE TOP FIVE WITH
ONE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, JOHN WAS A THREE TIME
SIGL TOP FIVE WITH ONE SIGL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**JOHN WAS A THREE TIME NCAA QUALIFIER,
WITH ONE TENTH PLACE AND ONE EIGHTH PLACE,
HIGHLIGHTED BY AN OUTSTANDING THIRD PLACE IN OPTIONALS.**

JOHN'S AVERAGE SCORE IN HIS BEST YEARS WAS 9.40.

**JOHN WON NUMEROUS EVENT CHAMPIONSHIPS,
INCLUDING THE MID-FLORIDA CLASSIC, THE GEORGIA
GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS,
AND A FIRST PLACE AGAINST THE WEST GERMAN NATIONAL TEAM.**

**JOHN WAS ALSO A MULTI-EVENT MEMBER OF
THE ATHLETES IN ACTION TEAM WHICH WON
THE NATIONAL AAU CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1980.**

**JOHN COACHED THE MEADVILLE YMCA TEAM FOR 12 YEARS,
WHILE SERVING IN THE AIRFORCE RESERVES FOR 20 YEARS.**

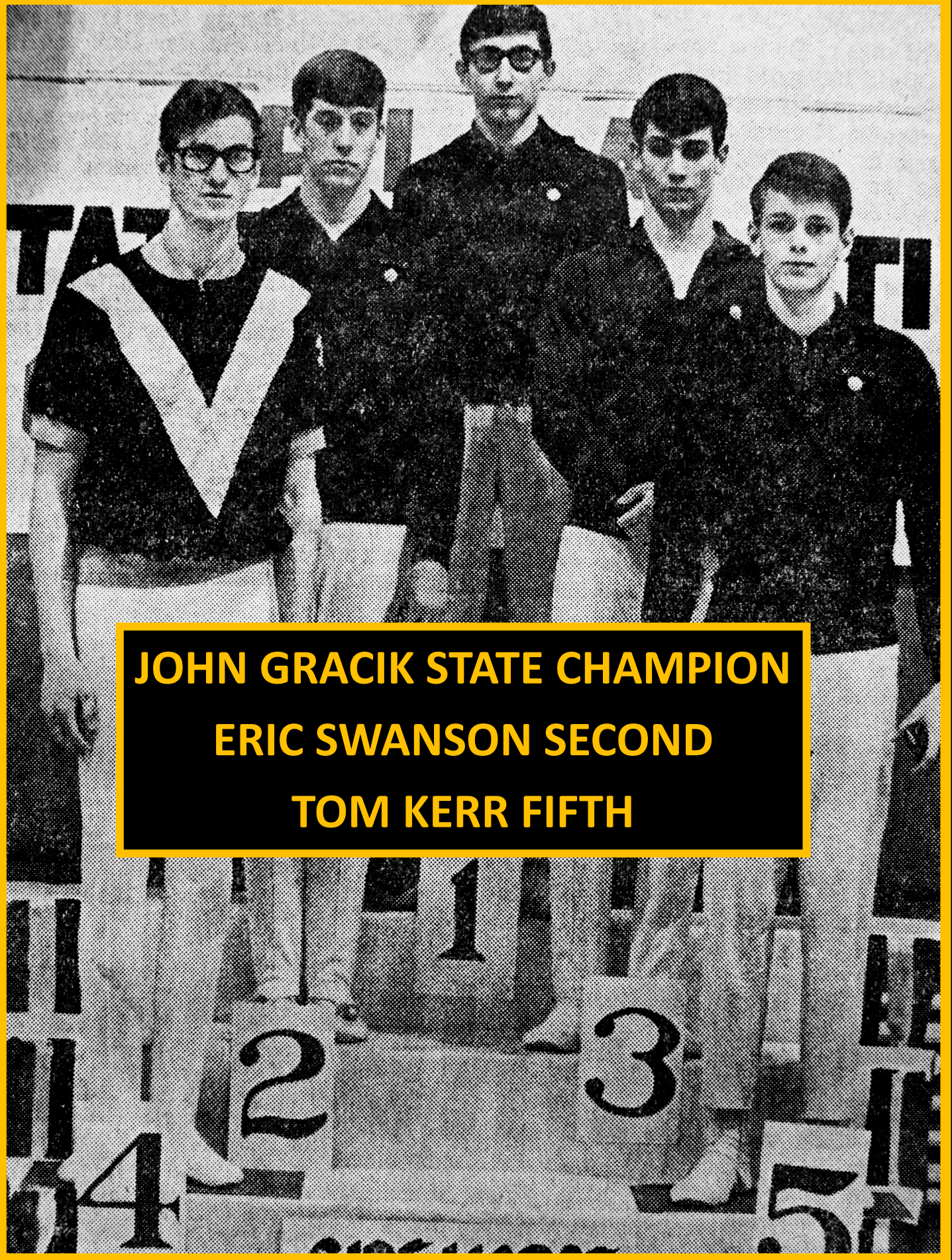
**JOHN WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BUTLER COUNTY
SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2003.**



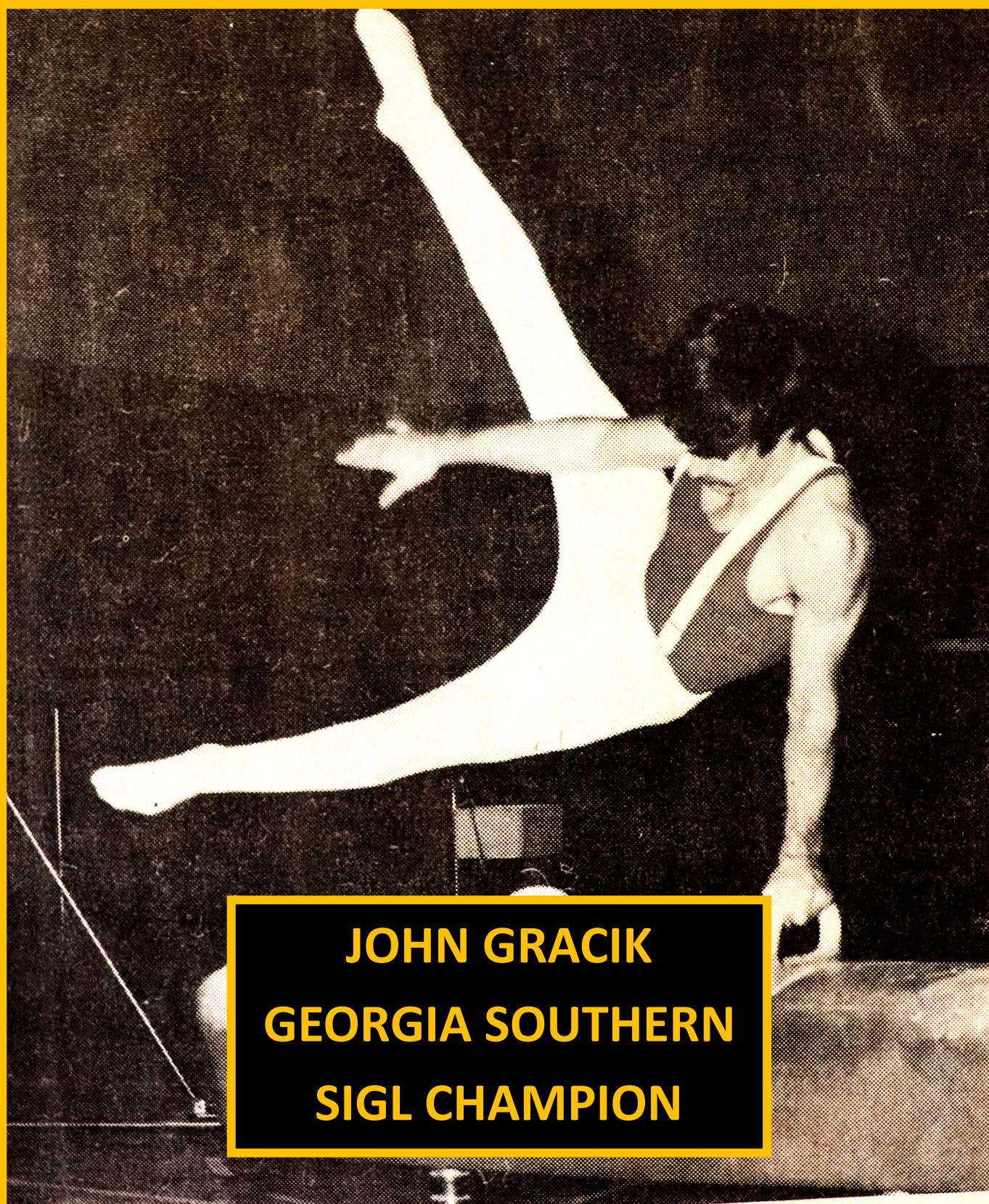
JOHN GRACIK

WHILE REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE BHS POMMEL HORSE GREATS, JOHN WAS ALSO AN ALL-AROUND GYMNAST WITH STRENGTHS IN FLOOR EXERCISE AND LONG HORSE VAULT.

JOHN COULD BE COUNTED ON FOR ADDITIONAL TEAM DEPTH ON HIGH BAR, PARALLEL BARS, AND RINGS, WHERE HE MADE HOLDING A CROSS A POMMEL HORSE TEAM STRENGTH CHALLENGE.



JOHN GRACIK STATE CHAMPION
ERIC SWANSON SECOND
TOM KERR FIFTH



JOHN GRACIK
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
SIGL CHAMPION

IN NATIONALS AGAIN — Former Butler High gymnastics star John Gracik, who won a state crown while with the Tornado, is again performing in the NCAA Championships, which are currently going on at Penn State. Gracik earned the right to compete in the nationals with George Southern College

by scoring a first in the recent Southern Intercollegiate Gymnastics Championships at Chapel Hill, N.C. Gracik was 11th in the NCAA last year. Leading the pommel horse event at Penn State with the three-day competition to close today is Ted Marcy, Stanford
(Georgia Southern Photo)

JOHN STARTED GYMNASTICS IN EIGHTH GRADE AND
BY HIS SOPHOMORE SEASON WAS A MEMBER
OF THE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TEAM.
IN 1969, HE QUALIFIED SECOND IN THE SECTION II QUALIFIER
WHICH SENT HIM ON TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.
HE WENT ON THAT YEAR TO BE THE
1969 PIAA STATE CHAMPION.
ALTHOUGH INJURED PART OF HIS SENIOR YEAR,
HE STILL FINISHED FIRST IN THE SECTION II QUALIFIER
AND SECOND IN THE WPIAL FINALS
HE EARNED A FULL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP TO
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY IN STATESBORO GEORGIA.
AS A FRESHMAN IN 1971, HE FINISHED SECOND IN THE
JUNIOR NATIONAL AAU CHAMPIONSHIPS.
HE ALSO WON THE MID-FLORIDA INVITATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION.
JOHN'S COMMANDING SKILLS WON HIM THE
GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TWICE (1971 AND 1972).
IN 1972, HE HELPED LEAD HIS GEORGIA SOUTHERN TEAM
TO A SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINISHING
IN SECOND PLACE THUS QUALIFYING HIM AND HIS TEAM
TO COMPETE IN THE NCAA DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS.

STARTING GYMNASTICS AS AN EIGHTH GRADER,
JOHN MADE THE VARSITY TEAM AS A LONG HORSE
VAULTING SPECIALIST IN HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR, AND BEGAN
DEVELOPING SKILLS IN THE ALL-AROUND. BY THE TIME
HE WAS A JUNIOR, HE FINISHED SECOND IN THE SECTION 2
QUALIFYING MEET AND WON THE PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

MOST OF HIS SENIOR YEAR HE WAS INJURED BUT
CAME BACK TO WIN THE SECTION 2 QUALIFYING MEET
AND FINISHED SECOND IN THE WPIAL.

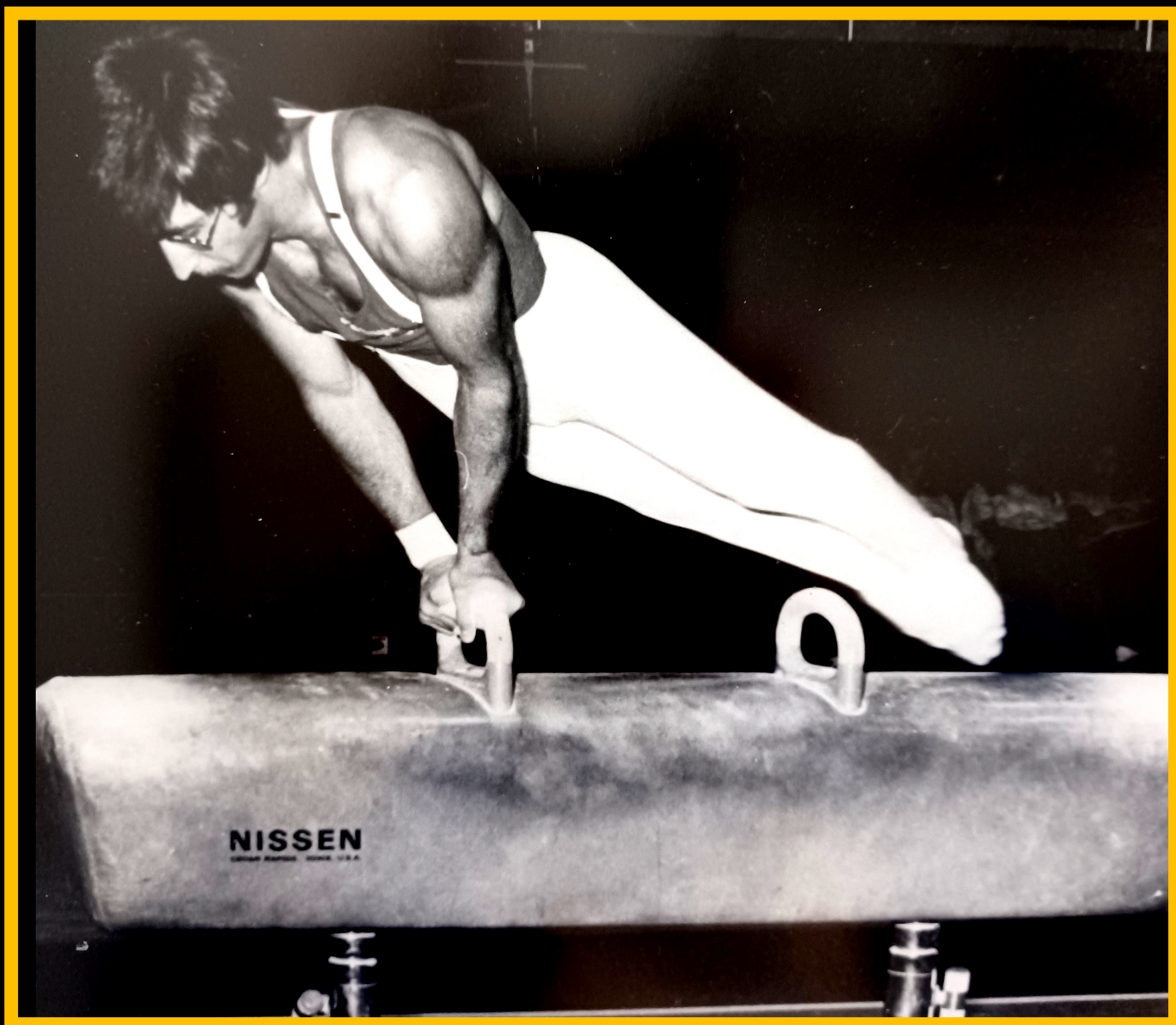
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, JOHN ACCEPTED A FULL SCHOLARSHIP
TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY WHERE HE WENT ON
TO HAVE A STELLAR CAREER AS A GYMNAST. DURING HIS
FRESHMAN YEAR, HE FINISHED SECOND IN THE JUNIOR
NATIONAL AAU COMPETITION , WON THE MID-FLORIDA
INVITATIONAL AND WON THE GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

AS A SOPHOMORE, HE AGAIN WON THE GEORGIA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP AND HELPED HIS TEAM WIN THE SOUTHERN
INTERCOLLEGIATE TITLE AND, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, HE FINISHED
IN SECOND PLACE ON THE SIDE HORSE ONLY
ONE TENTH OF A POINT FROM WINNING.

JOHN REALLY CAME ON STRONG FOR HIS LAST TWO YEARS
OF COLLEGE. HE WENT UNDEFEATED IN DUAL MEET
COMPETITION BOTH YEARS

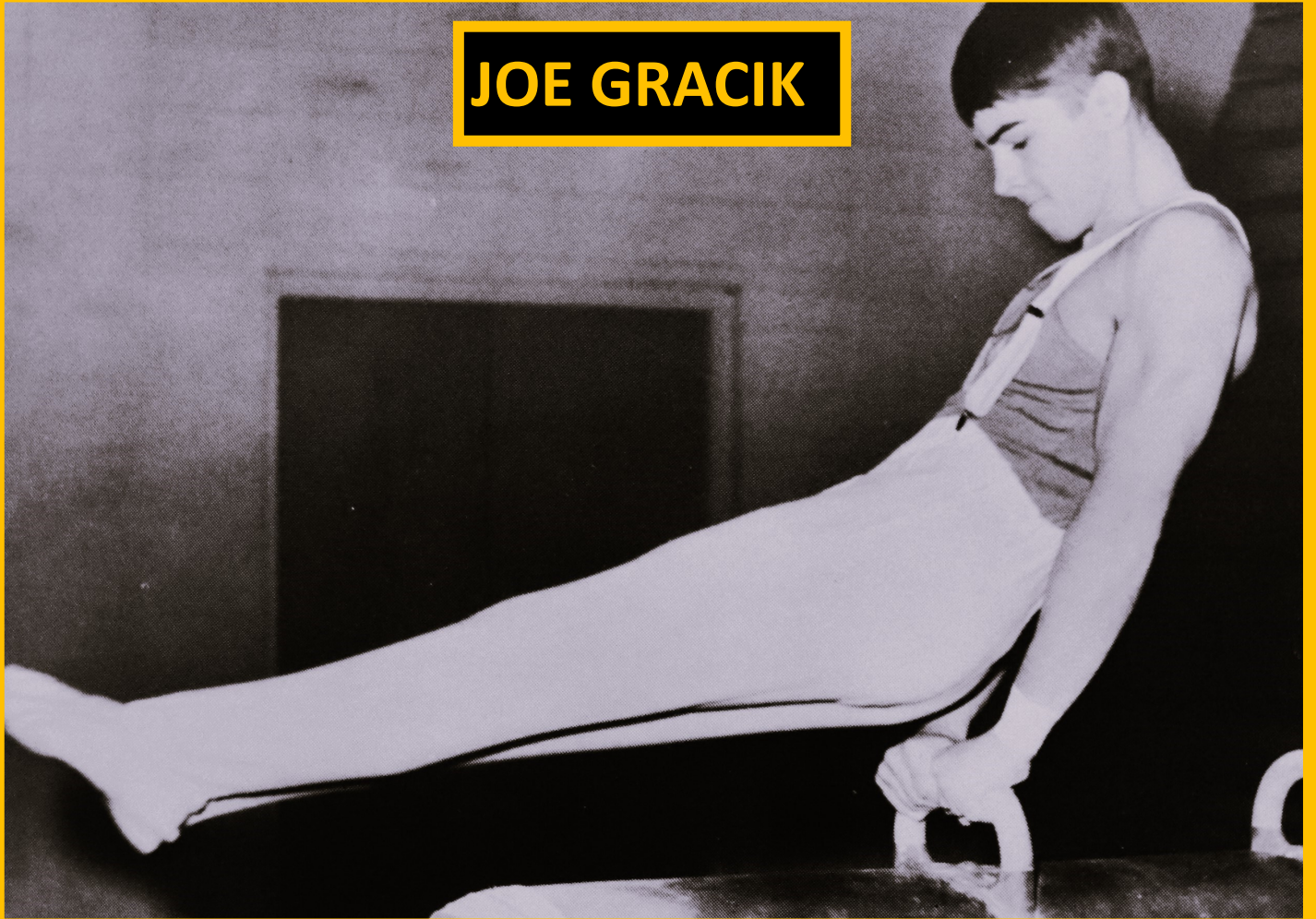
DURING THE 1973 SEASON, JOHN HONED HIS SKILLS WHEN HE WENT UNDEFEATED IN DUAL MEET COMPETITION. HE OVERCAME A ROUGH FIRST DAY OF COMPETITION AT THE 1973 SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP LANDING IN 20TH PLACE. BUT, SHOWING HIS GRIT AND COMPETITIVE NATURE, HE QUICKLY RECOVERED, COMING ON STRONG TO WIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS COMPETITIONS AND FINISHING OVERALL THIRD PLACE. THIS AGAIN QUALIFIED HIM FOR THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP. AT THE 1973 NCAA MEET, HE FINISHED IN TENTH PLACE AND AHEAD OF SEVERAL MEMBERS THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM.

JOHN REALLY CAME INTO HIS OWN IN 1974 AND AGAIN WENT UNDEFEATED IN DUAL MEETS, AND WAS RANKED FIRST IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. THAT SAME YEAR, HE SET THE RECORD FOR THE HIGHEST SCORE EVER (9.35) AT THE MORROW FIELD HOUSE AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY BREAKING BROTHER JOE'S RECORD. HE DOMINATED ALL OF THE COMPETITORS AT THE 1974 SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WINNING A FIRST PLACE WITH A FINAL SCORE OF 9.35. THIS AGAIN QUALIFIED HIM FOR THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP. AT THE NCAA MEET, HE PLACED EIGHTH AND HIS OPTIONAL EXERCISE PLACED THIRD WITH A SCORE OF 9.4. A WEEK AFTER THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, HE COMPETED AGAINST THE WEST GERMAN NATIONAL TEAM WHERE HE HANDILY DEFEATED THEM WITH A SCORE OF 9.35. THE GERMAN TEAM INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THEIR OLYMPIC TEAM.



**JOHN GRACIK WAS INDUCTED INTO THE
BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2003**

JOE GRACIK



University of
Pittsburgh

JOE GRACIK

**JOE WAS THREE TIME WESTERN PA SECTIONAL
SIDE HORSE CHAMPION**

**HE WAS ALSO THREE TIME WPAL
SIDE HORSE CHAMPION**

**JOE WENT ON TO BE TWO TIME PA STATE
SIDE HORSE CHAMPION IN 1967 AND 1968
FROM HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR THROUGH HIS
SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL HE WAS
UNDEFEATED IN COMPETITION**

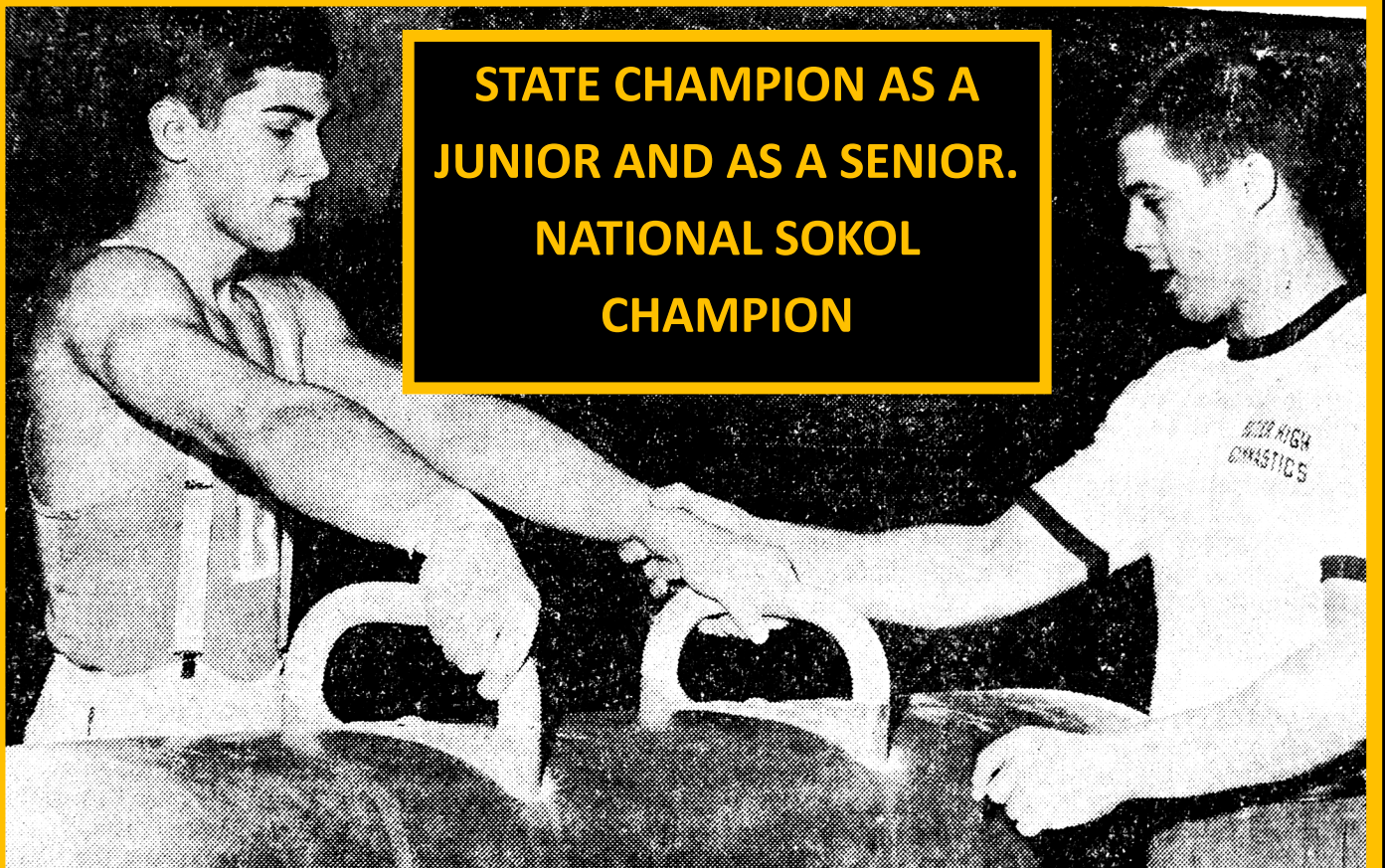
**JOE TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE FIRST EVER
EASTERN UNITED STATES HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP
SCORING A 9.1 AND EASILY OUT DISTANCING
THE SECOND PLACE COMPETITOR WHO SCORED A 7.7.
HE WAS REALLY WAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION.**

**COMING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL,
HE WAS ARGUABLY THE BEST ON HIS EVENT
IN THE ENTIRE USA.**

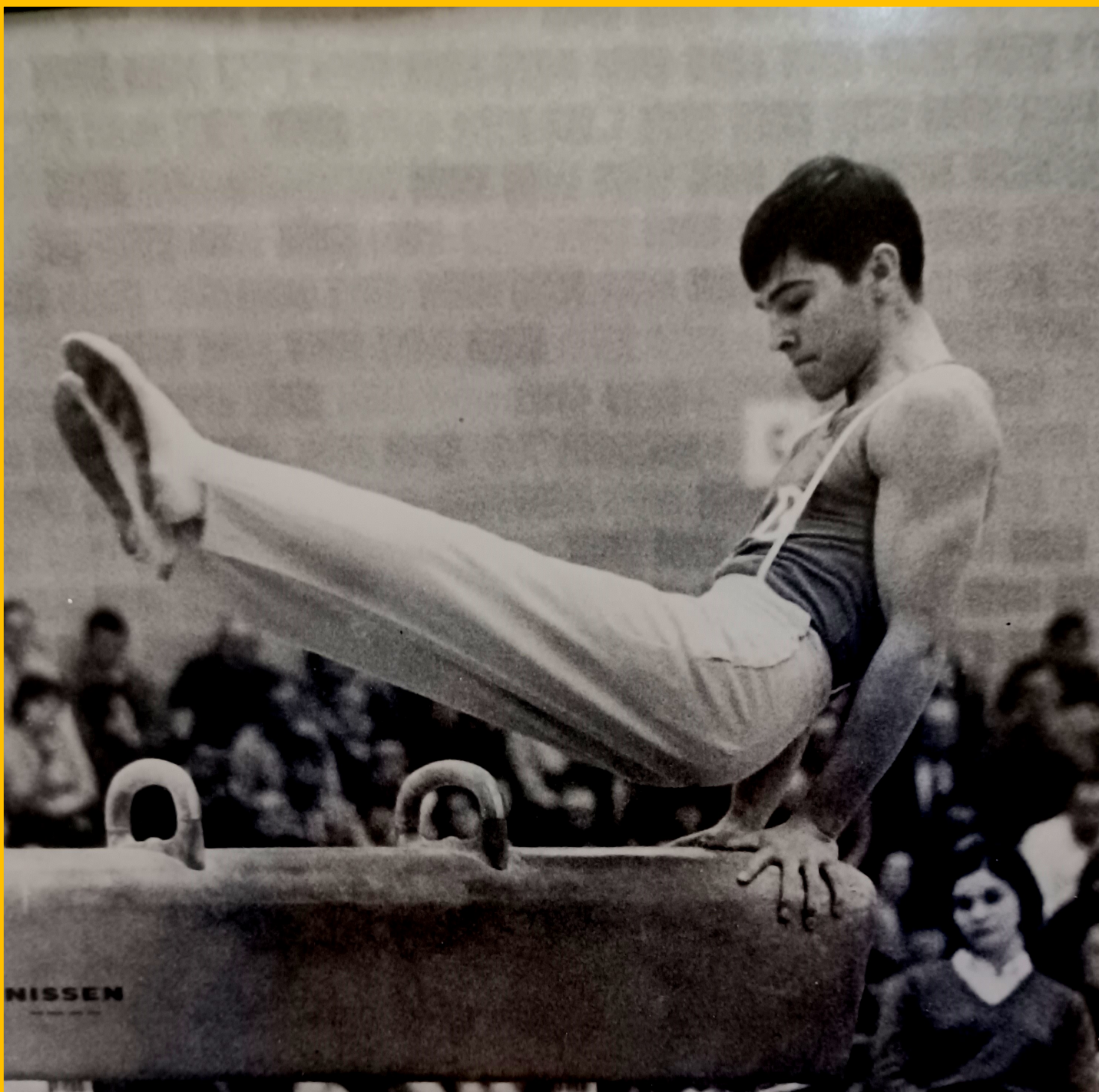
**JOE HAD SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS FROM ALMOST
EVERY MAJOR UNIVERSITY IN THE US,
BUT CHOSE TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME,
ACCEPTING A FULL SCHOLARSHIP
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH.
HE IMMEDIATELY EARNED NUMBER ONE
POSITION ON THE VARSITY TEAM.
DURING HIS CAREER AT PITT, JOE'S AVERAGE SCORE
ON THE SIDE HORSE WAS RIGHT AT 9.0,
WHICH IS MUCH BETTER THAN MOST ON
THIS MOST DIFFICULT EVENT.
HE REGULARLY EARNED FIRST PLACE IN DUAL
MEET COMPETITION AND ONCE DEFEATED OLYMPIAN
MARSHALL AVENER FROM PENN STATE.
IN 1971, HE SET THE RECORD FOR HIGHEST SCORE EVER
ON THE SIDE HORSE AT THE MORROW FIELD
HOUSE AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY. THAT RECORD
HELD FAST UNTIL IT WAS BROKEN BY
HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, JOHN, IN 1974
A TRUE TEAM PLAYER, JOE ALSO COMPETED
IN THE LONG HORSE VAULT, WINNING A SILVER MEDAL
IN THE PIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1968.**



UNDEFEATED FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.



**STATE CHAMPION AS A
JUNIOR AND AS A SENIOR.
NATIONAL SOKOL
CHAMPION**



JOE GRACIK AVERAGED 9.00 DURING HIS CAREER AT PITT. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, JOE RECORDED SCORES IN THE MID 9'S. HE SET A MORROW FIELD HOUSE RECORD AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY, AND HAD A FIRST PLACE AGAINST PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, BESTING OLYMPIAN AND NCAA POMMEL HORSE FINALIST MARSHALL AVENER.

**JOE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
WHERE HE QUICKLY BECAME THE NUMBER ONE POMMEL
HORSE WORKER ON THE TEAM.**

**AS A FRESHMAN ADAPTING TO THE TOUGH COMPETITION
IN THE EIGL, JOE HAD ONE FOURTH PLACE. ONE THIRD,
ONE SECOND, AND SEVEN FIRST PLACES.**

JOE AVERAGED 9.00 IN HIS SEVEN VICTORIES.

**A MINOR BREAK KEPT JOE OUT OF THE EIGL FINALS,
AND ALSO FROM QUALIFYING FOR THE NCAA'S.**

**IN JOE'S SOPHOMORE YEAR, HE WENT UNDEFEATED
WITH AN AVERAGE SCORE OF 9.00.**

**A WRIST INJURY KEPT JOE FROM COMPETING IN THE EIGL'S
AND PREVENTED ANY CHANCE OF QUALIFYING
FOR THE NCAA'S AGAIN.**

**DURING THOSE TWO YEARS JOE ALSO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE PITT TEAM AS THE NUMBER TWO MAN ON LONG
HORSE VAULT. THE WRIST INJURY AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS
PUT A HALT TO JOE'S JUNIOR YEAR.**

**HIS ATTEMPT AT A COMEBACK AS A SENIOR
UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT GO WELL.**

**THE BHS HISTORY OF POMMEL HORSE WORKERS
IS FILLED WITH HIGH ACHIEVERS.**

**GEORGE JANKOVICH SET THE TONE IN THE LINDORA
DAYS, WITH JIM CURZI, KEN MUSKO AND BILL ERDOS
CLOSE BEHIND.**

**OVER THE YEARS, JIM SANDLOOP, TOM SAWHOOK,
JERRY MOORE, JIM SACCO, STEVE SOLEY, CHUCK ROCK,
LARRY MARTZ, WENDELL TOMASOVIC, BOB TOMASOVIC,
MARC IMHOFF, ERIC SWANSON, STEVE SWANSON,
ERIC MACOSKEY, GEORGE EBERHART,
MEL, KEVIN, LOU, DAVE, TIM, JEFF AND SCOTT COLLINS,
JIM PETSINGER, TOM KERR, ROGER BIEDENBAUGH,
BOB STANLEY, BILL STANLEY, AND JOHN GRACIK
ALL KEPT BHS POMMEL HORSE TRADITION
ALIVE AND WELL.**

**AT THE TOP OF THAT PRESTIGIOUS LIST STANDS
THE BUTLER HIGH GYMNASTICS
POMMEL HORSE LEGEND, JOE GRACIK.**

A black and white photograph of a young man, Joe Gracik, in a starting position for a race. He is wearing a dark singlet and light-colored shorts, leaning forward with his hands on the ground. The photo is framed by a thick yellow border.

**JOE GRACIK WAS INDUCTED INTO THE
BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 2002.**



**JOE AND JOHN GRACIK
STATE CHAMPIONS**