

Johnson, fellow Americans falter in tough Olympic gym competition

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Perfection on the parallel bars gave the Soviet men a huge lead in Olympic gymnastics Sunday while the Americans' imperfections all but doomed their chances for a medal.

Vladimir Artemov scored a perfect 10 on the parallel bars, enabling him to outscore his world champion teammate, Dmitri Bilozherchev. Valeri Lyukin was right behind them as the Soviets posted the top three overall scores.

With such a solid lead heading into Tuesday's optional program, the Soviets appeared certain of winning their fourth Olympic team title. And their 1-2-3 standing made it unlikely that anyone else could win the individual all-around title.

The U.S. team's hopes of defending its title evaporated after three mistakes by former Nebraska gymnast Scott Johnson, who is the only veteran from the squad that won the gold medal at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles.

The Soviets boycotted the Los Angeles Games.

At the end of compulsory events, the Soviets had 295.700 points, followed by East Germany with 293.450 and Japan with 292.650. China was 4th with 291.400 points.

The Americans were in last place, 12th with 285.900.

Johnson, at 27 the most experienced U.S. gymnast, committed errors on the high bar and pommel horse, and missed his landing after the rings routine.

"I tried to max out and that's where the mistakes came in," Johnson said. "I tried not to let the team down."



Other American gymnasts also bungled their routines. Of the 36 individual scores by the six Americans, 16 were below 9.50.

But Johnson took the blame. "We only had three misses today, and they were all mine," John said. "I'm not the happiest guy, but still I'm a two-time Olympian."

The best American performance was by national champion Charles Lakes of Chatsworth, Calif. He finished 35th individually with 57.900 points.

Lakes' best mark was a 9.80 for his high bar routine. He also had a 9.70 in

the floor exercises and 9.60s in the other four events.

Artemov was the only gymnast who received a perfect mark in the compulsories. He is the world record holder on the parallel bars.

Artemov also got a 9.95 for his floor routine, 9.90 in the high bar and the rings, 9.85 in the vault and 9.80 on the pommel horse.

His individual total of 59.400 was just ahead of Bilozherchev's 59.350.

Bilozherchev, a two-time world champion and the favorite to win the individual all-around title, had four 9.90s. He got a 9.950 on the rings but fell to 9.80 in the vault, when he stumbled after landing.

Lyukin, with four 9.90 scores, was 3rd at 59.150. Lyukin had a 9.85 on the horse, but faltered in the vault and got a 9.70.

East Germany was propelled by Sven Tippelt with three 9.90s and two 9.80s. Sylvio Kroll got a 9.90 for his floor routine, but slipped slightly on his vault landing for a 9.85.

Japan was paced by Yukio Iketani, who had three 9.90s.

China, which won the silver medal in Los Angeles, suffered from mistakes by Li Ning, the 1984 all-around bronze medalist, and a series of other erratic performances.

Missouri 'wilts' in 31-7 setback

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Houston quarterback David Dacus led the scoreboard do his talking.

Dacus combined with Andre Ware to pass away Missouri 31-7 in a non-conference game Saturday.

"They got a few sacks and were whooping it up a lot, but by the time they were whooping it up, there were 24 points on the board," said Dacus after the Cougars blitzed Missouri for a 24-0 lead with 9:53 left in the first half.

In other Big Eight games, Baylor shut out Iowa State 35-0, No. 4 Oklahoma crushed Arizona 28-10, Colorado upset No. 19 Iowa 24-21, No. 6 Auburn routed Kansas 56-7, and Tulane kept Kansas State winless 20-16. Nebraska, 2-1, and Oklahoma State, 1-0, were idle.

Houston, 2-0 after winning back-to-back games on the road for the first time since 1984, attempted 56 passes against the Tigers, the most against a Missouri team since Air Force passed and San Diego State passed 53 times in 1960 and 1979.

Dacus and Ware each threw two touchdown passes, and James Dixon caught three scoring passes, tying another Missouri record. Tom Banderas of Nebraska caught three touchdown passes against the Tigers last year.

"They were playing far off us," Dixon said. "I don't know if they were afraid of our speed. When our offense is clicking, they can't concentrate on one of us, they have to concentrate on all of us."

Missouri coach Woody Widenhofer, who entered the season with high optimism despite seeing his teams win a total of nine games the last three years, said the Tigers wilted in the face of the Cougars' attack and

the 90-degree heat.

"You can't keep a defense on the field all day in 90 degrees and expect them to keep making big plays," Widenhofer said. "Everybody talked about their defense. They'll be talking about their offense now. It was explosive."

It was business as usual for Baylor and coach Grant Teaff at Ames.

"Sure, I thought we could stop them like that," Teaff said. "It's a major part of our game plan, and we do it to most teams."



Charles Perry scored three touchdowns as Baylor, 3-0, took a 21-0 lead, then capitalized on two Iowa State fumbles in the closing three minutes. Iowa State fumbled a punt at its own 15 and Anthony Ray scored on a 1-yard run. The Cyclones, 1-1, then fumbled the kickoff at their own 10, leading to a 2-yard scoring run by Ray.

"You saw a great lesson in college football today," Iowa State coach Jim Walden said. "It was a clinic."

Jamelle Holieway hurt his elbow against Arizona at Norman, but still had enough to lead the Sooners. Oklahoma, 2-0, was at its 21 and leading 14-10 when Holieway broke a 34-yard run on third-and-2. One play later, he threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to Eric Bross to dispose of Arizona, 2-1.

"Jamelle Holieway had a great game, as we expected he would," Coach Barry Switzer said. "His execution was outstanding on the first three or four plays."

Holieway had 148 yards in total offense to move into 2nd place on the career chart at Oklahoma with 4,392 yards, trailing Jack Mildren's mark of 4,831.

"When we were down in their end of the field we couldn't score," said Wildcats coach Dick Toney. "When they were in our end, they could. That's the whole story of the game."

Sal Aunese may have won himself a quarterback job after engineering a drive with 5 1/2 minutes to play that gave Colorado its victory over Iowa at Iowa City.

"Obviously, to come back and put a drive like that together and get the victory is tremendous testimony to the resolve, poise and leadership we had out there," Coach Bill McCartney said.

Aunese guided the Buffaloes, 2-0, on an 85-yard drive, and scored from 1-yard out. Iowa, 1-2, lost its home opener for the first time in six years.

Auburn's victory had Coach Pat Dye thinking his team is close to ready.

"We are close to being an explosive team," Dye said as his team went 2-0. "We can't get overexcited. We don't know how good a football team we are yet."

Auburn scored on its first four possessions.

"That's the worst Saturday I've ever been through," said Jayhawks coach Glen Mason after falling to 0-2 in his first year. "We can't give up a touchdown every time they touch the ball."

Browns' Pagel gets 1st start tonight

CLEVELAND (AP) - Quarterback Mike Pagel finds it ironic, though not very sentimental, that his first start since 1985 will come against the team that gave up on him that year.

"The majority of that team has changed, personnel-wise, so it's no big deal," said Pagel, who on Monday night will become the Cleveland Browns' third starting quarterback in three games as they play host to the Indianapolis Colts.

Pagel was a fourth-round draft choice of the Colts back in 1982, when they were still in Baltimore, and he beat the odds as a rookie by stealing the starting job from first-round pick Art Schlichter. Pagel went on to start 47 of the Colts' 57 games over the next four seasons, during which they went 16-40-1, before then coach Rod

Dowhower cleaned house in 1986.

"They brought in all the new quarterbacks and got rid of the ones that," Pagel said. "On Monday they traded for Gary Hogeboom. On Tuesday they drafted Jack Trudeau, and on Wednesday they told us we were out of there."

Trudeau will be the Colts' starter Monday, backed by Hogeboom.

Cleveland picked up Pagel in exchange for a ninth-round draft choice, but it was his misfortune to arrive just as Bernie Kosar was coming to his own. In two seasons with the Browns, Pagel threw a total of three passes, completing two of them.

Until last week. With Kosar sidelined by a sprained right elbow suffered in the season opener at Kansas City, second-string quarterback Gary Danielson left the field with a broken

ankle late in the third quarter last Sunday against the New York Jets. Suddenly, Pagel was a starter again.

He looked surprisingly good in the fourth quarter against the Jets, completing 7 of 14 passes for 73 yards. Like the other two quarterbacks, however, he was unable to produce a touchdown. The Browns have now gone two games without getting into the end zone, the first time that's happened since Mike Phipps was their quarterback in 1973.

"The Jets put a lot of pressure on us and got into defenses that are weird and strange," the 28-year-old Pagel said. "We adjusted to it, but usually too late."

Pagel, at 6-foot-2, 210 pounds, is more suited to scrambling than either Kosar or Danielson, and throws the ball harder than his predecessors.

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