



Ukraine's rhythmic gymnasts show grace

Last fall, some 800 spectators caught a glimpse of the grace and elegance of Ukraine's rhythmic gymnasts at a gala demonstration at Grant McEwan Community College in Edmonton, as they continued to prepare for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The performance was one of the highlights of a week-long visit of four members of the rhythmic gymnastics team which has been adopted by the Friends of Ukrainian Olympians in Edmonton, to help them train and compete in Olympic Games.

Chief attraction at the gala was 18-year-old Olena Vitychenko from Odesa, who performed the ribbon routine which won her the gold medal at the World Rhythmic Gymnastics championships in Vienna last September.

Vitychenko was part of the 1992 Ukrainian silver medal team event in the European Championships - the first time Ukraine had participated as an indepen-



ROMAN PETRIW/UKRAINIAN NEWS

Olena Vitychenko of Odesa demonstrates the ribbon routine which won the 18-year-old a gold medal at the World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Vienna late last year. She is ranked number 2 in Ukraine and Europe and 6th in the world.

dent nation. The Ukrainian team repeated their silver medal performance at the World Championship in 1993. In 1994, Olena also won silver in the individual competition with the rope. She then placed second in the all-around competition in Europe - her performance included

three golds on the rope, ribbon and ball. She also became the World Champion in 1994 in the individual ball competition. 1995 saw Olena repeat her silver all-around champion performance in Europe.



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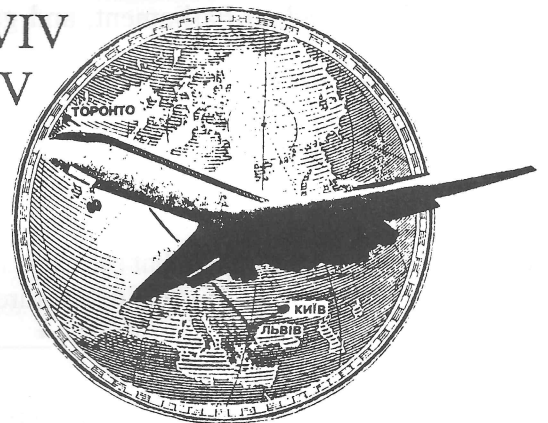
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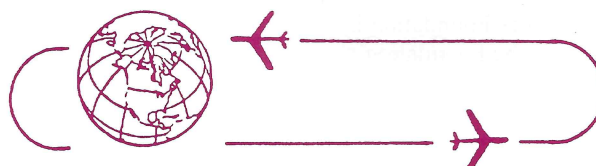
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