









Craig Kohlruss — Daily staff photographer

Spartan quarterback Mike Perez runs with the ball at SJSU's first spring practice last Tuesday. Perez, who led the Spartans to a 10-2 record and a Cal Bowl victory last season, could win the Heisman Trophy this year.

## SJSU's top men's gymnast adds Irish flavor to squad

By Mark Foyer  
Daily staff writer

It was during the summer of 1983 that SJSU gymnast Brian Heery came to the United States from Ireland for a vacation. He just wanted to have a good time. But a couple of things happened.

First, he spent two weeks in computer camp. That was followed by gymnastics camp, but only as an afterthought.

"His uncle called and asked me if I knew of any gymnastics camps," said Rich Chew, SJSU men's gymnastics coach. "I told him that I run one, and his uncle signed up Brian."

While spending time in both camps may have been fun at first, it led to Heery's decisions on what to do with his life.

Computer camp was a stepping stone for Heery, who is studying physics and hopes to get a masters in computational physics.

But at gymnastics camp, Heery developed such a love for the sport that he transferred from his high school in Ireland to Bellarmine Prep in San Jose.

"I felt that I had a possibility of improving if I stayed here," Heery said. "I didn't go home until the summer of 1984."

After school, Heery would take the train to Stanford and practice four hours a day. Since he arrived early, he was able to watch the Stanford gymnastic team work out.

"I can learn more from watching other people practice than watching a video tape of me," Heery said. "It helps me a great deal."

All the hard work and practice time

## Navy center Robinson earns Rupp Trophy

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — David Robinson of Navy accepted the Adolph Rupp Trophy as The Associated Press' college basketball player of the year Friday, while saying he has made no decision about his complicated future as a professional player.

Robinson, the 7-foot-1 Navy senior, may have to wait before pursuing a career in professional basketball if Naval Secretary-designate James Webb Jr. has his way. The Washington Post reported that Webb believes military service after graduation from the academy should be a full-time commitment.

"He still has to be confirmed," Robinson said at a news conference. "I have an agreement with the Navy. As of right now, that's just speculation on what he says."

Robinson said he still had not "taken a stand" on whether he will pursue an NBA career immediately.

"I have to see what's best for me," he said. "It's still up in the air now."

Robinson, fourth in the nation with a 28.2-point average and the country's top shot-blocker with 144 this season, received 206 of 419 votes in a nationwide poll of sports writers and broadcasters to

"I hope to be in the Summer Olympics next year. If I do make the Olympics, I'll be the first Irishman to perform in an Olympic gymnastics competition."

— Brian Heery, SJSU gymnast

has paid off. Heery has become SJSU's top gymnastics performer this year, ranking first in every floor exercise.

He ranks second in Spartan history in all-around performance for a single meet with a 55.3. He passed, among others, Chew's best, who went to SJSU.

But Heery's performance hasn't been limited to the Spartans. Last year he participated in the World Championship Gymnastics meet in Montreal, representing Ireland.

Even though he finished 49th, he felt the experience helped him improve a great deal.

"I learned a lot more from watching the Russians doing it correctly than me doing it incorrectly," Heery said.

This year, he will once again represent Ireland, this time at the European Championships, which will be held in Moscow in early May. Then it will be off to the World Championships in Amsterdam, Holland. He has confidence going into this year's competitions.

win the Rupp Trophy handily over Steve Alford of Indiana. Alford received 63 points, followed by Danny Manning of Kansas with 56, Reggie Williams of Georgetown with 37 and Dennis Hopson of Ohio State with 25.

The Rupp Trophy, named after the late Kentucky coach, is sponsored by the Commonwealth Athletic Club of Kentucky and has been presented every year since 1972. Robinson is the first recipient from a military academy. Last year's winner was Walter Berry of St. John's.

"Anyone who knows me knows I'm not big on awards," Robinson said. "On any given night, one player can out-play another. But it's an honor to win, and I'd love to share this award with my teammates. The last four years, they've been the biggest part of my life."

During his four years at Navy, Robinson has participated in 106 victories. He led the Midshipmen to a 26-6 record this season, accounting for 36.5 percent of Navy's total scoring. He averaged 11.8 rebounds per game, and his 50 points in Navy's first-round NCAA loss to Michigan was the sixth highest in tournament history and most by a player since 1971.

## '86 hard to top for Perez

### Heisman Trophy not QB's first priority

By Mark Foyer  
Daily staff writer

Even though SJSU quarterback Mike Perez is a Heisman Trophy candidate this year, he hasn't put the possibility of winning it at the top of his list of things to do in 1987.

"I just want to go out and do the best I can this year," Perez said. "I want to be able to improve from last year."

That will be tough to do. Last year, Perez completed 249 of 421 passes for 3,225 yards with 17 touchdown passes and 17 interceptions. He was PCAA co-Player of the Year and West Coast Player of the Year.

With all that, plus being a candidate for the Heisman, one might think that he has become a little too self-confident — but he hasn't.

"He is the same kid that arrived here three years," said Dan Henson, SJSU quarterback and receiver's coach.

Henson also said that Perez being a Heisman candidate has had a positive influence on the rest of the team.

"The team rallies around him," Henson said. "The offensive line has an attitude they are blocking for a Heisman Trophy candidate. That gets them extra pumped."

Not bad for someone who red-shirted two years ago, which he said helped him prepare for last season.

"Red-shirting helped me learn the system," Perez said. "When I came into spring camp last year, I knew the offensive system, and its philosophy."

Before his season was interrupted because of a shoulder injury, Perez led the nation in total offense and passing. He was PCAA Offensive Player of the Week three times and Sports Illustrated Offensive Player of the Week following the Spartans' 45-41 win over Fresno State.

The Spartans rallied from 10 points down with 1:20 left to win the game. Perez tossed two touchdowns in the final moments to give the Spartans the win. That game gave Perez, and the rest of the Spartans, national recognition.

"Fresno State was a Top 20 team and had the longest winning streak (in

the nation) coming into the game," Perez said.

Perez' final touchdown pass came after ducking under a rushing Bulldog defender.

"All year, he made plays like the one against Fresno State," Henson said. "He has the discipline to stay in the pocket under pressure."

He was on his way toward a record setting season when he suffered a shoulder injury in the Spartans' win over New Mexico State. He attempted to throw a trap pass when he was blind sided.

"I got hit on my backside and

signals.

"It was an incredible accomplishment when one considers that he had only two days of practice," Henson said. "It's part of the mental toughness that he has."

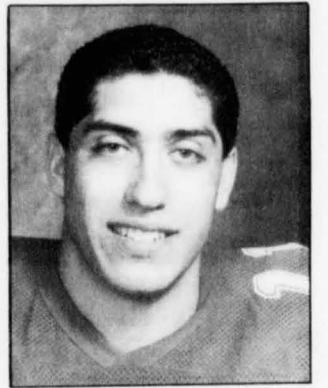
When the game started, he didn't get off to a good start.

"I was a little rusty at the start," Perez said. "But after a while, I was able to play the game that I know how to play."

SJSU won the game 37-7 against Miami of Ohio, and many, including Perez, expected the Spartans to be ranked. But they weren't, and Perez was among the disappointed.

"I just want to go out and do the best I can this year. I want to be able to improve from last year."

— Mike Perez, SJSU quarterback



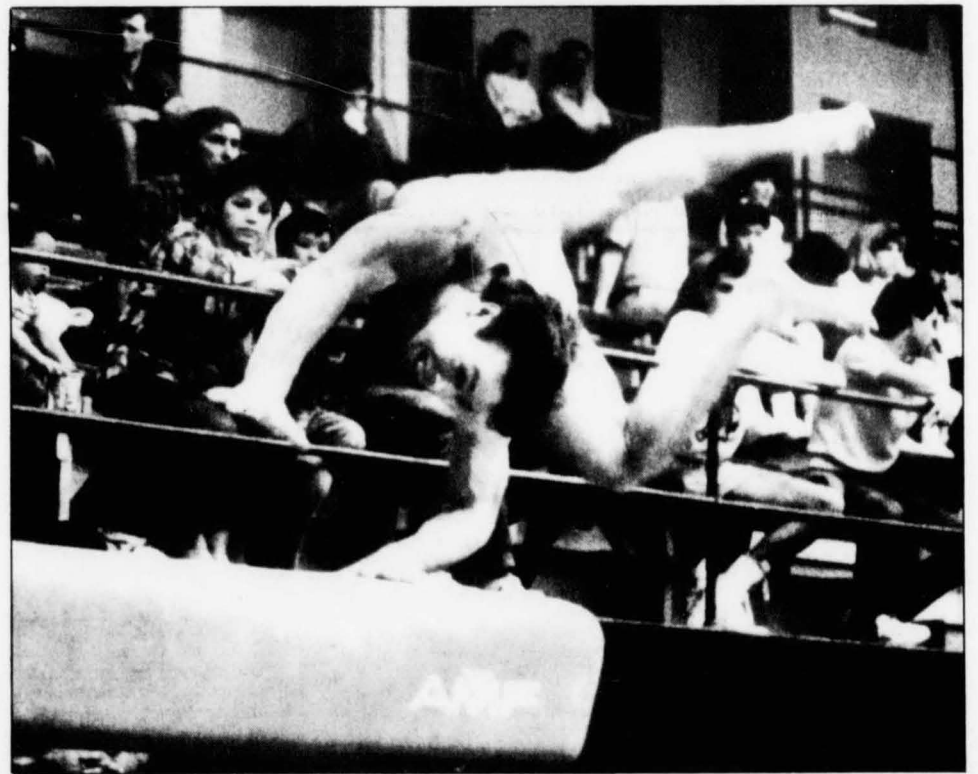
landed right on my shoulder," Perez said. "A lot of things went through my mind when I was told about the seriousness of the injury."

Among the things he thought about included missing the last two games and not being able to set some Spartan team records. And when the Spartans clinched the PCAA title and a trip to the Cal Bowl, he wasn't too sure if he would be in uniform, much less play. But when the game started, Perez was calling the

"I thought we'd be at best ranked No. 15," Perez said. "We beat Miami and they defeated Louisiana State University, who was ranked."

But 1986 and all of its glory is now history. Spring practice started last Tuesday, and preparations are underway for the 1987 campaign. Perez is working hard to prepare for the season.

"I still have to fight for a starting job," Perez said. "I can't wait for things to happen."



John B. Lawrence — Daily staff photographer

SJSU gymnast Brian Heery attempts a vault in a meet versus California earlier this season. Heery, who is from Ireland, leads the Spartan gymnastics team in all categories this season.

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