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### U.S. Team Places Second In International Olympiad

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# FOCUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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## U.S. Team Places Second in International Olympiad

Stephen B. Maurer

**S**pearheaded with a first prize finish by Waldemar Horwat, a recent U.S. citizen born in Poland, the U.S. team finished second in the 26th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), held in early July in Helsinki, Finland.

The U.S. team received 180 points out of a possible 252. (Each of six students tackled six problems, each worth 7 points.) Romania was first with 201. Following the U.S. were Hungary, 168; Bulgaria, 165; Vietnam, 144; USSR, 140; and West Germany, 139. Thirty-nine countries participated, up from 34 last year.

The exam this year was especially tough. For comparison, last year the USSR was first with 235 and the U.S. was tied with Hungary for fourth at 195. The U.S. contestants did very well on every problem this year except a classical geometry

problem. On the other hand, the Eastern Europeans (except the Romanians) had trouble with a sequence problem which the U.S. team handled easily.

Individually, Horwat, from Hoffman Estates, Illinois, obtained 35 points. Jeremy Kahn, of New York City, also received a first prize with 34. All the other team members received second prizes: David Grabiner, Claremont, California; Joseph Keane, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; David Moews, Willimantic, Connecticut; and Bjorn Poonen, Winchester, Massachusetts. One student from Romania and one from Hungary obtained perfect scores. The top scorer for the USSR was female; she obtained a first prize with 36 points. Two other young women received second prizes.

The U.S. team was itself coached by a new team, Cecil  
*(continued on page 2)*



Lynn A. Steen, MAA President, greeting the 1985 USAMO Winners in the Thomas Jefferson Room in the Diplomatic Reception area of the U.S. Department of State on June 4. Winners (from left to right) are: Waldemar Horwat, Joseph Keane, Jeremy Kahn, Bjorn Poonen, Zinkoo Han, John Overdeck, Yeh Ching-Tung, and John Dalbec.

## New Orleans to Host Winter Joint Mathematics Meetings

The January 1986 Joint Mathematics Meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency and the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 9-11. The meetings will include the **69th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America**, and the **92nd Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society**.

The MAA meeting will feature various invited addresses, minicourses, and contributed paper sessions. See page 4 of this issue for more information about the contributed paper sessions. The deadline for submission of contributed papers is **September 30**.

Complete meeting information, including the meeting program, preregistration and housing forms, minicourse information and registration forms, and Employment Register information, will be mailed to all MAA members in the center section of the October issue of *FOCUS*. The deadline for preregistration for the meetings is **November 15**.

**Invite a Friend to Join the MAA and Win a Trip to New Orleans! See page 4 for details.**

### U.S. Team (continued from page 1)

Rousseau of Memphis State University, and Gregg Patrino, a 1985 graduate of Princeton and a former USA Mathematical Olympiad winner and Putnam Fellow.

### Keane First on USA Mathematical Olympiad

Top honors on the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), held last May, went to Joseph Keane. Waldemar Horwat, Jeremy Kahn, and Bjorn Poonen were also winners of this year's USAMO, the culmination of the three-examination competition which begins with the American High School Mathematics Examination and the American Invitational Mathematics Examination. (See *FOCUS*, May-June 1985). The four other USAMO winners were: John Dalbec, Youngstown, Ohio; Zinkoo Han, Brooklyn, New York; John Overdeck, Columbia, Maryland; and Yeh-Ching Tung, Saratoga, California.

As usual, the USAMO Winners were honored with due pomp and circumstance at a two-day ceremony in Washington, D.C. in early June. Keane was presented with the new Samuel L. Greitzer/Murray S. Klamkin Award. Then 24 top-scoring USAMO students went off to West Point for the Olympiad Training Program, where the U.S. IMO Team was chosen.

The November issue of the *College Mathematics Journal* will feature the IMO—the history of the IMO, in-depth interviews with U.S. team members and coaches, what a training session is like, and articles on the art of contest problem-solving, plus the problems and solutions from this year's exam.

A pamphlet containing the USAMO and IMO problems and solutions is available now, as are other contest materials. Inquiries should be directed to: Professor Walter E. Mientka, 917 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE 68588-0322. The minimum order is \$4.

*Stephen B. Maurer is Chairman of the American Mathematics Competitions. He is a member of the Department of Mathematics at Swarthmore College and a FOCUS Associate Editor.*

### First Announcement of International Congress Available

The First Announcement of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM-86), which will be held August 3-11, 1986, in Berkeley, California, may be obtained from: ICM-86, P.O. Box 6887, Providence, RI 02940. This Congress will be the first International Congress to be held in the United States since 1950.

The Second Announcement of ICM-86 will be available in November. It will describe all activities of the Congress in detail, and provide instructions on how to complete the pre-registration process and obtain accommodations. These materials will automatically be mailed to anyone requesting the First Announcement.

There will be no MAA Summer Meeting in 1986. However, the MAA Board of Governors will hold its regular summer meeting in Berkeley at the time of the Congress and MAA members are encouraged to attend the Congress.

Additional information about the Congress, particularly about meeting events of special interest to MAA members, will appear in future issues of *FOCUS*.

### Conference Honors Young

A conference on "New Directions in Applied and Computational Mathematics" was held August 8-10, 1985, in Laramie, Wyoming, in honor of Gail S. Young on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The conference was sponsored by the Sloan Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

The conference focused on the mutual interaction among pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and computer science that is rapidly and dramatically changing the nature of all three disciplines. Among the eminent speakers on the program were: Thomas F. Banchoff, Brown University; Peter Hilton, SUNY Binghamton; Henry O. Pollak, Bell Communications Research; and Stephen Smale, University of California, Berkeley.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion of the implications for graduate and undergraduate education in mathematics. It is anticipated that the proceedings of the conference will be published.



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