After winning the Division II State Championship, the ECU Gymnastics team ended the season

AT THE TOP

William Yelverton

Nan George's 8.3 on the uneven bars, Lisa Tammaru's 8.35 on the balance beam, 8.45 in the floor exercise by Susan McKnight and Jennifer Bell's 31.9 in the all-around. East Carolina, competing for the last time, went on to capture third place in the Division II AIAW Regional Championships. The third place finish was an improvement over the 1979-80 season's fifth-place result. Captain Elizabeth Jackson was voted most valuable gymnast at a banquet after the season. Matthews was selected as the best vaulter, and Bell

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ise Matthews in the vault with an 8.95, | was voted most valuable on the floor exercise. She was also named the most improved gymnast. Wendy Meyer showed the best team spirit, and George received the most dedicated award.

The announcement that the Pirate gymnastics program had been cut came before the girls could finish their '81 season.

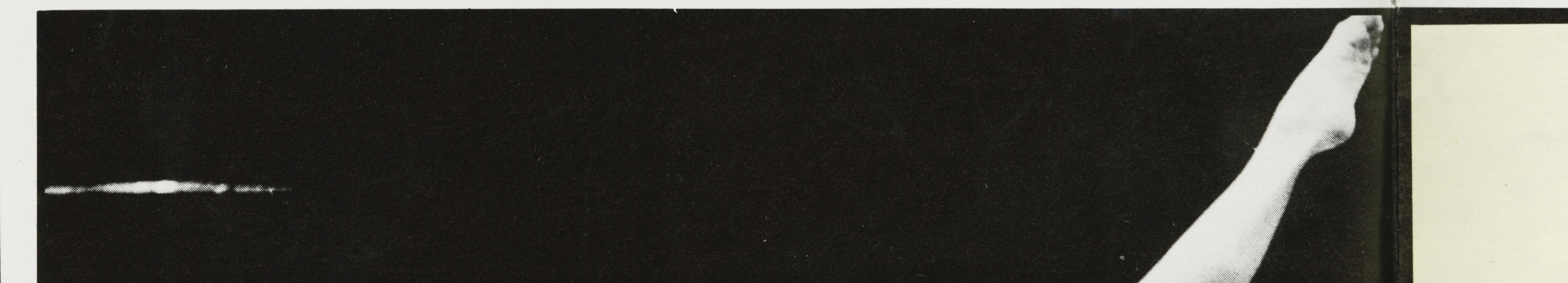
However, the Lady Pirates, under tremendous pressure to produce a season to remember, went out as champions: they won the Division II State Championship in their final meet at Minges Coliseum, defeating Western Carolina, 124.40-121.30.

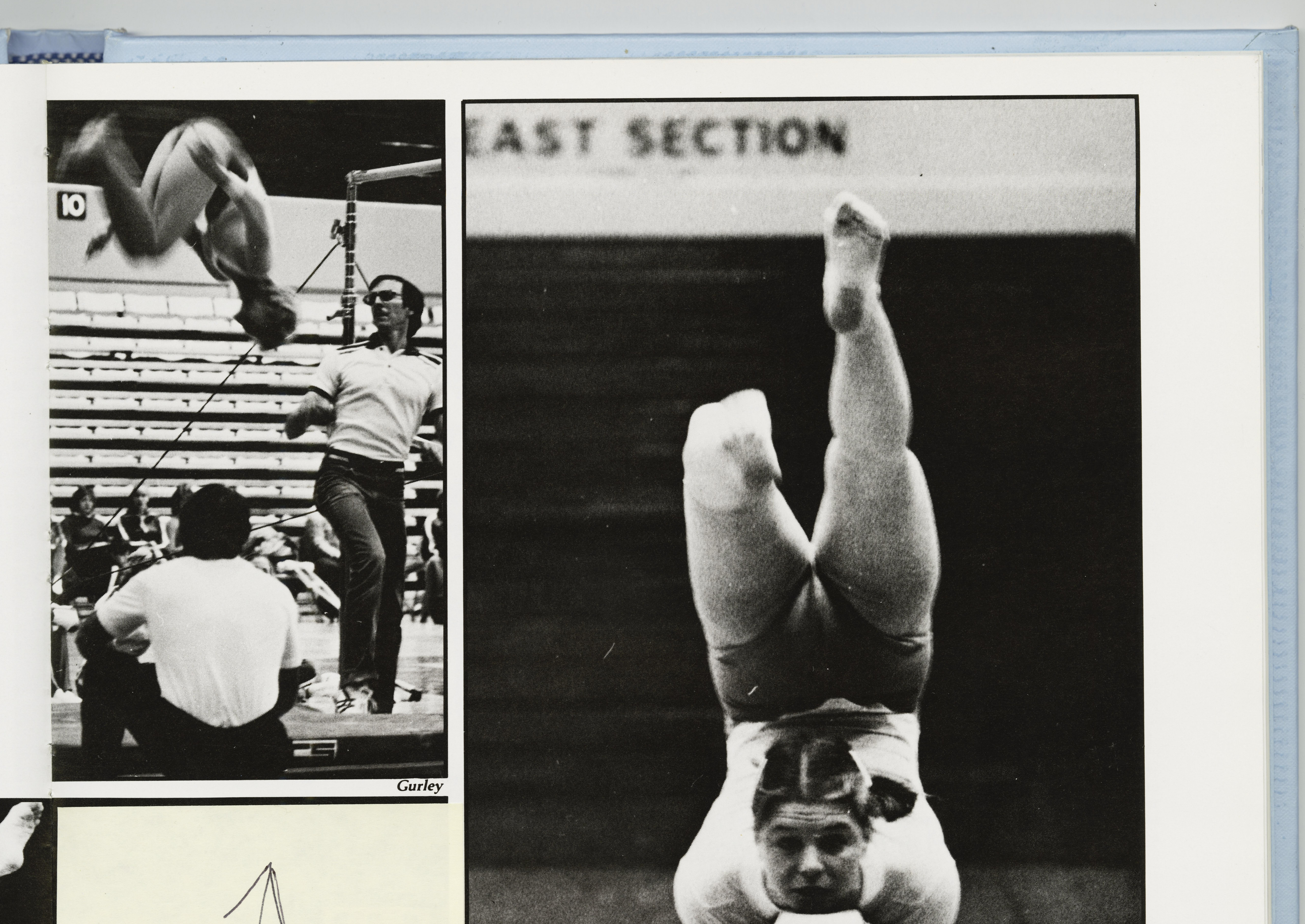
East Carolina's total score was their best in-state total ever. "The judges finally eased up a little and gave us some very complimentary scores," said coach Jon Rose. "This increased our seasonal average up to 122 points."

The Lady Pirate's performance was remarkable, considering the team was told of the decision to drop the program only two days before the meet. "It was really hard for the girls to get neuched up after the neue broke "

Below: Lisa Tammaru, a freshman from Gaithersburg, MD, performs on the balance beam during a meet with Western Carolina. Right: Annie Loeschke executes her dismount from the uneven bars. Far right: Jennifer Bell's outstanding performance on the balance beam helped her attain a ranking of third in allaround competition.







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