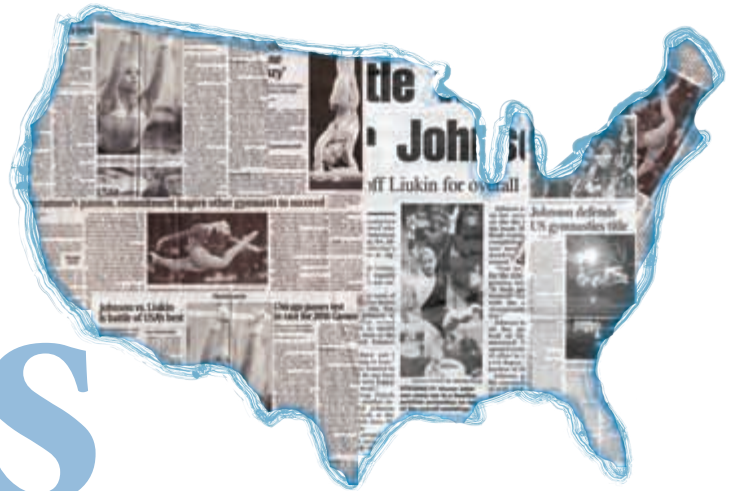


# IN THE NEWS



Check Out All The Great Gymnastics Coverage



OLYMPICS 2008

**PEOPLE MAGAZINE**  
- AUGUST -

Shawn competes in the vault at the 2008 Visa Championship in Boston. "We knew she was going to be a strong and powerful gymnast," says coaching legend Bela Karolyi.

**Shawn Johnson**

She's 16 and she loves *American Idol*, obsesses about clothes, hangs out with her buds, gets straight A's and—oh yeah, is America's best hope for a gold medal in gymnastics

BY NICOLE WEISENSEE EGAN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KENNETH JARECKE

Life Needs Balance.

USA GYMNASTICS

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LeadingOff

Backward Glance

Samantha Peszek of Indianapolis maintained her focus during the vault competition at the U.S. Olympic Trials last Friday in Philadelphia. The 18-year-old Peszek, who finished fourth in the apparatus, did not qualify for Beijing but is still a likely candidate (page 84). Of the team's six spots only two were awarded last weekend: to first-place finisher Shawn Johnson (page 82) and to runner-up Nastia Liukin. Photographs by Peter Read Miller.

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED**  
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