



10 GYMNASTICS

If you want fantasy land viewing, this is it. From rings, parallel, uneven and horizontal bars to the vault, pommel horse, beam, and, of course, the floor, the surreal nature of gymnastics offers up almost too much. The days of scoring perfect 10 may be gone, due to the overhaul by the world governing body in 2006, but the drama remains.

Just try tallying the figures when judging degrees of difficulty alongside execution, composition and artistry. Keep an eye out for Japan's 23-year-old **Kohei Uchimura** – he's a three-time all-round champion. The Russian-born **Nastia Liukin**, who'll be competing for the US, and mostly in pink, will probably grab your attention without too much effort.

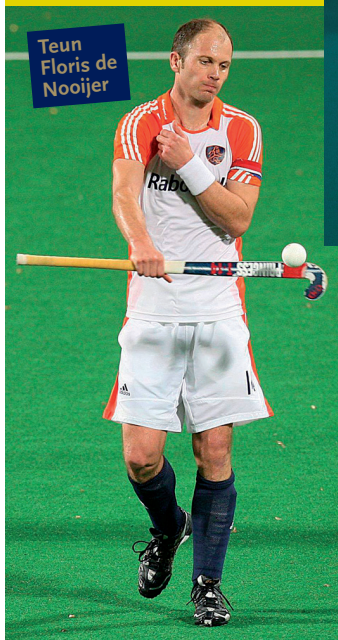
IRISH INTEREST >> Kieran Behan (gymnastics)



11 FOOTBALL

WATCH >> Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior. Messi won't be there but Brazil's Neymar will. 'The Prince' is one prolific goal-scoring machine – following in Pele's footsteps at Brazilian club Santos, he's notched up almost 100 goals inside three seasons. Not too shabby for a 20-year-old. He does also hold the FIFA Puskas Award for scoring 2011's best goal. And then there's *that* haircut. But the less said about that the better, eh?

WATCH >> Marta Vieira da Silva. Known only by her first name, this Brazilian lady has been FIFA World Player of the Year five times (2006 – 2010). A silver medal winner with her national team in 2004 and 2008, Marta tops the all-time Women's World Cup goalscorer list. And she's rightly recognised as one of the best ever.



12 HOCKEY

WATCH >> Teun Floris de Nooijer. Even if you know damn all about this one-sided stick game, there's one player you've got to see in action – de Nooijer. He's already represented the Netherlands at the 1996 and 2000 games, winning gold both times. Regarded as one of the best of all time, he's played over 400 times for his national side, and they're always the better for it. Sit back and enjoy his sublime skills.



13 TENNIS

WATCH >> Roger Federer. The choice of grass as the Olympic playing surface couldn't be better for the serial-winning Swiss who harbours hopes of gold in the singles. Britain's **Andy Murray** won't be too far behind Federer in his appreciation though. And **Novak Djokovic** and **Rafael Nadal**, sitting atop the ATP rankings, will have something to say about who gets what medal. **Jo-Wilfried Tsonga**, **John Isner** and **Juan Martin Del Potro** will also be in the mix, all capable of causing an upset.

WATCH >> Elena Dementieva. She's the returning champion, keen to keep her crown. But expect some hot competition from **Petra Kvitová**, **Maria Sharapova**, **Victoria Azarenka**, and **Caroline Wozniacki**. Then throw the Williams sisters, **Venus** and **Serena**, into the fray. Even though injury and age may be catching up with them, you just can't write them off. Outside bets? Look to **Na Li**, and **Agnieszka Radwanska**.

14 BADMINTON

WATCH >> Lin Dan. When you're regarded as the greatest player of all time, with a personal haul of 20 golds in your career, then it's no surprise that the world anticipates you to come out on top again. Reigning champion, China's Lin Dan, will battle it out with his main rival, **Lee Chong Wei** of Malaysia, for the ultimate accolade in the game.

IRISH INTEREST >> Chloe Magee