La Crosse Gymnasts Win Blugold Invite

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EAU CLAIRE - Defending national champion UW-La Crosse was an easy winner in the UW-Eau Claire Gymnastics Invite while Hamline University won a close battle for second in the meet.

La Crosse, which has won six consecutive National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) championships and 10 straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) crowns, totaled 181.90 in the four-team field. Hamline University (St. Paul, MN) finished with a 175.75 to edge the host Blugolds who were third in 174.00. Gustavus Adolphus (St. Peter, MN) rounded out the field with a 170.775.

La Crosse gymnasts won three of the four individual events as Kasey Clausen captured the uneven parallel bars with a 9.225, Gabi Hooper won the vault with a 9.425 and Erin Sommer won the balance beam with a 9.5. Hamline's Bryann Stenslie was the floor exercise winner with a 9.525. La Crosse took the top three spots in both the vault and the beam and first and third on bars.

Eau Claire senior **Anna Sutherland** *(Roseville, MN)* and La Crosse's Jackie LaFleur shared all-around honors with 35.35 totals.

Eau Claire junior **Theresa Lynch** *(Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear Lake)*, the defending national champion in floor exercise, was injured on her first pass in her floor exercise routine and unable to finish. She had a chance to win not only that event but the all-around competition. She had placed second on the uneven parallel bars (9.20), sixth on the balance beam (8.90) and ninth in vaulting (9.025). Sutherland took fourth on the balance beam (9.10), seventh on the vault (9.10) and 11th on the bars (8.45).

Eau Claire junior **Kristi Olson** *(Minnetonka, MN)* was third in the all-around competition behind Sutherland and LaFleuer with a 34.85. Her best individual place was 12th in both the floor exercise and vault.

Fourth-year coach Jean DeLisle's Blugold squad improved 4.4 points from the 169.60 it recorded in its first meet of the season last week.

The Blugolds will be off for two weeks before competing in the UW-Stout Invite January 26.

Final Results

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