Lynch Advances To Balance Beam Finals

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WHITEWATER - UW-Eau Claire junior **Theresa Lynch** *(Vadnais Heights, MN/White Bear)* has qualified for the finals of the balance beam at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) championships which got underway at Kachel Gym on the UW-Whitewater campus Friday.

Lynch is the defending national champion in floor exercise but did not qualify for that event after being sidelined much of this season with an injury. She scored a 9.4 on the balance beam and holds third place heading into Saturday's finals which combine the routines from Friday and Saturday for a final place. MIT's Julia Zimmerman leads the field with a 9.6 while Ursinus' Emily Marques is second with a 9.425.

The Blugolds did not qualify for the nationals as a team but had four individuals advance. Junior **Kristi Olson** *(Minnetonka, MN)* finished 17th in the all-around competition with a 36.10 score. She achieved that total with a 9.35 on vault (30th), 8.75 on unevens (40th tie), 8.75 on beam (27th tie) and 9.25 on floor exercise (40th tie).

Besides her beam effort, Lynch finished 19th on the uneven bars with a 9.275.

Sophomore **Anna Sutherland** *(Arden Hills, MN/Roseville)* was 54th in vault with an 8.8 while senior **Ashley Brett** *(Forest Lake, MN)* finished 49th in floor exercise with an 8.90. Brett also overcame an injury to qualify for nationals.

UW-Oshkosh won the team competition with Ursinus second and defending champion UW-La Crosse third. All individual places will be determined Saturday.

Day One Results

NCGA Nationals Web page