

Eau Claire Gymnasts Take Third At Home Invite

Posted: Friday, January 11, 2008

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - The UW-Eau Claire gymnastics team opened its 2008 season with its annual invite, taking third of four teams at the McPhee Physical Education Center tonight.

Winning the invite was UW-La Crosse, which also won the meet last season, with a score of 177.000. Defending national champion UW-Oshkosh took second with 170.700, while the Blugolds finished right on the Titans' heels with a score of 170.150. Hamline took last place with 169.875 points.

Kristi Olson (*Sr.-Minnetonka, Minn.*) was Eau Claire's top finisher tonight, tying for first on the uneven bars and taking fifth in the all-around. Olson scored an 8.925 on the uneven bars in the first place tie with La Crosse's Schaelyn McFadden. Last season, McFadden took sixth in the uneven bars while Olson finished 13th. In the all-around, Olson finished fifth with a score of 34.200.

La Crosse's Jackie LaFleur took first place honors in the all-around competition with a 36.250 after finishing third on the beam and bars, second on the vault and fifth on the floor exercise. Eau Claire's **Anna Sutherland** (*Jr.-Arden Hills, MN/Roseville*) took eighth in the all-around this season, although she tied with LaFleur for first last season.

Each team was represented with at least one first place finish at the invite. On the balance beam, Hamline's Brynn Stenslie took first place with a score of 9.050. Oshkosh and La Crosse had top finishers on the floor exercise with the Titans' Vanessa Virbitsky and the Eagles' Gabi Hooper both scoring 9.300. Hooper also took top honors on the vault with a score of 9.550, while Olson finished first on bars.

The Blugolds will be back in action next Sunday when they travel to California to take on California State-Fullerton.

Results

- KM -