Gymnasts Take Second At WIAC Championships, Ncga Regionals

Posted: Friday, March 18, 2005

WHITEWATER - In the first ever year of combining the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships and the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association West Regional Qualifier into one event, the UW-Eau Claire gymnastics teams emerged from the pack in second place out of eight teams here tonight at Kachel Gym.

UW-La Crosse won the event, posting a team score of 183.650, while the Blugolds claimed second with a score of 182.150. Coming in third was UW-Oshkosh at 180.675 followed by Gustavus Adolphus (MN) at 180.150. Hamline (MN) claimed fifth place, followed by UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout and Winona State (MN). The Blugolds had the top team scores in both the uneven bars competition and the floor exercise while finishing second on the uneven bars. A fourth place finish as a team on the balance beam ultimately cost the Blugolds the conference crown.

Alison Eagles *(Sr.-Shoreview, MN/Mounds View)* had a phenomenal showing as she tied for first place in the all-around competition. Her score of 37.600 in the all-around tied her with La Crosse's Ashley Koechel for the top score at the event. Eagles won the floor exercise with a score of 9.650 on her way to the all-around title. She also placed second on the uneven bars with a score of 9.300 while taking third in the vault competition with a score of 9.400. Eagles was the two-time defending conference champion in the vault but Brittany Moore of Gustavus ousted her with a score of 9.525 tonight.

Kristi Olson *(Fr.-Minnetonka, MN)* earned a fifth place finish in the vault competition, scoring a 9.325 in the event. Olson also took seventh place in the uneven bars event with a score of 9.075.

Ashley Brett *(So.-Forest Lake, MN)* and **Jenni Wick** *(Jr.-Sartell, MN)* each reeled in top-10 finishes on the day, as Brett took seventh in the floor with a score of 9.475 while Wick finished eighth on the balance beam with a score of 9.350.

At the completion of tonight's event, Doug Byrne of Hamline and Nadalie Walsh of Oshkosh were named the WIAC Gymnastics Co-Coaches of the year. Amanda Parker of Gustavus was named the Judy Kruckman Scholar Athlete award winner.

The Blugold gymnasts will be back in action April 1 and 2 for the NCGA Nationals. The nationals are hosted this year by La Crosse.

Championship Web site (including complete results)

- DN -