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Eastern Michigan University

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Anna Willette Qualifies for NCAA Regionals on Beam

The EMU gymnast will compete on beam at the Baton Rouge Regional, April 5, at 4 p.m.

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (EMUEagles.com) -- Eastern Michigan University junior gymnast Anna Willette (Pylesville, Md.-North Harford) has qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Regional Championships, the organization announced in its gymnastics championship release Monday, March 24. Willette will compete on the balance beam in the Baton Rouge, La. Regional, taking place at the Maravich Center on the campus of the Louisiana State University, April 5, at 4 p.m.

Six teams, five all-around competitors (who are not on a qualifying team) and one individual event specialist per event (who has a minimum Regional Qualifying Score [RQS] of 9.4) were named to each of the six predetermined host sites.

One week after becoming the first Eagle to earn All-Mid-American Conference First Team accolades since the All-MAC teams began in 2013, Willette qualifies on beam with a regional qualifying score of 9.795. Last season, Willette was the alternate on beam but did not end up competing in regionals.

Beam has been Willette's best apparatus this season, but she has led the Eagles in three of the four events by completing 24 of her 30 routines at 9.700 or higher. Along with her impressive scores all season long, four of those scores led to individual titles with two on vault and two on beam. Also, four of her 10 beam routines were scored 9.800 or better. Willette earned a career-high 9.850 on beam to finish third at the Eagle Invitational, March 8, a quad
meet hosted at EMU. She ranks fifth in the conference on beam with an average score of 9.767. As EMU hosted the 2014 MAC Gymnastics Championships, Willette tallied a 9.700 on beam to finish in a tie for 11th out of 42 competitors.

Willette is the second Eagle to qualify for the NCAA Regionals, as an individual, in as many seasons. Last year, then-freshman Khadijah Hudson (Hebron, Ky.-Connor) earned a spot at the regional competition in the floor exercise. She is also the seventh EMU gymnast to qualify for regionals in the past six seasons.