EMU Women's Gymnastics: EMU Gymnastics Set for MAC Dual With Bowling Green

Eastern Michigan University

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YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) - After beginning the season with a quadrangular meet at Kent State University, the Eastern Michigan University gymnastics team (0-3, 0-1 MAC) returns to action, Jan. 25, for a Mid-American Conference dual against Bowling Green State University (1-2, 1-0 MAC). The competition is set to begin at 4 p.m. inside BGSU's Anderson Arena.

The Eagles opened up the 2014 campaign with a fourth-place showing at the Kent State quad meet, Jan. 17. No. 16-ranked Rutgers University won the meet with a team total of 195.250. No. 21-ranked Kent State tallied 194.475 for runner-up honors while George Washington and EMU finished with scores of 193.400 and 192.750, respectively.

A Bull's Eye on Bowling Green: Like the Eagles, the Falcons also began the season against two nationally-ranked opponents. BGSU fell to No. 12 Oregon State and No. 19 Ohio State, Jan. 11, in Columbus, Ohio, tallying a 191.950. However, Bowling Green bounced back with a road victory over defending MAC Championship meet winner Western Michigan, 192.825-191.450, in a conference dual, Jan. 17. Four Falcons competed in every meet, but Alyssa Nocella had the high all around score with a 38.850. Nocella also scored a 9.775 on the vault to win that event.

Hudson Named MAC Co-Specialist of the Week: EMU sophomore gymnast Khadijah Hudson has been named the Mid-American Conference Co-Specialist of the Week, the conference announced Jan. 21. The EMU sophomore, earning her third conference weekly award of her career, shared the honor with Central Michigan's Halle Moraw. In order to be eligible for MAC Specialist of the Week, a gymnast cannot compete in more than two events during a
Hudson won the floor exercise while placing third in the vault as the EMU gymnastics team opened up the 2014 campaign with a fourth-place showing at a quadrangular meet hosted by Kent State University, Jan. 17. After qualifying on the floor for the NCAA Regionals last season as a freshman, Hudson didn't skip a beat in the 2014 season opener. Her score of 9.875 was enough to claim the floor title, tying a personal-best as well as the 10th-highest floor exercise score in EMU history. The Hebron, Ky. native also led the Eagles on the vault, recording a career-high 9.850 to take third. Both marks currently lead the all MAC gymnasts.

**Ebeyer Emerges for Eagles:** After competing in five meets as a freshman, primarily on beam, sophomore Kimberly Ebeyer is looking to make a greater impact for her sophomore season; she got off to a great start at the Kent State Quad, Jan. 17. The Greenwood, Ind. native received a solid 9.775 from the judges in her first collegiate appearance in the floor exercise. Ebeyer also scored a career-high 9.700 on the beam for ninth-place overall as well as a 9.675 on the vault. The scores on beam and floor were the second best on the team for each event.

**Three Gymnasts Make Collegiate Debuts:** Three gymnasts began their EMU careers Friday night, Jan. 17. Junior Ariyanna Smith tallied a 9.575 on bars while a pair of freshmen made their collegiate debuts alongside the upperclassman. Bianca Jordaan recorded a 9.600 on vault and a 9.450 on bars while Natalie Gervais tallied a 9.625 on beam in her first meet as an Eagle. While she did not compete in the lineup, freshman Sydney McEachern took the floor in exhibition action, receiving a 9.850 for the judges. If that score was included in competition, McEachern would have tied for second behind Hudson in the event, pushing the Eagles up to a third-place finish overall as a team in the quad meet.

**Michigan/Illinois Challenge Up Next:** Following the dual with Bowling Green, the Eagles remain on the road, flocking to Mount Pleasant, Mich. for the annual Michigan/Illinois Challenge, Feb. 1. The quad meet will see the Green and White pair up with Central Michigan to take on Illinois State and Illinois-Chicago, representing the Prairie State.