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Highest Team Score in 10 Years at Michigan/Illinois Challenge

Eastern Michigan University

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Gymnastics Records Highest Team Score in 10 Years at Michigan/Illinois Challenge

Eagles score a 194.800, their highest mark since March 19, 2004


Central Michigan claimed the top spot in the quad meet with a 196.600 on its home floor. EMU’s 194.800 was followed by a 192.650 from UIC and Illinois State's 191.800.

EMU’s team score was the best mark in a decade. The Eagles tallied a 195.550 at the Mid-American Conference Championship, March 19, 2004. Coincidentally, the conference championship meet that year was hosted at Central Michigan University.

"We competed extremely well today and got our first two victories of the season," noted EMU Head Coach Steve Wilce. "We are expecting this team to continue to improve throughout the rest of the season."

The Green and White recorded season team highs on all four apparatuses. Coach Wilce’s squad found its greatest success in the floor exercise with a 48.875. Redshirt junior Kaylee Meyers (Saint Joseph, Mo.-Central) led the

On vault, sophomore Khadijah Hudson (Hebron, Ky.-Conner) paced Eastern with a 9.775. Anna Willette (Pylesville, Md.-North Harford) received a 9.750 from the judges while freshman Bianca Jordaan (Oakville, Ontario-Abbey Park) and sophomore Kimberly Ebeyer (Greenwood, Ind.-Whiteland Community) scored personal-bests of 9.725 and 9.700, respectively. As a team, the Eagles totaled a 48.625. Kristen Petzold of CMU won the event with a 9.875.

Willette's 9.800 on bars was a team-best and enough for a seventh-place finish in the event. Nikki Paterson (Oakville, Ontario-Iroquois Ridge) reached a new career-high with a 9.750, and team co-captain Ashley Quinton (Calgary, Alberta-Bishop McNally) notched the 9.700 mark. The trio assisted in EMU's 48.525 team total on bars. Central's Brittany Petzold tallied a 9.875 to claim the event title.

The balance beam saw five Eagles eclipse the 9.700 plateau. Freshman Natalie Gervais (Winnipeg, Manitoba-Sturgeon Heights) earned a personal-best 9.800 for the best mark on the team and a fifth-place showing out of 24 gymnasts in the event. Meyers continued her strong day with a 9.775, and Ebeyer hit a new career-high at 9.750. Carrina Lo Bello (Oshawa, Ontario-McLaughlin Collegiate) and Willette both added marks of 9.725, bringing the team's beam total to 48.775. Taylor Noonan won with the highest score on the afternoon, a 9.925.

For the third straight meet, no EMU gymnast competed in all four events. UIC's Catherine Dion took the all around crown with a 39.150.

Eastern will host a meet for the first time this season, Feb. 7, when they face off against Central for the second straight week. This time around, the dual will be a Mid-American Conference matchup. The Friday night meet will be contested in Bowen Field House, starting at 7 p.m.

**Vault**
5. Hudson, Khadijah 9.775
7. Willette, Anna 9.750
10. Jordaan, Bianca 9.725
13. Ebeyer, Kimberly 9.700
14. Miller, Paulina 9.675
16. Chambliss, Ashlin 9.650

**Bars**
7. Willette, Anna 9.800
11. Paterson, Nikki 9.750
13. Quinton, Ashley 9.700
15. Lo Bello, Carrina 9.675
19. Jordaan, Bianca 9.600
22. Smith, Ariyanna 9.350

**Beam**
5. Gervais, Natalie 9.800
7. Meyers, Kaylee 9.775
8. Ebeyer, Kimberly 9.750
11. Lo Bello, Carrina 9.725
11. Willette, Anna 9.725
16. Ciaramella, Shawna 9.675

Floor
3. Meyers, Kaylee 9.875
5. Miller, Paulina 9.850
10. Ciaramella, Shawna 9.750
12. Loehner, Chantelle 9.725
14. Ebeyer, Kimberly 9.675
22. Hudson, Khadijah 9.125