EMU Women's Gymnastics: Western Michigan at Eastern Michigan

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Eastern Michigan Gymnastics Meet Notes

Eastern Michigan University
2014 Gymnastics
Weekly Release

Western Michigan at Eastern Michigan  Feb. 15, 2014, 7 p.m.
Bowen Field House - Ypsilanti, Mich.

EMU Gymnastics Schedule

Kent State Quad
Jan. 17 at No. 21 Kent State *! L, 192.750-194.475
Jan. 17 vs. No. 16 Rutgers! L, 192.750-195.250
Jan. 25 at Bowling Green* L, 192.525-194.600

Michigan/Illinois Challenge
Feb. 1 at No. 23 Central Michigan @ L, 194.800-196.600
Feb. 1 vs. Illinois-Chicago @ W, 194.800-192.650
Feb. 1 vs. Illinois State@ W, 194.800-191.800
Feb. 7 No. 19 CENTRAL MICHIGAN* L, 194.600-195.925
Feb. 15 WESTERN MICHIGAN* 7 p.m.
Feb. 26 at Air Force 6 p.m. MT
March 1 at Air Force 6 p.m. MT

EAGLE INVITATIONAL-MARCH 8
March 8 VS.TEMPLE%^ 7 p.m.
March 8 VS. AIR FORCE ^ 7 p.m.
March 8 VS. NORTHERN ILLINOIS%^ 7 p.m.
March 14 at Ball State* 2 p.m.
March 24 MAC CHAMPIONSHIP & 2 p.m.

* Mid-American Conference meet
^ at Kent State Quad (Kent, Ohio)
@ at Michigan/Illinois Challenge (Mt. Pleasant, Mich.)
%^ Eagle Invitational (Bowen Field House)
& MAC Championship (Convocation Center, Ypsilanti, Mich.)

2014 Eastern Michigan Gymnastics Meet Notes

#EMUgym Preview

Senior Night and “Eagles Unite” Highlight EMU’s Next Meet: For the second-straight week, the Eastern Michigan University gymnastics team will host an in-state rival at Bowen Field House. While the Eagles competed against No. 19 Central Michigan, Feb. 7, they will battle the Broncos of Western Michigan University, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. The Mid-American Conference dual meet will be Senior Night as well as an Eagles Unite event.

The Green and White are coming off a setback against the Chippewas in the home opener. However, EMU put together a high team score for the second straight week. In the past two meets, Eastern has averaged a team total of 194.700.

Senior Spotlights: Four Eagles will be honored Feb. 15, as part of Senior Night against Western Michigan. Below is a spotlight on each senior.

Shawna Ciaramella -- Has competed in 36 meets throughout her EMU career...Earned NACGC/W Scholastic All-America and Honorable Mention Academic All-MAC accolades as a junior...Boasted a career-high 9.775 on beam and a 9.750 on floor.

Miranda Jarvis -- Has competed in 24 meets for the Green and White...Ranked 10th in the MAC on floor as a freshman...Earned a career-high 9.850 on floor as well as personal-bests 9.750s on both beam and vault.

Taylor Patterson -- Has competed in 26 meets while at Eastern...Was in the EMU lineup in every meet during her sophomore and junior seasons...Recorded a personal-best 9.500 on floor and a career-high 9.750 on bars.

Ashley Quinton -- Has competed in 28 meets in her four-year career as an Eagle...Received Honorable Mention Academic All-MAC accolades during her junior year...Tallied personal-bests of 9.725 in both vault and beam while recording a career-high 9.825 in EMU’s last meet versus Central Michigan.

Broncos Coming to Bowen: Western Michigan enters Saturday’s rivalry matchup coming off not only its first win of the season, but it was also the Broncos’ first conference victory of the 2014 campaign. WMU defeated Ball State University, 193.175-190.525, recording its highest team score of the season to pick up the first victory under new Head Coach Penny Jernigan, Feb. 9. Western is led by Jessi Buis, who ranks ninth in the conference on vault with an average score of 9.785. The sophomore tied for the top score against the Cardinals with a season-high 9.825 on the apparatus.

EMU Gymnastics on the Web

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Eastern Michigan
EAGLES

2014 Record: 2-6, 0-3 MAC
Ranking: N/A
Head Coach: Steve Wilce

Western Michigan
BRONCOS

2014 Record: 1-5, 1-3 MAC
Ranking: N/A
Head Coach: Penny Jernigan

Gymnastics Contact: Adam Kuffner • 734.487.0317 • Cell: 419.953.1679 • akuffner@emich.edu
The EMU Record Book

All-Around
1. Natalie Hashimoto 39.725
2. Leah Hashimoto 39.475
t-3. Jolene Worley 39.175

Vault
1. Natalie Hashimoto 10.000
t-2. Rachel Johnson 9.900
t-2. Leah Hashimoto 9.900
t-2. Tawna Bennett 9.900
t-5. Nikole Viltz 9.875
t-5. Anna Willette 9.875

Bars
1. Natalie Hashimoto 9.950
t-2. Lindsay Gamrod 9.900
t-2. Leah Hashimoto 9.900
t-2. Jennifer Charlebois 9.900
5. Chrissy Jones 9.875

Beam
1. Natalie Hashimoto 10.000
t-2. Jenika Faes 9.900
t-2. Jennie Spindler 9.900
t-2. Rebecca Fuss 9.900
t-5. Dana Stencel 9.875
t-5. Leah Hashimoto 9.875
t-5. Sara Wasilenko 9.875
t-5. Jolene Worley 9.875

Floor
1. Natalie Hashimoto 9.950
t-1. Sara Wasilenko 9.950
t-1. Leah Hashimoto 9.950
t-1. Brooke Morari 9.950
5. Emily Koechel 9.925

Team Highs

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Eagles Unite: Not only is the Feb. 15 dual against Western Michigan recognized as Senior night, but it will also be an “Eagles Unite” contest, where EMU student-athletes are encouraged to attend to support their fellow Eagles while wearing the t-shirt with the slogan on it.

The new mantra of the Eastern Michigan University Department of Athletics – “Eagles Unite” – is more than just a catchy slogan, but a campaign of support that pervades all of EMU’s 21 varsity sports. The athletic department is encouraging student-athletes to attend specific sporting events that serve as the opportunity for them to show their school pride both on and off the field while building camaraderie amongst other student athletes.

Quality Score by Quinton: Senior Ashley Quinton recorded the highest score of the night for the Eagles, Feb. 7, in their home opener versus Central Michigan. The team co-captain soared through the air on bars, receiving a career-high 9.825 from the judges for a third-place finish in the event. Competing on the apparatus in each meet this season, Quinton has recorded scores of 9.700 or higher in three of the Eagles’ four meets.

Eagles Take Flight with Air Force: After back-to-back meets at home, the Eagles will flock to Colorado Springs, Colo., dualing with the Falcons of the Air Force Academy for a pair of meets, Feb. 26 and March 1. Both meets are scheduled to begin a 6 p.m. Mountain Time, which is 8 p.m. Eastern Time. One week after the final dual out west, Air Force will invade Ypsilanti to compete in the Eagle Invitational, March 8, against EMU, Northern Illinois and Temple.

What A Score!: After not reaching the 193-point mark in their first two meets, the Eagles broke out a 194.800 at the Michigan/Illinois Challenge, Feb. 1. EMU partnered with in-state rival and host Central Michigan, combining for a score of 391.400 to top Illinois institutions Illinois State University and the University of Illinois-Chicago, who totaled a 384.450.

The Green and White recorded season-bests on all four apparatuses with a 48.625 on vault, a 48.525 on bars, a 48.775 on beam and a 48.875 on the floor. Eastern’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 CMU.

There’s No Place Like Home: The matchup between the Eagles and Broncos will be the second of four home meets for Eastern this season. Following the dual against CMU, Feb. 7, Head Coach Steve Wilce and his squad host Western Michigan, Feb. 15, in Bowen Field House. The Eagles wrap up their home slate in the venerable building, March 8, hosting the Air Force Academy, Northern Illinois University and Temple University for the Eagle Invitational. Then, EMU Gymnastics will serve as host of the 2014 MAC Championships, March 22, with the action taking place inside the Convocation Center.

Top O’ The MAC: After receiving all-conference accolades a season ago, two Eagles have quickly soared to the top of the MAC charts to begin the 2014 season. Sophomore Khadijah Hudson is currently the sixth-best vaulter in the MAC with a 9.808 average and a season-high 9.850. Teammate Anna Willette, the top vaulter in the MAC a season ago, is now rising to the top of the conference on beam. The Eastern junior is ranked fourth through the early portion of the 2014 campaign, boasting a 9.717 average that includes a 9.775 against Bowling Green, Jan. 25. Both Eagles were All-MAC Second Team honorees in 2013.

The Streak Must End: When Eastern hosts WMU, Feb. 15, the Green and White will look to snap a 10-meet losing streak within the conference. The last time the Eagles won a MAC regular season matchup was March 10, 2012, when EMU topped Northern Illinois, 193.850-192.075. However, despite the struggles during the regular season, Eastern has not finished last at the MAC Championships the previous two season. In 2012, Eastern tied for fifth, ahead of Ball State. Last season, the Eagles also placed ahead of the Cardinals at the conference meet.

Facing the Nation’s Best: Head Coach Steve Wilce and his squad have had their hands full to start the 2014 season. Four of the first seven opponents on the schedule have been nationally-ranked. The Eagles opened up the season with a quad meet at Kent State, when the Golden Flashes were ranked No. 21 in the country. In addition to KSU, No. 16 Rutgers University competed in the meet. Eastern partnered with then-No. 23 Central Michigan for the Michigan/Illinois Challenge, Feb. 1, before hosting the No. 19 Chippewas, Feb. 7, at Bowen Field House for a MAC dual.

Meyers Makes Her Mark: EMU gymnast Kaylee Meyers led the Eagles to a team total of 194.800 at the Michigan/Illinois Challenge, Feb. 1, the program’s highest mark in 10 years. The redshirt junior earned a personal-best 9.875 from the judges in the floor exercise, tying for the 10th-best
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 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.

Through three meets this season, Ebeyer has tallied scores of 9.700 or better in 5-of-9 routines. In fact, only two of those routines have been lower than 9.675. She reached a new career-high on beam at the Michigan/Illinois Challenge, Feb. 1, earning a 9.750 from the judges.

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 meet.

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.

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.

mark in EMU history. Meyers also found success on the balance beam, recording a mark of 9.775 to finish seventh in the quad meet. So far this season, the Saint Joseph, Mo. native has competed for the Eagles on beam and floor for each meet.
Six of his gymnasts have earned the MAC Senior Gymnast of the Year award (2003), (2001 and 2002) and MAC Senior Gymnast of the Year honors. During her career at EMU, Natalie Hashimoto has excelled under his tutelage, including the 1989 and 1992. Several individual athletes have excelled under his tutelage, including the gymnast regarded as the best in EMU history, the team’s success throughout the years.

In 2013, the Eagles had 12 gymnasts named their performances in the classroom as well. Fuss in 2004, Jolene Worley in 2005, and Duyen Autumn in 2006. EMU also welcomes six new Eagles looking to make immediate impacts as freshmen.

Key Returners: Despite losing four seniors from last year’s squad (Brittany Cassar, Camille Cicchini, Amanda Fuller and Kristina Kurkmilis), the 2014 Eagles return two Second Team All-MAC members Khadijah Hudson and Anna Willette. Hudson had a breakout freshman campaign in which she racked up six individual wins on her way to representing the Green and White at the NCAA Regional in Tuscaloosa, Ala. In 2013, the Hebron, Ky. native earned two MAC weekly awards, including MAC Gymnast of the Week, March 6, for recording the third best all around score (39.175) in school history as well as tying the 10th highest mark on floor (9.875). Willette, the other EMU all-conference honoree, turned in a sensational sophomore season as the MAC’s top vaulter, averaging a 9.828 through all 11 meets, including marks of 9.875 in three different meets, ranking fifth in EMU laurels. She completed the season with a runner-up finish on the vault at the 2013 MAC Championship, posting a 9.800.

Aside from Hudson and Willette, Eastern will also be led by a pair of captains (senior Ashley Quinton and junior Paulina Miller) as well as three additional seniors (Shawna Ciaramella, Miranda Jarvis and Taylor Patterson) and two redshirt juniors (Chantelle Loehner and Kaylee Meyers). In her final year as an Eagle, Quinton will compete as a specialist on bars. Recording a career-high 9.825 in a runner-up showing at Bowling Green was the highlight of the 2013 season for the Calgary, Alberta native. As for Miller, she brings experience on the vault, beam and floor after competing in all 11 meets just a season ago. The EMU co-captain secured the 10th best floor score in program history as she won the Eagle Invitational with a 9.875.

Fresh Faces: EMU also welcomes six new Eagles looking to make immediate impacts as freshmen: Kelsie Brooks, Natalie Gervais, Bianca Jordaan, Sydney McEachern, Lacey Rubin and Taylor Young. Gervais was one of the top young gymnasts in Canada, representing her country at the 2013 World University Games in Kazan, Russia while fellow Canadian, Jordaan, claimed the national championship on the vault in 2011.

Swinging on the Bars: Ashley Quinton, Carrina Lo Bello, Khadijah Hudson, Taylor Patterson, and Anna Willette return to compete on bars after completing strong and consistent routines throughout last year. Nikki Paterson and Kaylee Meyers will also be in the mix as the upperclassmen have both seen action on bars. Junior Ariyanna Smith, along with freshmen Bianca Jordaan, Lacey Rubin, Natalie Gervais, and Kelsie Brooks will look to earn a spot in the rotation as well. “Ariyanna has a very strong and dynamic bar routine that could add a lot to the team,” noted EMU Associate Head Coach Andrea Price. “Bianca and Lacey have very strong routines and both of them have ‘E’ skills while Natalie and Kelsie are very clean on bars and very pretty to watch.”

Balance on the Beam: Expect Anna Willette, Shawna Ciaramella, Kimberly Ebeber, Kaylee Meyers, and Carrina Lo Bello to start off in the beam rotation. Returning Eagles Paulina Miller and Nikki Paterson are looking strong throughout practice and have improved this year, looking to fill the final spot in the lineup. “We have some new faces on beam this year; Sydney McEachern is very dynamic and has a big dismount,” added Coach Price. “Natalie Gervais is very clean and consistent and could have a major impact on this event with her very clean lines. Taylor Young is very proven to be a ‘beamer’ and is very consistent in practice. Also, Lacey Rubin is very aggressive and should develop into a strong athlete on beam.”

Valiant Vaulters: On vault, another core group of Eagles led by Paulina Miller, Khadijah Hudson, Anna Willette, Ashlin Chamblis, and Carrina Lo Bello come back as veterans in the event. Watch for sophomore Kimberly Ebeber to be a contender on vault with her consistent ability. Freshmen Bianca Jordaan, Sydney McEachern, Kelsie Brooks, and Taylor Young are strong options for the rotation and bring depth to the event.

Floor Flyers: NCAA Regional Qualifier Khadijah Hudson will lead the floor routines alongside co-captain Paulina Miller, who recorded the 10th-best mark in EMU history last year with a 9.875. Chantelle Loehner was one of the most consistent scorers a season ago and is expected to continue her success. Coach Price, in her 11th season at EMU, gave her take on a few other gymnasts vying to compete on the floor. “We are excited to have Kaylee Meyers back and for her to be a real impact on floor this year. Last year, due to injury, she only saw a few meets and we feel she can make a big impact on this event. Shawna Ciaramella has really upgraded her routine and looks the best she has ever looked. Kimberly Ebeber is looking strong and has strong dance on floor and should be a new face here. Nikki Paterson is really coming into her own and is very clean. Freshmen on floor would be Bianca Jordaan and Sydney McEachern. Both of these athletes bring strong tumbling ability, and we are excited to see what they can do in competition. Taylor Young, Natalie Gervais, and Kelsie Brooks are strong athletes on floor, and we are anxious to see them develop on this event.”
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**Head Coach:** Steve Wilce

**Associate Head Coach:** Andrea Price

**Volunteer Assistant:** Jamie Radermacher