



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

## Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships

HOST: U.S. Military Academy

March 27-28, 2015

By Jerry Wright



U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY-2015 ECAC CHAMPIONS

### U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Army captured its first conference title since 2005, besting the field of six with a team score of 422.050 to earn the 2015 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) crown from Gross Sports Center on Friday evening.

The Black Knights' season-best mark of 422.050 propelled them over second place Navy (415.300) and third place William & Mary (410.900). UIC captured fourth with a team score of 409.350, followed by fifth place Springfield (406.000) and sixth place Temple (403.900).

Junior Jesse Glenn captured his second consecutive ECAC all-around title with a mark of 86.050. Teammate Nathan Goff took sixth



GLENN

place with a score of 81.950 in the first conference meet of his young career.

Qualifying for individual finals were Seth Cannon and Sam Kusnitz on floor exercise, Andre Hufnagel and Connor Venrick on pom-

mel horse, Joe Pritts, Glenn and Venrick on rings, Pritts, Kusnitz and Glenn on vault, Nathan Goff, Glenn and Chris Short on parallel bars and Glenn, Goff and Kusnitz on high bar.

Army kicked off the evening on parallel bars as Short led the way with a mark of 14.500. Glenn took third with a score of 14.450 and was followed by Goff in fifth with a mark of 14.100.

Glenn also finished in the top spot on high bar with a score of 15.350, tying his own Academy record. Goff finished third with a score of 14.450 and Kusnitz tied for fifth with a mark of 14.250.

On floor exercise Kusnitz earned a tie for second with a mark of 14.700.

On pommel horse led by a second place finish from Venrick who posted a score of 14.850. Hufnagel took third with a mark of 14.800 while Goff placed 12th with a score of 14.300.

Venrick led the team with a third place mark of 14.550 on rings. Glenn took fifth with a score of 14.250 and was followed by Pritts in seventh with a score of 14.100.

On vault Glenn earned a team-best mark of 14.450 to take third and was followed by Kusnitz's eighth-place score of 14.150.

The win is Army's first since it last claimed the title in 2005 from Springfield College. It is the 13th in program history which ranks second amongst ECAC schools.

Army now automatically qualifies for the NCAA Championships which are set to take place on March 9-11 from Norman, Okla.

### U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Navy earned its highest finish in the ECAC team competition since 2009 when it scored 415.3 points to rank second overall on Friday at Army's Gross Sports Center. Army and Navy were followed in the standings by William & Mary (410.9), Illinois-Chicago (409.35), Springfield (406.0) and Temple (403.9).

In the all-around competition, Jonny Tang finished in third place at 84.05. The second-year gymnast scored a 14.65 on the floor exercise, 13.8 on the pommel horse, 13.45 on the rings, 13.75 on the vault, 14.0 on the parallel bars and 14.4 on the high bar. His efforts on the floor exercise (4th), parallel bars (8th) and high bar (4th) earned him top-10 rankings and entry into Saturday's individual finals.



TANG

Navy had four first-place results on Friday led by Mitchell Larios finishing atop the floor exercise and parallel bars standings. Larios scored a 14.9 on the floor exercise and a 14.55 on the parallel bars.

Other top-finishers for the Mids included Eric Morrison on the pommel horse at 14.85 and Thomas Goodell on the rings at 14.75. Larios' parallel bar score was a career-high and Morrison's pommel horse score tied a career-best.

Goodell will be joined in Saturday's individual finals by Joshua Steves and Eric Viscardi. All three seniors finished amongst the top-10 as Steves was second at 14.65, while Viscardi was 10th at 13.95.

Larios qualified for a third final with the second-best score on the vault at 14.55.

Navy's high bar effort was led by Goodell, who registered a score of 14.5 to rank second overall amongst 32 competitors.

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

The College of William and Mary placed third at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship hosted by Army on Friday evening.

No. 12 Army claimed the team title with a 422.05 and was followed by No. 13 Navy (415.3), No. 14 W&M (410.9), No. 17 Illinois-Chicago (409.35), No. 15 Springfield (406.0) and No. 18 Temple (403.9).

W&M's best performance as a team came on pommel horse where it set a school record (71.6).

Highlighting the Tribe's efforts were eight Tribe gymnasts who combined to qualify for nine individual event finals spots.

Senior Michael Deitz led the way by qualifying in a pair of events – vault (14.1) and high bar (14.25).

W&M's other qualifiers include: sophomore Aria Sabbagh, floor (14.35 – career high); junior Adam Avant, floor (14.0 – career high); junior Keaton Ackerman, pommel horse (14.7 – career high); senior Peter

Ten Eyck, pommel horse (14.7); freshman Jeremiah McReynolds, rings (14.05); junior Nick Van Dyke, vault (14.1); sophomore Rob Meyer, parallel bars (14.4 – career high).

In addition to the team finals and individual event qualifying round, the individual all-around finals were also held on Friday. Sabbagh was the Tribe's lone competitor in all six events, and he placed eighth with a 79.25.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO

The University of Illinois-Chicago rounded out the ECAC Championships Saturday afternoon at the Gross Center, hosted by Army.



The Flames placed fourth with a final score of 409.350. Army took first in conference competition with a score of 422.050.

In the second day of competition Jason Gaides was named the Senior Gymnast of the Year after placing second in the all-around competition (84.600). He finished as the runner up in rings (14.500) and high bar (14.250). Gaides also had team-best finishes on floor (5th, 13.950) and pommel horse (8th, 13.550).

Brett Valin won the rings competition with a final score of 14.600. He also had team-best finishes on vault (4th, 14.350) and parallel bars (7th, 13.700).

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

Springfield College placed fifth at the 2015 ECAC Championships on Friday night after registering a team score of 406.000.

Host Army ran away with the title after scoring a 422.050, followed by Navy (415.300) and William and Mary (410.900). Illinois Chicago (409.350), Springfield, and Temple (403.900) rounded out the team scoring.

Jon Zirna earned All-ECAC honors in the All-Around competition after he registered a 82.500 as he finished fifth out of the nine competitors.

The top 10 finishers in each individual event on Friday advanced to Saturday's individual event finals, which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Pat Ryther had Springfield's highest individual finish on the night, taking fourth on the pommel horse after earning a 14.750. Zirna



added a ninth-place finish in the event with a 14.500.

Ian Stratton tied for sixth in the floor exercise with a 14.350, and Zirna registered a 14.200 on the vault, good enough for seventh on the night.

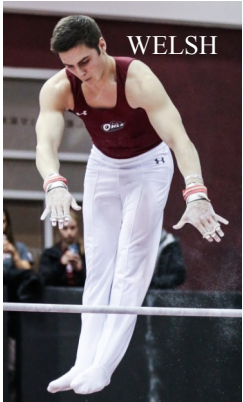
Also qualifying for the finals was Sam Docherty who tallied the 11th-best score of the night with a 13.950 on the parallel bars and Tucker McClure scored a 13.650 on the high bar to take 11th. On the rings, Joshua Dieker produced Springfield's highest score, a 13.900, tying him for 12th.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Although now competing as a club team Temple University was invited to participate in the ECAC Championships and placed 6th.

Highlights for the team were the following

individual event qualifiers: FX-Casey Polizzotto (14.70), Jakob Welsh (14.10). PH-Michael Bittner (14.70). R-Antone Wright (14.00). V-Casey Polizzotto (14.30), Patrick Henley (14.25). PB-Jakob Welsh (14.00). HB-Jon Rydzefski (13.80). Jakob Welsh placed 7th in the all around (81.35).



TOP TEAM SCORES THIS WEEK

Oklahoma	447.40
Stanford	437.15
Penn State	436.70
Illinois	436.10
Michigan	434.75
Minnesota	433.75
California	432.70
Ohio State	429.35
Iowa	427.60
Air Force	425.15
Army	422.05
Nebraska	420.10
Navy	415.30
William & Mary	410.90
Illinois-Chicago	409.35
Springfield	406.00
Temple	403.90





# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION EASTERN COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE INDIVIDUAL EVENT RESULTS

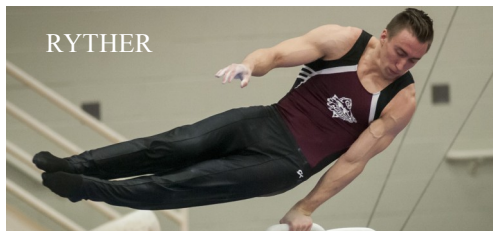
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Compiled by Jerry Wright



GLENN



TANG



RYTHER



VALIN

## ALL AROUND

1. Jesse Glenn, Army	86.05
2. Jason Gaides, Ill-Chicago	84.60
3. Jonny Tang, Navy	84.05
4. Brett Valin, Ill-Chicago	83.80
5. Jon Zirna, Springfield	82.05
6. Nathan Goff, Army	81.95
7. Jakob Welsh, Temple	81.35
8. Aria Sabbagh, Wm& Mary	79.25

## FLOOR EXERCISE

1. Jonny Tang, Navy	14.450
1. Sam Kusnitz, Army	14.450
3. Seth Cannon, Army	14.200
4. Ian Stratton, Springfield	13.950
5. Jason Gaides, UIC	13.950
6. Alex Dumstorf, UIC	13.800
7T. Casey Polizzotto, Temple	13.500
7T. Jakob Welsh, Temple	13.500

## POMMEL HORSE

1. Pat Ryther, Springfield	15.000
2. Eric Morrison, Navy	14.450
3. Jon Zirna, Springfield	14.250
4. Connor Venrick, Army	14.200
5. Keaton Ackerman, W&M	14.100
6. Michael Bittner, Temple	13.900
7. Peter Ten Eyck, W&M	13.700
8. Jason Gaides, UIC	13.550

## RINGS

1. Brett Valin, UIC	14.600
2. Jason Gaides, UIC	14.50
3. Thomas Goodell, Navy	14.450
4. Connor Venrick, Army	14.350
5. Joshua Steves, Navy	14.200
6. Joe Pritts, Army	13.900
7. Joshua Dieker, Springfield	13.850
8. Jeremiah McReynolds, W&M	13.700

## VAULT

1. Jesse Glenn, Army	14.900
2. Mitchell Larios, Navy	14.600
3. Jon Zirna, Springfield	14.500
4. Brett Valin, UIC	14.350
5T. Casey Polizzotto, Temple	14.300
5T. Nick Van Dyke, W&M	14.300
7. Sam Kusnitz, Army	14.250
8. Joe Pritts, Army	14.200

## PARALLEL BARS

1. Jesse Glenn, Army	14.500
2. Rob Meyer, W&M	14.200
3T. Jonny Tang, Navy	14.150
3T. Chris Short, Army	14.150
5. Nathan Goff, Army	14.100
6. Mitchell Larios, Navy	13.850
7. Brett Valin, UIC	13.700
8. Sam Docherty, Springfield	13.600

## HORIZONTAL BAR

1. Jesse Glenn, Army	15.000
2T. Jason Gaides, UIC	14.250
2T. Michael Deitz, W&M	14.250
4. Brett Valin, UIC	14.100
5. Nathan Goff, Army	14.050
6. Jonny Tang, Navy	14.000
7. Sam Kusnitz, Army	13.900
8. Thomas Goodell, Navy	13.75

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