NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! - Volleyball Brings Home Its Second National Title

The Emory Volleyball program capped off a memorable 2018 season by bringing home the program’s second-ever national title.

The Eagles of Head Coach Jenny McDowell peaked at exactly the right time, winning 17 of their last 18 matches to close out the year with a record of 30-6, the 12th straight campaign of 30 or more victories.

Emory’s drive to the national crown was jump started with a first-place finish at the University Athletic Association Championships where it swept Brandeis in the quarterfinals, followed by a similar result against Carnegie Mellon in the semis. In the title showdown, the Eagles blanked No. 10-ranked Chicago for the second time during the season, earning the conference’s automatic berth to the postseason.

Emory took a short trip to Berry College where it put on an impressive display, sweeping three foes en route to claiming the NCAA Mount Berry Regional. After dispatching Meredith College in the opening round, the Eagles toppled No. 4 Colorado College and No. 22 Mary Hardin-Baylor, propelling the squad to the Championships on the campus of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

In a rematch of the 2017 quarterfinals, Emory gained a measure of revenge against Ithaca College with a 3-1 decision. The Eagles then punched their ticket to the championship contest with a sweep of No. 6 Juniata College. In a highly anticipated match-up against No. 1-ranked Calvin, Emory came through with its most impressive outing of the season, hitting a blazing .364 in a sweep of the K nights.

Senior setter Mady Arles was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Championships, culminating a memorable season that saw her land First Team All-America honors. Joining Arles on the Championships All-Tourney Team were junior Elyse Thompson and sophomore Leah Saunders. Both Thompson and Saunders were Honorable Mention All-America picks while senior Karissa Dzurik played her way to second-team recognition.

EMORY GOLF RANKED #1 AFTER FALL SEASON

The Emory Golf team’s dominant play during the fall portion of its schedule resulted in the Eagles holding down No. 1 position in the Division III Bushnell Golfweek Coaches Poll.

Emory served notice that it will be a force to be reckoned with this spring by recording three-first place finishes and a runner-up performance in four competitions.

The Eagles started their season by pacing 18 teams at the NCAA Fall Preview at the Keene Trace Golf Club in Lexington, Kentucky, site of the 2019 NCAA Championships. After finishing second out of 13 schools at the always competitive Gordin Classic, Emory tied Wittenberg for first place out of 12 squads at the Tartan Invitational in Pittsburgh. Junior Matt Organisak spearheaded the Eagles’ contingent at the Invitational by playing his way to medalist honors out of 90 players with a 54-hole mark of three-under par 213. Head Coach John Sjoberg then saw his team wrap up the fall by finishing first out of 18 programs, shattering a school scoring record in the process, at the Golfweek DIII Invitational in Sandestin, Florida. The Eagles rolled to a nine-shot win over Huntingdon after carding an 842, bettering the previous 54-hole standard of 855. Freshman Logan Ryan was Emory’s top shooter in that tournament with his five-under 208 slotting him fourth on the 90-player leader board and representing the program’s second-best effort for a 54-hole event.

Organisak averaged a team-best 70.8 strokes over 12 rounds, recording par or better on nine occasions. Ryan made an immediate contribution as a rookie, checking in a 71.9 strokes in 12 rounds.

Emory starts its spring season, March 4-5, at the Tournament at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia.
WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY COMPETES AT D-III CHAMPIONSHIPS

A combination of veteran leadership along with a stable of young talent helped the Emory Women’s Cross Country team maintain its status as one of the top programs in the country.

The Eagles competed in the NCAA D-III Championships for the 14th consecutive year and 29th overall in school history, registering a 20th-place finish which represented the school’s best showing since 2007.

Emory earned automatic entry to nationals after posting a first-place finish out of 32 teams at the NCAA South/Southeast Championships, the fourth time in the past five years that it claimed the top spot. The Eagles saw six of their entries race to all-region kudos, led by senior Kaylee Slade who placed seventh out of 237 runners. Other all-region performers included senior Kayla O’Shea, sophomores Carrie McIntyre, Susie Martin and Abby Durfee and freshman Zoe Friedman.

Slade was a model of consistency, ranking as squad’s No. 1 finisher in all seven of her competitions. A Second Team All-UAA honoree, she came through with a personal-best 6K time at the NCAA Championships. Martin proved to be a reliable contributor by scoring in all seven of her races while O’Shea and McIntyre bolstered the team by scoring in six of their seven meets.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY ADVANCES TO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

A young and improving Emory Men’s Cross Country team finished off 2018 by making its sixth straight and 22nd trip overall to the NCAA D-III Championships. Of the seven runners that took to the course in Winneconne, Wisconsin, six are slated to return in 2019.

The Eagles earned an automatic bid to nationals by virtue of their second-place performance out of 33 teams at the NCAA South/Southeast Region Championships. All five of Emory’s scorers garnered all-region accolades including senior Bennett Shaw who earned that distinction for the third time in his career. Other all-region racers included juniors Luis Torres and Sam Branson and sophomores Jack Whetstone and Matt Dillon.

Torres, who scored in five of seven competitions, ended the year as the team’s No. 1 performer in the last three meets. He clocked the squad’s best 8K mark of the season, a 25:58 at the NCAA Championships. Branson enjoyed a breakout season, scoring in all seven of his competitions, while Shaw, Whetstone and Dillon scored in six events.

WOMEN’S SOCCER MAKES RETURN TRIP TO NCAA TOURNAMENT

Led by a strong senior class, the Emory University Women’s Soccer team returned to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2014, advancing to the Round of 32. The Eagles finished the season with a 14-5-1 overall record, the most wins since the 2013 season, and were 4-2-1 in the UAA, one of the toughest conferences in the nation, finishing third in the league standings.

On the strength of a 7-1-1 record over the final nine games of the regular season, the Eagles were one of the 20 Pool B at-large selections and were placed in the University of Lynchburg regional. In the opening round, Emory went up against Penn State-Berks and the highest scoring offense in the country, holding the Nittany Lions scoreless through 90 minutes of action. With the score tied at 0-0, senior Abbe McCarter provided the heroics, supplying the game-winning goal in overtime to give the Eagles their first NCAA tournament win since 2013.

Junior Shivani Beall and sophomore Samantha Hilsee earned United Soccer Coaches acclaim for their tremendous seasons with Beall being selected to the First Team and Hilsee being named to the Third Team. Beall topped the team with nine goals and 22 points while Hilsee tied for second on the team with senior Madison Phaneuf and Caroline Moore with 15 points.

Beall and Hilsee led a contingent of six Eagles on the All-UAA team, earning First Team kudos while senior Dani Staffin and sophomore Lily Dresner were named as Honorable Mention.

RENOVATION AT EMORY SOFTBALL FIELD UNDERWAY

The Emory softball field is in the midst of a major renovation that will see permanent seating, a press box, a terrace and a new team room added to the facility, as well as a renovation of the current locker room. Once the construction is completed, it promises to help cement Emory’s status as one of the top D-III programs in the nation while enhancing the playing experience for members of the Eagles’ team as well as viewing opportunities for fans in attendance.

The project began in late September and is slated to be completed in its entirety in May. Working closely with Emory Planning Design & Construction, Reeves Young serves as construction manager and Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc., the architect.
STANDOUT PERFORMANCES HIGHLIGHT FALL CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Women’s Tennis team completed another successful fall campaign in early November with several standout performances at the ITA Regional Championships and the ITA Grass Court Invitational. Senior Daniela Lopez began the season with a tournament singles win against teammate sophomore Ysabel Gonzalez-Rico on the grass courts at the ITA International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

A month later, Gonzalez-Rico captured her second straight ITA South Regional title and was crowned the ITA Division III national champion. By virtue of her D-III title, Gonzalez-Rico represented Division III in the Oracle ITA National Fall Championships singles field of 64, competing against the likes of players from the University of North Carolina and UCLA. In addition to her ITA D-III Singles championship, Gonzalez-Rico teamed with freshman Jessica Fatemi to win the ITA South Regional Doubles final and reached the D-III semifinals at the ITA Cup.

The Eagles as a team recorded an 81-39 singles record and were 34-21 in doubles. Gonzalez-Rico and Lopez each won 10 matches in the fall, going 12-4 and 10-3 respectively, while Gonzalez-Rico and Fatemi paced the team with a 10-2 record in doubles.

MEN’S SOCCER POSTS 18TH CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASON

The Emory University Men’s Soccer team of Head Coach Cory Greiner recorded its 18th consecutive winning season, posting an overall record of 9-7-2.

The Eagles saw three members of the team earn All-University Athletic Association honors, with junior William Jones making the Second Team and senior captains Moustafa Khattab and Tyler Santee being named Honorable Mentions. Khattab led the Eagles with 19 points on the strength of six goals and seven assists. Junior Jun Tsuru joined Khattab in double figures, finishing with career-highs in goals (5), assists (7) and points (17).

Khattab added to his season honors with his selection to the United Soccer Coaches South Atlantic All-Region Third Team, marking his second straight All-Region selection. In addition to leading the team in goals, assists and points, Khattab secured a team-leading three game-winning goals. In his career, Khattab finished with 12 game-winning strikes, placing fourth on the all-time list.

JEMISON AND BOUCHET SHINE FOR MEN’S TENNIS

Seniors Jonathan Jemison and Adrien Bouchet highlighted the effort turned in by the Emory Men’s Tennis team during the fall.

Jemison rattled off five victories and defended his singles crown at the ITA South Region Championships, topping freshman teammate Andrew Esses, 6-3, 6-0, in the title match. Jemison then joined forces with Bouchet to capture the doubles crown, outlasting teammates James Spauldinger and Hayden Cassone, 6-4, 6-4, in the finals. It represented the second straight season that Bouchet had been part of a doubles championship.

By virtue of their first-place finishes, Jemison and Bouchet advanced to the ITA Cup, where the duo won the Division III Championship with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the Bowdoin College tandem of Yangeng Jiang and Justin Wang. In singles, Jemison finished in third place, winning two of three matches.