NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! - MEN’S TENNIS CLAIMS PROGRAM’S FIFTH NATIONAL TITLE

The Emory University men’s tennis team capped off the 2018-19 season in grand style by winning the program’s fifth-ever national title, defeating top-ranked Claremont-Mudd-Scripps by a 5-3 decision in the championship match.

Head Coach John Browning and his squad ended the year with a flourish, winning 18 straight matches to close out the season with a 22-2 record. Included in that stretch was the team winning its 27th University Athletic Association Championship, besting Brandeis 5-1 in the title match.

Emory’s NCAA Tournament run began with wins over Washington & Lee (5-0) and North Carolina Wesleyan (5-1) in the Atlanta regional before topping Washington University, 5-2, in the national quarterfinals and Middlebury, 5-3, in the semis, setting up a meeting with No.-1 ranked CMS for the trophy.

The match began with the Stags claiming the first doubles point on court one before the Eagles responded with 8-6 decisions by James Spaulding and Will Wanner on court two and Hayden Cassone and Antonio Mora on court three to head into singles with the 2-1 advantage.

Singles play saw a couple of momentum shifts, the first taking place when CMS won at the second and sixth spots to move into a 3-2 lead. However, those would be the last points that the Stags would secure as Mora tied the match at 3-3 with an impressive 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 4 over Robert Liu, before Adrien Bouchet put Emory one point from winning the match after dispatching Julian Gordy at third singles, 6-4, 6-1.

With senior Jonathan Jemison and freshman Andrew Esses both competing in three-set matches, it was Jemison who fittingly registered national championship point for the Eagles at the No. 1 post with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 triumph vs. Nikolai Parodi.

JONATHAN JEMISON & YSABEL GONZALEZ-RICO CAPTURE NCAA SINGLES TITLES

In May, Jonathan Jemison and sophomore Ysabel Gonzalez-Rico became just the fifth tennis pairing from the same school to capture the NCAA Division III Singles National Championship in the same season. The duo is the third Emory two-some to accomplish the feat, joining Dillon Potter & Gabrielle Clark (2012) and Michael Goodwin & Lorne McManigle (2009).

Jemison capped off his stellar tennis career with a three-set decision over Carleton's Leo Vithoontien, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, becoming the fourth Emory player to win the NCAA men's singles crown. Jemison closed out his season with a 26-5 record, giving him 99 career singles wins and tying for second on the school's all-time list.

Gonzalez-Rico’s performance represented the fourth individual championship in Emory women’s tennis history, upending Wesleyan’s Venia Yeung 6-4, 6-3 in the championship match. The win put a bow on Gonzalez-Rico’s terrific sophomore campaign that saw her tie the program’s single-season record for singles wins with a mark of 34-5.

DILYS OSEI WINS 400M HURDLES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT OUTDOOR NATIONALS

Senior Dilys Osei won the second-ever track outdoor national championship in team history while helping the women’s track and field team to its second consecutive top-seven finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, a first-ever feat for the program.

Osei captured gold in the 400m hurdles with an incredible finish down the home stretch as she edged out Bella Solis of Loras College by .04 seconds. Osei’s mark of 58.98 established a new school record and is the third fastest time recorded in Division III history.

In addition to Osei, the Eagles earned All-America honors in four different events: senior Dani Bland (100m dash), junior Isabel Saridakis (pole vault), Osei, Bland, sophomore Rebekah Bondi and freshman Hannah Lansberry (4x100m relay) and Osei, Lansberry, senior Ariana Newhouse and sophomore Michelle Rosenblum (4x400m relay).
EMORY EARN TOP-FIVE FINISH IN DIRECTORS’ CUP STANDINGS

The Emory Athletics Department maintained its status as one of the premier programs in Division III as the Eagles finished fifth in the 2018-19 Learfield IMG College Directors’ Cup Division III standings with 921.50 points. Bolstered by national championships in volleyball, women’s swimming & diving and men’s tennis, Emory finished fifth out of 340 schools that scored Learfield Directors’ Cup points, the 18th time in the past 19 years it has finished inside the top-10 and the ninth top-five finish during that span.

In addition to the three national championships, Emory posted top-10 Directors’ Cup finishes in: men’s swimming and diving (2nd), softball (2nd), women’s tennis (3rd) and men’s outdoor track and field (7th). All totaled, Emory scored Learfield Directors’ Cup points in 14 sports.

The Learfield IMG College Directors’ Cup is a program that honors institutions maintaining a broad-based program, achieving success in many sports, both men’s and women’s.

Originating in 1993-94 for Division I by NACDA and USA Today, it was expanded in 1995-96 to include Division II, III and the NAIA. Points are awarded based on each institution’s finish in up to 18 sports -- nine women’s and nine men’s.

SOFTBALL FINISHES RUNNER-UP AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

2019 represented a monumental campaign for Emory softball with the Eagles advancing to the finals of the NCAA D-III Championships for the first time in the 21-year history of the program.

Emory’s “Comeback Kids” moniker was put on display during its post-season run, starting at the Demorest, Georgia Regional where it staved off three elimination games before moving onto the Lynchburg Super Regional. Emory fell short in the opener of the best-of-three series to the Hornets before posting 9-5 and 10-8 (rallied from 6-1 deficit) wins over the next two contests to make its fifth-ever trip to the Championships. In the first test, the Eagles fell behind by a 5-2 count before rallying for a 7-5 outcome over Randolph-Macon. Emory then topped Trine University, 2-1, in its second game before continuing its flair for the dramatic with an eight-inning 3-2 win over Eastern Connecticut State, tying the game in the bottom of the seventh with a pair of runs, before a two-out double by Greta Wilker the following frame plated the game winner, propelling the Eagles into the championship round. In the finals, Texas Lutheran prevailed winning the series, 2-0.

With first-year Head Coach Adrianna Baggetta at the helm of the program, the Eagles finished year with an overall record of 39-14, tying the fifth-highest win total in school annals. Emory won the UAA championship with a 16-4 ledger. Senior Cassie Baca and junior Sami Feller were named the UAA Co-Position Players of the Year.

JULIA DURMER RECIPIENT OF PRESTIGIOUS NCAA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Former women’s swimming standout Julia Durmer was named a winter recipient of the prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, bestowed upon student-athletes who excel academically and athletically, while also serving as leaders in the community.

The NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, a $10,000 award, will be applied toward the graduate degree program of Durmer’s choice.

Emory has been awarded 115 postgraduate scholarships over the school’s history, and its 98 since 2000 is second only to Stanford University for the highest total by any NCAA member.

Durmer helped the Eagles to national titles in each of her three seasons with the program, and established herself as a six-time All-American, two-time All-America honorable mention and seven-time UAA champion. In 2017, she captured the 1,650 Freestyle national championship, becoming just the fourth Emory performer ever to win the event.

LINH NGUYEN NAMED EMORY CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD HEAD COACH

Emory University Athletics Director Dr. Michael Vienna recently announced the appointment of Linh Nguyen as head coach of the cross country and track and field teams. Nguyen will begin his duties at Emory in early July.

Nguyen joins the Emory program after serving as the Director of Cross Country/Track and Field at the University of Toledo since 2013. During his time at UT, he coached four Rockets to All-America honors, six to Mid-America Conference championships, four cross country runners to all-region recognition and 40 to all-conference acclaim.

Prior to Toledo, Nguyen served 12 seasons as a member of the University of North Carolina Greensboro staff, the final seven as the head coach of the cross country and men’s and women’s outdoor track and field teams.
SIX EAGLES NAMED TO GOOGLE CLOUD ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

Senior standouts Thomas Gordon, Trey Kolleck, Julia Durmer and Meg Taylor from swimming & diving, as well as Ariana Newhouse and Dani Bland from women’s track & field, were honored as Google Cloud Academic All-Americans as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-America award recognizes the nation’s top student-athletes for their combined performances athletically and in the classroom. To be nominated, student-athletes must maintain a 3.30 grade point average, be of sophomore standing or higher, and have attended their current institutions for at least one year to be eligible.

Gordon and Kolleck earned men’s at-large First Team selections while Durmer and Taylor made Second and Third Teams, respectively, on the women’s at-large list. Newhouse was tabbed to the women’s track & field/cross country First Team with Bland joining her with a Second Team nod. The six Academic All-America selections pushes the total number for the Emory Athletics Department to 190 since 1984-85.

WOMEN’S TENNIS ADVANCES TO 11TH CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL SEMIFINALS

Under the leadership of Head Coach Amy Bryant, Emory women’s tennis team advanced to its 11th consecutive and 20th overall spot in the national semifinals.

The Eagles marched easily through the early rounds of the Division III tournament, defeating North Carolina Wesleyan, Washington & Lee University and University of Chicago by 5-0 margins before running into Wesleyan University in the semifinals. The Cardinals edged out Emory, 5-4, in a four-hour match at Stowe Stadium in Kalamazoo, snapping the Eagles’ string of six straight appearances in the national championship match.

Emory ended the season with an overall record of 20-4, the team’s tenth 20-win campaign during Bryant’s tenure as head coach.

EMORY ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS FOR 2018-19

The Emory University Athletics Department held its annual awards banquet in April, where it announced the recipients of its major awards for the 2018-19 school year, given to student-athletes that shined in the athletic arena, in the community as well as in the classroom.

This year’s honorees include:
Ashley Oldshue (Women’s Basketball - Aliberti Award), Fiona Muir (Women’s Swimming and Diving - Bridges Award), Mady Arles (Volleyball - McCord Award), Volleyball team winning the 2018 NCAA D-III Championship (McDonough Award), Gebereal Baitey (Men’s Basketball - Partin Award), NJ Kim (Baseball - Scholar-Athlete Award).

MEN’S GOLF QUALIFIES FOR 22ND NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCE

The Emory golf team qualified for its 22nd appearance at the NCAA Division III Championship and the sixth during John Sjoberg’s eight-year run as head coach.

The trip to nationals capped off a memorable year that saw the Eagles hold down a No. 1 national ranking at the end of the regular season. Along the way, Emory played its way to first-place finishes at NCAA Preview, the Golfweek DIII Fall Invitational and the prestigious Jekyll Island Collegiate Invitational. Emory won its fourth straight UAA title, defeating Rochester and Carnegie Mellon in match-play competition.

Junior Matt Organisak was named a PING Second Team All-America, marking his third straight Second Team honor. Joining Organisak on the All-America team were senior Connor Yakubov, freshman Logan Ryan and sophomore Eric Yiu, all of whom landed Honorable Mention recognition.
LIAM FOST AND BRETT HENSEHY HIGHLIGHT MEN’S TRACK & FIELD OUTDOOR SEASON

Sophomore Liam Fost and freshman Brett Henshey turned in strong performances during the spring which resulted in the duo representing the men’s track and field team at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Geneva, OH.

Fost qualified in the 400m dash while Henshey earned a bid to the high jump competition. Fost just missed the cut to advance to the finals by .05 seconds, posting a preliminary time of 48.28 that placed 10th. In the high jump, Henshey recorded a height of 1.93m that tied for 18th in the event.

Earlier in the spring, both performers were recognized by the USTFCCCA as South/Southeast All-Region honorees. Fost highlighted a group of five Eagles on the All-Region list with his selection as the South/Southeast Region Men’s Track Athlete of the Year, the first male in program history to claim the honor.

Fost and Henshey also led the Eagles at the UAA Outdoor Championships with the pair claiming conference titles. Fost won the 400m dash in a conference-record time of 47.19, while Henshey registered a league record to win the high jump at 2.10m.

BASEBALL REACHES 20-WIN MARK FOR NINTH YEAR IN A ROW

Led by Head Coach Mike Twardoski, Emory baseball recorded its ninth straight and 27th overall 20-win season, ending the year with a 20-19 overall record.

Three Eagles headlined the University Athletic Association All-Conference Team with junior Richard Brereton and freshman Zeke Diamond earning First Team selections and junior Ryan Adelman being tabbed to the Second Team.

Brereton made his second straight All-UAA First Team after registering team-highs in batting average (.392), hits (56), RBI (30) and stolen bases (18), while adding a 3-1 record on the mound. Diamond started 37 of 38 games as a rookie, batting .358 and ranking second on the team with 49 hits. He totaled a team-high 38 runs scored and totaled 21 RBI.

Adelman made his first All-UAA team, winding up a solid year that saw him tie for first on the team in runs scored (38) while ranking second in batting average (.371), doubles (12) and total bases (64).

TWELEVE STUDENT-ATHLETES MAKE EMORY 100 SENIOR HONORARY LIST

Twelve student-athletes were chosen as members of the Emory University Class of 2019 100 Senior Honorary.

The 100 Senior Honorary is an award and designation presented by the Emory Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Association. The honor is given to the most 100 outstanding seniors in the undergraduate schools. Graduates of Oxford College, Emory College, Goizueta Business School, and the School of Nursing are represented in the 100 Senior Honorary. The students selected have made a significant impact on the Emory Community through academics, athletics, leadership, volunteerism, or even through personal relationships such as mentoring or helping other students.

Representatives from Emory Athletics who were selected as 100 Senior Honorary include:

Gebereal Baitey – Basketball
Mila Barzdukas – Volleyball
Dani Bland – Track and Field
Becky Breuer – Volleyball
NJ Kim – Baseball
Trey Kolleck – Swimming and Diving
Daniela Lopez – Women’s Tennis
Fiona Muir – Swimming and Diving
Ashley Oldshue – Basketball
Dilys Osei – Track and Field
Matt Rogers – Swimming and Diving
Bennett Shaw – Cross Country/Track and Field