EAST ATLANTIC GYMNASTICS LEAGUE

2018 Season Preview

George Washington University is led by head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham along with assistant coaches Stephanie Stoicovy Worrell and Jason Vonk. The Colonials are coming off a first-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championships with a team score of 196.275, after a first-place regular season finish and a Regional Qualifying score of 196.035.

Additionally last season, GW qualified as a team to NCAA Regionals for the third-consecutive time, notching its best post-season score in program history (195.625). The Colonials had two athletes, Chelsea Raineri (vault) and Cami Drouin- Allaire (all-around), qualify for the NCAA National Championship as individual competitors. It marked the first time that GW sent multiple qualifiers to the NCAA Championship. GW captured its second-ever EAGL Championship (2015, 2017) last season, and the seventh conference title in program history after winning five-straight Atlantic 10 Championships from 1998-2002.

In 2018, seniors Cami Drouin-Allaire, Sara Mermelstein, and Jillian Winstanley will serve as captains for the squad of six freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and seven seniors.

Drouin-Allaire was the 2017 EAGL Vault (9.900) and All-Around (39.400) Champion. She earned All-EAGL First Team (vault, floor, all-around) and All-EAGL Second Team (bars, beam) in 2017. In 2016, she was named EAGL Gymnast of the Year in addition to earning All-EAGL First Team (vault, bars, floor and all-around), All-EAGL Second Team (beam), and EAGL All-Scholastic Team honors. As a freshman in 2015, Drouin-Allaire was named Second Team NACGC/W All-American on vault, All-EAGL First Team (vault, floor, all-around), was the EAGL Vault Champion (9.950) and was named to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team. She was a NACGC/W Scholastic All-American in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Winstanley was voted EAGL Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2017 in addition to earning All-EAGL First Team (vault, bars, beam, all-around) and All-EAGL Second Team (floor). She was a NACGC/W Scholastic All-American in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Winstanley was the 2016 EAGL Vault Champion and earned All-EAGL First Team (all-around, vault, bars, beam) and All-EAGL Second Team (floor), in addition to being a member of the All-EAGL Scholastic Team in 2016. In 2015, Winstanley was voted EAGL Rookie of the Year, was the EAGL Bars Champion, earned All-EAGL First Team (vault, bars, beam, all-around) and was named to the All-EAGL Scholastic Team.

Mermelstein earned 2017 All-EAGL First Team (beam) and NACGC/W Scholastic All-American honors. In 2016, she was named to the All-EAGL Second Team (floor and beam), the EAGL All-Scholastic Team and was a NACGC/W Scholastic All-American. As a freshman in 2015, she earned All-EAGL Second Team (beam), was named to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team, and was the EAGL Floor Co-Champion (9.850).

Top newcomers for the Colonials include: Anna Warhol, Hannah Cohen, and Olivia Norman. Warhol competed for Youngstown Gymnastics Center (2005-17). She was a two-time Level 10 Junior Olympic Qualifier (2016-17) and a two-time Level 9 Eastern National Qualifier (2012-13). Cohen competed for Gold Medal Gymnastics Center, Infiniti Elite Gymnastics and New Image Gymnastics. She was a four-time Junior Olympic National Championship Qualifier (2014-17). Norman competed for Chantilly Academy Gymnastics GymStars (2004-17). She was a Level 10 Junior Olympic National Championship qualifier (2017), a three-time Level 10 Regional Championship qualifier (2015-17), a Level 9 Eastern Championship qualifier (2014), and won the vault title while finishing third in all-around at the Level 9 Championship.

The Colonials open the home portion of the 2018 season with the 11th Annual Lindsey Ferris Invitational on January 14th in quad-meet against Cornell, Ball State, and Penn. GW's "Pink Meet" will take place on February 4th against William & Mary and Ball State at the Smith Center. The Colonials head to the Gymnastics Quarters Mardi Gras Invitational in St. Louis Missouri on Feb 15th. The meet will feature NCAA Gymnastics National Championship runner up LSU as well as NCAA Regional qualifiers Arkansas, Missouri, and Minnesota. Lindenwood and Northern Illinois will also compete at the event. GW concludes its home schedule with Senior Day on March 11th at the Smith Center. The Colonials will welcome EAGL rival Pittsburgh along with West Virginia.

The University of New Hampshire is led by head coach Gail Goodspeed along with assistant coaches Lindsey Bruck Ayotte and Sunny Marchand and volunteer assistant coach Ed Datti.

The Wildcats are coming off a second-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championship after a second-place regular season standing and RQS of 195.745. In 2017, UNH boasted a season-high 196.450 and 21-6 record. The Wildcats qualified to NCAA Regionals as a team for the 34th time in 36 years of NCAA Championships. 2017 served as the third year in a row that UNH finished as runner-up at the EAGL Championship and it was also the third-straight year that UNH won every meet at home (dating back to March 8, 2014). Additionally last season, eleven UNH gymnasts were named as NACGC/W Scholastic All-Americans and Meghan Pflieger was named EAGL Senior Gymnast of the Year.

Seniors Makenzie Kerouac and Casey Lauter will serve as captains to the 2018 squad, which consists of five seniors, eight juniors, four sophomores, and five freshmen. Top returners for the Wildcats include: Danielle Doolin, Danielle Mulligan, Lia Breeden, Casey Lauter and Nicole O'Leary.

In 2017, Doolin was named All-EAGL First Team (floor, all-around) and All-Tournament Second Team (beam, all-around), while also being named to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team for the second time. As a freshman in 2016, Doolin was voted EAGL Rookie of the Year, was named All-EAGL First Team (floor, AA), All-Tournament First Team (floor, AA), All-EAGL Second Team (vault), and All-Tournament Second Team (vault, beam). She was also voted the team's MVP.

Mulligan earned first on bars at the 2017 EAGL Championships, making that her ninth first-place finish on the event for the season. She was named All-EAGL First-Team (bars) and All-Tournament First Team (bars), in addition to being named to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team for the second time. During her freshman campaign in 2016, she was named All-EAGL First Team (bars) and All-Tournament First Team (bars).

In 2017, Breeden was named All-EAGL Second Team (beam, floor), All-Tournament Second Team (beam) and to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team for the third time. In 2016, she was named All-EAGL Second Team (beam) and All-Tournament First Team (beam, floor). She earned the 2016 Team Perseverance Award and was a NACGC/W Scholastic All America Award Recipient. In 2015, she earned All-EAGL Second Team (beam, floor), All-Tournament First Team (beam) and All-Tournament Second Team (floor).

Lauter was named to the 2017 All-EAGL First Team (beam) and All-Tournament First Team (beam) in addition to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team for the third time. In 2016, she was named All-EAGL First Team (beam) and All-Tournament Second Team (beam). She also earned the Katie Baldwin Academic Excellence Award and was a NACGC/W Scholastic All America Award Recipient.

O'Leary was named to the 2017 All-EAGL Second Team (vault), All-Tournament Second Team (vault, floor) and to the EAGL All-Scholastic Team for the second time. In 2016, she was named All-EAGL Second Team (vault, floor) and was a NACGC/W Scholastic All America Award Recipient.

Top newcomers to the 2018 squad include Lauren Diggan, Claire Hampford, Nicole Lanouette, Danielle Liska, and Kylie Kratchwell.

Diggan placed eighth on vault, and fourth on bars at the 2017 Level 10 JO National Championships. At Regionals she was second on vault and bars, fourth on floor and AA. At States she finished first on vault, second on bars, fourth on beam, second on floor, and second AA. Diggan is expected to be a top performer on vault with a yurchenko 1 ½, on bars with a hop full to Geinger; and on floor with a full-in. She will fight to make the beam line-up to move into an all-around position.

Hampford, Lanouette, and Liska were all JO National competitors as well. At Regionals, Hampford placed sixth on vault, fourth on bars, first on beam, third on floor, and second AA. Lanouette placed fourth on vault, fifth on floor, and seventh all-around at Regionals. Liska placed fifth on beam, sixth on floor, and sixth AA at Regionals.

The Wildcats begin 2018 with a quad meet at Arizona against 26th ranked Arizona (2017), 9th ranked Denver (2017) and Rutgers. EAGL conference competition begins with a road meet at Pittsburgh on Jan. 20th. GW invades Durham for a dual-meet Jan. 28th to kick-start a four-meet home stand that also features one-on-one showdowns against North Carolina (Feb. 2nd), Towson (Feb. 10th) and Bowling Green (Feb. 18th). Additional road trips include Air Force (with Temple) on Feb. 24th, NC State (March 2nd), Bridgeport (March 8th) and a first-ever match-up with the University of Illinois (Chicago) on March 18th. UNH will face Kentucky, Brown and Yale in a Senior Day quad-meet on March 11th.

The University of North Carolina is led by head coach Derek Galvin with assistant coaches Marie Case Denick and Taylor Spears, and undergraduate student assistant coach MacKenzie Austin.

The Tar Heels are coming off of a fourth-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championships with a team score of 194.525. UNC was ranked third at the end of the regular season with an RQS of 195.430

In 2017, UNC set season-high event scores of 49.100 on vault versus UCLA, 49.050 on bars versus New Hampshire, 49.250 on beam versus Pittsburgh, and 49.125 on floor at the EAGL Championship. The Tar Heels set a season high team score of 195.875 against UNH. 13 Carolina gymnasts broke or set new career-high records a total of 63 times over the course of the 2016-17 season and two more gymnasts had career-best scores in exhibition performances. Additionally in 2017, UNC set a new Carmichael Arena home meet attendance record of 4,071 people at the meet against Florida. Morgan Lane was named the EAGL Gymnast of the Year, and Khazia Hislop was named the EAGL Rookie of the Year.

The 2018 Tar Heel squad is made up of four seniors, two juniors, nine sophomores and three freshmen. Highlighting the returning athletes will be: seniors Morgan Lane, Madison Nettles and Katelynn Hedelund, along with sophomores Khazia Hislop and Emma Marchese. Freshmen expected to make an impact include: Lily Dean, Rylie Dewhurst, and Lauren Graham.

In 2017, Lane was named the EAGL Gymnast of the Year, was a three-time EAGL Gymnast of the Week, and earned EAGL Academic Honors for the third consecutive year. Additionally, she was named First-team All-EAGL (beam, floor, all-around), and Second-team All-EAGL for bars. During her sophomore season in 2016, she became the first gymnast in UNC history to notch a score of 39.000 or higher in the all-around in every meet. As a sophomore she earned first-team All-Tournament honors on bars, beam, floor and all-around, in addition to and second-team All-Tournament on vault at the EAGL Championships. She also was named First-team All-EAGL (floor and all-around), and Second-team All-EAGL (vault, bars and beam) in 2016. As a freshman, Lane earned EAGL Rookie of the Week four times throughout the 2015 season, was named First-team All-EAGL (beam, floor and all-around), Second-team All-EAGL (bars), and to the All-EAGL Scholastic Team.

Hedelund was the recipient of EAGL Academic Honors for the third consecutive year in 2017. She also was named First-team All-EAGL (vault) and Second-team All-EAGL (bars). In 2016, Hedelund was named Second-team All-EAGL (bars). As a freshman in 2015, she earned first-team All-EAGL honors for bars and Second-team all-EAGL honors for the balance beam.

Nettles tied for eighth-place honors at the 2017 NCAA Gainesville Regional Championship in the all-around competition with a score of 38.975. She received EAGL Academic Honors for her junior season and was named first-team All-EAGL on vault. In 2016, Nettles set season bests on bars (9.750), floor (9.650) and all-around (38.625) at the EAGL Championship after earning Second-team All-EAGL honors on vault.

Marchese placed third on floor (9.850) at the 2017 EAGL Championship. She also placed 15th in the all-around competition at the NCAA Gainesville Regional Championship with a score of 38.575. As a freshman, she earned Second-team all-EAGL honors for beam.

Hislop was the 2017 EAGL Rookie of the Year after earning Rookie of the Week five times during the season. She was named First-team All-EAGL on floor and Second-team All-EAGL on beam.

On February 11th, Carolina will travel to the University of Oklahoma, the alma mater of first-year assistant coach Taylor Spears and the two-time defending national champion. UNC will also face off against Michigan, who was ranked seventh going into the 2017 NCAA tournament, and Alabama who placed sixth in last year's NCAA Championships meet in St. Louis. The Heels only graduated one senior so most of the team consists of returning competitors.

North Carolina State University is led by head coach Kim Landrus, with assistant coaches Phil Ogletree, Bob Starkell and volunteer assistant, Emma Sibson.

The Wolfpack is coming off a third-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championship meet after a fourth-place regular season finish and RQS score of 194.820. The Pack's third-place Championship finish and 194.875 team score tied the team's highest finish since 2012.

NC State Gymnastics qualified four competitors to the 2017 NCAA Gainesville Regional. Chelsea Knight, Paris Phillips, Amanda Fillard and Melissa Brooker each qualified in their respective events. Additionally, Paris Phillips scored a 9.900 to become NC State's 12th EAGL Floor Champion in program history.

The Pack return 12 athletes (four sophomores, four juniors, four seniors), and will add five freshmen to the 2018 squad.

Senior Chelsea Knight, junior Paris Phillips, and sophomore Drew Grantham will look to lead the team in 2018.

Knight qualified for the 2017 NCAA Regional Championship and was named All- EAGL First-Team (vault, bars, all-around) and All-EAGL Second Team on beam. In 2016, Knight qualified to Regionals on vault, was named All-EAGL First Team (vault, all-around), and All-EAGL Second Team on bars. In 2015, she was named All-EAGL First Team on vault.

Phillips earned All-EAGL Scholastic Team honors in 2017, in addition to All-EAGL First Team on floor and All-EAGL Second Team on vault and all-around. Phillips was also the 2017 EAGL Floor Champion and qualified to NCAA Regionals on vault. In 2016, she earned All-EAGL Second-Team honors on vault.

Grantham was named All-EAGL Second Team (floor and all-around) and to the All-EAGL Scholastic Team during her freshman campaign.

Top newcomers to the 2018 squad include freshmen Lauren Kent from Willow Springs, North Carolina and Tori Prati from Winter Haven, Florida.

The Wolfpack looks forward to hosting the 2018 NCAA Regional at Reynolds Coliseum.

The University of Pittsburgh is led by head coach Samantha Snider, along with assistant coaches, Dave Kuzara and Ryan Snider. The Panthers are coming off of a fifth-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championships, after a sixth-place standing at the end of the regular season and RQS score of 194.335.

Highlighting the 2017 season, rising senior Taylor Laymon and former Panther Tracey Pearson were Pitt's representatives at the NCAA Regional Meet, as Laymon qualified on bars and Pearson on vault. Rising junior Brittany West posted a career-high 9.900 on beam to earn a share of the EAGL beam title in 2017. Additionally last season, Pitt defeated No. 21 West Virginia by a score of 194.025-193.875 on January 13th. The win snapped a 51-meet losing streak for the Panthers against WVU as their last win over the Mountaineers came during the 1992 season.

The Panthers return nine athletes for the 2018 season, with a squad of three seniors, five juniors, six sophomores and three freshmen. Senior Taylor Laymon, junior Lucy Brett, sophomore Alecia Petrikis, and junior Brittany West are the highlighted returners for Pitt in 2018.

Laymon was one of two Panthers to qualify for the NCAA Regional Meet in 2017 with a 9.820 RQS on bars. Laymon was also named First Team All-EAGL (bars). She competed in all of the Panthers' 2017 competitions on bars, while also performing on floor in all but one meet. She earned three first-place finishes on bars, including a career-high 9.900 at a five-team meet hosted by George Washington. She collected multiple top-10 finishes throughout the season.

Brett earned Second Team All-EAGL honors on bars in 2017. She participated in every meet of the season on bars and all but one on beam. Brett posted a career-high 9.900 on beam and earned first place against North Carolina.

Petrikis competed solely on floor in 2017. She earned three top-five finishes on floor and the EAGL Rookie of the Week honor on January 10th.

West was named Second Team All-EAGL on beam in 2017. She was also the 2017 EAGL Beam Co-Champion. She earned four first-place finishes on beam throughout the season and her career-high of 9.900 came at the EAGL Championship.

A top newcomer for Pittsburgh is senior transfer from Eastern Michigan University, Catie Conrad. Top-freshmen expected to have an impact this season include: Sophie Bochenek from Gross Ile, Michigan, Haley Brechwald from Springfield, Virginia, and Jordan Ceccarini from Miller Place, New York.

In 2018, the Panthers will host four meets at home. Pitt is set to take on five teams that finished in the top 25 last season, including one in the top 10 (Nebraska). The Panthers will host a rivalry weekend at home with Penn State and West Virginia on March 4th.

The Towson University Tigers are led by Head Coach Vicki May and Assistant Coach Jay Ramirez.

The Tigers are coming off of a sixth-place finish at the 2017 EAGL Championships after a fifth-place regular season finish with an RQS of 194.775.

In 2017, the Tigers started the season by posting the highest opening score in program history. The team's highest score recorded in SECU Arena came on Feb 24th against Rutgers (195.675) which was also the eighth-highest score in program history.

Also in 2017, three Tigers qualified to the NCAA Regional Championships: Gabby Yarussi (all-around), Tyra McKellar (all-around), and Mary Elle Arduino (balance beam).

Additionally, Vicki May was named 2017 Southeast Regional Head Coach of the Year and Towson collected 14- All-EAGL Academic Team honors, the most in program history along with the highest Team GPA in the EAGL Conference.

In 2018, the Tigers will look to seniors Lauren Cahalan, Noelle Harada, and junior Erin Tucker as team leaders.

Towson returns five seniors, five juniors, and four sophomores and will add two freshmen newcomers.

Top returners for the Tigers include, Tyra McKellar, Mary Elle Arduino, and Erin Tucker.

McKellar was a 2017 Regional all-around qualifier and was named First-team All-EAGL (bars and floor), in addition to Second-Team All-EAGL for all-around.

Arduino was a Regional balance beam qualifier and First-team All-EAGL on beam last season.

Tucker was named Second-team All-EAGL on vault during her sophomore campaign in 2017.

Towson's top newcomer to the squad this season will be Kyla Gamble of Pembroke Pines, Florida. In 2016, Gamble tied for 13th place all-around with a 37.425 at the JO National Championships.

The Tigers look forward to the program's 50th anniversary this season, as well as to hosting the EAGL Championships in March of 2018.